

Spread the Good
NEWS



Dec 2009 / Jan 2010

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

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LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD MISSION STATEMENT

*A Community of Christ
Experiencing God † Reaching Out † Nurturing Faith*

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Change of Address Reminder...

† If you have moved or are planning to move, please call the church office or send us your change of address. It takes only a minute and saves us both time and money. Thank you!

Weekly Bulletin Deadline:

Every Wednesday at noon.

Newsletter Deadlines:

February/March Newsletter Deadline:

Sunday, January 17th

Annual Meeting of the Congregation & Endowment Fund Annual Meeting

The Endowment Fund Annual Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Congregation are scheduled for Sunday, January 24, 2010 at 9:45 AM in the sanctuary.

Annual Report Deadline

Leadership Team and committee chair persons, please have your annual reports on Kathy's desk by the end of December if possible or Tuesday, January 5th at the latest. Thank you!

Budget Reminder

As the year is coming to a close, please check that your 2009 pledge is up-to-date. Thank you!

2009 Contributions

Contributions intended for the 2009 tax year must be postmarked on or before Thursday, December 31st or placed in the offering plate on Sunday, December 27th. Please note that the church office closes at noon on the 31st!

FROM PASTOR DAVE

Journey to Easter and the Ends of the Earth

What will it mean for our lives personally and for our life together as a community of Christ to be transformed and renewed by the Gospel of Luke in the coming year? The drama of Luke describes two journeys: the journey of Jesus to Jerusalem that culminates in his death and resurrection; and the journey of the disciples to the ends of the earth with the proclamation of the gospel. These journeys together articulate our identity, purpose and mission.

As we enter Luke this year it will be helpful for each of us to dedicate some time to reading it straight through in one sitting. It took me 1:06:49 to take this fascinating journey! The themes of Word, table and mission recur as unique Lukan contributions to the mission of the church.

Word

Luke describes the drama of the living and dangerous Word of God entering human history through Jesus. This powerful Word creates a response in all who hear it, not only the characters in the story, but also all (of us!) who hear the story today.

Table

Who is welcome at the table? This is a burning question in Luke's community. "Table" describes daily meals as well as Holy Communion. Luke affirms that we are welcome at God's table, and also that we are called to extend that welcome to all.

Mission

The mission of the disciples extends beyond the end of Luke, and its sequel (the Book of Acts) to the ends of the earth. This is our story, and the reason the church exists.

As our community is transformed by Luke this year we will experience a revitalization of Word, table and mission. The transformation will happen through creating an environment of faithful expectancy in weekly worship, daily prayer and regular study opportunities. Exciting plans are being made for regular evening community gatherings around Word, table and mission!

With you on the journey,

Pastor Dave

FAITH-NURTURING GIFTS

Gift Giving as a Way to Nurture the Faith

The gifts you give can easily have a long-term impact on nurturing a child's faith. This is true especially for very young children. Research indicates that the primary years that a child's faith is developing is from infant to six years old. When a child experiences Bible inspired music, books, games, and videos in their family setting, the child's faith can be deeply nurtured.

Again this Christmas, I encourage you to consider giving gifts which nurture the faith. As grandparents, godparents, aunts and uncles, neighbors, and parents, you have the opportunity to help make a positive difference in the faith life of some child. Giving appropriate Christ-centered gifts is one of many ways our Christian faith can be passed on to the next generation.

Blessings to you throughout this Advent Season!
— Pastor Tim



Faith-Nurturing Gifts

are available through the Resource and Gift Center Ministry located in the Chapel throughout the Advent season.

The most popular gift items include:

Birth of Jesus Christmas Story Cube

Children find these expanding cubes delightful! Follow the arrows to unfold the cube, enjoy each new scene, and read the bible story. A great stocking stuffer.

God Gave Us You Little Cub wasn't quite ready to go to sleep. "Mama, where did I come from?" "From God," her mother answered. Your papa and I were alone, and we wanted a baby." "And you got me?" "Yes, my special child. God gave us you."

Baby's First Bible Babies and toddlers go on a journey from creation to resurrection in this beautifully illustrated *Baby's First Bible* with peek-through windows and a carrying handle.

Faith Talk and *Faith Talk with Children* Game cards for families to use at times together such as car time, play time, bed time, vacation time, or making memory time. Invites fun family conversation which deepens faith.

Christmas Worship Schedule

December 20th Emmanuel Fest/4th Sunday in Advent

Here at Good Shepherd, we have a special morning called Emmanuel Fest! Sunday School children, the choirs, and other musicians will join together for BOTH the 8:45 and 11:00 AM worship services on December 20. Sunday School children are asked to participate at both services, so that the whole church family can fully experience the festival. During the 10:00 AM Sunday School hour, we will have an intergenerational Sunday School filled with Christmastime fun! Sunday School children will be bringing home a letter explaining the Emmanuel Fest in greater detail.

December 24th Christmas Eve

4:30 PM..... Family Service
10:30 PM..... Candlelight Service

December 25th Christmas Day

10:00 AM.....Worship & Communion

December 27th First Sunday after Christmas

10:00 AM..... Worship & Communion

Jeremy Johnson, Guest Preacher

Please note:
10:00 AM
worship time
on Christmas
Day and First
Sunday after
Christmas!

Church office will be closed:

- December 24th and 25th
- December 31st (office closes at noon)
- January 1st



NEWS & EVENTS

New Member Sunday

We will welcome and celebrate new members during the Sunday worship services on December 13th, the Third Sunday in Advent.

Flower Fund Offering

Each Sunday our church provides a meaningful way by which members and friends can memorialize or honor loved ones: the floral arrangement that beautifies the sanctuary of Good Shepherd is that tangible tribute. The 2010 flower calendar will be posted on the bulletin board in December; watch the bulletins for an announcement.

www.lcgsduluth.com

Make us your home page!

In addition to general information about Good Shepherd, you will find up-to-date content including:

- Scripture readings and bulletin announcements
- Highlights of Vision Council minutes (Full copies of meeting minutes are available in the church office.)
- Monthly newsletter and calendar
- ELCA News Feed links to current news items from the ELCA
- Weekly reflections from Bishop Thomas Aitken

**CHECK
OUT OUR
WEB SITE!**

The Annual Giving Tree is a tradition here at Good Shepherd. Starting November 29th we will again have the opportunity to make Christmas brighter for others in our community. Gifts will be given to Safehaven Shelter for battered women, and youth at Lifehouse. Please consider selecting a tag from the tree located in the gathering area. Write your name and phone number on the sign-up sheet(s) near the tree. Purchase the item(s) according to suggestions on the tag. Place the present in a gift bag and be sure to attach the tag on the outside. Please put your gift beneath the tree by December 17th so the packages can be delivered the next day. Say a prayer for the recipient of your gift. Thank you for sharing during this season of hope.



ELCA Good Gifts

Having a hard time figuring out Christmas gifts this year? How about giving an ELCA Good Gift in someone's name. They are gifts that change lives!

ELCA Good Gifts catalog order code: ITEM001394
(www.elca.org/goodgifts or call 1-800-638-3522).



NEWS & EVENTS

You are invited...

**Transformation Through
The Gospel of Luke...
Word, Table, Mission**

Sunday, December 6, 2:30 PM
St. Scholastica Monastery

The Benedictine Sisters of Saint Scholastica Monastery have invited members and friends of Good Shepherd to share a time of Advent celebration. An overview of Luke will be held on Sunday, December 6, 2:30 PM at St. Scholastica Monastery, Rockhurst Dining Room. Following the program, you are invited to stay for refreshments and fellowship.

Scandinavian Holiday Bus Trip

The Swedish Cultural Society is sponsoring a holiday bus trip to St. Paul on Saturday, December 5, 7:30 AM — 6:30 PM. Tickets are \$25. For more information, or to make reservations, call Nancy Lahti at 727-4416.

Sankta Lucia Celebration

You are invited to attend a Sankta Lucia Celebration on Saturday, December 12th at 9:00 AM in the Great Lakes Ballroom of the Holiday Inn. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$8 for children (ages 5-12 years) and can be obtained by calling Nancy Lahti at 727-4416. Sponsored by the Swedish Cultural Society.

Poinsettias for the Church

If you would like to share a poinsettia *for decorating the altar* at Christmas in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special occasion, please call the church office at 525-1922 or send this form to the church office before **Monday, December 7th**. The cost is **\$14.00**. \$1.00 per order will be donated to the CHUM church transportation fund.



Name: _____

Number of Poinsettias requested: _____

Amount of money enclosed: \$ _____

Please indicate what you would like your notation to say:

...given in loving memory of:

...given in honor (or other similar notation) of:

...given by:

NEWS & EVENTS

Lay Leader Extravaganza!

SAVE this date: Saturday, March 27 at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. The theme of this congregational resource event is "The Marks of Discipleship." The keynote presenter is Pastor Stephen Bouman. Expect a day filled with mission and ministry, practical information, and resources galore! Registration fee for this day-long event is \$20 per person or \$15 each for groups of four or more. Look for registration flyers in early January. You won't want to miss this event!

Multi-Generational Mission Trip

A multi-generational mission trip is scheduled for the week of August 1st. Anyone can attend! This will be a great opportunity for the youth of our congregation to work alongside their families and other adults. Families and youth from Zion Lutheran Church will be attending the mission trip with us. We will be going to Sault Ste Marie, the oldest city in Michigan. The trip runs from Sunday evening through Thursday morning. We will be helping with a Kid's Club as well as home painting and repairs. The cost of the trip is only \$245/person. If you are interested, please talk to Paula ASAP. Your \$30 deposit will be due Sunday, January 10th. Let's come together as a congregation for this tremendous opportunity. Space is limited to the first 26 people.

CPR & First Aid Training: January 30th

If you are a Sunday School teacher or helper - SAVE THE DATE! Safety of our children is a priority at Good Shepherd. We would like to have all Sunday School teachers (adults and high school helpers) certified in CPR and first aid. We have planned for the American Red Cross to come on Saturday, January 30th from 9am -3:30pm. Stay tuned for more details.

Come and spend quality time with Good Shepherd's youngest members.

Volunteering in the nursery is a two to four hour commitment that provides parents and guardians the chance to worship while their little ones are being cared for. Each volunteer works closely with the Nursery care attendant on Sunday mornings to provide children age five and under a safe and fun experience at church. Nursery volunteers provide care during either the 8:45 or 11:00 service, or during an evening event.

Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry

- VLM's Annual Meeting will be held at United in Christ, Eveleth at 11:00 AM on February 6, 2010. Please RSVP by calling VLM at 800-331-5148 or email vlm@vlmcamps.org
- The 2010 camp schedule has been set — go to www.vlmcamps.org for registration information.
- "VLM's Campfire Favorites" CD is for sale for \$10 with shipping. Call the VLM office at 218-666-5465 if you would like to order.

PARISH NURSE HEALTH MINISTRY

Times of Need

In October, I had a fall from a ladder and broke bones in my right ankle. A whirlwind trip to the ER with surgery the next day has brought significant change to my life and mobility. I can't yet stand on my foot so that means I can't drive and any outings take planning and additional time for all. The good news is that healing is happening and I am hopeful to be back on my "own two feet" by Christmas.

Initially my needs necessitated a trip to our Good Shepherd Loan Closet for many articles. Crutches, walker, commode and bath chair were only some of the items. As I gained some mobility and strength (hopping on my left leg), I gained a walker from a friend and needed a wheelchair for those longer hallways and travels. All these items met needs but would never have been enough without the help of family, friends and many Good Shepherd folk.

As I've been healing, I have had lots of time to think about how I have managed to go through life without truly knowing how blessed I have been to have my strength, mobility and level of health. The phrase "taking it all for granted" barely tells the story. My needs for now have led me to truly appreciate the many folk in my life, the support and encouragement freely given, and the willingness of others to help do the many things I am temporarily limited in completing. Thanks to all who have been a part of my healing and learning of patience program.

Recently I had been reading articles and studies about prayer. Not surprisingly, I found that

prayer and conversation with God also increases in a time of need. My current prayer is that this experience of need will not only prove to be a special time of connection and time in my life for God; but these feelings of gratitude and thanksgiving continue to influence myself and those around me.

Today, I offer some words about needs:


- It's O.K. to say that you need help.
- If you have a need, have no fear to express your need. The world is full of people able to help meet needs for their friends and community. We live in a busy world but I have found that a simple request goes a long way to identify those who will help.
- Helping hands in the way of equipment are available as well. Thinking of a cane or walker; need a bath chair? Our loan closet has items to help.
- Feeling overwhelmed with a project or activity? I suggest talking about the needs for help and seeing the responses of those around you. A note of need might be enough to find the right people or person to help relieve a burden or concern.
- Be grateful for what happens well and easily in your life. Look around, someone else may have struggles that have not even occurred to you. Say thank you to God now and often, that you have a God who is present and listens to whatever need you express.

Healing is all around.....thanks be to God !

Linda Susens, Volunteer Parish Nurse

WOMEN'S CORNER



 Rebekah/Miriam Circle	
<i>Dec:</i>	Wednesday, December 9th at 11:30 AM for a Christmas luncheon.
<i>Jan:</i>	Rebekah/Miriam Circle will not meet in January.
Deborah/Priscilla Friendship Circle	
<i>Dec:</i>	Wednesday, December 9th at 11:30 AM for a Christmas luncheon.
<i>Jan:</i>	Wednesday, January 13th at 1:00 PM in the Upper Lakeside Room at Good Shepherd. Hosted by Lois Sandstrom
Ruth Circle	
<i>Dec:</i>	Tuesday, December 8th at 6:00 PM at the home of Kathe Peterson for a meal and a "Baby Shower for Jesus." Bring a gift; infant gifts will be given to Bethany Crisis Nursery. If you'd like to read more about Bethany Crisis Nursery or to get ideas for gifts, visit: www.lssmn.org/crisis_nurseries.htm

Christmas Lunch

Rebekah/Miriam Circle and Deborah/Priscilla Friendship Circle will have a Christmas luncheon on Wednesday, December 9th at 11:30 AM in the Upper Lakeside Room.

Needed for Layette:

Attention: mothers of babies who have outgrown their sleepers or gowns (sizes up to 18 months) — we are in need of these to complete layettes. If you wish to donate these items, please label them Lutheran World Relief and drop them off at the church office. We thank you, and moms and babies all over the world thank you!

Save your pennies!

Then bring them in and place them in the bright pink and polka-dotted container on the Welcome Center. This year the pennies collected in the Lake Superior Conference churches will be given to Home Delivered Meals (Meals on Wheels). Thank you for your support!



REACHING OUT

Cookies for Outreach

You can help brighten someone's day this holiday season! Good Shepherd's Visitation Team is collecting cookies for our home-bound members as well as for the CHUM Drop-in Center and the St. Louis County Jail. Please put your homemade cookies on the counter in the church office by 9:00 Monday morning, December 7th. To assure proper delivery, mark them "Visitation."

Salvation Army Bell-ringing — December 12th & 19th

You will find the sign-up poster on the wall near the coatroom and Welcome Center. Please consider giving an hour or two of your time to ring bells for the Salvation Army. Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd covers two Saturdays in December, the 12th and 19th, from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM at Cub Foods on Central Entrance (inside!). Sign up with family and friends. Thank you!

CHUM Events

- **CHUM Holiday Concert** — Saturday, December 5, 7:00 PM at the College of St. Scholastica Mitchell Auditorium.
- **CHUM Church Christmas Pageant** — Sunday, December 13, 3:30 PM at Peace Church, 1111 N. 11th Ave. East.

Missions 2010

Global:

Janet Alcántara, our missionary in Honduras, completed her service there in September and returned to the United States. The ELCA Global Missions office was ready to put Kaylato work down there next.

However because of the political unrest, they decided not to send her to Honduras at this time to begin her work with the youth. LCGS wants to continue supporting ongoing mission ministries there. We will do this through our Northeastern Minnesota Synod and the Iglesia Cristiana Luterana de Honduras - ICLH. Please consider sponsoring a Sunday by signing up on the calendar on the missions bulletin board when it is posted around the first of the year. We have a strong connection with our brothers and sisters in Christ in Honduras through our theological, medical and labor mission groups. Our emphasis for the coming year will be global.

Local:

We began supporting Waters of Life in the Island Lake area two years ago. They were gathering on lawn chairs near the lake shore at that time. Today they worship in their church building. We will continue to keep them in our prayers. If you wish to support them financially, please send it to them directly.

Thank you as always for your tremendous support of the many ministries that LCGS supports.

Marcia Semerau, Parish Outreach and Missions

THANKS & ACCOLADES

Dear Friends, During the first quarter of 2009 we experienced a 25% increase in use of the CHUM emergency shelters as compared to the same period in 2008. That is just an indication of our growing need of support. Therefore, your gift of \$155.00, received on May 12, 2009, is much appreciated. Thank you. Please remember those who are struggling to maintain housing in these uncertain times. We appreciate your positive thoughts and prayers.

— Mary Schmitz, CHUM Development Director

Dear Friends, Thank you so much for your gifts of \$35.00, received on June 23, 2009; and \$32.00, received on July 23, 2009. We appreciate your gift which has been designated for the Distributive Services. As we reach the end of the year, our concerns about funding have increased. While you and many of your neighbors have been very generous, the uncertainty of government funding has caused concern about maintaining our programs to serve the marginalized citizens of Duluth. Please remember those who are struggling to maintain housing in these uncertain times. We appreciate your positive thoughts and prayers.

— Mary Schmitz, CHUM Development Director

Thank you so much for your recent donation to the Duluth Emergency Food Shelf. From July through September 53,814 pounds of food were distributed to provide nutritious meals for 3,192 people. With your support, we are able to offer one of the few safety nets many people have.

— CHUM Staff

Dear Friends, Thank you so much for your gift of \$622.00, received on September 21, 2009. We appreciate your gift for Distributive Services. During the past 6 months CHUM's Nurse Clinic has experienced a 91% increase in the number of clients requesting and receiving assistance with finding a primary health care physician. Much of this increase is an indication of the ongoing health care crisis in our community. Folks without primary care physicians place a financial burden on local health care providers due to frequent visits to emergency room and urgent care facilities. Not only does the CHUM nurse find providers, but she also takes individuals to their first appointments, if necessary. While we continue to work on the front lines of accessing health care, CHUM is also advocating for fair health care reform for all. Thank you again for your support. We appreciate your positive thoughts and prayers for all of those struggling to make ends meet.

— James D. Soderberg, CHUM Executive Director

THANKS & ACCOLADES

To the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Thank you for the cards you sent during Bill's and my hospitalizations and then the sympathy card after his death. It's nice to know that I have the church's support.
— Anita Jones

This [schefflera/umbrella plant, located at the top of the stairs] was a memorial for Jack Bowe, 7/21/09. I would like to share it with Good Shepherd, Jack's church for 47 years. — Dorothy Bowe

Just a note to thank you for your generous support of our food bank over the last two + years. It is something we don't say nearly often enough, yet our work wouldn't be possible without you! Thank you for helping us feed so many who are hungry. — Shaye Moris, Executive Director, Northern Lakes Food Bank

Dear Friends, On behalf of the people we serve at CHUM, thank you for your generous gift of 3 bags of school supplies, 7 filled backpacks and towels, received on August 17, 2009. Please know that they will be put to good use. Your kindness is a blessing to us all.

— Terri Bunnell, CHUM Food Shelf Office Manager

Dear Good Shepherd Friends, Many thanks for all of the prayers, visits, cards, well-wishes, and Pastor Dave's visit during my knee surgery and recovery. The Altar Guild's delivery of flowers brought cheer. Thank you — Eileen Dexter

Thank you for including us in last week's service. The baptismal font looks beautiful. I'm sure my mom was smiling from above. She had a deep faith and a great love for the people she worshipped with at Good Shepherd. Thanks for recommending that for a memorial gift. — Barb Larson (Cathy Smolmikas's daughter)



BAPTIZED
UNTO THE
LORD

Baptisms this Month

Emersyn Margery Carlson, daughter of Colby & Amy Carlson, was baptized on October 11, 2009.



Births in the Church Family

Hannah Leigh Simonson was born on August 26, 2009. Parents are Matthew & Leah Simonson.

Jillian Goman was born on October 6, 2009. Parents are Mike & Amy Goman; grandparents are Dave & Kathy Kreager.

Hudson Dale Keffeler was born on October 23, 2009. Parents are Derrick & Rachel Keffeler.

PRAYERS



Please keep these people in your prayers as they mourn the loss of their loved ones:

Saundra Palmer and family. Saundra's father died October 12, 2009.

Anita Jones and family. Anita's husband, William, died October 15, 2009.

We continue to pray for members of our church family as a staff and on Sunday mornings. It is our hope that you, too, will remember these people in your prayers. We encourage you to use your directory to familiarize yourself with the people we will remember in prayer this month. Let us pray for one another.

If you would like us to pray for a specific concern, please call the office at 525-1922 and your request will be shared with others who care about your need and believe God will hear and answer. If you have a prayer request emergency and you are unable to contact the church office, you are invited to call Karin Lemenager at 721-4332.

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
— Romans 10:17

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever. — 1 Peter 1:23

12/6	Jack Walsh Beth Anderson, Samia and Keóne Kelsey & Gabriel Fransen and Ella Dawn & Robert Grytdahl, Eric, Aili and Peter	1/3	Amy & Matthew Berg, Brynn and Jackson Carol Jean & Ryan Erickson Jazzelle Evavold Jason Kiefer
12/13	Lorraine Walsh, Daniel and Erin Elizabeth & Craig Anderson Judy Franz Elsie Freimuth Karen & Rick Guerndt and Ellen	1/10	Agnes Berglund Hanna & Buck Erpestad, Mikko and Matti Lindsey & Mark Kiefer, Elasa and Peyton Jamie Casper
12/20	Renee & Frank Wanner Lori & David Anderson, Joseph and Shanna Kristen Gullicks-McIntyre, J.J. and Finnegan McIntyre Kathryn Gullicks Swanson & Link Swanson	1/17	Jay Bergman Bonnie Esse Laurie & Donald King, Matthew, Gina and Robert Amanda & Greg Caspers
12/27	Michelle & David Anderson, Alexander and Elliot Janelle & Ted Fresvik, Clare and Eli Ron & Cindy Gullicks Scott Gullicks	1/24	Ashley Berguson David Everett Laura & Andrew Kircher and Allison Nancy & Ray Cayemberg
		1/31	Erica Berguson Jenny & Ronald Evjen and Ethan Doris & Al Klopp Carol & Robert Cherne

ATTENDANCE & FINANCIALS



Month Ending: September 2009

Actual Receipts:

Current Month..... \$30,772.52
 Year to Date..... \$333,876.53
 % of Yearly Budget66.9%

Actual Disbursements:

Current Month..... \$35,591.82
 Year to Date..... \$355,142.81
 % of Yearly Budget71.2%

Pledges for 39 weeks:

Budgeted \$285,000.30
 Actual Received..... \$260,755.67
 Over/(Short)..... (\$24,244.63)

Mortgage Balance:.....\$512,447.44

Month Ending: October 2009

Actual Receipts:

Current Month..... \$39,837.69
 Year to Date..... \$373,714.22
 % of Yearly Budget74.9%

Actual Disbursements:

Current Month..... \$40,671.13
 Year to Date..... \$395,813.94
 % of Yearly Budget79.3%

Pledges for 43 weeks:

Budgeted \$314,231.10
 Actual Received..... \$291,457.67
 Over/(Short)..... (\$22,773.43)

Mortgage Balance:.....\$511,438.44

ATTENDANCE

Attendance for October 2009

	<u>8:45</u>	<u>11:00</u>
Oct 4	183.....	126
Oct 11	213.....	__
Oct 18	108.....	78
Oct 25	157.....	245

Attendance for November 2009

	<u>8:45</u>	<u>11:00</u>
Nov 1	162.....	85
Nov 8	146.....	86
Nov 15	187.....	65