

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. 3 ☼ March 2012**



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Cancer Companions



Cancer brings uncertainty. What if in the midst of your cancer you found hope, understanding, strength, faith, kindness and peace? If you or someone you love has ever been impacted by cancer, turn to Cancer Companions for information about cancer resources, individual support from someone that understands, or to find Christian Cancer Support Groups.

If you would like more information on this new ministry here at SOTH, please contact Lisa Hogbin at 314-276-7851 or go to the Cancer Companions website at www.cancer-companions.org. *“Draw near to God and he will draw near to you.”*

- James 4:8



Hope Overflow Concert March 1st

This talented group of college students and musicians from Wartburg College in Iowa will once again spend their “spring break” on a concert and serving tour, ending with a stop at Shepherd of the Hills. They will give a concert on Thursday, March 1 at 7:30 p.m. See Julie Hutson to help out with food and bedding for their stay here at SOTH.

“Christ Comes to Us” in Lent



Join us on the Lenten journey as the Confirmation Class and their families provide worship leadership. Each service begins at 7:00 p.m., preceded by a soup supper at 6:00 p.m. Please sign up to bring soups, breads and drinks.

This year’s weekly themes for March are:

Feb. 29: One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism (Ephesians 4:4-6)

March 7: Newness of Life (Romans 6:3-4)

March 21: Taste and See (Psalm 34:1-8)

March 28: Living in the Word (Isaiah 55:10-11)

Holy Week Services:

April 1, 9:00 a.m.: Palm Sunday

April 5, 7:00 p.m.: Maundy Thursday

April 6, 7:00 p.m.: Good Friday

April 8, 9:30 a.m.: Easter Sunday (preceded by a potluck breakfast)



Church Committees: Stewardship

Stewardship means “belonging to God”- all that we are and all that we have comes from God. We are grateful to God for it all, and responsible to God for how we use it. Being unfamiliar with the responsibilities of this committee, Pastor Jeff helped us understand that we were to seek out the various time, talent and treasure resources of the congregation and link those gifts to needs within the congregation and wider community.

We will be highlighting other committees and groups in the upcoming months, letting you know what they do and what their needs are. This information will also be put into a booklet to be included in new member packets.

We ask the congregation to consider what your spiritual gifts are that might be useful to the church so you can be paired with the correct committee.

See Suah Tokpa, John Meyer or Joan Carnaghi for more information.

GATHER Joyfully + GROW Deeply + GO Faithfully

Dear Friends,
The weather we've been having seems to be more like spring than February. Should we change the old song to "February showers bring March flowers?" As I write this message on February 23 it looks like that might be the case. Of course, things can change very rapidly, can't they?

Actually the word for this season of the church year, Lent, means "springtime." It is meant to encourage a springtime of the soul. It is a time for us to start our juices flowing for the new life that comes from Jesus' resurrection. The traditional Lenten disciplines - prayer, fasting, and acts of loving service - are special conduits for that new-life power of Jesus to come through to us. How do you practice those Lenten disciplines in your world?

Of course, Wednesday night Lenten services are an opportunity for special prayer and growth in Christian living. This year, under the theme "God Comes to Us," our services will focus on baptism, holy communion, and the Word. God comes to us in many ways, but we know that the Word and the sacraments are places where we can count on God's presence and blessing. Confirmation students and their families will lead our worship on those evenings. And of course, soup suppers will help to put us in a receptive mood for God's message to us.

At home, my wife and I usually add to our regular supertime prayers by reading some Lenten devotional materials. (When we actually can find time to eat at home together, that is.) SOTH has some fine devotional materials available for you to use as well. Just pick something up from the information center in the hallway.

I have to be honest to say that I have never done very well at fasting. Mostly I have tried fasting on Good Friday, and I find it a very difficult practice. When you think of it, however, why should it be easy for me, when it was the day that Jesus suffered so horribly for three hours on the cross? The well-known practice of giving something up for lent is a watered down version of fasting that can be useful if it is a daily reminder of how much Jesus gave up for us.

SOTH is honoring the practice of acts of loving service this year by dedicating Lenten offerings to Community Helping Ministry. This is a great thing to do, but it is even better for us to actually do something in person to help somebody else. I'm trying to think of somebody I can surprise with an unexpected act of loving service.

Our Sunday morning theme in Lent is "Giving Is Getting," which seems to Jesus' surprising message to his disciples as he leads them on the way to the cross and resurrection. Our Lord's message to us always turns our usual way of looking at things upside down, as he teaches us that "The greatest among you must be the slave of all," "Give away everything you have, and then come follow me," and "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind & strength, and your neighbor as yourself."

Happy Lent! It is springtime for my soul.

Yours in Christ,
*Pastor Jeff
Lindgren*



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.

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.



"Give away everything you have, and then come follow me."

M
A
R
C
H



Cindy Goodnetter 1
 Daryl Hogbin.....2
 Erin Toohey.....4
 Mike Surratt 5
 Joe Tokpa 6
 Jamie Schnur 11
 Chris Schnur..... 13
 Pat Amick.....14
 John Daab.....16
 Lexie Higgins..... 17
 Carol Krull 17
 Abbi Telander 17
 Zsabetta Artis 24
 Trevor Nalepa 25
 Cathy Hogan 26
 Bridget Elder 26
 Bill Johnson.....29
 Donna Rogers..... 29

Anniversaries

Chris & Jamie Schnur... 16
 Joe & Bianca Nalepa 20

Missional Minute

Reflections about relating to those with special needs and their caregivers...

Kathy noticed a woman who was blind walking with her cane toward an intersection and automatically started to take the lady’s arm to help her. Recalling what she had learned at SOTH when Judy (who is blind) from Joni & Friends to talk with us, Kathy instead asked the woman how she could help. The woman said, “Just walk in front of me; I will hear your footsteps.” The woman therefore retained her independence and dignity and Kathy felt blessed to be able to assist her.

If you have had or know of a similar instance you would like to share, please write it down and give it to Ann Sanderson or email it to the church office at soth@sothstl.org.

NewsBytes...



- ✦ Special thanks to all who helped and participated in this year’s **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**. Over \$600 was raised to put towards building accessibility projects.
- ✦ Congratulations to **Meagan Nalepa** who is being recognized in March for the Girl Scouts “God in Church” Award.
- ✦ Please pray for **Cindy Dixon** and for her mother, **Lady**, who have both been dealing with health issues. We ask God to touch them with his healing hand.
- ✦ Prayers of thanksgiving for **Jim Berry’s** successful heart stent procedure in February. May he continue down the road of healing & wellness.
- ✦ Please pray for the **Anderson family** who have some tough decisions to make in the coming days and weeks about the well-being of Betty (beloved mother & grandmother) and her invalid son, Bobby.
- ✦ The **Church Council** went on retreat on Feb. 24 & 25. They reviewed the church’s vision statement, discussed the call process and assigned council members to represent various church committees.

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



FEBRUARY

Church Council Highlights

- Approved Hope Overflow concert for Thu., March 1.
- Approved use of the church for a Girl Scout Troop as a sorting center for their “April Showers” collection day on Sat., April 28.
- Also approved an overnight stay on April 28 for a youth group from Wartburg College traveling through to Tennessee.

Tribute to Bette McCrandall

Three months before Leymah Gbowe, life-long Liberian Lutheran and ELCA scholarship recipient, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, another woman was recognized for her quiet, yet exemplary, service in Liberia.

Bette McCrandall, after nearly 30 years of service as an ELCA missionary, was heralded “the Mother Teresa of the ELCA” by the Rev. Rafael Malpica-Padilla at the Summer Missionary Conference recognition banquet. During the bloody Liberian civil war, when missionaries were being evacuated, Bette McCrandall opted to stay and walk alongside global companions in the Lutheran Church of Liberia and others. Bette served as surrogate mother to countless Liberian youth, carried victims’ bodies from St. Peter’s Church after its bloody massacre, and helped the Liberian Lutheran church rebuild and strengthen its education ministry.

Together, we say “thank you” to Bette for exemplary service. And, I say “thank you” to you, supporters of ELCA missionaries! Your support helps to make “a world of difference.” - From Rev. Twila Schock, Director ELCA Missionary Sponsorship and Global Appeals.

Shepherd of the Hills

Lutheran Church (ELCA)

March 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Ushers: Nancy Cirar & Guest Counters: Martha Johnson & Candy Travis Altar Guild: Lisa Hogbin & Evelyn Pursley CAs: Carol & Tom Krull, Kathy Sieker <i>Please find a substitute if you are unable to serve!</i>		G = Greeters AM = Assisting Minister A = Acolyte LR = Reader R = Refreshments N = Nursery T = Tech Assistant		1 Hope Overflow Concert 7:30 p.m.	2 Pastor's Sabbath	3
4 2 Lent—9:00 am G: Cal & Julia Tousignant AM: Martha Johnson A: Kristen Schnur LR: Denise Meyer R: Telander/Toohey N: Lauri A. & Meagan N. T: Devin Travis	5	6	7 Soup 6 pm Service 7 pm Choir Practice 7:45 pm	8	9 Pastor's Sabbath	10 Men's Group 9 am Set Clocks ahead 1 hour tonight
11 3 Lent—9:00 am G: Jeanne K. & Nancy Cirar AM: Jim Berry A: Carlie Hunter LR: Carl Jordan R: Ambacher/ Anderson N: Bridget Elder & Jenna H. T: Joe Nalepa	12	13 Council 7:00 pm	14 Soup 6 pm Service 7 pm Choir Practice 7:45 pm	15	16 Pastor's Sabbath	17 St. Patrick's Day
18 4 Lent—9:00 am G: Joan Keith & Cathy Thies AM: Pat Amick A: Jenna Hutson LR: Tom Ritter R: TBA N: Sharon Elder & Gabi A. T: Lauri Anderson	19 April Newsletter Deadline	20 First Day of Spring	21 Soup 6 pm Service 7 pm Choir Practice 7:45 pm	22	23 Pastor's Sabbath	24
25 5 Lent—9:00 am G: G. Jordan & A. Sanderson AM: Stein Hunter A: Deidra Adams LR: Linda Pearson R: C&K Jordan / E. Pursley N: Kim Surratt & Aubrey H. T: Carl Jordan	26	27	28 Soup 6 pm Service 7 pm Choir Practice 7:45 pm	29	30 Pastor's Sabbath	31

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: Call Committee

Your call committee has been formed. Members are George Marvin, Abbi Telander, Gary Johnson, Zsabetta Artis, Darrell Hogbin, Aubrey Hunter and Mara Berry. The team met last week for an orientation session with Pastor Beverly Jo Arnold. Pastor Arnold walked the team through the entire call process, saying that the process our synod has developed almost always works; she hasn't lost a call committee chair yet!

What is important to note is that the process can take anywhere from 9 to 18 months from today! That may seem like a long time, but remember we are looking for a call from God and someone out there is listening to hear from God that she or he is truly called to serve our particular community of believers.

Our first task is to create an on-line congregational profile - kind of a job advertisement - that will go onto the synod website. That will allow all interested pastors to learn a lot about us, what we value, how we like to operate, and then decide whether they want to interview for our opening. We will of course be seeking input from all of you about the most important characteristics of our future "shepherd". Here are some of the next steps we have planned for information gathering:

- 1) Anonymous input - we want to make sure that anyone can share a concern or a comment about who they want to see called as our pastor. We will provide a "Call Committee Suggestion Box" for you to place any written questions, comments or surveys. This will be available throughout the process.
- 2) Surveys - There is a short survey provided by ELCA that will ask about your top 5 priorities in our new pastor. The call committee will be distributing copies of this survey on Wed. Feb. 29th & Wed. Mar. 7 at our soup suppers. We will distribute the same survey at two Sunday worship services on Sunday March 4 & 11 in an effort to reach as many people as possible. We only need each voting member of the congregation to fill out one survey. Blank surveys will be available next to our suggestion box so that anyone absent from one of these 4 worship services can fill one out on their own & drop it in the suggestion box.
- 3) Small group listening sessions - Using the survey results, the call committee will pull together 5-10 questions about which we want more detail. We will hold at least three small group listening sessions on Mar. 25 & Apr. 15 to discern more about who we are seeking to lead our congregation in mission and ministry.

While the work of the call committee must remain totally confidential once we get to interviewing candidates, etc., right now is the information gathering stage. So if you have ideas or questions, please don't hesitate to bring them to one of the committee members, who will then bring them to our meetings. Open communication is probably the KEY to reducing anxiety about this whole process. So . . . share your thoughts and stay tuned !!



ELCA World Hunger



One billion of our neighbors are living in poverty. They struggle to live on less than \$1.25 a day-without enough food to eat or clean water to drink. Even in the United States, almost 14 percent of households experience hunger or the risk of hunger-skipping meals or going an entire day without food.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is working to change this.

ELCA World Hunger responds to global hunger and poverty by addressing its root causes. They work in nearly 60 countries around the world, including the United States, to help people lift themselves out of poverty through food, agricultural training, livestock, access to clean water, health care, job training and more. Thanks to the ministry of ELCA World Hunger, communities who once knew hunger now give thanks for daily bread.

Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger support programs and projects that help change lives all around the world.

You can make your check payable to "ELCA World Hunger". Place your gift in the offering plate or mail it to:

ELCA World Hunger

P.O. Box 71764

Chicago, IL 60694-1764

To give online with a credit card, please visit :

www.elca.org/hungerdonate.





Prepared especially for:

—Address Correction Requested—

Parish Newsletter of
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
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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 & tech team*

Jim Urnes, Sr., *worship*

Suah Tokpa, *stewardship*

Linda Pearson, *vice president & soc. con.*

Rhonda Bird, *care/evangelism*

John Daab, *finance*

Jim Berry, *facilities*

Meagan Nalepa, *youth rep & edu*

Genny Jordan, *education*

OUR VISION . . .

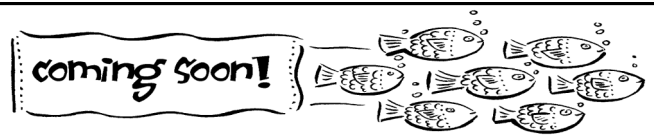
GATHER Joyfully

GROW Deeply

GO Faithfully

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

Don't Miss These Opportunities!



- **Girl Scout Sunday** is March 11 and this year is their 100th Anniversary. If you are a Girl Scout now or have ever been a Girl Scout, please contact Bianca Nalepa to be included in the day's festivities.
- **KETC Community Cinema Series** at the History Museum, Thurs., March 26 at 7:00 p.m. features "Revenge of the Electric Car", a film about the global resurgence of electric cars, America's future. Discussion and refreshments will follow. Go to nineNet.org to see a preview.
- **CHM Food Drive**, March 24 & 25 at the Schnucks in Bridgeton & Maryland Heights. Volunteers needed!
Save the Date: CHM's Trivia Night will be May 4.
- **Save the Date: Trivia Night** to benefit the Youth's mission trip to New Orleans on Saturday, April 21. See Abbi Telander or Bridget Elder for more information.