

The Shepherd's Staff

March 2010

Issue 120

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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 Kathy Sveen (876-3083) or Betty Fahrenz (876-2961) during the month of March.

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LENT 2010 CONTINUES: Growing deeper through prayer

Wednesday night meals: 5:30 – 7 p.m.
Wednesday night worship: 7:00 p.m.

Our worship life adds a midweek opportunity for worship in this season of reflecting on Jesus' journey to the cross. All Wednesday night worship services begin at 7:00 p.m. We worship using "That You May Have Life," an arrangement by Marty Haugen and Susan Briehl. Each week we learn from a part of the Lord's Prayer through a teaching time and a skit put on by the confirmation students.

A "Good Shepherd Prayer Book" was given to each household who attended worship on Wednesday, February 24, 2010. On each of the Wednesdays (March 3, 10, 17, and 24) households attending worship will receive a gift that connects with growing in our prayer lives.

Lenten Suppers begin at 5:30 p.m. on March 3, 10, 17, & 24. The weekly suppers are hosted by the Senior High Youth as they prepare for their mission trip to inner-city Chicago.

Challenge yourself this lent season to take time to grow in your prayer life with times of offering up prayers and times of being still to listen for God. The prayer book offers some great ideas and practices.

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

March 28	Palm/Passion Sunday	8:00 & 10:30 a.m. worship
April 1	Maundy Thursday	7:00 p.m. worship
April 2	Good Friday	7:00 p.m. worship
April 4	Easter	8:00 & 10:30 a.m. worship

ENLARGING THE CIRCLE OF MINISTRY

SPACE UTILIZATION STUDY UPDATE: SURVEYING THE CONGREGATION

A history since this fall...

Following the October update and conversation with the congregation, the space study team carried out their charge to select a "Negotiating Contractor" and to gather pricing information about these potential renovations and addition.

Interviews for a "Negotiating Contractor" were held with the assistance of Kane & Johnson Architects. The search began with the premise that we have a preference for local contractors. Knutson Construction of Rochester was selected following interviews held on December 3rd.

Again, please note that no construction has been ordered, but we are gathering pricing information. Knutson construction will work with Kane and Johnson Architects and the Space Study Team to provide the congregation with some initial pricing numbers.

Hearing new concerns along the way...

We have heard different concerns being highlighted now than when the space study started. One example is that when this space study process began in May, many of the conversations at Good Shepherd focused on the challenges of open classrooms in the fellowship hall. As we have gotten further into the process, we have heard lots of concerns about the cramped gathering space (narthex).

As the space study team, along with Knutson Construction and Kane & Johnson, heard new areas being named as concerns, it was decided that it would be valuable to survey the congregation on their priorities for space needs. Also, gathering pricing information and presenting it to the congregation for 3 prospective construction phases that likely would be drastically reconfigured wouldn't be very useful.

Since Sunday, February 21st a space needs survey has been included as a bulletin insert and available in the narthex in order to hear what you prioritize as our space needs (parking lot, classrooms, meeting rooms, gathering space, office space, youth room, etc.)

A presentation to the congregation will be scheduled when new, relevant information can be provided.

Thank you for you partnership in ministry,

The Space Study Team – Arlan Simonson, Ron Fahrenz, Carol Goergen-Fenske, Dawn Suntken, Gloria Keseley, and Pastor Kevin Woestehoff

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH

GOOD SHEPHERD WOMEN'S GROUP

The Promise of Rochester

On Friday, March 19th, a group of Good Shepherd women will be attending "The Promise of Rochester". This musical drama about the life of Jesus Christ will be performed at Bethel Lutheran Church. The performance runs from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. The audience witnesses the birth, death, burial, resurrection & ascension of Jesus. The cost of tickets is \$10 for adults and \$8 for youth 17 & under. This is a Rochester community production and more than 16 area congregations are involved. If you wish to attend, please indicate on the "Count Me In" form. You may leave a check payable to Bethel Lutheran Church in the office by March 7th and your tickets will be available to pick up in the church office on March 14th. You may order your own tickets by calling 288-6430.

EASTER EGG HUNT

Calling All Parents of Infants and Young Children

The Good Shepherd Parent's Group is looking for parents interested in helping out with this year's Easter egg hunt. There will be a meeting on March 14th between services in the nursery to plan the activity which will be held on March 28th and followed by a meal in the fellowship hall. In addition, we will be discussing future activities and looking for input from interested parents. Contact Mike Boraas (mboraas2@yahoo.com) or Carole Joyce (carole35@charter.net) if you have questions.

Easter Egg Hunt

Parents and children are invited to some fun following the 10:30 a.m. service on March 28th, Palm Sunday. Join other young families for an Easter egg hunt and meal. We will also look ahead to future activities, looking for input from interested parents.

THE POWER OF PRAYER

Every Sunday for the past six months, Good Shepherd's prayer list has included an individual named Scott Stepp. On March 21st between services, Scott and Kathleen Stepp would like to invite you to hear the story of Scott's battle with an illness called blastomycosis and his recovery in the U of M intensive care unit which even his doctors have referred to as a miracle.

GOOD SHEPHERD PRAYER BOOK

Have you had a chance to pick up your copy of the Good Shepherd Prayer Book? These make a great resource for devotions and prayer at home during the Lenten season (and beyond). Thanks to those of you who contributed your favorite prayers. Get your copy in the gathering area at church.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH CONTINUED ...

FIRST WEDNESDAY DINNER IN MARCH

On Wednesday, March 3rd, from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m., the Senior High Youth will be doing the cooking, as they do each Wednesday evening during the Lenten season. They will again be serving delicious soups, Great Harvest breads, cheese, and desserts, in the Fellowship Hall. Proceeds will go to their summer mission trip to Chicago. A suggested donation of \$5 per adult and \$3 per child 8 and under will be collected. We hope to see all of you on the March 3rd.

If your group would be interested in serving a meal on May 5th, please indicate that on the "Count Me In" form. 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 February 3rd and the times they will meet are listed below:

<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>MEETING TIMES</u>	<u>MEETING PLACE</u>
Confirmation	6:00 pm	Fellowship hall/Sanctuary
Children's Choir	6:00 pm	Back of the Fellowship Hall
Congregational Life	6:30 pm	Narthex
Lenten service	7:00 pm	Sanctuary

BLANKET WORK DAY

Spend Monday, March 1st with Good Shepherd friends finishing blankets for graduates and cutting out blankets for baptisms. Meet at church for sewing, fun, fellowship, and food. We will start at 8:00 a.m., work, and then have lunch together. Come when you can and leave when you must. Bring a scissors if you can. If you can't sew, come anyway to cut, pin, and have fun.

MANY HANDS NEEDED

Good Shepherd literally wraps babies in God's love when they are baptized. Each baby is given a blanket (a tie blanket or a tag blanket) at baptism to symbolize God's love which will surround them for the rest of their life. EVERYONE is encouraged and invited to help work on these blankets on **Wednesday, March 24th from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.** Come for the Lenten soup supper and then take a few minutes before worship to help. If you can cut with a scissors or tie a knot, you have all the skills necessary!

In baptism, children are welcomed into God's family. Wouldn't it be wonderful if each blanket we give has been made by many, many hands from the Good Shepherd family? Children and youth are invited to help too.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH CONTINUED ...

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH

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

The senior high youth do not meet during Lent. They will start meeting again on April 7th from 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. All senior high youth are welcome and encouraged to attend.

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!

NEW MEMBERS

A new member orientation and potluck will be held on Sunday, April 18th

On a weekly basis, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is blessed with people who are worshipping at Good Shepherd for the first time, as well as many returning worshippers who are desiring to live out their discipleship as part of the ministry of Good Shepherd. An orientation to Good Shepherd's ministry will be held Sunday, April 18th from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. in the Good Shepherd Fellowship Hall. This is a time to learn more about Good Shepherd's mission and ministry. Sandwiches and refreshments will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass.

Those desiring to become members will be received during Sunday morning worship on April 25th. If you would like to attend this orientation and desire to become a member, please contact the church office at 534-3675 or by email to kevin.goodshepherd@embarqmail.com.

Also, we are always looking for more households who would be interested in serving as a "sponsor" for a new members - please contact the church office.

EDUCATION

ADULT EDUCATION

There is always something interesting during the education hour from 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings! Bring your coffee and join in the discussion.

March 7 and 14: Beatitudes: Our seminary intern, Beth Krolak, is leading us through a study of the Beatitudes. Come for one or all of the lessons. What do these words which Jesus taught mean for us today?

March 21: The Power of Prayer: Every Sunday for the past six months, Good Shepherd's prayer list has included an individual named Scott Stepp. On March 21st between services, Scott and Kathleen Stepp would like to invite you to hear the story of Scott's battle with an illness called blastomycosis and his recovery in the U of M intensive care unit which even his doctors have referred to as a miracle."

March 28, April 11, 18, 25: A Lament, A Dreamer, and Two Pretty Good Leaders: Get to know some of the interesting people in the Bible. What do you already know about Rachael, Joseph, Moses, and Joshua? Learn about who they are and think about what they have to do with your faith today.

TOGETHER IN FAITH

First Graders and Parents: "Ten Commandments"

First graders and their parents will connect on March 7th and 14th for two special sessions on the "Ten Commandments." Sessions happen during the 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. Sunday school hour. We will gather in the first grade classroom. Students will recite the ten commandments at worship on March 21st.

3-Year Olds and Parents: "Praying Together"

These two sessions will help parents and children learn to pray together. On March 21st and 28th parents should plan to attend Sunday school with their child for the parent-child class, "Praying Together." We will have lots of fun while learning together. The 3-year old class will lead the congregation in prayer during worship on April 11th.

FIRST COMMUNION

Fifth graders will be receiving a letter in early March giving details of their upcoming instruction on Holy Communion. Fifth graders who have received "First Communion" training with their parents will be receiving their first communion at the 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday worship service on April 1st. Blessings to this group of students and parents as they celebrate this milestone!

EDUCATION CONTINUED ...

SIGN UP NOW TO PARTICIPATE IN BIBLE CAMP ADVENTURES THIS SUMMER...

Good Earth Village Opportunities for Youth

A week (or several days) at Bible camp is a wonderful way to have lots of fun, explore God's amazing creation, and have great faith conversations. Because this can be such a meaningful experience, Good Shepherd will pay half the fee of any student who would like to go to camp at Good Earth Village this summer! This offer is for any student Kindergarten through 9th grade. (Full scholarships are available for anyone with financial need. Just talk to Pastor Kevin.) Brochures are available at church. **Sign up by March 7th to reserve your spot.**

It would be fun to have a group go together, so we picked August 1-6 as Good Shepherd week. Our day at GEV for K-4th graders will be that week as well (see next article.) 3rd-4th graders can choose to do the day or stay for the whole week. If August 1-6 doesn't work for you, choose any week that does. Brochures are available at church. Pick one up to register and see all the options. Send your registration and deposit directly to Good Earth Village. Then let us know you are going. (GEV recommends you register by early to mid-March to guarantee the week you want.)

Day Long VBS Adventure for K-4th graders

On Thursday, August 5 spend a day (9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.) at Good Earth Village with your Good Shepherd friends. Camp songs, games, Bible stories, and worship will be highlights of the day. Sign up at Good Shepherd **by March 7th** to reserve your space. Good Shepherd will pay for this awesome adventure. (Any 3rd and 4th graders who would prefer to go for the whole week of Aug 1-6, see above article.)

Vacation Bible School: June 6-9 from 6:00 - 7:45 p.m.

- Activities and learning are planned for 3 year olds through 4th graders.
- 5th graders on up are encouraged to teach, help, or participate in the adult/youth Bible study.
- Parents or grandparents of preschoolers are invited to attend with them—an opportunity to play and pray together.
- Kick off – with worship and activities will be Sunday, June 6.

Watch for registration later this month. Thanks to those who have already signed up to help! More teachers, helpers, and organizers are needed. Sign up on the "Count Me In" form in Sunday's bulletin, call or e-mail Good Shepherd today, or talk to Julene Horstman or Carole Joyce.

EDUCATION CONTINUED ...

CONFIRMATION MINISTRY

7th & 8th Grade Confirmation Ministry

Confirmation ministry meets every Wednesday night 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.

March Schedule

March 3
 March 10
 March 17
 March 24
 March 31

Host Family for Meals

Lenten Soup Supper (Senior High Youth)
 Lenten Soup Supper (Senior High Youth)
 Lenten Soup Supper (Senior High Youth)
 Lenten Soup Supper (Senior High Youth)
HOLY WEEK – No Wednesday Activities

BRIGHTER TOMORROWS

Please be aware that the Sunday school offering through May will be donated to Brighter Tomorrows to assist in their aid and ministry to families who are faced with the challenge of childhood cancer. Sunday school teachers do collect offering every Sunday during class, and we would like to work toward giving Brighter Tomorrows a generous donation. Thank you!

Julene Horstman, Education Chair

THANK YOU NOTE FROM SHANNA DECKER AND FAMILY

Dear Julene and Members of Good Shepherd

Thank you for inviting Shanna to speak to your Sunday School Classes and members of your congregation. It is an honor for her to get to share her story as well as her faith.

Also, thank you for the generous donation that your members made to Brighter Tomorrows. Our family considers it a privilege to have the opportunity to serve families touched by childhood cancer. Your donation will allow us to continuing providing Family Care Kits, family events, weekend retreats, celebrations, memorials, and emotional support, as well as helping to meet the basic needs of our families.

The smiles on the faces of those who benefit from our services are all the thanks we'll ever need. May God grant you His richest blessings. Thank you for supporting Brighter Tomorrows through your generous donations.

Sincerely,

Shanna Decker and family

MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP

FOOD SHELF UPDATE

What's for supper?

It's a question often asked, and many local families will find the answer at the Plainview-Elgin Area Food Shelf. Many local households are served by the food shelf each month, and Good Shepherd funding and volunteers make a big difference in helping to keep the shelves stocked. In 2009, Good Shepherd contributed more than \$5,500 to the food shelf. Way to go!

March is a very important month at the food shelf. During March, Minnesota FoodShare coordinates a state-wide campaign to raise funds, food, and awareness of the hunger problem in Minnesota. They distribute the funds to local food shelves based in part, on how much the individual food shelves raise for themselves during the month of March, and based on the number of families served. Because of this effort, your timely March contributions go even further at the food shelf.

Good Shepherd's Wednesday, Lenten offerings will go to help the food shelf with their March fundraising campaign. If you would like to take this opportunity to help beef-up contributions, consider adding an extra check anytime during the month of March. Make your check payable to Good Shepherd, but note that it's for the food shelf in the memo area. This approach helps Good Shepherd track benevolence giving and means we can cut one or two checks to the food shelf during the month to help with the March campaign. Some statistics from the past year:

In March of 2009, the Plainview-Elgin Area Food Shelf raised \$22,022.60 and 4,800 pounds of food. Because of the fundraising on both a state and national level during the month of March, they in turn received \$2,018 from MN FoodShare and \$300 from the Feinstein challenge. In 2009, the Plainview-Elgin area food shelf distributed over 92,000 pounds of food. About two-thirds of that total came from Channel One, purchased with the donated funds. The rest was from food donations from the community. In an average month, the food shelf served 126 families and distributed more than 7,500 pounds of food.

Please remember your local food shelf in March.

Thank you!

FINANCE

January 2010 Financial Record

Revenue	\$ 18,949
Budgeted Revenue	\$ 16,584
Expenditures	\$ 15,268
Budgeted Expenditures	\$ 16,169
Mortgage balance	\$263,440

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

03/02	Candace Olstad		3/19	Bonnie McMillin
	Jordyn Anderson			Daniel McCann
03/05	Larissa Jurgenson			Gage Hanson
03/06	Owen Johnson		03/20	Randy Wendt
03/07	Jane McCann			Carter Balcome
	Eve Grabau		03/22	Jim Balcome
03/08	Joan Boyer		03/23	Angela Loucks
03/09	Caleb Getschmann		03/24	Marc Anderson
03/10	Diane Fick		03/25	Gene Bergstrom
03/11	Jayden Munsch			Jan Sackreiter
03/13	Bob Shanks			Arisa Wilson
03/14	Dustin Sawyer		03/26	Dick Rasmussen
	Matthew Sackreiter			Craig Beck
03/15	Michelle Wendt		03/27	Tina Wangen
	Tara Ellinghuysen			Eliza Norregaard
	Jonny Weinrich			Angalee Schmidt
03/16	Leda Tangen		03/28	Roger Rettmann
	Isaac Woestehoff		03/29	Marget Christison
03/17	Gary Melbostad			Cody Mammanga
	Gary Tesmer		03/30	Sheryl Benike
03/18	Mitchell Balcome			

Anniversaries

03/04	Darald & Leitha Bothun
03/15	Allen & Dawn Breuer
03/21	Ron & Betty Fahrenz
03/26	Jim & June Barnick
03/31	Dick & Kay Rasmussen

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

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Swallow your pride. It contains no calories.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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Address Service Requested
Issue 120, Published Monthly

Presorted Special
Standard Mail
US Postage Paid
Plainview, MN 55964
Permit No. 68

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 April 2010 Newsletter is

MONDAY, MARCH 22.