



THE SHEP NEWS



Weekend E-Newsletter • December 6, 2009 • 2nd 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
www.elca.org



God's Work
Our Hands



Luke 3:1-6

Sermon on the Amount November 29, 2009

Needed weekly \$6703
Debt Reduction 560

TOTAL RECEIVED \$7622
Needed for Budget **\$6703**
Worship Attendance 225
Sunday School 59
To Make Budget **\$17577**
Owed Reserve Fund 13,500
Your help with weekly expenses is appreciated



50th Anniversary

www.mar-lu-ridge.org

Reading the 'Road'

Tom Friedman, the award-winning foreign affairs columnist for *The New York Times*, recently [August 23, 2009] wrote from a little village in Botswana. Deep in the African bush, there are no paved roads, phones or television, but Friedman discovered that you could find the morning "paper" waiting for you every morning outside your tent, with the latest news, weather and sports. Friedman writes:

"The newspaper here . . . is published on the roads — literally. The wetlands are bisected by hippo trails and narrow roads made from the pure white Kalahari Desert sand. And every morning, when you set out to investigate the wilderness, it is not uncommon for a guide to lean out of his jeep, study the animal and insect tracks, and pronounce that he's 'reading the morning news.'



This particular morning, Tom Friedman's guide read the morning "road" and learned that "some lions had run very quickly through here, which he could tell by the abnormal depth of, and distance between, their paw prints. They were in stride. The 'weather' was windy coming out of the east, he added, pointing to which side of the paw prints had been lightly dusted away. Flood waters remained high this morning, because the nearby hyena tracks were followed by little indentations — splashes of water that had come off their paws. Today's 'sports'? Well, over here — the hyenas were dragging a 'kill,' probably a small antelope or steinbok, which is very obvious from the smooth foot-wide path in the

sand that ran some 50 yards into the bushes. Every mile you can read a different paper.

"If you spend enough time in nature and allow yourself to slow down sufficiently to let your senses work, then through exposure and practice, you will start to sense the meanings in the sand, the grasses, the bushes, the trees, the movement of the breezes, the thickness of the air, the sounds of the creatures and the habits of the animals with which you are sharing that space."

John the Baptist's Advent mission of creating a highway for our God might begin by "reading" the highways and roads and paths we travel for the unmistakable signs of God's goodness and grace in our midst. John calls us to snap out of our stupor and obliviousness to life around us, to turn off our television sets and video games, put down our spreadsheets and calendar books, unplug our iPods and laptops — and behold God in our midst. The same Word that came to John in the desert comes to each of us in the deserts of our own spirits, enabling us to transform the wastelands within ourselves and straighten the winding roads of our own lives in the compassion of our Advent God.

Pastor Ron

Shepherd's Brew, December 18th

All-Christmas Open Mic and Karaoke. Bring the kids! Dress like Elves and Reindeer! Sing-along. And most importantly, Celebrate Jesus' Birthday! Mike & Robin Schaeffer schaeffz@netzero.net.

Christmas Eve at Good Shepherd

5PM - Contemporary Service (suitable for families with small children) Puppets

6:30PM- Organ Medley of Christmas Music

7PM - Traditional Candlelight and Carol Service with Special Music and Puppets for Children

9:30PM - Shepherd Brass

10PM - Traditional Candlelight and Carol Service with Special Music



Brief Meeting This Sunday, 10AM

in the Nave to vote on our 2010 budget and to elect four new council members. We need 25 members to meet a quorum.

Senior Lunch Bunch, Wed., Dec. 16th

will enjoy a visit from Sarah Lefler, the new Director of Operations at Mar-u-Ridge. Join us for some Christmas cheer. Bring a dish to share and friends and neighbors are always welcome. We begin with lunch at 12 Noon in the Community Room.

Christmas Love Tree

The Christmas Tree in the Gathering area serves as the annual Mitten Tree. Place children's mittens and hats on the tree. They will be distributed to local schools and will help keep kids warm this winter.

Silent Auction Sunday

Our Confirmation and High School Sunday school classes have done a wonderful job decorating Christmas Trees. These trees will be auctioned off today. Please stop by the table in the gathering area to check out our youths' handiwork and bid on a new fully decorated Christmas tree. Bidding will close December 6th at 12:30. All proceeds will benefit the Frederick Food Bank.

Prayer Concerns: Gary Stone, diagnosed with esophageal cancer; Gene Schoonover, back surgery, St. Joseph's Hospital, Towson, Patrick Covert, son of Loretta and Norm Covert, recovering from emergency surgery, New York; John Day, brother of Janet Fisher-Day, York Hospital; Andrea Reaves at the death of her grandmother; 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.

Adult I Sunday School meets Sundays at 10AM in the Community Room. They have begun a new study/DVD series on THE TEN COMMANDMENTS. This Sunday, the 2nd Commandment is reviewed.

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 completed instructions in preparation for their First Communion on Sunday, November 29th Service: Timothy Gabriel Caro, John Ditzler Grimes, Rebecca Elaine Long, Jonathan William Stone, Karianna Lynn Strickhouser, and Chase Edward Wilhelm.

Also Brandon Michael Sapp received his instruction in Holy Communion on Monday, November 30th and will receive his first communion on Sunday, December 6th at the 11 a.m. service. We congratulate them on this first step in their catechetical instruction.

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 or www.travron.com.

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.. Thrivent® will be supplementing our efforts. All profits go to Lutheran World Relief.

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.

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.

Food Donations Welcome

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) or Loretta Covert (301-663-3344 or 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 to supply comfort items to babies and children at Frederick Memorial Hospital, nursing homes and the homebound.

Blankets for babies and children 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 serving 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.

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. 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 301-304-0374
Secretary, Sandy Hagen, Sandra.Hagen@gmail.com
Treasurer : Jean Van Tassel jvantassel@aol.com
Financial Sec'y: Bill Thelemann thelemann@comcast.net