



# THE SHEP NEWS



Weekend E-Newsletter • November 29, 2009 • First Sunday in Advent Worship: 9AM- ELW Service; 10 AM-Sunday School/Fellowship; 11 AM -Sing 'N Rejoice

## OUR MISSION

- To invite all people to know the unconditional love of Christ;
- To share Christ's love through words and deeds;
- To empower people to serve Christ in the world.

[www.goodshepherdmd.org](http://www.goodshepherdmd.org)  
[www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)



God's Work...  
Our Hands



Luke 21:25-36

## Sermon on the Amount November 22, 2009

Needed weekly \$6703  
Debt Reduction 560

**TOTAL RECEIVED \$4362**  
Needed for Budget **\$6703**  
Worship Attendance 223  
Sunday School 66  
To Make Budget **\$17577**  
Owed Reserve Fund 13,500

Your help with weekly expenses is appreciated



Phil and Ruth Brohawn  
Memorial Garden



## 50th Anniversary

[www.mar-lu-ridge.org](http://www.mar-lu-ridge.org)

## 'The stare of truth'

In the newspaper comic strip For Better or For Worse, six-year-old Michael has just come home after playing outside. He's a mess, soaking wet and dripping mud all over the floor. Michael is met by the cold, icy stare of his mother.

"I wasn't doin' anythin' much . . . well . . . Lawrence was walkin' the fence and there was a big puddle . . . an' . . . an' . . ."

Mom says nothing. She just continues to look straight at Michael.

"He sort of fell off . . . er, I guess I kind of helped him off . . . an' . . . well . . . he put a gob of mud on my head . . ."

Michael continues to wilt under the silent laser-sharp gaze of his mother.

"So . . . well . . . I sort of put a glob of mud on his head . . . an' he told his mom . . . and his mom yelled a whole bunch an' I came home."

As she takes Michael by his dirty shirt collar to a bath, Mom smiles to herself triumphantly, "Yessir . . . They can't escape the ol' stare of truth!"

[For Better or For Worse by Lynn Johnston, October 12, 2009.]

In his Gospel, Luke depicts our final judgment very simply: "to stand before the Son of Man." Our "judgment" before Christ will be a moment of illuminating truth, when all that is



not truth will melt away, when our rationalizations will fail us, when we will realize our own holiness. But rather than make us tremble, the prospect of standing before Jesus should fill us with hope: that the "shoot of Jesse" comes to redeem us despite ourselves, that, in him, God loves us in both our most Christ-like moments and our most glaring sinfulness.

These four weeks of Advent are a microcosm of the very entirety of our lives as Christians: to be ready to "stand before the Son of Man" through lives of love, mercy and justice

Pastor Ron

## Christmas Love Tree

The Social Ministry Committee **Christmas Love Tree** in the Narthex has paper 'ornaments' listing a gift for needy families received from The Religious Coalition. Be part of a joyous act of giving. Take an 'ornament,' purchase the gift listed, wrap it, **attach the 'ornament' tag to the gift,** place it under the tree by **DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>**. The tree also serves as the annual Mitten Tree. You may place blankets under the tree for families who have nothing to wrap a baby in when bringing a baby home from the hospital.



**Special Meeting.** Due to lack of quorum at our Annual Congregational November 15th, the business meeting has been postponed until Sunday, December 6th, for a brief fifteen minutes in the Nave following the 9AM Service. Two agenda items to be voted on: budget and the election of new Council Members.

**Heifer Project Ark Banks** are available in the Narthex throughout the Fall, ending in Mid-December. Please take a bank, put your spare change in it. They will be collected on or about December 13th. Thanks for your support of Social Ministry Outreach Projects. Families with children are invited to pick up a 'Bank.'

**Prayer Concerns:** Gene Schoonover, back surgery, St. Joseph's Hospital, Towson, November 30th, Patrick Covert, son of Loretta and Norm Covert, recovering from emergency surgery, New York; John Day, brother of Janet Fisher-Day, York Hospital; Paul Miller and Greg Miller, brothers of Evie Timberlake, Bobi Alleman (Sister of Loretta Covert); Molly, cousin of Bobbie Donaldson, Ron Knerr, Bill Shuff, Bernie Abrecht; Lee Brohawn; Lucas Phelan; Sandy Kessler, Kathleen Shook; Phyllis Culler, Dale Lutz, Carolyn Hellman; Prayer requests, phone: Peggy Beers (301) 663-9741/Marilyn Ayres (301) 663-1997; or E-mail Evie Timberlake [2timbers@verizon.net](mailto:2timbers@verizon.net).

**Adult I Sunday School** meets Sundays at 10AM in the Community Room. We will begin a new study/DVD series on THE TEN COMMANDMENTS this Sunday.

**Adult II Sunday School** meets in the Fireplace Room, 10:15 AM - open discussion of contemporary issues from NPR's "Speaking of Faith". All are welcome

**Welcome to the Table** These young persons have completed instructions in preparation for their First Communion this Sunday, November 29th at the 9 AM Service: *Timothy Gabriel Caro, John Ditzler Grimes, Rebecca Elaine Long, Jonathan William Stone, Karianna Lynn Strickhouser, and Chase Edward Wilhelm.* We congratulate them on this first step in their catechetical instruction.

**Congratulations** *Robyn and Dean Coccia and Sammy and Chloe* on the arrival of *Megan Marie Coccia*, born November 20th, weighing in at 7 pounds.

**Homebound:** *Orpha Zimmerman; Becky Molesworth; Polly Carmack; Charles Thompson; Mary Nelson; Alice Willoughby; Agnes Gamer; JoEllen Gluscevic; Jo Adams; Belva Bell; Marjorie Deater; Kathleen Shook, Citizen's Nursing Home, Rosemont Ave., Frederick; Barbara Adams, Rena Hall, now at Tranquility Care, Jefferson Pike, Frederick.*

**Remember Our Military Members:** *Jason Feser, Jeffrey Feser, Eric Feser.* Prayers for Jeff Feser deployed to Iraq Wed., November 18th. His address is **1st Lt. Jeffrey Feser, HHC 1st BDE 1AD/Bravo 6-1 CAV (RSTA0 FOB Warrior, Iraq APO AE 09338.**

*Lord, please hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them even as they protect us. Bless them and their families during the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. Amen.'*

**Passion Play August 2010** *Seats still available for Pastor Ron's 2010 trip to the Passion Play in Oberammergau in Bavaria, Germany, August 4-14 that includes visits to Prague, Budapest and Vienna- with continuing visits to Oberammergau and Munich. Reservations still open for the trip. Brochures are available in the Gathering Area. Pastor Ron [ronrv@comcast.net](mailto:ronrv@comcast.net) or [www.trayron.com](http://www.trayron.com).*

**Shepherd's Brew, November 20th** Come perform or just listen and enjoy. Bring a snack to share, bring a neighbor and friends. Friday's, Community Room, 7:30-9:30PM. **A special Christmas Karaoke Night Dec. 18th.** *Mike & Robin Schaeffer [schaeffz@netzero.net](mailto:schaeffz@netzero.net).*

## Report on Fair Trade Fair

We still have lots of coffee, chocolate and Audrey Asbury's homemade jellies and will

have them for sale next week, and longer if still some left. We cannot return them. Fair Trade Money to date - a little over \$3,000. and counting as we move the above listed items. Thrivent® will be supplementing our efforts and all profits go to LWR.

## From the Financial Secretary

Third quarter 2009 Giving Statements are being sent out. *Please check your pledges. If you need to catch up or if you would like to make additional Gifts, please do so by **Sunday Dec. 27th.*** Any Gifts received after Sunday Dec. 27th will be recorded in tax year 2010. Questions, please call *Bill Thelemann* 301-620-1535 or [thelemann@comcast.net](mailto:thelemann@comcast.net).

## Volunteers Needed for Soup

**Kitchen Sunday, Dec. 13th,** Good Shepherd is serving at the soup kitchen. The response has been great thus far, but several more people are needed to set-up, serve and clean-up. This is a very rewarding experience, especially during the holidays. Youth must be age 14 or older. Help is needed from approximately 4:45 - 7 p.m. We are also collecting Christmas goodies for recipients - and it would be wonderful to put out Christmas centerpieces as well!! If you can help contact Diane DeMarco, 301-696-8886 or [ddemarco2@comcast.net](mailto:ddemarco2@comcast.net).

## Keep the Food Donations Coming

Not everyone can help with the Soup Kitchen, but please keep in mind the great needs of the community as we move into winter. Pick up just one additional non-perishable food item and bring it with you on Sundays to put in the food collection box in the Narthex. Let's keep that box full. Thanks to Nicholas Brie of the Social Ministry team for taking the donations to the food bank each week.

## Spinning A Good Yarn

Good Shepherd has received a donation of yarn, knitting needles, and other craft supplies and unfinished projects. The donor would like us to use as much as possible to make blankets, hats, and anything else we can for others who may have a need. If you would like to use some of these supplies to make blankets for children who are hospitalized, lap blankets for nursing homes or hospitalized patients, or donate new stuffed toys, please let Pat Schoonover (301-473-8736 - [sewinglady@xecu.net](mailto:sewinglady@xecu.net)) or Loretta Covert (301-663-3344 or [goodshep14@aol.com](mailto:goodshep14@aol.com)) know. Or you can place them around the "Gift of Love" tree in the gathering area.



Hopefully, *Spinning A Good Yarn* will be a year-round ministry sponsored by the Social Ministry Team, of knitters, crocheters, crafters, to supply comfort items to babies and children at Frederick Memorial Hospital and to nursing homes, the homebound, etc. Blankets for babies and children (the NICU is already well supplied) can be crocheted, knitted, quilted or fleece, newborn size 30"x30", infants, 36"x48", toddlers/preschoolers 40"x54", and children 50"x64". Also needed/appreciated would be toys or stuffed animals (new), children's clothing (especially socks, underwear & infant clothes), shampoo & conditioner, sippy cups (child uses it & takes it home) and infant feeding spoons (also takes home).

**Hunger Coordinator Needed** for the congregation. This person would serve as a point person to receive materials from the Synod's Hunger Mission Force and the ELCA Hunger Appeal. A 'kick-off' meeting by phone for coordinators is being planned with Dan Rift, ELCA World Hunger Appeal Coordinator. Interested? Let Pastor Ron know. [ronrv@comcast.net](mailto:ronrv@comcast.net).

**Christmas Blanket** During the holiday season, the 7th Grade Confirmation class will be holding a raffle for a Christmas blanket put together by the class. We will be collecting food for the Frederick Food Bank for the raffle. Each time you drop off a non-perishable item, write your name and phone number on the paper provided and place it in the container, located near the Education Bulletin Board. Winner will be chosen at the 11AM service on Sun. December 20th.

## Books for Our Troops

**Operation Paperback** collects gently used books and sends them to American troops deployed overseas. Since 1999, they have shipped over 950,000 books to locations around the globe.

At the end of the duty day, the opportunity to escape into a good book is welcomed by troops in far-flung places. If you have paperback books to donate, leave them on top of the cupboards behind the coat-rack marked Operation Paperback, and the Social Ministry team will get them to a drop-off site. Operation Paperback is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

## Congregation Council Officers 2009

Pres: Janet Rippeon Fisher [jdrippeon1@aol.com](mailto:jdrippeon1@aol.com) 301-304-0374  
Secretary, Sandy Hagen, [Sandra.Hagen@gmail.com](mailto:Sandra.Hagen@gmail.com)  
Treasurer : Jean Van Tassel [jvantassel@aol.com](mailto:jvantassel@aol.com)  
Financial Sec'y: Bill Thelemann [thelemann@comcast.net](mailto:thelemann@comcast.net)