



Shepherd's Link

April 9, 2007

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

Volume 1, Issue 14

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



Creating More Space for You

By Pastor Dave Sonnenberg

www.pastordaveweeklynote.blogspot.com

We are so glad to have you here for worship this Easter Sunday. On this Easter Sunday, in which we will be packed tight for worship, I want you to know that we are "creating more room for you and for others!" In just a few short months, we will begin construction on new and expanded facilities here at Good Shepherd. We will be tearing down the fellowship hall (on the South Westland street side of the building) later this summer and begin construction on a two story building that includes more program space, a new 450 seat worship space, new offices, as well as increasing space for community use.

We feel that these are incredibly exciting times and a joyous time to share the good news of Jesus with this community. These expanded facilities will enable us to provide more space to welcome and include people in our ministry. We would love to have you join us in the days to come. We have programs and opportunities for people of all ages. We are continually looking for new ways to reach out and engage the people of Gaithersburg and beyond.

I hope that you will feel embraced this day by the people around you. I hope you will find our worship to be spiritually uplifting. We are creating more space for you and for others. Come again and bring a friend. We would love to get to know you better.

Easter Blessings.

Reflections

Pastor Dave Sonnenberg

Look up "reflection" in the dictionary and you are confronted with multiple meanings, including returning light from a surface to consideration of subject matter. There is a place along the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, just upstream from Great Falls, where rocky bluffs tower over the canal waters. On a perfectly still day, when there is not a ripple on the canal, the reflection of the rock appears as deep in the water as the height of the rock face itself.

So too, the morning finds most of us looking at ourselves in the mirror. Most of the time it is the mundane glance to ensure we look put together and presentable. Other times, we look deeply into the mirror searching beyond our exterior into the very depths of our soul. Soul searching is cathartic especially when done prayerfully. I want to ask us all to do this now. Pray and then ponder where we see ourselves and our church going. It is the last week in lent, "Holy Week" a powerful time for spiritual renewal and refocusing. *(Continued on page 4)*

C.O.W. Menu

Pasta Party-- a variety of pasta dishes will be served for young and old alike. Served with bread and a fresh, mixed green salad. RSVP for dinner by signing up in the lobby or call the church office at 301-869-1780.



Youth

Elementary Youth

C.O.W. Kids Club A great place to have fun and grow with God!
Wednesday 6:45-7:40pm.

Sunday, April 29, 2-6:45pm
Shema 2007 A Metro DC Synod Event for 4-6th graders! Cost is \$10; you must sign up by April 11.

Middle School Youth

Saturday, April 14, 6-10am
LOCK-IN!!! Bring a sleeping bag, munchies and a Bible for devotions. We'll have dinner here and donuts in the morning.

Senior High Youth

Bible Study Join us for Bible Study and coffee once a month at a location near you! We meet for Bible Study and fellowship. Bring your Bible and a friend! **COFFEE IS FREE!** This month's Bible Study is on Thomas. Please contact Laura if you need a ride.

Tuesday, April 10, 6:30-8pm- Mt. Airy Vintage Coffee Shop.

Tuesday, April 17, 7-8pm- Panera Germantown Center

Tuesday, April 24, 7-8pm- Great Indoors Starbucks off of Shady Grove Rd

Activities

Sunday, April 22, 12:15-3pm
Great Falls for a picnic/hiking. Bring a bag lunch, wear comfortable shoes, and dress appropriately.

Friday, April 27, 5-9pm- Dinner/show! We're going to support our friends in Cinderella, the musical playing at Magruder HS. Meet at the church by 5:00pm, we'll eat dinner and then go to the play. Let Laura know if you plan to attend to make sure we have enough tickets.

Mark your calendars for Friday, May 4-6: Our Annual Good Shepherd Ocean City Retreat. More details to come!

Senior High Sunday School

Sunday, April 29, 9:40am-11:15am- It's the 5th Sunday,

which means Breakfast Out at Silver Diner. Bring money & a friend.

Sunday School Discussion- We'll be wrapping up *The Perfect Life?: Sin, Soul and Kingdom Living*

Sunday, April 1, 9:30am-12:15pm- The Work Camp Team will be providing a light breakfast on Palm Sunday. Donations will go to the 2007 trip to Bay St. Louis
Sunday, April 15, 12:15pm- Work Camp meeting for parents/youth
Sunday, April 15, 8:30am, 10am, and 11:15am service- Come, hear what Work Camp is all about during the team's Temple Talk.

Attention: High School Graduation Class 2007

We're putting together a video for *Baccalaureate Sunday (May 20)* and need a photograph of each senior by **May 1**. Please write your name, school you're graduating from, and any future plans to include in the video. Drop off in the main office in Laura's box. Photographs will be returned.

Contact Laura Albanese for all youth events: 301-367-7782 or laura@goodshepherdonline.org.

Stephen Ministry

Feeling Down? Our Stephen Ministry can help. Stephen Ministers aren't just there for "big" crises. They're also available for the little ones, because many times the little things can really add up. So don't wait until you have a really big crisis; consider Stephen Ministry if the little things have you feeling down.

All Alone? Don't be God doesn't want us to be all alone. He wants us to turn to others when things are bothering us. Stephen Ministers will walk with you through your troubles and be there for you when you need them.

Confidential! That's what Stephen Ministry is. Everything a person tells his or her Stephen Minister is kept in strict confidence. People are often afraid that if they tell someone what is troubling them, word will get around and others will look down on them. But a Stephen Minister keeps everything a care receiver shares confidential, and through the sharing God works miracles of healing and peace.

It's Your Ministry! Stephen Ministry is YOUR ministry. It is an important way we at Good Shepherd care for one another. If you are going through a difficult time, consider having a Stephen Minister. If you know someone else who is facing difficulties, suggest that they request Stephen Ministry. Make use of it. Stephen Ministry belongs to you!

If you would like more information or would like to request a Stephen Minister, please contact a pastor or call the church office at 301-869-1780.



Updates

The sixth concert in the 2006-2007 season will feature Dr. Danny Phipps, bassoonist, on Saturday, April 21 at 8:00 pm in the Sanctuary. The recital will feature music by Vivaldi, Danzi and Tamplini. Come and enjoy an evening of bassoon music.



New Member Orientation

The next New Member Orientation will begin on Sunday, April 22 with a lunch at 12:30 after the worship service. Subsequent classes will be held on Wednesday evenings from 6:45 to 7:45 pm during the Church on Wednesday (COW) program. New members will be received on Sunday, May 20. Please sign up at the Adult Education table in the lobby or call the church office, 301-869-1780.

GoodSearch



If every time you searched the Internet you could help **Good Shepherd**, what would you say? YES, of course! Here is a way to do just that. Go to

www.goodsearch.com (powered by Yahoo search), in the middle of the page in the area titled, "Who do you [GoodSearch](#) for?" type in **GSLC**. You'll see our church name show up in that area, then start searching! [GoodSearch](#) is designed to give 50 % of revenue to the charity that the user designates (that could be **GSLC**!) That equates to approximately 1¢ per search. This may not sound like a lot of money, yet consider these estimates. If each person at **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church** conducted only two searches each day, at the end of the year [GoodSearch](#) would give us \$7,300! Think how this could explode if we invite our family and friends to designate us as their ongoing charity of choice every time they search on the Internet! Here is what Pastor Dave says about [GoodSearch](#), "I think it is worth a try, especially with a congregation that is so "wired". It is a small thing that people can do (make [GoodSearch](#) their first search engine) that may have some benefits for us."

Summer Sunday School

Summer Fun Begins early this year and will run through June, July and August. Preschoolers will explore lessons about God's love with the Veggie Tales. Each class will include a short minute Veggie Tales DVD clip, interactive Bible lessons, singing, games and crafts. Preschoolers must be at least 3 years old and potty-trained to attend. Nursery care is available .

Elementary students will become Special Agents for God with the exciting Son Force Kids curriculum. We will learn all about the life of Jesus with secret messages to decipher, clever secret agent challenges, games, crafts, singing and more.

Middle School youth are ready for a more meaningful discussion of Christian issues and service. With the Live B.I.G. curriculum, they will explore issues presented in 10 minute DVD clips and participate in service projects.

The Senior High Sunday School Film Festival will run the entire summer. The class will view and discuss current films. (Some of the movies have mature content.) Movies that are scheduled: Crash, Saved, Hotel Rwanda and Philadelphia.

Questions, Comments, want to volunteer? Contact: francesfoltz@hotmail.com

Romania Mission Clothing Drive Now Closed

"The Romania Mission team wishes to extend a very big "Thank You" to all of you who contributed to our clothing drive these last few months. Because of the incredible response to the effort by Good Shepherd, we believe that we have reached our space limit on the cargo crate and will now be closing our call for clothing donations. We are currently in the process of finishing up our fundraising for the shipment and will send further notice of our exact shipment date once we have that secure. Thanks again for the incredible response from everyone at Good Shepherd."

Romania Mission Benefit Concert and Silent Auction



"The Romania Mission team will be hosting a benefit concert and silent auction on Saturday, April 14th at 7pm at the church. Doors open at 6:30pm. All proceeds will go to support the 2007 Romania Mission Trip and clothing drive. Tickets are on sale now and will also be sold at the door. For additional information or to reserve tickets in advance, please contact any team member or Brian Ernest at RomaniaConcert@gmail.com."

VBS

The VBS committee is recruiting teens and any other interested youth to perform the VBS theme song "Plunge Right In" immediately after a publicity skit on April 22 at all services. Teens need to bring props such as goggles, beach towels, beach balls, lifeguard shirts, life preservers etc. to practice on Monday, April 16 at 7:00pm in the sanctuary. Please contact Stephani Eaton if you are interested in performing the song: stephaniea-ton@msn.com or 301-740-1529.



Looking Ahead at Good Shepherd

Sunday, April 8

Easter!

8:00a Worship

9:30a Worship

11:15a Worship

No Sunday School

Monday, April 9

Office Closed

5:30p Bells of Joy

6:45p GS Chimers

7:00p Shepherds Bells

8:00p GS Ringers

Tuesday, April 10

12:00p Newsletter Deadline

1:00p Seniors' Steering

7:30p Church Council

7:30p Praise Band

Wednesday, April 11

2:00p Staff Meeting

6:00p COW Dinner

6:45p Kids' Club, Adult Groups

7:00p Stephen Ministry

7:45p Worship

Thursday, April 12

7:00a Breakfast Devotions

10:00a Sisters In Grace

10:30a Bible Study

7:30p Chancel Choir

Friday, April 13

6:00p Families Relying on God Group

7:30p Romanian Rehearsal

Saturday, April 14

5:00 Romania Concert/Auction

Sunday, April 15

8:30a Worship w/ Children's

10:00a Sunday School

10:00a Worship

10:00a Adult Education

11:15a Worship

Monday, April 16

5:30p Bells of Joy

6:45p GS Chimers

7:00p Shepherds Bells

8:00p GS Ringers

Tuesday, April 17

12:00p Newsletter Deadline

12:30p Seniors' Luncheon

7:00p Sr. HS Bible Study

7:30p Praise Band

Wednesday, April 18

Preschool Chapel

2:00p Staff Meeting

6:00p COW Dinner

6:45p Classes for all

7:45p Worship

Thursday, April 19

7:00a Morning Devotions

10:00a Sisters In Grace

10:30a Bible Study Group

7:30p Chancel Choir

Friday, April 20

7:30p 2x4 Dancing

Saturday, April 21

8:00p Smith Concert

Sunday, April 22

8:30a Worship

10:00a Sunday School

10:00a Worship

10:00a Adult Education

11:15a Worship

12:15p Sr. HS Hike

12:30p New Member Lunch

Monday, April 23

1:00, 3:00p Lord's Table

5:30p Bells of Joy

6:45p GS Chimers

7:00p VBS Planning

7:00p Shepherds Bells

8:00p GS Ringers

Tuesday, April 24

12:00p Newsletter Deadline

7:00p Emerson Meeting

7:00p Sr. HS Bible Study

7:00p Women's Book Club

7:30p Praise Band

Wednesday, April 25

Administrative Professionals' Day

2:00p Staff Meeting

6:00p COW Dinner

6:45p Classes for all

7:00p Stephen Ministry

7:45p Worship

Thursday, April 26

7:00a Morning Devotions

10:00a Sisters In Grace

10:30a Bible Study Group

7:30p Chancel Choir

Friday, April 27

5:00p Sr. HS Dinner/Drama

5:30p FROGS

Saturday, April 28

Pastor Terri's Birthday!

Rebuilding Together Day

1:00 Recital

Pastor Dave continued from page 1...

As I mentioned in last week's Shepherd's Link, mid-April will be a time for us to take part in an intentional dialogue to plumb our personal and collective commitment to stewardship and discipleship. From the afternoon of April 18 to the evening of April 20, Pastor Misenheimer will conduct six focus groups and 25 interviews with a broad spectrum of our congregation. Each interview will last 30 minutes, each focus group of 20 people will convene for one hour. When the process is complete, we as a church, should have a sense of the depth of support for our new building and the ministry opportunities it offers.

We have a powerful Mission Statement and a vibrant Master Ministry Plan. Without action, however, these are just documents on a shelf. In his epistle, James puts it quite bluntly; "In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." Like those towering bluffs along the canal, let's raise a strong, towering witness to the Lord in Gaithersburg. Let's let our hearts deeply reflect those towers in our soul.

Adult Education

Three new groups begin next Sunday, April 15 at 10:00am. Each class will be held on Sundays at 10:00 am on April 15, 22, 29, and May 6, 13, 20. Sign up by contacting the church office at office@goodshepherdonline.org or 301-869-1780, or in the lobby.

- **The Lutheran Course on Marriage**
- **LifeKeys** (also offered on Wednesdays)
- **Do Science and the Bible Conflict?**

Shepherd's Link

Please email articles for our next, Shepherd's Link, to link@goodshepherdonline.org. Each of the 4 weeks during the month will highlight special areas, ie Pastor's column, social ministry, music, youth, etc. Deadlines are Tuesday before the publication date.