



# THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church



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## Holy Week and Easter Schedule

Holy Week begins with Palm/Passion Sunday March 28. Once again Good Shepherd will be using "Eco-Palms" purchased through Lutheran World Relief's sustainable agriculture/fair trade program in Mexico. Not only will we receive beautiful palms, but small farmers will receive a fair price for their crop and an incentive to take care of the land.

Maunder Thursday is April 1. We will worship at 7:00 pm and celebrate Holy Communion.

Good Friday's Tenebrae Service will be April 2 at 7:00 pm. On this night we hear the Gospel of John's Passion reading and reflect upon the seven

words of Christ from the cross.

On Holy Saturday the church will be open for prayer from 7 am-3 pm. We hope that someone will be present throughout those hours praying for the church, the world and all those in need as we reflect upon Christ's death for us.

Our Lenten mid-week prayer service from 12:30-1:00 each Wed. continues through March 24. Our Sunday morning adult forum on end of life issues continues each week through Palm Sunday.

A sign up sheet has been posted for those who wish to purchase plants for our Easter worship celebration April 4. If



**Daylight Savings Time Begins on Sunday, March 14. Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour.**

you would like to donate a plant in memory or in honor of someone, please sign up as soon as possible. Plants will be ordered from Dyers Greenhouse again this year. We estimate that plants will cost \$11 instead of the usual \$10 but hope to have exact cost soon.

## "Thank You"

Jessica Anthony and fiancé Justin Daravong wish to thank everyone for the gifts they received at the baby shower at Good Shepherd on Sunday February 21. Jessica and Justin are expecting a daughter in early April.

## Health Kits for Haiti Relief

Good Shepherd's Women of the ELCA has taken the lead in preparing health kits for Haiti. Lutheran World Relief has asked all congregations to please respond as soon as possible as their supplies of health kits, school kits and quilts have been depleted and the need remains great.

Mary Schreiber reports that

12 kits have already shipped out and that 20 more are ready to ship. Each kit must contain these items (no substitutions please!): 1 hand towel (no kitchen towels please) dark color preferred, 1 wash cloth dark color preferred, 1 4-5 oz bar of soap, 1 adult sized toothbrush in original package, 1 large sturdy comb, 1 metal nail file or fingernail

clipper (no toe nail clippers or emery boards please) and 6 band aids wrapped in a rubber band. All items need to be wrapped inside the hand towel and secured. Cash to ship the items is being collected in the "change bucket" located in front of the font in our sanctuary-a visible reminder of our unity in Christ with the people of Haiti.

## The Pastor's Column

I recently read an article with a haunting question. The writer asked, "If your church were to close today, who would miss you?" Obviously we would all miss our congregation. The folks who use our space for AA meetings, for WIC and for Girl Scouts would miss us. Maybe the folks over at MidCoast Hunger Prevention would miss us. But what about the community at large? Do people in Brunswick/Bath/Topsham

even know where Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is located? Do they know what we value? Do any of our neighbors even know what a Lutheran is?

We are not alone in being a small congregation with some real challenges ahead of us, but it is a great time to start asking ourselves basic questions about our faith and witness. Do we invite our friends and family to worship with us? If not, why? Do we tell people

about what our faith means to us? If not why not? Watching the nightly news reports from Haiti and Chile have inspired me to think more deeply about my own Christian witness as these sisters and brothers who have suffered so much bear witness to the grace of God.

Throughout the weeks ahead as we await the joyous Easter Season, be in prayer that God will renew and revitalize our sense of mission.



**Throughout Lent listen to the Biblical call to bear good fruit .**

## David Engler Returns from Mission to Guatemala

David Engler returned to Guatemala in late February to continue his ministry of helping build safe stoves for families living in poverty.

Many of the people of Guatemala use a fire ring for their heating and cooking which presents not only safety issues but also great health issues as well for the families who are living in these smoke coated

homes. David reports that the cook stoves he helped build cost approximately \$100 in US funds. While that seems like a small amount to us, it represents an impossible hurdle for many people in Guatemala. Thanks to the efforts of Masons on a Mission and folks like David, stoves are being provided.

Photographs of the stove mak-

ing process (and the joyous recipients!) are posted on the bulletin board by the kitchen. You will also find a wonderful "travel diary" that David kept of his adventures posted beside the photos.

We are thankful for David's willingness to serve and this opportunity to serve as Jesus served.



*One of the dreams for our Endowment Fund is to sponsor mission trips like this in the future. What's your mission dream?*

## Around the Congregation

Doug and June Stewart recently returned from a cruise to the Caribbean.

Earl Redman is busily learning how to say "really big fish" in Spanish (or so he claims.) Earl left this week for Florida and will proceed to Mexico for a fishing trip. We're sure he will have an interesting tale or

two to share.

David and Carol Duehring are heading off to Germany for two weeks.

Our new friends in the congregation Arnold and Anne Beiler are spending some time in Florida this month.

Sandy and Betsy Schmidt are

in Utah this week skiing.

Joan Bell has been visiting her children in the "sunny south" this winter. The children are no doubt delighted to have mom with them, but may search her suitcases next year to make sure she left those Maine winters in Maine!



**The lesson on Sun. March 7 is about the fig tree. What is your grace story of growth?**

## Birthdays and Anniversaries this Month

### Birthdays:

Suzanne Blakemore, March 1  
 Rebecca Wegner, March 5  
 David Anthony, March 7  
 Faye Scherzer, March 15  
 Evelyn Lieke, March 18  
 Elsie Sandelin, March 18  
 Joe Bryant, March 23  
 David Engler, March 26  
 Russ Banton, March 31

### Anniversaries:

Alice and G.R. Johnson will celebrate their 61st wedding anniversary on March 5.  
 Norma and Jim McLoughlin will celebrate their 52nd wedding anniversary on March 15.  
 Andrea and Bill Nelson will celebrate their 21st wedding anniversary on March 18.

God's blessings to each of these folks on their special

day.

If we have omitted your birthday or anniversary, please contact the church office. We recently purchased a new computer and new church software so we may have "lost" some of you in the conversion! Please let us know.



## Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program Update

During the months of March and April, Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program will be participating in the Feinstein Challenge. Each year the Feinstein Foundation provides up to \$1 million dollars to participating agencies as a "matching fund grant" based upon the amount of money and/or food contributed to the agency. This is an excel-

lent time to make a gift to MCHPP as it allows them to use your gift to qualify for a larger share of the Challenge funding.

Cyndy Carney, Executive Director of MCHPP, recently reported that Good Shepherd had provided 120 pounds of food in January and 176 pounds in February. Our Souper Bowl collection was

\$157.

Throughout the months of March and April all of the members and friends of GSLC are encouraged to remember the growing number of hungry Mainers and bring in a few extra cans of food each week or mail your check to Mid Coast Hunger Prevention at 84 A Union Street, Brunswick, ME 04011.



*Hunger in Maine has increased over 13% in the past year, much of that increase among working Mainers.*

## New Committees Being Formed

The Time and Talent Survey was distributed at worship on Feb. 28 and extra copies are on the table in the narthex. We are hoping that all of you will take a few minutes to complete the form so that we can contact you directly when something that appeals to your interests happens.

Our Congregational Council is in the process of forming new committees. If you would like to help with fellowship and community building events/activities, speak with Mel Banton. If your interests lie more in property repairs or clean ups, contact Elizabeth McGrath or Heidi Gannon. The Mission Team is always

interested in helpers who can spread the word about our community partners so speak with Betsey Alden or Dave Duehring. Stewardship needs are readily apparent and Leslie Ambrose is looking for a few good volunteers. Steve Mallett heads up Christian Ed and Michael Krohn is leading the Worship Team.





GOOD SHEPHERD  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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WE'RE ON THE WEB  
GOODSHEPHERDME.ORG

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## Last Things

Our good friend Gordon Compton will be installed as the pastor of the Northern Parishes on March 21st. Betsey Alden and Mel Banton are tentatively planning on driving up for the installation. Gordy says that members are trying to accommodate out of town guests, so if you would like to go north and bring Gordy our prayers and best wishes, please contact Betsey Alden so she can put you in touch with Gordy.

Our good friend the Rt. Rev. Chilton Knudsen is on the road throughout March visiting Episcopal congregations throughout the US who have

provided prayers and support for her ministry in Haiti. Now more than ever those prayers and financial pledges matter. Chilton sends her greetings to you and looks forward to being back at Good Shepherd before too long. Please keep her in your prayers as she travels and works on behalf of those in Haiti.

We said goodbye to our sister in Christ Elaine Swisler who died on Ash Wednesday at the age of 85. Elaine was a long time member of Good Shepherd who faithfully served in capacities ranging from Council Secretary to

lawn mower in chief over the years. Please keep Elaine's husband Ray and daughter Tracy in your prayers. May God comfort all who mourn.

Check out the notice on the bulletin board in the narthex for information on the upcoming Northern Area Conference Training Event to be held in early April at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Newington, NH. The worship and workshop presentations that day center on how to reach out to people in the 20-30 age range. These tend to be very fun and informative events and we'd love to take a big group!



**Rooted in the Good News  
of Jesus Christ, we reach  
out to our community and  
the world in loving service.**