



# SHEPHERDING OUR FAITH

Faith building opportunities at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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February 2010

## **Women's Wednesday Morning Bible Study**

We are a group of women who love life and our Lord. We generally begin with song and end with prayer. Pastor Jim will continue to lead us in *Tabletalk: the Bible Basis for Holy Communion*. Those who complete the course will be equipped to assist as a bread server during the Lord's Supper Sunday mornings.

We meet Wednesday mornings at 9:30 am. For more information please contact Terry Grossman at 786-9670.

## **Tuesday Morning Bible Study**

Come warm up Tuesday mornings with a cup of coffee and God's word. Pastor's Tuesday Morning Bible Study, 9:00 am, will continue to focus on the gospel lesson scheduled for the coming Sunday. Remember, women are more than welcome to attend this class - the guys seem to be a little better behaved when they're around.

## **Up North Bible Study Group**

We meet at 7:00 pm the 2nd Thursday of each month at the home of Jerry & Julie Wolff, 15627 Vine Avenue, Spring Lake. Our format includes prayer, Scripture readings from *Christ in Our Home*, sharing our thoughts, and dessert! Anyone interested please notify Julie at (616) 846-7953, or just come on up February 11!

## **Women's Evening Bible Study**

All women are invited to attend the Third Thursday Bible Study February 18, 7:00 pm, at Good Shepherd. Come whenever you can, you are always welcome. We are using the Bible Study article from the *Lutheran Woman Today* magazine, available each month on the sign up table. Paul, in his letters, encourages us to work out what it means to trust Jesus every day in our family, our friendships, in every aspect of our lives. Contact Vicki Russell (994-7100) or Sandy Foster (395-3199) for more information.

*Lutheran Woman Today*, the magazine of Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, offers stories that inform, challenge, comfort, and encourage. The award-winning Bible study brings together women of all ages and ways of life to explore God's word. Regular columns on prayer, health, the church calendar, and useful resources supplement the Bible study and faith-in-action

## **Orientation for New Members**

Our orientation for new members, *Baptized We Live*, will continue Sunday mornings at 9:00 am through February 21, culminating in an opportunity to become a member of Good Shepherd through Affirmation of Baptism, during the worship service that Sunday. Sheila Nicholas will lead our discussions on the history of the Lutheran church, our unique focus on baptism, and the way we try to live out the mission and vision of Good Shepherd, introducing you to leaders of various ministries. New friends of the church, old friends, those transferring membership and current members are all encouraged to attend.

## **Good Shepherd Book Group**

Book Group is moving to church. With the closing of Jude3 we will be holding our monthly Book Group discussions at Good Shepherd on the second Monday of every month at 5:30. Anyone is welcome anytime, whether you've joined us before or not. We discuss how faith and spirituality play a role in the book of the month and how that relates to our lives. For more information contact Vicki (994-7100, vicki0528@gmail.com).

*Mennonite in a Little Black Dress*, January's discussion, was written by Rhoda Janzen who teaches creative writing at Hope College. When divorce and a serious car accident turned her world upside down, Rhoda returned to her Mennonite family in California to heal both physically and emotionally. In this memoir she shares this return to her roots with an off-beat sense of humor. Several of us were fortunate enough to attend the Winter Happenings at Hope College and hear this author speak. She shared some of her history, her belief that gratitude can lead to forgiveness, and read from her book. Her reading gave us a new appreciation for her story, her relationship with her sister, and her family, in particular her mother.

**February 8:** *Prayers for Sale* by Sandra Dallas

**March 8:** *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson This is the "Read Along the Lakeshore" selection for this year.

## **Youth Group Sledding Fun**

A sledding event is in the works for youth 3rd grade and up. Watch for more information to come. We're tentatively planning on the afternoon of February 14, so start praying for snow! Contact Elizabeth Brubaker at 772-7271 for more information.

## Sunday School Gives Fish and Pigs

Beatrice's Goat by Page McBrier is based on the true story of a nine year old Ugandan girl and her family. Because of a donation from far far away the family was given a goat and received training on how to care for "Mugisa" which means luck. Drinking the goat milk was very nutritious, and selling the extra milk allowed the family to purchase much needed items for their home. There was even enough money for Beatrice to purchase a uniform and books and attend school for the first time. Mugisa gave birth to twins which allowed them to sell one and make needed repairs on their home so the roof no longer leaked during the rains.

ELCA's Good Gifts program allows us to send animals to families like Beatrice's. After hearing the story of Beatrice and Mugisa our Sunday School students have chosen to purchase a fish farm and 2 pigs to help families like Beatrice's. (Last year they purchased 3 goats.) A community fishing farm project will feed many, and two families will each receive a pig to raise thanks to the generous hearts of our Sunday School children.

Every penny that is donated by the children on Sunday mornings is used for service projects in which the children participate. Supplies and totebags have been purchased for the school kits, postage paid to ship boxes to soldiers, supplies for valentines for nursing home residents and animal treats for Harbor Humane among others. We are so proud of our children and their generous spirit!

### Preparation for First Communion

First Communion for children will be offered Palm Sunday, March 28. Preparation involves a home study of video tapes and Bible readings, followed by a retreat with Pastor Jim, the First Communicant and a parent or spouse, Saturday, March 27, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. We'll explore the history and meaning of the Lord's Supper, prepare "communion soup" for lunch, bake communion bread together, and fashion a "common cup" for the entire family's use during the Sunday worship service. Enroll by contacting Pastor Jim at [pastorjim.gslc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pastorjim.gslc@sbcglobal.net) or 772-4075, see him after Sunday worship, or note your interest on a blue *Faithworks* form and place it in the Sunday offering.

### Sunday School Lessons

- **Feb 7:** Jesus calls the first disciples: the fishers Simon, James and John. Luke 5:1-11
- **Feb 14:** Jesus is transfigured on a mountaintop. Luke 9:28-36
- **Feb 21:** Jesus is tempted in the desert, but relies on God alone. Luke 4:1-13
- **Feb. 28:** Jesus proclaims his love for the people of Jerusalem, and his desire to gather and protect them. Luke 13:31-35

## Kids Quiz

Can you identify these kids from the Bible?

1. This famous kid killed a giant with a slingshot.
  - A. Samson
  - B. Paul
  - C. Adam
  - D. David
2. This kid was sleeping when God spoke to him.
  - A. Hophini
  - B. Eli
  - C. Samuel
  - D. Cain
3. This guy was the youngest of Jesus's disciples and probably a teenager at the time.
  - A. Peter
  - B. John
  - C. Andrew
  - D. James
4. Joseph was a very famous child who was given a colorful coat. How many brothers did he have?
  - A. Five
  - B. Eleven
  - C. Twelve
  - D. Three
5. His mother put him in a basket and hid him in a river when he was a baby. Who was he?
  - A. Abraham
  - B. David
  - C. Moses
  - D. Titus
6. This kid became King of Judah when he was eight years old.
  - A. Saul
  - B. Jerum
  - C. Ahab
  - D. Josiah
7. A young boy shared his lunch with Jesus and a crowd. What was his lunch?
  - A. Loaves and fish
  - B. Soup
  - C. A sandwich
  - D. Mac and cheese
8. This baby had angels, wise men and shepherds visit him.
  - A. Paul
  - B. John the Baptist
  - C. Jesus
  - D. David