

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 Misty Biers (876-2827) or Pat Hanson Haack (534-3088) during the month of April.

HOLY WEEK/EASTER 2010 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

Holy Week is the cornerstone of our worship life. We celebrate the God who comes to us in Jesus. We join the cheering crowds that welcomed him as he rode into Jerusalem, and we also join the crowds who drift away and turn against our Lord. We experience Jesus who knows our deepest needs, and recall his power being stripped away on Maundy Thursday. On Good Friday we come to a time of overwhelming discouragement, failure, and grief, as our Lord's dead body is taken from the cross. On Easter day we come with anticipation knowing that Christ was raised from the dead, and that we may face each day's challenge with hope and courage.

CELEBRATE WITH BETH KROLAK ON APRIL 25TH

April 25th will be our final Sunday with Luther Seminary Student, Beth Krolak. Beth has been a great blessing for us the past two years. She has been leading worship and Bible studies while completing her first two years of seminary. Next for Beth will be an internship year away from school where she will be serving as a "student pastor." There will be food and refreshments during the education/fellowship hour. Take this opportunity to thank Beth for her ministry with us, and wish her God's blessings as she continues in ministry.

COULD YOU BE A PRAYER SPONSOR?

Would you be willing to regularly pray for a student, and send them a post card monthly to let them know you are praying for them? We are looking for prayer sponsors for 12 confirmands and 15 high school seniors. You can sign up by filling out the "Count Me In" form. You can adopt a student, or perhaps a whole class. You will be provided with address labels, postcards, and some guidelines to answer your questions about carrying out this important ministry. Let's grow deeper through prayer!

CABLE CHANNEL CHANGES

Due to the local cable TV company's rearrangement of their channels, Good Shepherd's services are now broadcast on local channel 20 instead of channel 13. The services will air from Thursday afternoon through Sunday evening. If there are any problems viewing Channel 20, please call Bob Endres at 507-534-3993.

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ENLARGING THE CIRCLE OF MINISTRY

“Where there is no vision, the people perish...” Proverbs 29:18 KJV

From time to time we have gathered in cottage meetings to ask big questions like, “God, where are you calling us to go in ministry? God, where do we see you at work, and how can we join in?” Our ministry as a congregation is led by a vision of “Growing deeper in faith and service.” We are continually involved in prayerful planning and carrying out this vision. In the last month alone our church staff and council spent some time in a retreat and have been working with their ministry teams to do some prayerful planning. Some of this planning shows up in programming and initiatives that are carried out during the year. Some of this planning shows itself in strategies for future staffing, programming, communication, facility, and finances.

One area of planning has been the space study. (In the last couple of months, there has been a space study survey. Thank you for the input you passed on to the space study team. As sometimes happen in lent, this space study conversation has faded during the programming and congregational life of the season.) There will be more space study conversations, because the space study is another tool of planning. Our strategic plan from 2006 called us to “Develop a Facility Master Plan and Maintenance Schedule that is congruent with our ministry priorities and needs.”

The space study has been addressing important ministry questions: “What are our space needs to do ministry well? How does our current space limit/impact our ministry? How would we like to address space limitations? What are the finances needed to carry out potential updates for our facility?” These questions are needed in order to develop a facility master plan. There are no proposals on the table or expectations of timelines.

Our synod bishop asked me to attend an event on revitalizing congregations, that was held at the ELCA churchwide offices on February 18th and 19th. The overarching theme was the importance of congregations continually asking and following through on the question “where is God at work and where do we join in?” Data was shared of the 183 congregations of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod from 2003-2008. Only 25% of these congregations have been growing. Good Shepherd was the third fastest growing congregation during that time.

Visioning and prayerful planning is all done in an effort to carry out vitalized ministry. It is one way we strive to be faithful to God in the ministry we share.

Partners in Christ,
Pastor Kevin Woestehoff

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH

FIRST WEDNESDAY DINNER IN APRIL

On Wednesday, April 7th, from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m., Kenny and Stacy Hutchison and the PEM Bulldog Football Quarterback Club will be grilling hamburgers and brats. Proceeds from this meal will go toward new bleachers at the Elgin football field. A donation of \$5 for the meal will be collected. Everyone is welcome!

The committees that will be meeting on April 7th and the times they will meet are listed below:

<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>MEETING TIMES</u>	<u>MEETING PLACE</u>
Worship & Music	5:30 pm	Fellowship Hall
Confirmation	6:00 pm	Fellowship Hall/Sanctuary
VBS	6:00 pm	Nursery
Children's Choir	6:30 pm	Back of the Fellowship Hall
Multiple Touch	6:30 pm	Narthex
Finance	7:00 pm	Administration Office

NEW MEMBERS

New Member Orientation and Potluck -- 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.

MULTIPLE TOUCH MINISTRIES

All Multiple Touch Ministry team members and anyone interested in joining in or finding out more about the group are invited to attend a meeting on April 7th at 6:30 p.m. in the narthex. This group's goal is to reach out to others within our congregation or in the community in times of need or with joy in times of celebration. Please join us as we make plans to improve communication and discuss more ways in which we can reach out to others. Dinner is being coordinated by Stacy & Kenny Hutchison that evening with proceeds going toward new bleachers for the Elgin football field. Please come early to grab a bite to eat, support that cause and then attend the meeting. If you have any questions, you may contact Deb Weinrich at deb.goodshepherd@embarqmail.com or 534-4256.

MILESTONE MOMENTS

Baptism...

Blessings to Logan Nicholas Hanson, who was baptized on March 7, 2010. Logan is the son of Nick and Cathe Hanson.

Blessings to Laney Kate Gusa, who was baptized on March 14, 2010. Laney is the daughter of Justin and Jen Gusa.

Blessings to Zachary Thomas Hassig, who was baptized on March 21, 2010. Zachary is the son of Marty and Sarah Hassig.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH CONTINUED ...

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH

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

Senior High Youth Group will resume meeting from 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 7th.

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!

EDUCATION

ADULT EDUCATION

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

March 28, April 11 and April 18: 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 these Bible people and think about what they have to do with YOUR faith today.

April 25th will be a sending celebration for Beth Krolak as she prepares to begin her internship. Join us for coffee and treats during the education hour as we wish Beth well and send her off with our blessing.

BIBLE READING AT HOME

You know the real estate saying, "Location, Location, Location." Try the idea below and see if location makes a difference in your attempts to read the bible at home.

- **Leave a bible open out on your kitchen table**, counter, or wherever your high traffic area is.
- **Bring your yellow "Taking Faith Home" insert home and place it on the table next to the bible.** (This can eliminate the paralysis of "I don't know what to do" by giving you a daily bible reading, mealtime grace, etc.)
- **Begin meal time with the daily bible reading.** (It will take less than 1 minute.)
- **Before eating, say the table grace for the week or use your own.**
- **Make a commitment to try this for 6 weeks.**

Some days your daily bible reading may seem to fail to connect with you. If you give it a chance you will find that there are days where you will experience God's Word being just what you needed to hear. Let's leave those bibles open, and see what God has to say.

EDUCATION CONTINUED ...

FIRST COMMUNION

Fifth graders who have received "First Communion" training with their parents will be receiving their first communion at 7:00 p.m. during Maundy Thursday worship on April 1st. Blessings to this group of students and parents as they celebrate this milestone!

TOGETHER IN FAITH

Four-Year-Olds (Second year of pre-school): "I'm Sorry and I Forgive You"

Four-year olds and their parents will meet in the nursery at 9:15 a.m. on April 11th and April 18th. On Sunday, April 25th, our four-year-olds will be leading a confession and forgiveness during the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

These two sessions will be an important time for learning more fully the meaning of saying "I'm sorry" and "I forgive you." Jesus called these actions "The Keys of the Kingdom." Plan to come and help your child connect with the God who can love us at all times.

CONFIRMATION MINISTRY

April 21st – "Parents, Teens, and Money Matters"

On Wednesday, April 21st we will have our final learning event of the year. "Parents, Teens, and Money Matters" is a workshop taught by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans to help parents and teens to talk about money. (This workshop was originally scheduled for February 3rd.) Our confirmation students and parents are invited for a meal at 6:00 p.m. The workshop will begin at 6:30 p.m.

April 28th - Confirmation Banquet

Our 8th grade confirmands will be affirming their baptism during worship on Sunday, May 2nd, at 10:30 a.m. In celebration of this milestone, there will be a potluck meal that will be held on Wednesday, April 28th at 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. 7th and 8th grade students and their parents will be in attendance. We invite others who would like to attend this event to support our confirmands and to celebrate this milestone of their faith journey. If you are interested in attending, we would appreciate you making it known through the "Count Me In" form.

May 2nd – "Affirmation of Baptism"

The Service of "Affirmation of Baptism", also known as "Confirmation", will take place on Sunday, May 2nd, 2010, at the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Confirmation pictures will be taken in the sanctuary that morning from 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. We ask confirmands and their parents to attend a confirmation banquet on Wednesday, April 28th. We will have a meal together at 6:00 p.m.

EDUCATION CONTINUED ...

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

April 7 (First Wednesday Meal)

April 14

April 21

April 28

Host Family for Meals

Kenny & Stacy Hutchison/PEM Bulldog

Football Quarterback Club

Gudmundson Family

Gramling

Confirmation Banquet

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL NEWS

"Growing in Jesus" Vacation Bible School -- June 6-9 from 6:00 - 7:45 p.m.

VBS Registration Begins Now!

All children age 3 through 4th grade are invited to participate in "Growing in Jesus" VBS on June 6-9 from 6:00 - 7:45 p.m. Each night we will hear a Bible story about God's love for us. Then we will think about how we are growing in Jesus.

A registration form is included in the newsletter. Please register between now and May 1st so we can order supplies and make plans. Kids, bring a caring adult (parent, grandparent, aunt, neighbor...) so we can have some fun across the generations. Anyone older than 5th grade is encouraged to participate too as a helper or caring adult. You won't want to miss out on the fun and fellowship, so sign up to participate or help today! For questions contact Carole Joyce at 288-0551 or carole35@charter.net or Julene Horstman at 534-3505 or Julene@setapp.us

Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting: Wednesday, April 7th from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Help plan for VBS! Come to a VBS planning meeting on Wednesday, April 7th from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. We will talk about the format, theme, and who would like to do what. Invite anyone else who might want to be involved in VBS to come too! More people means more fun for us all! The theme is "Growing in Jesus", so starting thinking creatively about growing. VBS will be June 6-9 from 6:00 - 7:45 p.m. Kids (ages 3 year old-4th grade) are invited to come with a parent or other caring adult for an intergenerational time of learning and fun.

Good Earth Village Opportunities for Youth

It's not too late to sign up for a week at Good Earth Village! Prices go up April 1st, but they still have space available. Remember that Good Shepherd will pay half the fee of any student who would like to go to camp at Good Earth Village because it can be such a meaningful experience. This offer is for any student Kindergarten-9th grade. (Full scholarships are available for anyone with financial need. Just talk to Pastor Kevin.) Register directly with Good Earth at goodearthvillage.org or get a brochure at church. Make sure we know in the church office, so we can help with the costs. Some Good Shepherd kids will be there the week of August 1-6.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

THE TRIDUUM - THREE DAYS

The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ are celebrated every Sunday in worship and are at the heart of the Christian Gospel and the Christian life. The observance of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Vigil of Easter (Holy Saturday) is the disciplined way that the Christian church keeps this truth at the center of its life.

The Three days of Jesus' betrayal, passion, death, and resurrection are mirrored in the celebration of these very special three days. The word **Triduum** (pronounced TRIH - doo-um) is Latin for "**the space of three days**", and in the church, refers to this special time of the year. Since the fourth century, the Church in the West has celebrated these three days as one long liturgy of Christ's Passover from death to life for our salvation. The themes of light and darkness, of gathering around the Word, of celebrating both of the sacraments (Holy Baptism and Holy Communion) in close relationship to each other, and proclaiming the life-giving message of the resurrection make this three-day celebration the crown of the liturgical year.

The **Three Holy Days** (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday or The Vigil of Easter) are the annual observance of Our Lord's Passover from death to life for our salvation. Each of these three days and their distinctive liturgies and particular shape lifts up a part of this unified and surpassing mystery so that each aspect is a suitable object of devotion by the assembled faithful. The services of these **Three Days** are meant to unfold in a single movement and each one has its own special order of worship. They form one liturgy with no benediction separating them. This provides a sense of continuous worship celebrating our redemption.

MAUNDY THURSDAY - This service brings to a close the forty days of Lent. We share God's forgiving love in Word and Sacrament. The word "Maundy" comes from a Latin word (mandatum), that refers to the new command Christ gave on this night to "love one another as I have loved you." Through the washing of feet, the Holy Communion, and Jesus' betrayal, Jesus gives us signs of his great love. Jesus' love is demonstrated both in His example of servanthood and in His gift of Himself in Holy Communion. As a sign of our calling to follow Jesus' example of humility and service, we may wash one another's feet as Jesus washed the disciples' feet. Although this is not a custom at Good Shepherd, there are some Lutheran churches that include washing feet as part of their Maundy Thursday worship service. On this night we also gather around the Lord's Supper and our fifth grade students take their first communion. At the service's conclusion the altar area is stripped bare of furnishings as a sign of Jesus' abandonment.

GOOD FRIDAY - The Good Friday service continues the journey through the Three Days of Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection. At the heart of this service is the passion reading according to John, which celebrates Christ's victory on the cross. At Good Shepherd we use the "Tenebrae" Service on Good Friday. The word "Tenebrae" means darkness. Its purpose is to impress upon us the terrible reality of sin, which has caused our Savior to die for us. We use eight candles - seven representing the seven last words of Christ, the eighth the Christ candle. As the candles are extinguished one by one, we are reminded of two things: the darkness that covered the earth at the time our Lord spoke these words at his crucifixion and of the spiritual darkness that would exist had the Light of the World not come.

This is not a service of light, but of darkness. We have come to the crucifixion, and we must leave in darkness, even as they did on the first Good Friday. You are encouraged to keep a quiet reflection before and after the time of worship. At the end of the service you will hear the "Strepitus" (pronounced STREP-ee-toose). It means "loud noise" and signifies the earth shaking and rocks splitting at Jesus' death. It can also represent the closing of the tomb.

The VIGIL of EASTER, also known as Holy Saturday - On the night before Easter Day, Christians around the world gather to celebrate Christ's passage from death to life. Ever since the earliest centuries of the Christian Church, the Great Vigil of Easter has been a special time to celebrate the presence of the Risen Christ. This service has four parts: (1) the Service of Light, celebrating the new creation of Christ; (2) the Service of Readings, recalling God's care for the chosen people; (3) the Service of Baptism, including a reaffirmation of the Baptismal covenant by the congregation; and (4) the Service of Holy Communion, the first communion of Easter.

WORSHIP & MUSIC CONTINUED ...

The service begins in darkness, reminiscent of the primordial darkness and chaos before the creation of the world, and often begins outside where a fire has been lit. The Paschal Candle is lit from this newly kindled fire and brought into the sanctuary followed by the congregation. The Paschal Candle is used to light the congregation's candles and other candles in the church. The service continues with the readings: The Story of Creation, The Story of the Flood, The Story of Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea, and The Story of the Valley of Dry Bones. The Service of Baptism often includes a new baptism of one who has not yet been baptized and the Affirmation of those who are baptized. Then comes the Holy Noise (bells, jingling keys, clapping hands, any joyous clamor) to begin the Service of Holy Communion, the first of Easter. We celebrate the Risen Lord and once again proclaim our Alleluias! The celebration continues the next morning at the Easter Festival Services.

Good Shepherd has never used The Easter Vigil worship service. Way back in the beginning of our history, there was a time when the church was open on Saturday evening before Easter morning for those who wished to come and pray or meditate on their own but there was no formal service that I am aware of. Maybe someday we will venture into new territory for us and make it a part of our history as well.

Blessings to you as you journey through the THREE DAYS (TRIDUUM) into Easter morning.

MAUNDY THURSDAY OFFERING

At the heart of the Maundy Thursday liturgy is Jesus' commandment to love one another. As Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, we are called to follow his example as we humbly care for one another, especially the poor and the unloved. With Jesus' commandment "to love one another" in mind, our offering at the Maundy Thursday worship service will not only be our monetary gifts, which go to the Food Shelf, but our gift of canned goods or other food items. After checking with the Food Shelf for immediate needs, we have learned that there is a need for canned tuna, Spam, canned pineapple, and canned mandarin oranges. Along with the offering plates, there will be a basket in front of the altar in which to place our gifts of food.

At the time of the offering during our Maundy Thursday service, we will bring forth to the altar our gifts of money and food. Thank you for your gifts and for living out Jesus' commandment - "to love one another".

MILESTONES MINISTRY

Families celebrating the milestone of Baptism are now receiving the gift of a hand crafted faith chest and a baptismal blanket. During worship on Sunday, April 18th we will have a "Blessing of Baptismal Blankets and Faith Chests."

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

04/01	Carol Goergen-Fenske		04/14	Brande Ackman
	Dylan Koepsell			MaKenzie Rau
	Rylee Fenton		04/15	Tyson Anderson
04/02	Stacy Hutchison		04/16	Hunter Goergen
04/03	Mackenzie Boraas			Tanner Goergen
04/05	Jaime Tesmer		04/19	Ryan Endres
04/06	Jamie Kappauf			Trinity Anderson
04/07	Linda Olson		04/20	Mitchell Breuer
	Chris Fasching		04/21	Joshua LaBare
	Matthew Axelson		04/23	Kevin Gudmundson
04/08	Jeremy McMillin			Andrew Masee
	Lauren Rohlik			Xander Henderson
	Kelsey Petit		04/24	Ryan Sawyer
04/09	Patrick Petit		04/25	Julie Herrmann
	Kathy Rohlik		04/26	Ben Peter
	Kent Kingsley			Katy Johnson
	Kareen Bigalk		04/27	Michelle Gudmundson
	Stacy Johnson			Char Balcome
	Bel Albers			Jen Peter
	Dylon Flattum		04/29	Steve Sawyer
04/12	Joe Ulwelling			Lily Bartz
04/13	Doris Johnson			Shannon Ramthun
04/12	Joe Ulwelling		04/30	Kay Rasmussen
04/13	Doris Johnson			Sarah Hassig
04/14	Pastor Kevin Woestehoff			

Anniversaries

04/05	Paul & Karla Appel		04/23	Nathan & Betty Norregaard
04/12	Bill & Laurie Albers		04/24	Al & Franny Schwantz
04/22	Fran & Sheila Grover			Thor & Tina Erickson
	Roger & Cindy Rettmann			

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

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Love is a hammer that will break the hardest heart!

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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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 May 2010 Newsletter is

THURSDAY, APRIL 22.