

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. 2 ❁ February 2012



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Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

The Shepherd of the Hills Men’s Group invites you to their annual Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday, Feb. 21, from 5-7 p.m. Come enjoy all-you-can-eat pancakes and sausage served hot and fresh in our fellowship hall. The cost is only \$6.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children ages 6 to 12. Five and under are free.

This year’s event will include a Pancake Flipping Contest, as well as baskets to be raffled. Please see Linda Ritter if you can help with basket donations.

This year’s proceeds will benefit the church’s building accessibility project, such as the curb cut that is needed at the south entrance to make it easier for those with disabilities to enter the building. *Join us and bring a friend!*

Lent 2012: Giving Is Getting



Ash Wednesday falls on Feb. 22 this year (there will be a worship service at 7:00 p.m.), and the words of Jesus we will hear that night begin his teachings on the way to the cross. On that journey he begins to turn all of our usual ways of thinking upside down. “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all,” he says. “Whoever gives you a cup of water to drink . . . will by no means lose the reward,” he says. The God’s eye view of life is always surprising, yet always leads to life. As we walk with Jesus on the way to the cross, here are the themes for Sunday morning worship:

- Feb. 26 - *Giving Is Getting*, Mark 10:17-31
- March 4 - *Whose Is It, Really?*, Mark 12:1-12
- March 11 - *All*, Mark 12:28-34
- March 18 - *She Gave Her All*, Mark 12:38-44
- March 25 - *Losers Are Winners*, Mark 13:1-37

Are you ready to have Jesus rock your world? Living as a disciple of Jesus is always challenging, demanding, yet rewarding in ways we would never have expected. One of our newer hymns captures this reality by repeating the phrase “never be the same.” *The Summons*” (#798, ELW) will be our hymn of the season. It’s final words are very fitting for the Lenten journey: “In your company I’ll go where your love and footsteps show. Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.” May you have a challenging, growing, and fulfilling Lent.



SOUPer Bowl

Help restock Community Helping Ministry’s food pantry shelves on Sunday, Feb. 5.

Shepherd of the Hills will be participating in this national effort called the “SOUPer Bowl of Caring”. The youth will be collecting canned goods and/or monetary donations during worship for CHM. Plan on bringing a donation with you and help put food on the table of our neighbors who are hungry (Matt 25).

CHM will also be hosting their Annual Meeting and Open House on Sunday, Feb. 26 from 1-3 p.m. Stop by and see what they’ve been up to and see how your donations help those in need.

GATHER Joyfully + GROW Deeply + GO Faithfully

Happy February Members and Friends of Shepherd of the Hills,



February is, of course, one of our coldest months, a time to avoid those outdoor chores. Chores like working in the garden, and caring for the lawn.

But at Shepherd of the Hills it's a time to fuel the year for growth, the "grow" part of gather, grow, go!

As we've heard from Mark, if we want solid, dependable, long-lasting growth, we need to plant our seeds in good soil.

Mark 4:8 "Other seeds fell into the good soil, and as they grew up and increased, they yielded a crop and produced thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold."

So what seeds or plants are we growing in 2012, and what is our good soil?

Some seeds, or plants are "annuals"; we grow them every year. We grow people into "people of God". The young people grow with the good soil of teachers, confirmation mentors, pastors and loving parents. We not so young people benefit from the good soil of fellowship, adult forum messages, listening to sermons and participating in the life of the church. This is great, because being good soil for someone else turns out to be good soil for you! Kind of a "good soil boomerang" effect.

Some seeds are more like trees; we grow them a little more each year. In 2012 we will continue to grow our missional service to people with disabilities and their caregivers. At least one new branch of the tree will be improving accessibility with a wheelchair curb cut at the south entrance – good soil to welcome more of God's children into his building.

Sometimes the things we grow come along every few years (or decades). This year we get to grow a new pastor. The good soil for this includes a dedicated call committee, along with a congregation which participates faithfully in the call process. I predict it will be another good soil boomerang.

Shepherd of the Hills also has a brand new seed to grow starting this year. Look for, and engage in an opportunity to be good soil for the cancer ministry which is emerging to support patients, family members and loved ones.

So, we might not be out doing SOTH landscaping this month... but we will be improving the good soil into great soil.

Yours in Christ,
Bill Johnson



"Lord, Let our hearts be good soil."

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. The Wed. night meetings for February will be the 1st and the 15th.

Please remember that regular attendance is a very important part of this journey.

Holy Baptism and Holy Communion are at the heart and core of living as God's people in this world. They are not just habits or rituals, but a daily source of meaning, identity, purpose, and new beginnings. At our short but sweet 7:00 pm Lenten services this year, we will delve into some of the richness of the sacraments and what the catechism teaches concerning them.

Our new confirmation students and their families will present fun and lively skits and will otherwise help to lead the Wednesday night "Soup and Service" gatherings. They will also be looking for help from other people in the congregation. Please consider saying "yes" when you are approached, you won't regret it.

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.

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Nowah Tokpa.....	3
Martha Johnson.....	4
Nancy Ambacher.....	6
Tyler Elder.....	6
Pete Hiltner.....	8
Dave Elder.....	9
Jeff Hutson.....	14
Laurie Henke.....	18
Megan Dixon.....	20
Kailey Schnur.....	20
Ruth Van Pelt.....	20
Joan Carnaghi.....	21
Georgette Sarros.....	22
Clayton Deatherage...	24
Jenna Hutson.....	25


Anniversaries

Bill & Margaret Keyes .	17
Luke & Angie Hoven ...	26

 **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.

February 5: Discussion of NOOMA video, “Rain.” Things don’t always work out the way we want them to. Where is God when it really hurts?

February 12: NOOMA video, “Trees.” We want to know that our choices really matter.

February 19: World Missions Today, led by Pastor Jeff

February 26: NOOMA video, “Dust.” Does God believe we can actually be the people we are meant to be?

NewsBytes...



- ◆ Congratulations to **Bill & Georgette Sarros** on the birth of a “granddaughter”, Kaylee, born on Dec. 29, 2011.
- ◆ Thanks to **Julie Hunter & Kathy Sieker** for serving as adult sponsors for the January Youth Quake! We had eight of our girls in attendance and a great time was had by all.
- ◆ Special thanks to everyone who helped move tables and chairs before and after, to all who brought wonderful refreshments, and to all who helped in any way with this year’s Annual Meeting. *Many hands make light work.*
- ◆ The new **Church Council** will begin its duties at the regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 14 at 7:00 p.m. The council will then go on retreat to Camp Wartburg near Waterloo, IL. on February 24-25. This will be a time for spiritual reflection on the mission of Shepherd of the Hills, as well as to organize for the effective functioning of the council in the year ahead. Please pray for your elected leaders as they assume their duties on behalf of Christ and his church.
- ◆ And thanks to all who pitched in and helped with the February newsletter and the Annual Reports. The extra help was greatly appreciated!

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



Church Council Highlights

- PMC Team is working on the ministry Site Profile, completing what they can from their congregational study. The Call Committee and Council will be able to modify this as needed.
- Voted on who to approach for the Call Committee. Bill Johnson will be talking with these people soon .
- Regretfully accepted Adam Click’s resignation from Council. Jim Berry has agreed to step in and finish out Adam’s term.
- Lisa Hogbin presented Council with a proposal to start a Cancer Companions Ministry here at Shepherd of the Hills. She will be meeting with them on January 27. More info to come.
- New Church council members will be inducted and blessed during worship on Sunday, February 12.

Lenten Soup & Service Gatherings



Join us on the Lenten journey as the new Confirmation Class and their families provide worship leadership. Each service, beginning with Ash Wednesday on Feb. 22, begins at 7:00 p.m.

Soup Suppers at 6:00 p.m. are also a part of our Lenten gatherings each week, beginning Feb. 29. Please sign up to bring soups, breads and drinks, and plan to join other disciples on this spiritual journey reflecting on God’s passionate love for us in Jesus Christ.

Shepherd of the Hills

Lutheran Church (ELCA)

February 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Ushers: Carol & Tom Krull Counters: Linda Ritter & Julia Tousignant Altar Guild: Julie Hutson & Carol Krull CAs: Jeanne Keirle, Lisa Hogbin, & Sharon Elder <i>Please find a substitute if you are unable to serve!</i>			1 Confirmation 7 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 pm	2 Groundhog Day	3 Pastor's Sabbath	4 Worship Team 9 am
5 —9:00 am G: Tom & Linda Ritter AM: Jim Berry A: Carlie Hunter LR: Pat Amick R: Daab & Urnes N: Julie Hutson & Stephanie T: Susan Hoven	6	7	8 Choir Practice 7:30 pm	9	10 Pastor's Sabbath	11 Men's Group 9 am
12 Council Installation —9:00 am G: B & G Sarros AM: Stein Hunter A: Kristen Schnur LR: Mara Berry R: G. Johnson & Sydney M. N: Sharon Elder & Aubrey H T: Mara Berry	13	14 Happy Valentine's Day Council 7:00 pm	15 Confirmation 7 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 pm	16	17 Pastor's Sabbath	18
19 Transfiguration— 9:00 am G: Bill & Martha Johnson AM: Tom Ritter A: Gabi Anderson LR: Kim Surratt R: Elder N: Sydney M. & Carlie H. T: George Marvin	20 President's Day March Newsletter Deadline	21 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 5-7 pm	22 Ash Wednesday Service 7 pm	23	24 Pastor's Sabbath	25
26 —9:00 am G: Dot K. & John Meyer AM: Abbi Telander A: Jenna Hutson LR: Lori Collins R: Krull & Keith N: Kim Surratt & Gabi A. T: Joan Carnaghi	27	28	29 Soup 6 pm Service 7 pm Choir Practice 7:45 pm	G = Greeters AM = Assisting Minister A = Acolyte LR = Reader R = Refreshments N = Nursery T = Tech Assistant		

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



Transition: Calling a New Pastor

I know everyone is anxious to proceed with the call process, as am I. So I wanted to provide some information on the next step to help us all advance on this common goal.

The next big piece is the preparation of the Ministry Site Profile. This is basically a 14-page document telling who we are, where we are heading and what leadership attributes we believe will get us there. The Synod and prospective pastors will utilize the survey in the call process.

The profile will include information about Shepherd of the Hills, items like our demographics, budget, how we fit in our community, and how the community perceives Shepherd of the Hills. Also included will be reflective details about our vision for mission and our leadership needs. Fortunately a great deal of the information has been collected as part of the PMC activity over the last year or so. We have a nice head start.

I ask that we all provide thoughtful and prayerful support of the process, which will likely request congregation-wide surveys.

- submitted by Bill Johnson

A Word from Pastor Jeff



Long ago I learned the significant truth that serving as a pastor of Christ's church is by no means something to be taken for granted, but a great blessing and privilege given to some of us by the call of the Holy Spirit, working through individuals, congregations, and the whole church. I have certainly felt blessed and privileged to begin serving as the intention interim at Shepherd of the Hills. Your welcome to me has been most gracious. You have truly accepted me in this role, which has made and will continue to make the road smoother for all of us as you seek the pastor the Holy Spirit has in mind to walk with you into the future. You have been open to new ideas and new approaches. These are all signs of a healthy community. I have already communicated to the synod that you are a community of servants of Christ who have many committed members, strong leadership, and a very real sense of the presence of the Spirit in your midst. I am sure that the right person will appear for the next stage of your journey.

As interim pastor, my task, in addition to just helping to keep things running as smoothly as possible, is to monitor your progress on the five developmental tasks of the interim period:

- † Coming to terms with history
- † Discovering a new identity
- † Leadership changes
- † Renewing denominational linkages
- † Commitment to new directions in ministry

I will be discussing these issues with the congregation council on a regular basis, and looking for ways to address any issues that might arise. However, as I have already mentioned to several people, SOTH seems to me to be ahead of the game in this process. Your participation in the PMC process has certainly been an important factor in this regard.

As interim pastor, I will have absolutely nothing to do with the call process itself, nor will I be a candidate for the call under any circumstances.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Jeff



Dear Friends,

Habitat for Humanity Saint Louis would like to extend our deepest appreciation to you. Your support helps to continue our build here in St. Louis throughout these winter months, as we strive to help even more families have a safe, warm place to call home.

Because of supporters like you, where once there was vacant land, new neighborhoods now stand.

Where once there were piles of lumber, now there are walls, walls to the first private bedroom a child has ever known. Futures once uncertain, have suddenly begun to shine with promise!

With Gratitude,

Kimberly McKinney, CEO

Dear Friends at SOTH,

Each day here at Oaks Indian Mission, we are thankful for people like you. People who give of what they have in order to help the children who live here at the mission lead safe and secure lives.

2011 was an amazing year and we were blessed abundantly by your generosity. The staff and the children here at the mission want to say a heartfelt thank you that comes from the very depth of our being.

Sincerely,

David Schachle

Executive Director



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, *president*
John Daab
Jim Berry

Jim Urnes, Sr.
Rhonda Bird
Meagan Nalepa, *youth rep.*

Suah Tokpa
Linda Pearson
Genny Jordan

OUR VISION . . .

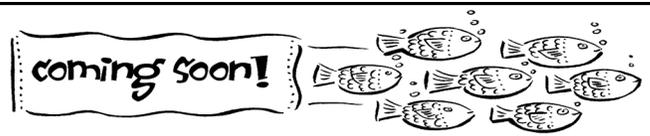
GATHER Joyfully

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., Feb. 2 at 7 p.m. features "More than a Month", a film about a young African American filmmaker on a cross-country campaign to end Black History Month. Discussion and refreshments will follow. Go to nineNet.org to see a preview.
- **CHM Annual Open House**, Sunday, Feb. 26 from 1-3 p.m. **Save the Date:** CHM's Trivia Night will be May 4.
- **Trivia Night** to benefit Ritenour Middle School's music program, Friday, March 2. Doors open at 6:15, trivia begins at 7:00 p.m. \$10/person or \$60 for a table of six. See Lauri Anderson for registration form.
- **Save the Date:** Hope Overflow has approached us about visiting and giving a concert during their spring break this year, possibly on Sat., March 3. They would like to volunteer and put on a concert at a near-by school or organization. They also have some marching percussion equipment they would like to donate. If you have any suggestions of schools or organizations that might be interested, please see Julie Hutson.