

ROD and STAFF

“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want . . . your rod and your staff — they comfort me.”

**Parish Newsletter of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
Volume 46, No. 1 ❁ January 2012**



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SOTH 101

Have you ever wondered what in the world Lutheran Christians believe, especially those of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America? Has it been some time since you took part in confirmation and you would like a retreat? Do you want to know more about the ministries that serve God's mission at Shepherd of the Hills and where your particular gifts could be used as a disciple of Jesus Christ? Do you wonder what it takes to become a contributing and participating member of this community of faith?

If so, please talk to Pastor Jeff or call the church office at 314-739-3222 and let us know of your interest. A new member class may be forming soon if there is enough interest.



Annual Meeting Jan. 29

The 46th Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held on Sunday, Jan. 29, 2012, following worship and brunch. The meeting will begin around 11:00 a.m. Please bring a dish to share. Drinks and table service will be provided. All are welcome to attend this annual gathering. Childcare will be provided.

The nominating committee is pleased to present the following individuals to fill council positions: Bill Johnson (1 year), Linda Pearson (3 years), Jim Urnes Sr. (3 years) and Megan Nalepa (youth representative).

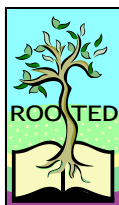
Reminder: Annual Reports are due by Sunday, Jan. 8.

New Confirmation Class

The new confirmation class will meet for the first time on Wed., Jan. 11 at 7:00 p.m. Once again we have six girls who will begin this journey with their teachers, Genny Jordan and Candy Travis on Sundays and Pastor Jeff and Connie Adams every other Wednesday evening.



Parents are invited to attend this meeting as we learn all about the confirmation journey from “personal catechism” to confirmation camp in June and everything in between. An invitation is also extended to the recently confirmed to join us and share their experiences and encourage the new students as they begin their own journey. Please call the church office at 314-739-3222 and let Pastor Jeff know if you will be attending.



Prepare for Youth Quake

The 2012 Youth Encounter **Youth Quake**, under the theme, “Rooted in Christ: Colossians 2:6-7”, will be held Jan. 20-22 at the Millennium Hotel in downtown St. Louis. Final payment is due on Jan. 8. Youth attending should be dropped off at the church by 5:15 p.m. on Friday and should be picked up at the church by 11:45 a.m. on Sunday. Please bring a snack or beverage to share, offering for Sunday worship and pocket money for souvenirs. Packing list will be provided.

Giving Tree Brings Smiles

Thanks to all who gave generously to CHM's Giving Tree program that benefits their Christmas Toy & Gift Room. Talk to Linda Ritter or John Meyer for information on how many families' holidays were made a little brighter through this program and help from CHM.



GATHER Joyfully + GROW Deeply + GO Faithfully



Dear Friends,

The last verse of Luther's wonderful Christmas carol, "From Heaven Above," calls us to join the voices of the angels to proclaim:

"Glory to God in highest heaven, who unto us the Son has giv'n."

With angels sing in pious mirth a glad new year to all the earth.

This is a most fitting attitude towards beginning a new year as the people of God in this place at this time. I know that I am very much looking forward to walking with you into this year of transition as your interim pastor. It will be an exciting time, and I know that the Holy Spirit is even now preparing the right person to serve as your next called pastor.

The wider church has identified five developmental tasks for congregations to address during the interim time. Facing these tasks in a straightforward way will help you make a smooth transition to pastoral change. In my articles for the Rod and Staff, I intend to give a brief description of these tasks. The congregation council will be monitoring them regularly, to see how you are progressing on your interim journey.

The first task is "coming to terms with history." How well does Shepherd of the Hills do the following:

† Acknowledge and accept the past (the good and not so good)

† Allow appropriate expression of feelings (grief, disappointment, anxiety, relief, etc.)

† Choose what to carry forward into the future (e.g., what does SOTH wish to affirm and what does it want to change?)

† Put the tenure of Pastor Dan into perspective.

I will address some of these issues in sermons over the coming weeks. In the beginning of the Gospel of Mark, which will be the scripture read on Sunday mornings as we begin the new year, is well suited to this task. Mark's gospel clearly shows how the coming of the Son of God into the world makes everything new.

I would also love to speak with you personally about any thoughts and feelings that you may be experiencing at this time. For almost 20 years Pastor Dan and Sara were at the heart of your congregational life, through many struggles and many achievements, and both you and they have been richly blessed by that partnership in the gospel. Even though you have said your official farewells, there are bound to still be a variety of strong feelings about the end of that strong bond. I know that I miss the Barwinskis very much myself, because of both personal and professional relationships over almost as long a period of time. It is good and healthy to acknowledge whatever feelings arise, and find appropriate opportunities to express them. This opens us to the healing touch of the Spirit, and helps us be ready for the new blessings that the Lord has in store for us.

May God grant you a year of praise and thanks for all the Lord has done, is doing, and will yet bring about in your life and in our life and ministry together.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Jeff



Confirmation

The new confirmation class will be meeting on Sundays led by teachers Candy Travis & Genny Jordan and every other Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. with Pastor Jeff and Connie Adams. Please remember that regular attendance is a very important part of this journey.

Adult Forum

Adult Classes will meet following worship in the library. Classes where a video will be shown will meet in the sanctuary. So grab some refreshments and join us for some stimulating conversation.

January 15: Overview of the Gospel of Mark, led by Pastor Jeff.

January 22: "Today"- discussion of a NOOMA video regarding putting our past into perspective so we can live our lives to the fullest in the present. Senior Youth are welcome to join us for the viewing.

January 29: "You"- discussion of a NOOMA video about putting emphasis in our lives and our faith on the things that are most important. Senior Youth are welcome to join us for the viewing.

Good Stewardship

Do you like saving money? Would you like to make your dollars stretch and have even more to share, save or spend? Did you know that only 3% of all coupons printed are ever redeemed? Bring coupons you don't use and exchange them for ones that you will use. There is a coupon exchange box in the fellowship area marked and designed for this. Zsabetta also needs help from time to time with cutting and sorting. For more info, talk to Zsabetta.

"Glory to God in highest heaven, who unto us the Son has giv'n."

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Eric Heil	1
Julia Tousignant	1
Judy Conoyer	2
Barb Loehr	7
Jim Berry	9
Tina Chumbley	10
Marie Hinkle	10
Reed Deatherage	12
Jesse Keyes	14
Melissa Girtman	15
Hannah Sieker	16
Aubrey Hunter	24
Kristen Hiltner	25
Dixi Smith	27
Denise Meyer	31



Bill & Martha Johnson ... 3
Daniel & Jessica Hogbin.17

Prayer for the New Year

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown.

Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



NewsBytes...



- ◆ Special thanks to **Kim Surratt** and **Matt & Bridget Elder** and all the faithful volunteers and the children who helped make this year's Christmas Pageant a great success.
- ◆ Congratulations to **Cathy Hogan** on the birth of her grandson, William Hogan Ernest, on Christmas Day, born to proud parents Tere & Rod.
- ◆ Best wishes to **Pastor Dan** as he begins the newest chapter in his life as pastor of Shepherd of the Valley in Colorado on Sunday, Jan. 1, 2012.
- ◆ **Jeanne Keirle** recently received an award for Outstanding Volunteer Service from the St. Louis Convention & Visitors Commission. See article below for more information.
- ◆ We offer up healing prayers for all those recovering from surgery and illness. May they feel the healing presence of the Lord and Savior. We also pray for those who have lost a loved one, may they find comfort in knowing there is life everlasting with our heavenly Father.
- ◆ **Pray for Christian Unity.** The Annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins on January 18. We will have a special prayer at worship on Sunday, January 22.

Thanks for keeping us up-to-date with Newsbytes! Email them to soth@sothstl.org.



DECEMBER

Church Council Highlights

- Final payroll payment for PD has been made. Closeout for records and financials is complete.
- Transition Activity: PMC will look at Ministry Site Profile to fill in info that has already been gathered.
 - Set Annual Meeting date for Sunday, Jan. 29. Annual Reports due by Sunday, Jan. 8.
- Motion approved for Hope Overflow concert in March, if that works with their schedule.
- Workman's Compensation Insurance is not required for the church but Jim is looking into what the cost would be and if it is really needed.

Outstanding Volunteer Service



Our own Jeanne Keirle, a Destination St. Louis Tour Guide, received the St. Louis Convention & Visitors Commission's President's Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service. Jeanne has been a tour guide with Destination St. Louis since 2003 but has been in the business for 14 years. In 2011 she volunteered 177 hours while serving at least once a month at Visitor Centers at Lambert Airport and Forest Park. She can also be found on airport concourses each month assisting travelers as a Gateway Greeter and is a primary trainer at Forest Park and Terminal 2. Jeanne is actively involved in the Professional Tour Guide Association and even helped them create their certification program. Congratulations Jeanne on an award well deserved!

Shepherd of the Hills

Lutheran Church (ELCA)

January 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sing-along 9 a.m. —10:00 am G: Ann & Dixi Smith AM: Jim Berry A: Jenna Hutson LR: Jim Urnes R: Denise Meyer N: See Lauri to volunteer T: Carl Jordan	2	3	4 Choir Practice 7:30 pm	5	6 Pastor's Sabbath	7
8 Annual Reports Due TODAY —9:00 am G: Dale & Candy Travis AM: Stein Hunter A: Carlie Hunter LR: Lisa Hogbin R: Berry N: Bridget E. & Jenna T: Tom Ritter	9	10 Council 7:00 pm	11 Confirmation 7 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 pm	12	13 Pastor's Sabbath	14 Worship Team 9 am Men's Group 9 am
15 —9:00 am G: Tom & Carol Krull AM: Tom Ritter A: Kristen Schnur LR: Zsabetta Artis R: Bird / Pursley N: Sharon Elder & Gabi A. T: Aubrey Hunter	16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	17	18 Choir Practice 7:30 pm	19 February Newsletter Deadline	20 Pastor's Sabbath	21 2012 Youth Quake January 20-22
22 —9:00 am G: Sydney M. & Linda P. AM: See Susan Hoven A: Gabi Anderson LR: Ann Sanderson R: Smith / Ritter N: Kim Surratt & Aubrey T: Matt Elder	23	24	25 Confirmation 7 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 pm	26	27 Pastor's Sabbath	28
29 Annual Meeting —9:00 am G: Carl & Kathy Jordan AM: Abbi Telander A: Jenna Hutson LR: Lois Urnes R: Potluck N: Lauri A. & Meagan T: Linda Pearson	30	31	Ushers: Jim Berry & John Meyer Counters: Susan Hoven & Jeanne Keirle Altar Guild: Rhonda Bird & Barb Daab CAs: Jim & Mara Berry, Suah Tokpa <i>Please find a substitute if you are unable to serve!</i>			

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church • Worship 9:00 am • Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
 4161 Cypress Road • St. Ann, Missouri 63074 • 314-739-3222
 Pastor Jeff Lindgren, Interim Pastor • 314-571-9205 • prjeff@sothstl.org
 Lauri Anderson, Church Secretary • **Office Hours:** 8:30 am to 1:30 pm Tuesday & Thursday
 Church Office e-mail: soth@sothstl.org



Keep the Spirit Going

The Holidays are wonderful and it is with a tinge of sadness (and many times relief) that we must put away the decorations. But there must be a way to keep the Spirit of Christmas going and un-clutter your life at the same time to make room for the new.

How about donating your unwanted items to a worthy cause, such as:

- **American Kidney Fund** (314-968-9768): Give them a call to arrange for a pick up and they will take clothes, household items, furniture and toys.
- **Habitat for Humanity Re-Store** (314-531-4155): They will take household, building and construction materials in good condition, including unopened paint cans, windows, doors, cabinets, hardware and roofing material. Also a great place to check if you are remodeling on a budget.
- **MERS/ Missouri Good Will** (314-241-3464), **Missouri Council of the Blind** (314-868-7776), and the **Salvation Army** (314-646-3000) will also pick up your unwanted clothes, household items and toys. They do request that holiday items not be donated until November.
- **YWCA—Head Start Program** (314-427-4940 x 236): They collect items once they have identified a family in need. Call them and let them know what items you have that may be of interest to them.

The **Ronald McDonald House** (314-773-1100) is also an excellent charity with a variety of ways in which you can donate.

Ronald McDonald Houses provide a “home-away-from-home” for families so they can stay close by their hospitalized child at little or no cost. No family is turned away because of their inability to pay. They allow families to be together and focus on the health of their child, rather than grocery shopping, cleaning or cooking meals. The third St. Louis area Ronald McDonald House and the 300th House in the world recently opened to serve families with children being treated in West County hospitals.

The annual McGift Shoppe allows families to shop for their loved ones free-of-charge during the holiday season. The Shoppe is staffed by volunteers and stocked with donations of new, unwrapped items. They even have Wish Lists available. You can also volunteer your time by signing up to cook a home-made meal for one of the houses. The families greatly appreciate having a hot meal after a long day. Call 314-531-6601 x 1202 for more info.

Mark—The First Gospel

Beginning in January, Sunday morning scripture readings will be going straight through the Gospel of Mark, which was the first gospel to be written down, probably around 65 AD, just before Jerusalem and its temple were destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD. Mark’s gospel is short, fast-paced, and full of action. It is a quick and exciting read, and Pastor Jeff challenges everyone to read it through. This is not a difficult task. Pastor Zach Sturm at Trinity, Kirkwood, has the entire gospel **memorized**, and occasionally presents programs where he recites it all in less than three hours.

Pastor Jeff will lead a class on Sunday, January 15, introducing the gospel and things to watch for as you read it.



Dear Friends in Christ at SOTH,

Thank you for your recent gift to Domestic Disaster Relief. Your gift means the church can continue to respond efficiently and effectively to disasters as they occur.

After the outbreak of tornadoes in Alabama, gifts to ELCA Disaster Response enabled the church to recruit, train and organize volunteers for a free day camp program that helped children work through their worries in a fun, supportive environment. That’s how ELCA Disaster Response works—helping people rebuild not only homes, but hearts.

Thank you for your support.

In Christ’s service,

Daniel Rift, Director

Dear Shepherd of the Hills,

Thank you for your recent gift to Motorcycles & Helmets for Rural Pastors. Your gift, combined with others, helped strengthen over 300 Global Gift projects in 84 companion churches. Thanks for the support.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Twila Schock

Director, ELCA Global Appeals





Prepared especially for:

—Address Correction Requested—

Parish Newsletter of
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
4161 Cypress Road · St. Ann, MO 63074
Phone: (314) 739-3222 · e-mail: soth@sothstl.org
web site: <http://www.sothstl.org>
Sunday Worship at 9:00 a.m.



Our Ministers: All the People of God at Shepherd of the Hills / Our Faithful Church Council Members:

Bill Johnson , <i>president & tech team</i>	Jim Sanderson , <i>treasurer & soc. con.</i>	Suah Tokpa , <i>stewardship</i>
John Daab , <i>vice-president & facilities</i>	Rhonda Bird , <i>care/evangelism</i>	Julie Hutson , <i>PMC rep & worship</i>
Adam Click , <i>secretary & mutual ministry</i>	Sydia Darker , <i>youth rep & tech team</i>	Genny Jordan , <i>education</i>

OUR VISION . . .

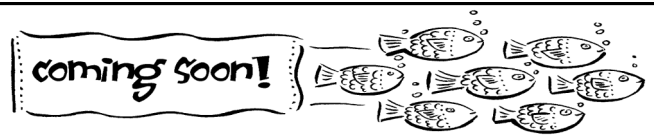
GATHER Joyfully

GROW Deeply

GO Faithfully

All people into God's grace † Disciples of Jesus Christ † In Witness and Service

Don't Miss These Opportunities!



- **KETC Community Cinema Series** at the History Museum, Thurs., Jan. 11 at 7 p.m. features "Daisy Bates: First Lady of Little Rock", a largely forgotten heroine of the civil rights movement who led the charge to desegregate the all-white Central High School in Little Rock in 1957. Discussion and refreshments will follow.
- **Premier performance of Sonata: Advent**, composed and performed by Gregory Ott, on Sunday, Jan. 8 at 2 p.m. at Lutheran Church of the Living Christ, 2725 Concord Drive in Florissant. Call 636-916-0099 for more info.
- **Bald Eagle Meet & Greet:** Saturdays in January at the Alton Visitors Center. The Wild Bird Sanctuary has one of their eagles on hand so you can get up close and personal, then you can take a guided tour or drive yourself along the Great River Road for some prime eagle spotting.
- **Fete De Glace** on Sat., Jan. 28 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on North Main Street in St. Charles. Watch professional ice carvers bring art to life in a competition using chain saws, power grinders and other equipment. Coffee & hot chocolate will be available for purchase and fire pits will be nearby for warming. The event is free.