

The Shepherd's Staff

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Multiple Touch Ministry

Our mission is to reach out to congregation and community members in times of joy and celebration, pain, sorrow or whenever the need may arise. If you know someone needing a cheerful card, phone call, or food please contact Joanne Melbostad (876-2837) or Barb Peck (876-2284) during the month of January.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL CELEBRATION/ BUSINESS MEETING

The annual congregational celebration and business meeting will be held on Sunday, January 31st following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. We will gather in the fellowship hall for a meal, and to share some ministry highlights. New business will include the approval of the annual budget and council positions. The proposed budget will be previewed the week before, January 24th, at 9:30 a.m.

GROWING DEEPER IN FAITH AND SERVICE

On the day of Epiphany, January 6th, the church celebrates the revelation of Christ to all nations as represented by the magi who come to worship Jesus. This season of Epiphany will continue until the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday. Throughout this season we hear in the scriptures how Christ is made known – at his baptism, turning water into wine at Cana, and as the light of the world. We are called to grow deeper in faith, and to let our light shine!

I invite you to WEAR WHITE ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 10th, AS WE REMEMBER OUR CALLING TO SHINE WITH THE LIGHT OF CHRIST.

BRIGHTER TOMORROWS JANUARY 10th from 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.

Everyone is invited to hear Shanna Decker's inspiring message of how her faith in God has given her the strength to face the challenge of her childhood cancer.

LIFE KEYS CLASS

To be held Sundays, January 17, 24, 31, and February 7 from 9:15 – 10:15 a.m. in the sanctuary. Learn more about ways to serve in the church and help you to say "yes" to opportunities that will help you fulfill your life and not just fill up your time! Everyone is welcome (and encouraged) to attend.

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ENLARGING THE CIRCLE OF MINISTRY

Space Utilization Study: Selecting a Negotiating Contractor to Provide Pricing Information

Back on October 4th, an information session was held in regards to the space utilization study. Space needs were identified that impact staffing, programming, and fellowship. In collaboration with Kane & Johnson Architects, the space study team has since followed up on the congregation's request to connect with a negotiating contractor for the purpose of providing accurate information about the cost of possible future remodeling and building.

November: We reviewed the credentials and qualifications that were submitted by five general contractors. With a preference for local contractors, we selected three contractors who we will interview in early December.

December 3rd: After completing three interviews, we discerned that Knutson Construction was the best fit to serve as our negotiating contractor.

Again, the selected Negotiating Contractor will provide us information on the costs of the potential building projects.

The Space Study Team consists of: Arlan Simonson, chair; Carol Goergen-Fenske, Gloria Keseley, Ron Fahrenz, Dawn Suntken, and Pastor Kevin Woestehoff.

MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship – Growing Deeper by Growing in Our Giving

Thank you for participating in our annual neighbor-to-neighbor stewardship program. One hundred twenty-three households provided pledges of \$192,000. This pledge total is \$3,000 less than last year's pledge total. Although the pledge total is a slight step back, we are thankful, that in a down time for our economy, for a growing number of households participating, and a number of households who have increased their giving.

Parents, Teens, and Money

On February 3rd at 6:30, a speaker from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will be providing our junior high students and parents an interactive, faith-based workshop that can help families talk about spending, saving, and sharing money.

EDUCATION

ADULT EDUCATION

Sunday Morning Adult Education

On January 10th, don't miss Shanna Decker's faith story about how God has given her strength to face childhood cancer and how God is calling her to help others (see Brighter Tomorrows article below). Then Life Keys is coming to the Sunday morning education hour during January. It will kick off on January 17th and run through February 7th.

Wednesday Evening Adult Education

Adult classes resume on January 13th at 6:30 p.m. Holy Communion will be the discussion topic for three weeks (13th, 20th, 27th). This will be an intergenerational class (held with the confirmation students).

BRIGHTER TOMORROWS

Join us January 10th from 9:15 – 10:15 a.m. to hear Shanna Decker's extraordinary message of how her faith in God has given her the strength to face the challenge of her childhood cancer.

The Deckers are cofounders of the nonprofit organization "Brighter Tomorrows, Inc". Brighter Tomorrows is an outreach to families touched by childhood cancer by providing emotional, spiritual and educational support.

Sherrie Decker will talk about Brighter Tomorrows and how they touch the lives of families who are faced with the challenge of childhood cancer.

Sunday school grades 1st through junior high will be attending this presentation. We would like to extend the invitation to anyone who would like to hear this message.

The Sunday school teachers will be cooking for you (the 1st Wednesday of the Month meal) on Wednesday evening, January 6th, from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Proceeds will be given to Brighter Tomorrows, Inc. So, give your kitchen a break and join the Sunday school teachers for food and fellowship!

TOGETHER IN FAITH

Fourth Graders and Parents: "THE APOSTLES' CREED"

In this series of Sunday school classes designed for parents and children, learn why Christians use a creed for confessing their faith and what the words mean, as well as how to confess our faith to others each day. We will meet in the fourth grade classroom from 9:15 – 10:15 a.m. on January 3rd and 17th. (The session originally scheduled for January 10th is being eliminated, as we will be gathering in the sanctuary that day to hear Shanna Decker speak.) On Sunday, January 24th, our fourth graders will lead the congregation in the Apostles' Creed.

EDUCATION CONTINUED ...

CONFIRMATION MINISTRY

7th & 8th Grade Confirmation Ministry

Confirmation ministry resumes on Wednesday evening, January 6th from 6:00 -7:30 p.m. Each night begins with a meal in the fellowship hall and continues with activities and discussions in the sanctuary that are designed to nurture faith.

January Schedule

January 6
January 13
January 20
January 27

Host Family for Meals

First Wednesday Meal
Zimmerman Family
Lee Olson
Fick Family

HUMAN SEXUALITY RESOURCES

God created all that is human including our sexuality. As children and youth grow in their Baptismal identity, it is important that they learn about this gift from God and the responsibility that comes with it. Good Shepherd has resources which families can check out to use together.

Preschool-Kindergarten

Themes: God made your child special. Boys and girls are different.
"Why Boys and Girls are Different" video from Concordia Publishing
The Story of Me book

1st-3rd grade

Themes: Basic facts of reproduction and appropriate touch.
"Where Do Babies Come From" video by Concordia Publishing
My Body is Private, My Body Belongs to Me books

7th-8th grade

Themes: Dating, peer pressure, and decision making
"Sex, Love, and Relationships" video by Pam Stenzel
"Reality in Relationships: The Choices You Make Affect the Path You Take" video by Ellen Marie

Parents and grandparents are the primary educators of their children. That is why we invite you to check out these resources to use at home. But the church is also a safe place to talk about issues of sexuality. That is why we offer these great resources as a way for you to begin the discussion. Good Shepherd is also happy to host a time to discuss these issues with a group of families.

To check out the resources or inquire about a group showing, talk to any of the following people: Carole Joyce, Jake Thompson, Deb Weinrich, or the SS teachers.

EDUCATION CONTINUED ...

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

THANKS to everyone involved with this year's Christmas program! The Sunday school children did a fabulous job of telling the Christmas story through the play "Christmas Hang-Ups". Thanks to the director: Linda Olson; assistants: Julene Horstman, Amy Thompson, Arlo, Penny, and Lucas Simonson; sound people: Joe Ulwelling and Tom Anderson; organizational support: Carole Joyce; and to all the Sunday school teachers and parents of Sunday school children. A special thank you to the Sunday school students for sharing their joy and music. If anyone is interested in a DVD of this year's program, please contact the church office (534-3675). Thanks to the video team for making these DVDs available.

FINANCE

Simply Giving Program

Not able to attend church, but still want to make your contribution? Good Shepherd has a program entitled '***Simply Giving***'. This program is an ACH program which allows you to automatically have your monthly contribution deducted directly from your checking/savings account each month. Currently we have six families utilizing this convenience. It is simple to sign up and easy to implement this program that will allow you to make your pledge or gifts as desired. If you want to take part in this program, we have brochures available in the narthex, or you can contact the church office.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Plainview Clergy Association Preacher Exchange

On Sunday, January 24th, Good Shepherd will again take part in the Plainview Area Clergy Association Preacher Exchange. This ecumenical celebration happens in the middle of the week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL CELEBRATION MEAL

Please join us on Sunday, January 31st for a meal of celebration to be served immediately following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. This soup lunch will be served in the fellowship hall and everyone is welcome (and encouraged) to attend. Watch the "Count Me In" form for opportunities to donate food for the meal or to help serve. Please join us for a meal warm with food and fellowship.

FIRST WEDNESDAY DINNER IN JANUARY

On Wednesday, January 6th, from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m., the Sunday school teachers will be doing the cooking for you. They will be mixing up and serving a "mean batch of chili" with the proceeds going to Brighter Tomorrows, Inc. So, give your kitchen a break and join the Sunday school teachers for food and fellowship!

If your group is interested in serving a meal, please indicate on the "Count Me In" form. Available dates are April 7 and May 5. Please consider joining the fun on *First Wednesdays* by preparing a meal for your church family at Good Shepherd.

The committees that will be meeting on January 6th and the times they will meet are listed below:

<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>MEETING TIMES</u>	<u>MEETING PLACE</u>
Congregational Life	5:30 pm	Narthex
Worship & Music	5:30 pm	Fellowship hall
Confirmation	6:00 – 7:30 pm	Fellowship hall/Sanctuary
Education Committee	6:30 pm	Nursery
Women's Group	6:30 pm	Narthex
Senior High Youth	7:30 pm	Youth Room

GOOD SHEPHERD WOMEN'S GROUP

The Good Shepherd Women's Group will meet on Wednesday, January 6th at 6:30 pm in the narthex. We will discuss our up-coming First Wednesday meal to be served on February 3rd and plans for the group, including the serving of a meal at the Salvation Army in Rochester, a visit to a local winery and plans to attend The Promise. Dinner is served from 5:30 – 7:00 pm, so plan to join us for dinner and a quick meeting to follow. All women are welcome to attend.

The wine tasting event, held at the Weinrich household on December 17th, was an evening full of fun, food, fellowship and "fruitful spirits" (some having more "fruit" than others – meaning the wines, of course)! Everyone had a good time. THANKS, Deb, for hosting this fun event!

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH CONTINUED ...

GRADUATION MILESTONE

Work Day to Make Blankets for Graduates

Spend a cold winter day **Monday, January 11th** with Good Shepherd friends sewing blankets for our graduates! Meet at church for sewing, fellowship, fun, and of course food (warm soup and bread). We will start at 8:00 a.m. and stop sometime in the afternoon. Come when you can and leave when you must.

Sewing skills are helpful, but not required. So if you can't sew, come anyway to cut, pin, and most of all have fun. Bring any of the following items that you have: sewing machine, scissors, pins, and needles.

Let me know if you want to help, but can't come that day. We will probably need another work day or you could take one home. For questions, contact Carole Joyce at carole35@charter.net or 269-9374.

LIFEKEYS

Several Good Shepherd members have attended a Life Keys Session. Some comments about the class include: "I loved the class. It really opened my eyes. I'm pushing my boundaries a little at a time." "The class is a great way to let people take a look at themselves – inside & out." "I appreciated the focus on being comfortable with what I'm good at." "The interaction was great."

As a *Life Keys* course participant you may learn more about ways to serve in the church and help you to say "yes" to opportunities. Opportunities that will help you fulfill your life and not just fill up your time. You will uncover what your passions are, the things you are interested in and ways you hope to make a difference. You are valuable just as you are. Whatever gifts God, through his Holy Spirit has blessed you with, they are chosen to fit your way of life, your calling and your mission.

Please consider joining our next *Life Keys* session which will be held January 17, 24, 31, & February 7 in the Sanctuary from 9:15 – 10:15 am. Materials will be provided. This will be an abbreviated, fast-paced interactive session due to time constraints. No pre-registration is required. Everyone is welcome, even if you have attended a previous *Life Keys* session.

Please contact Deb Weinrich with any questions at deb.goodshepherd@embarqmail.com or 534-4256.

MILESTONE MOMENTS

Baptism...

Blessings to Cecilia Grace Peterson, who was baptized on December 27, 2009. Cecilia is the daughter of Joel and Abby (Heins) Peterson.

Blessings to Jazmin Jane Peterson, who was baptized on December 27, 2009. Cecilia is the adopted daughter of Joel and Abby (Heins) Peterson.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH CONTINUED ...

PRAYERS

Do you have a prayer that you remember saying as a child? Does your family have a favorite bedtime prayer or table grace? Did you learn a cool prayer at Bible camp? Would you like to write a simple prayer to share with our Good Shepherd faith family?

Our Wednesday evening Lenten worship services will focus on the Lord's Prayer. Carole Joyce would like to compile a booklet of favorite prayers from members of our congregation. Please share a prayer with her by email carole35@charter.net or turn it into the church office by January 31st. Adults, youth, kids, families, and Sunday school classes are all invited to participate in this project. Include your name if you are willing, but we will take anonymous prayers too.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH

Senior High Youth Ministry – A good thing growing! (Grades 9-12)

The senior high youth will resume meeting on January 6th at 7:30 p.m.

Aluminum Can Collection

The senior high youth continue to collect aluminum cans. Please place your bagged cans in the wood crate between the two sheds and we will take care of it from there. Thanks for your continued support!

WOODWORKING SKILLS NEEDED

Do you have wood working or building skills? We are looking for people to help with two different projects. The first is making faith chests to give to baptismal families. The second is making small crosses for Lent. For more information or to volunteer, please sign the count me in form. Or contact Carole Joyce at carole35@charter.net or 269-9374.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

01/01	Merlin Mielke		01/21	Todd Scripture
	Annie Weinrich			Ian Norregaard
01/02	Kathy Sveen			Marjahanna Hanson
	Grace Wangen		01/23	Gloria Keseley
	Christian Wangen			Logan Buntrock
01/03	Tayla Erickson		01/24	Al Fravert
01/04	Tucker Johnson			Fran Grover
	Charli Yust			Deb Weinrich
01/05	Don Weinrich			Aaron Peterson
01/08	Ron Kurth		01/25	Hayley Rau
01/10	Lakota Wallraff			Hunter Rau
01/12	Tammy Peterson			Jeremiah Grabau
01/13	Trisha Schumacher			Evan Kobler
	Jennifer Sadler		01/26	Darald Bothun
	Tanner Mielke			Coltan Wallraff
01/14	Dennis Buntrock		01/27	Sheri Webster
	Paul Anderson		01/29	Sally Woestehoff
	Frank Horstman			Robby Peterson
01/15	Joe Crudele			Jessica Rohlik
01/18	Don Fiskum		01/31	Tiffany Boraas
	Bill Albers			Randi Fravert
01/19	Sherry Tuxen			

**PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU HAVE ADDITIONS
OR CORRECTIONS TO THE LIST OF BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES.**

(No anniversaries were shown in January)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

***Reach up as far as you can...
God will reach down the rest of the way!***

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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The Shepherd's Staff is a communication tool among our friends and members spreading the word of Jesus Christ with news of our church and related events. It is published monthly by Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Plainview-Elgin.

VISION STATEMENT, GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

Claimed by God through Word & Sacrament, we move forward with a NEW VIEW:

Notice the needs of our congregation, community, and world with eyes of faith.
Educate all from cradle to grave.
Worship in thankfulness and joy.

Value all generations in passing on the faith.
Identify and affirm the gifts of God's people.
Energize God's people to use their gifts for ministry.
Welcome the opportunity to walk the talk with our youth.

The submission deadline for the February 2010 Newsletter is

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22.