

# The Shepherd's Staff

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2010

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## Lent Begins February 17

Ash Wednesday services will be held at 7:00 pm Feb. 17 as we mark the beginning of the Lenten season.

As part of our Lenten journey in faith, the Endowment Fund committee will be hosting "Now and At the Hour of Our Death". Each Sunday during the education hour a guest speaker will be leading an adult forum on a topics ranging from death and dying to estate planning to planning your own funeral service.

Our guest speaker Feb. 21 will be Molly Bull, Esq. an attorney specializing in estate planning. Molly practices law in Southern Maine and is married to our own Tom Bull, son of David and Carol Duehring.

Our speakers on February 28 will be Lynn Ellis and Amy Berube. Lynn works with Hospice Volunteers of Mid-

coast Maine while Amy works with CHANS Hospice organization. They will share information about the services provided by each of these groups and the vital roles both groups provide to families of the terminally ill.

Joining us on March 7 will be Klara Tammany who will be sharing alternatives to traditional funerals, including "green" burial practices. This is a fascinating topic which opens up many opportunities for individuals and families to talk about what is important to them at the time of death.

On March 14 Pastor Rebecca will lead a session on Planning Your Own Funeral as an act



**Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually. Psalm 105: 4**

of love for your family.

Our final speaker on March 21 will be Sara Groleau, a representative for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans who will discuss financial planning for the future of your family as well as options for charitable giving.

Each session will last approx. 1 hour. We hope you'll join us!

**Did you know that David Engler has gone to Guatemala for a ten day mission trip?**

**David will once again be building stoves to help improve the health and safety of villagers,**

**We rejoice that David has continued to serve in this ministry that he began while son John served the Peace Corp. Hold David in your prayers.**

## New Officers Elected at Annual Meeting

Three people were elected to serve three year terms on the congregational council for 2010 at the annual meeting held January 31: Leslie Ambrose, Steve Mallett and Michael Krohn. This is Leslie and Steve's second term on Council and Michael's first.

Following the Annual congregational meeting, the Council members met to elect officers for the 2010 year. Leslie Ambrose was elected to serve a second term as President of the Council. Michael Krohn was elected Vice President and Heidi Gannon was elected

Secretary for the second term. The other council members are Mel Banton, Elizabeth McGrath, David Engler, David Duehring, and Betsey Alden. They will be installed during worship on Sunday February 21st.



## The Pastor's Column

We all have fantasies: that secret vision of the person we would like to be. This time of year many people indulge their Olympic fantasies, imagining racing down a ski slope to win the gold, or skating to victory for your team. Not me. I'm too cold natured and clumsy for that. My fantasies tend to be spring time ones centering around baseball diamonds. I like to imagine what life would have been like had I become a world famous baseball commentator rather than a pastor.

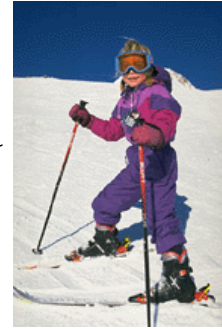
Fantasies are generally harmless outlets for our imagina-

tion. They amuse us by the contrast between fact and fantasy OR inspire us to move beyond fact to become the person we would like to be.

Sometimes, however, fantasy can be destructive. We can convince ourselves that our daily lives are so dull and meaningless that fantasy becomes an escape. We can deceive ourselves about the true nature of our living and our decisions can become self destructive.

Lent calls us to recognize who and what we truly are. We are all people who lose sight of God's will for our lives and wander off alone. We are all

people who need to confront mistakes or missed opportunities for witness and service. Lent gives us 40 days of intense reflection on our own temptations and the life giving alternative offered to us in Christ. May we all find renewal of faith and mission in these 40 days together.



**Me? On skis? I don't think so.**

*A new DVD photo presentation on Good Shepherd Lutheran Church's ministry is now available.*

## A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words

We've all heard the adage that a picture is worth a thousand words and now we are convinced!

Kevin Smith produced a special DVD presentation on behalf of the stewardship committee and aired it for the first time at our annual meeting. In a wonderful blend of pho-

tos from the life of our congregation paired with contemporary Christian music, Kevin told the story of Good Shepherd's ministry and issued the invitation for us to Listen to Jesus, to Walk with him and to Give generously.

Kevin is making copies of that DVD available for members of

the congregation and our friends. If you would like to have a copy, please speak with Kevin or contact the church office. This could be a good tool to use in inviting friends or family to come worship with us!

Thank you Kevin for sharing your gifts with us.

## Daily Bible Readings for Lent Available

A Daily Bible reading schedule for Lent is now available on our church website or by picking up a copy in the narthex.

These readings come from the Revised Common Lectionary which connects our congrega-

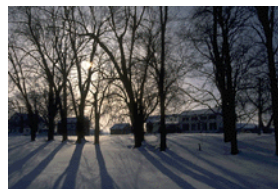
tion to the wider church.

They are organized so that the texts on Monday-Wednesday

form a reflection on the texts that were used in worship the prior week, while the texts for Thurs. through Saturday prepare you to hear the texts for Sunday. A psalm is

appointed to be read daily for Mon.-Wed and another one for Thurs.-Saturday.

By following this path of readings, the worship experience each week is deepened and enriched as everyone will have been praying the same psalms and reading the scriptures that help shed light on the gospel for the day.



**Be exalted, O God, above the heavens. Ps. 57: 11a**

## A Word about Holy Communion

Recently a member of our congregation asked if it might be possible to begin offering an alternative to the Common Cup for Holy Communion during this cold and flu season.

While the common cup is the preferred method of sharing the sacrament in the ELCA because of its visible sign of unity and sharing in the grace of Christ, there are many of our full communion partner congregations who have always used individual cups.

We treasure the gift of this sacrament and feel that it is important to welcome as

many people as possible to share in the meal. Beginning this month, we will offer everyone the common cup as we usually do, but if people prefer, they may have the individual cup instead.

This is new and will be somewhat awkward at first, but we hope to be able to find a way to gracefully extend the cup of blessing to everyone quickly and efficiently before too long.

Because the individual cups that we will use are disposable, we are trying to determine

how many we need to fill each week in order to serve those who desire to commune in this fashion. We are taking a survey on February 7 to help

us determine that information, but it may take a few Sundays to work out all of the details so that everyone's needs are being met as we commune. If you have concerns or comments about this, feel free to speak with Pastor Rebecca.



**O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name...Ps. 8**

## Mardi Gras Celebration Set for February 16

Get out your costumes and masks as we celebrate Mardi Gras at Good Shepherd! We begin our Fat Tuesday celebrations at 6:00 with a Pot Luck Dinner featuring your favorite Cajun/Creole recipes and your most outrageous desserts. There will be prizes for the best costumes and some fam-

ily friendly games as well. Like to play jazz music? Bring your instrument and help entertain us! We do have some classic jazz recordings for "dinner music" but a live performance is always better. If you are available to help decorate (or undecorated) the fellowship hall for this event,

please speak with Cindy Anthony. We will be accepting a free will offering to benefit the people of Haiti in Earthquake Recovery efforts and remembering them in our prayers that evening. Bring your friends and enjoy the celebration.

## Birthdays and Anniversaries in February

Mark and Cindy Anthony are celebrating their 21st wedding anniversary on Valentine's Day. Heather and Dale Weeks are celebrating their 4th anniversary the same day. Congratulations to both of these couples.



**Before I formed you in the womb I knew you... Jeremiah 1: 5a**

Birthdays this month include:  
Joan Bell, Feb. 5  
Christina Smith on February 6  
Klaus Schreiber on February 7  
Betsy Kopyc on February 11  
Carolyn Hartzell, Feb. 15

Frank Carman, Feb. 21  
Carol Duehring, Feb. 26  
Haley Poston, Feb. 26  
Blessings to all of you on your special day.  
If we have omitted your birthday or anniversary, please contact the church office so that we can update our records. Thank you.



*Did you know that the word "Lent" comes from the Anglo Saxon word lencten, roughly meaning "lengthen" for the longer days as Spring arrived? It is a time of instruction and renewal in the faith.*

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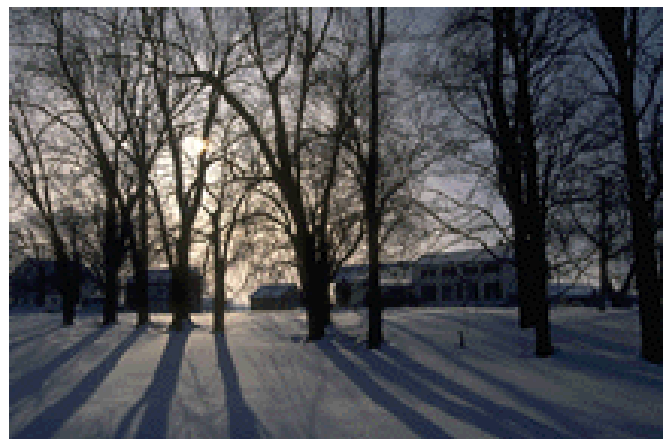
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## The Last Word

You are cordially invited to a Baby Shower for Jessica Anthony to be held at Good Shepherd on Sunday Feb. 21 at 2:00. Jessica and her fiancé Justin Daravong are expecting a daughter. If you are able to attend, please RSVP to Crystal Anthony.

We're looking for a few good ushers/greeters! This is a simple task, but an important one. If you would like to volunteer (or learn more about the job!) please speak with Joel Wegner.

On February 7 three of our young people will receive the sacrament of Holy Communion for the first time: Madeleine Blakemore, Jane Nordmann and Benjamin Smith. The children had three weeks of instruction with Pastor



**The Lord by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding he established the heavens....Proverbs 3:19**

Rebecca during January's Sunday School period.

Our good friend Gordy Compton will be installed as Pastor at our Northern Parishes in New Sweden and

Caribou on March 21. We are planning on sending some folks from our parish to celebrate this joyous occasion with Gordy. If you'd like to attend, speak with Betsey Alden.