



Shepherd's Link

July 1, 2007

Good Shepherd • 16420 S Westland Drive, Gaithersburg, MD • 301-869-1780 • growinginministry.com

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Good Shepherd
Lutheran Church

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Mission

We are called to encourage and equip each other to give of ourselves daily—serving the Lord Jesus, each other, and our community.

Vision

We fulfill our mission when we teach each other to "live under the SHEPHERD" - to "Shepherd for the Shepherd."

Discipleship

Following the "SHEPHERD" We are equipped to be God's Frontline Servant

- S - stewards (time, talent, possessions)
- H - hands on service
- E - education
- P - prayer
- H - hospitality
- E - encouraging others
- R - regular participant
- D - devotional life

"Yes"

THANK YOU FOR SAYING "YES"

By Pastor Dave Sonnenberg

During a Good Shepherd worship service, we recently sang one of the greatest songs in our Lutheran tradition - "I, the Lord of Sea and Sky." It is based on the biblical story of a young child named Samuel, who heard the voice of God in the still of the night and was confused by it at first. He awoke and went to Eli, his priest and caretaker to ask if he was the one calling. Eli had not called him. The voice kept calling and Samuel kept going to Eli. Eli finally had an "aha moment" and said to Samuel, "The next time the voice calls you, say yes! Tell the voice you are ready to serve."

I am a firm believer that God is continually nudging us with an important question; namely, will we bear his light to the world? Will we be ones that God can send to help others? In our busy world, it is so very easy to ignore the whispers of God and utter a whole host of excuses-"I'm too busy, too much going on, maybe later, not yet, etc."

God wants us to say yes to his request that we serve. "Yes God. Here I am God. I am ready to serve you and others." As a church, you and I need to be people who celebrate whenever people say "yes" and tell them we are proud of them and thankful for their witness. Summer time is an especially important time to lift this up because it serves as an important reminder that the call to serve is year round and people at Good Shepherd answer that call.

*This week, we have nine teenagers (Sara &

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Building Committee Update

Ernie Kessler, Chairman

Thank you to the Good Shepherd congregation for patiently waiting, providing valuable input and guidance, and overwhelmingly approving the GS building plans. The planning process, which has taken about 3 years, is almost complete. However, there are still many "finishing touches" to be determined. The construction process, estimated to be 10 to 12 months, is about to begin.

The most frequently asked question is: When is the start date? As soon as: the loan documents and the construction contract are officially signed; the contents are moved out of the Fellowship Hall; the administrative area is relocated to the office trailers; and the demolition permit is issued.

The second most frequently asked question is: What are the first construction tasks? Establishing temporary sewer, water, telephone, and internet service. Cutting new doors from the hallway into our sanctuary. Starting construction of the new bathrooms. Putting the storm water management facility under our preschool playground. Demolishing the Fellowship Hall.

The GS transition team led by Penny Risen has an extensive list of things that need congregational manpower. Please consider how you might personally help to expedite the start date of our building project.



Events

Fellowship Hall Celebration & Groundbreaking Ceremony Sunday, July 8

Our long-standing and beloved Fellowship Hall was the first building to bear the name "Good Shepherd Lutheran Church" and served as the sole worship and education facility for many wonderful years. We invite you to a special event on Sunday, July 8 to celebrate and give thanks for the past, present and future blessings of this hallowed space.

5:00 -- Potluck dinner (see below) and Hamburgers/Hot dogs on the grill
5:30 -- Special activity for young children
5:30 -- Worship/celebration service in the Fellowship Hall
6:00 -- All gather for groundbreaking

Potluck dinner needs....if your last name ends in:

A thru I: Please bring a cold side dish

J thru R: Please bring a hot side dish (in self-warming container)

S thru Z: Please bring a dessert

So that we can plan accordingly, please RSVP to the church office at 301-869-1780 or via email at office@goodshepherdonline.org by July 1.

Also, if you have photos taken in and about the Fellowship Hall that you would be willing to lend the church office, please let us know. We are hoping to put together a "slide show" of any photos we can collect to be shared on July 8.



Secret Agent of the Week

Our last Secret Agents were the folders. They meet every Thursday morning to assemble bulletins and mass mailings for the church. Help is often needed for office work. Contact the church office, 301-869-1780, if you would like to assist this group.

This week our Secret Agents are the Compassion Posse. They fight evil and help those in need in many ways. They collect food and supplies for people who need them. They raise money through Hunger Walk-a-Thons, Gifts of Hope and Label Collections. They organize help for soup kitchens and other community organizations. Do you know their true identity? Look for it in next week's Shepherd's Link!

Our second Secret Agents (since we missed them last week) for the week are the Dingles. This creative group of youth hit the perfect note when they chose their own secret agent name. They get together regularly to practice, practice, practice their special mission. Then they include us in their mission of praise on certain Sunday services. Do you know their true identity? Look for the answer in next week's Shepherd's Link!



Updates

ARK (Acts of Random Kindness)

By Carolyn Miller

While in Minnesota last weekend I had the opportunity to view the new movie release, *Evan Almighty*. This is a warm and generous movie that everyone should take time to see. The humor is tasteful and abundant as we laughed at the characters and ourselves too. Here is a brief synopsis that I found online at Youth Services:

Newly elected to Congress, Evan Baxter (Steve Carell) leaves Buffalo behind and shepherds his family to suburban northern Virginia. Once there, his life gets turned upside-down when God (Morgan Freeman) appears and mysteriously commands him to build an ark. But his befuddled family just can't decide whether Evan is having an extraordinary mid-life crisis or is truly onto something of Biblical proportions..."

I encourage you to take time to learn about the ARK campaign by viewing the movie. Then start blessing yourself and others with ARK each and everyday! You can find out about purchasing tickets by going to <http://movies.aol.com/movie/evan-almighty/23571/showtimes>.

You'll also be able to find out where it is showing and the start times.



Good Shepherd sponsored mission trips in 2005 and 2006 to work in an orphanage in Remiti, Romania. This year a group of six people are continuing this mission beginning July 6 because of the great need of the children in that orphanage; part of the mission is to send a large amount of clothing that has been collected. Approximately \$1500-2000 still needs to be raised to send the clothing. If you would like to contribute, please make a check payable to Good Shepherd with Romania Clothing on the memo line. Caitlin Walters, Mark Stewart and Steve Wiegman of our church and family members of the Stavelys and Heims are part of the group. Please include these people in your prayers July 6-16.

Adult Education on Sundays

Sundays, through July 15 - Fellowship Hall -10:00 am
"If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat" by John Ortberg.

In *If You're Going to Walk on Water* John Ortberg teaches us how to step out of the "boat" of casual Christianity so that we can faithfully follow the Lord who is calling us out onto the risky, exciting waters of the high seas. Let Pastor Ortberg teach you how to leave your comfort zone for a remarkable life of faith.

July 1 - "Facing Our Challenges, Conquering Our Fears"

July 8 - "Good News for Cave Dwellers"

July 15 - "Learning to Wait on Our Big God"

Each session includes a 15 minute video followed by discussion. Books available for \$13.00 and participants guide available for \$10.00. Purchase of books and study guide is optional. Even if you will not be available for the entire course, plan to come when you can. We'll be meeting in Room Z - the last room on the left on the upper level.

July 23 - August 26 - "NOOMA"- NOOMA DVDs are short films with communicators that really speak to us. Each **NOOMA** touches on issues that we care about, that we want to talk about, and it comes in a way that fits our world. Several new films have been released since the last time we ran the series, so be sure to join us as often as you can!

Annual School Supply Collection

July & August

This important program organized by Community Ministry of Montgomery County (CMMC) helps low income children in our community get ready for school. Please spread the word & watch for upcoming sales on any of the following items: New backpacks, 3-ring binders and dividers, Spiral notebooks, Marble composition books, Wide-ruled loose leaf paper, 24-48per box crayons, colored pencils, Pens, pencils, highlighters, markers, pencil boxes, Pocket folders, Glue, glue stick, erasers.

Look for the school supplies collection box beginning Sunday, July 1.

Looking Ahead at Good Shepherd

Sunday, July 01

8:30a Worship
9:30a Blood Pressure Scrn
10:00a Worship
10:00a Sunday School
10:00a Adult Education
11:15a Worship

Monday, July 02

12:00p Newsletter Deadline
7:00p Worship & Music Mtg

Tuesday, July 03

7:30p Evangelism Mtg
7:30p Praise Band

Wednesday, July 04

Office Closed – Holiday

Thursday, July 05

7:00a Breakfast Devotion

Friday, July 06

Saturday, July 07

Sunday, July 08

8:30a Worship
10:00a Worship
10:00a Sunday School
10:00a Adult Education
11:15a Worship
5:00p Potluck Dinner
5:30p Special Active for Kids
5:30p Worship/Celebration
6:00p Groundbreaking

Monday, July 09

7:00p CC Exec Mtg
7:00p Emerson Mtg.

Tuesday, July 10

12:00p Newsletter Deadline
1:00p Seniors' Steering Mtg

Wednesday, July 11

7:30p Praise Band
2:00p Staff Mtg

Thursday, July 12

7:00p Stephen Ministry
7:00a Breakfast Devotions

Friday, July 13

Saturday, July 14

10:00a Adult Education
Fair Trade Coffee Sales

Sunday, July 15

8:30a Worship
10:00a Worship
10:00a Sunday School
10:00a Adult Education
11:15a Worship

Monday, July 16

Tuesday, July 17

12:00p Newsletter Deadline
7:30p Praise Band

Wednesday, July 18

2:00p Staff Mtg
7:00a Breakfast Devotions

Thursday, July 19

7:00a Breakfast Devotions

Friday, July 20

10:00a Baptism Class

Sunday, July 22 Baptism Sun.

8:30a Worship
10:00a Worship
10:00a Sunday School

10:00a Adult Education

11:15a Worship

Monday, July 23

Tuesday, July 24

12:00p Newsletter Deadline
7:00p Women's Book Club

Wednesday, July 25

7:30p Praise Band
2:00p Staff Mtg

Thursday, July 26

7:00a Breakfast Devotions

Friday, July 27

Saturday, July 28

Sunday, July 29

8:30a Worship
10:00a Worship
10:00a Sunday School
10:00a Adult Education
11:15a Worship

Monday, July 30

Tuesday, July 31

12:00p Newsletter Deadline
7:30p Praise Band

Wednesday, August 01

Thursday, August 02

7:00a Breakfast Devotions

Friday, August 03

Saturday, August 04

Sunday, August 05

8:30a Worship

9:30a Blood Pressure Screen

9:40a Children's Choir

10:00a Worship

10:00a Sunday School

10:00a Adult Education

11:15a Worship

Monday, August 06

VBS at Mill Creek Church

Tuesday, August 07

VBS at Mill Creek Church

7:00p Worship & Music Mtg

7:30p Evangelism

12:00p Newsletter Deadline

7:30p Praise Band

Wednesday, August 08

VBS at Mill Creek Church

2:00p Staff Mtg

7:00p Stephen Ministry

Thursday, August 09

VBS at Mill Creek Church

7:00a Breakfast Devotions

Friday, August 10

VBS at Mill Creek Church

Saturday, August 11

Sunday, August 12

8:30a Worship

9:40a Children's Choir

10:00a Worship

10:00a Sunday School

10:00a Adult Education

11:15a Worship

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David Mann, Matt & Terry Miller, Stephanie Ramdat, Lauren Krimminger, Nick Stavely, and Julia & Melissa Boudrye) and four adults (Jennifer Boudrye, Jim and Suzy Mann, and Bethann Ritter) heading to Bay St. Louis, Mississippi for a week of rebuilding in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Thank you for saying, "Yes!"

*We have had two members in Lake Charles, LA this week teamed up with 11 others from 8 states helping with the rebuilding efforts in Louisiana. Thank you for saying, "Yes!"

*We have another team headed to Romania this week on a Mission Trip including Caitlyn Walters, Steve Wiegeman, and Mark Stewart. Thank you for saying, "Yes!"

*We have had people like Lois McInness, Mark Walters, Philip Meuschke, Heather Kerr, Mark Stewart, Elise Bowman, Micki Hultquist, Danette White, Denise Redmon, Jennifer Boudrye, Philip Meuschke and several others (I will get the full list to you later this summer) who are helping make a great Summer Sunday School for all ages. Thank you for saying, "Yes!"

*Don Wernly will be trained as our newest Stephen Ministry Leader later this summer. Thank you in advance for saying, "Yes!"

*We have people who are helping with many aspects of the building transition and capital campaign (current as well as the 2008-10 campaign). Thank you for saying, "Yes!"

I will stop with these examples for now. There are many other examples of how people at Good Shepherd are saying, "Yes!" When you say "yes!" and serve in ministry, you make a difference. You contribute to a dynamic shared witness that makes a difference. Blessings!

Shepherd's Link

Please email articles for the next Shepherd's Link newsletter to link@goodshepherdonline.org. Each week during the month will highlight special areas; i.e., Pastor's column, social ministry, music, youth, etc. Deadlines are Tuesday before the publication date.