



The

Shepherd's Staff

On-Line Newsletter

"News from the Fold"

January 2008

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Carthage, Missouri

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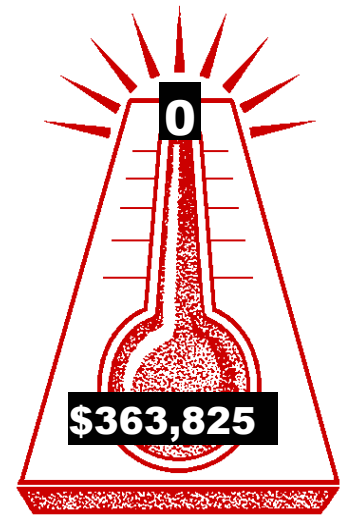
Paying Down the Church Debt

We Are Close!

At the end of December, we had over \$24,000 from the Special Offering to apply to the church debt. This, combined with the \$40,000 from the church treasury, reduces our total debt to about \$18,000. That means in the next few months we will be debt free, and we will be able to apply future funds to a Building Program and other projects.

God has given you a trusting heart, and you have again demonstrated it through your quick and generous response to this need of the congregation. You gave even though it was Christmas and tax time. For this, you are thanked. The work of the congregation is advanced through this expression of your faith.

Praise God! To Him be the glory!



Christmas Traditions, Children's Program



Our thanks to everyone, especially the children, who made our Children's Christmas Program a success.

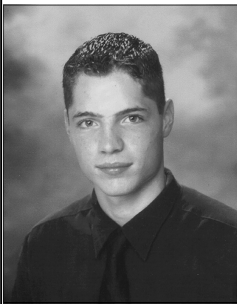
New Graduates

Our congratulations to those who received degrees this past month.



Bethany M. received a Master's Degree in Education Leadership from Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, Kansas. She is the Head of the Math Department at Parsons High School, Parsons, Kansas.

Adam S. received a Bachelor's of Arts Degree from the University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri. He will be attending a pro football camp, with the possibility of playing professional football.



Brandon W. received a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering from Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri. He will be working for Midcom Cables, Joplin, Missouri.

What I Can Do to Serve Survey Coming Soon

The Board of Stewardship, during the early part of February, will give each communicant member of the congregation a *What I Can Do To Serve* survey sheet. It will be a list of activities in which people frequently participate as they live their Christian lives and serve as a part of a congregation.

There are many ways to serve and you will be asked to consider the different tasks and activities listed, and check whatever you think you would like to be involved with. This way we will know better what your interests and skills are. Then, when needed, your willingness to serve can be matched with a particular task or activity.

Be watching for more information and your chance to complete your own *What I Can Do To Serve* survey sheet.

Cleaning Up

Lots of tree limbs down

After the ice storm last month, we had a lot of tree limbs down both at the church and at the church cemetery. Not anymore; well, almost not any more. The damage at the church building has been cleaned up, except for the broken branches in the trees we couldn't get to. We have more work to do at the cemetery. A lot of the branches have been cut up, but we will need another day to get rid of them. We will be announcing another work day to complete the limb removal. Be watching for it.

Our thanks to everyone who helped. Rick C. was able to remove a lot of the fallen branches with his tractor. Those who helped with chain saws and muscle power were: Doug and Kyle D.; Doug D. (yes, there are two Doug Ds); Bob, Virginia, Stephanie, Aurora S. and Cesar H.; Earl K.; Steve L.; Sonny E. and his tractor; Jim and Michael G.; and Pastor.

Flower Chart

If you would like to place altar flowers for a special occasion, be sure to reserve the date on the Flower Chart. The chart is located on the wall, in the hallway, between the women's restroom and water fountain. Just sign

your name on the Sunday you would like to give the flowers and the reason and Betty K. will contact you close to that date to make the final arrangements.

Thank you for helping make our worship more beau-



Thank You from Pastor!

Gerry and I would like to thank each of you who remembered us with well wishes, cards, and gifts during this Christmas season. We thank you for your love expressed and are humbled by it.

I also thank the congregation for the gift of a new desk chair. It sits so much nicer, and is designed to help support your back. I am also told it is comfortable enough to take a good nap in, but, of course, I don't know that for sure. I guess I'll have to try that out sometime.

Again, thank you every much. We wish you a very blessed New Year!

Rummage Sale

Sponsored by the Youth Group

The youth group is taking donations for a rummage sale to be held on January 26th. When selecting items to donate, remember, your junk is another person's treasure. All donations are cheerfully accepted, and if you need a donation receipt for them, we will be happy to give you one. Please have your things in the youth building by Wednesday evening the 23rd. If you have time to price your items, that would be greatly appreciated. The proceeds help fund youth activities such as their state and national gatherings.

The congregation is invited to shop on Sunday the 27th, after the late service for FREE (or donation if you want). All volunteers can pre-shop on Friday evening the 28th.

The youth group says, *thank you.*



The Lutheran Witness

Subscriptions

If you would like to renew or order *The Lutheran Witness*, the official magazine of our church body, please use the sign up sheet in the narthex of the church building or call the church office (358-1325). The annual cost, if ordered through the congregation is \$15.00 a year. If you order individually, the cost is \$22.00.

The Lutheran Witness contains articles of interest, letters from readers, Bible studies, official notices, questions and answers, family counselor, humor, a message from the Synodical President and other items. Past issues of the magazine can be seen on the information cabinet in the narthex.

When you order, please make your checks out to Good Shepherd, mark it for *The Lutheran Witness*, and put it in the offering plate.

New Bible Studies

Book of James

The Sunday morning Bible Class is starting January with a new study of the New Testament book of James. Some believe that it may have been written by James, the brother of Jesus, and speaks a great deal about Christian behavior.

The opening starts at 9:30 a.m. Coffee and rolls are always served.

Book of Romans

The Thursday morning Bible Class is starting a study of the New Testament book of Romans. Written as a letter to the Christians at Rome by the Apostle Paul, it contains a clear presentation of the Gospel message as well as a summary of other Christian teachings.

The class starts at 9:30. Refreshments are served.

Both classes follow a discussion format while sitting around tables. You will not be asked to read if you do not want to. Pastor leads both classes.

If you have been considering coming to a Bible class this would be a good time to start. Everyone is wel-



What's It All About?

If you are interested in learning more about the Lutheran Church and its teachings, are interested in joining the congregation, or would like a refresher course in church doctrine, Pastor is having an information class on Sunday afternoon, Jan. 20th, from 1:00-6:00 pm. The class is informal and you are encouraged to bring along your questions.

Everyone is invited and welcome. Please let Pastor know if you are planning to attend.

Refreshments will be served.

2008 Church Budget

The 2008 budget for the congregation was approved at a special Voters' Meeting on December 16th. The budget total for the year is \$206,136.00. Among the increases, we raised our commitment to missions and gave Pastor and Mary a salary increase. That means we will need an average of \$3,964.15 each Sunday.

Our thanks to each of you for your support of the work of the congregation. Your response to our ministry needs have always been generous. *To God alone belongs the glory.*

A New Year Rolls In

by Dorothy L. Gramma

It was a snowy day, but the sun was out to take the chill from the air. The cousins were bundled up warmly and swinging out on the patio. Although Ben was only four and a half years old, he questioned why he kept hearing everyone say to have a happy New Year.

"Why do we need a new year? What's wrong with the old one?" he asked.

Lindsay explained that the old one is almost over and that we are going to start all over with a new one. Cody interjected, "It's the year 2008!"

Ben folded both arms across his chest and declared, "Well, I choose not to have a new year, so I won't!"

"Well, you have to," said Samantha in exasperation.

"The seasons come and go and we enjoy them," Nick added.

"Yeah, and after New Year's, it will be Valentine's Day," said Brian, trying to coax Ben into acceptance.

"I still don't want a New Year," Ben proclaimed, even more stubbornly than before. Nick reminded Ben of the candy, fun cards and hearts that he had enjoyed last February. Upon hearing this, little Madeline piped up, "Heart, heart, JESUS!" She had been too young to remember the last Valentine's Day. Ben, however, was not swayed, and continued to stick to his convictions.

While the kids had been talking, several bunnies had silently gathered among the branches of the Rose Of Sharon trees. "Ahem," Grandpa Bunny cleared his bunny throat, and upon attracting their attention, went on to say, "Perhaps I can help you on this one." The elder hare appeared quite majestic as he stood there leaning lightly on his cane. "To start at the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth and all that is in it. He created order out of chaos. There is an order and

a season for everything. I will begin my explanation with spring, when the trees and land turn green with new growth. New flowers and fruits produce for the enjoyment of all. As summer progresses, there is more bounty to sustain us all. In the fall, there are fruits, vegetables, nuts and seeds to harvest before the chill of winter sets in. The leaves on the trees change color and fall to the ground. Next comes winter, when everything is at rest, waiting for spring. 2007 is now complete and we are ready to start the New Year, which is 2008."

Ben indignantly interrupted, "Well, I don't care. I don't want a new year and I am not going to have one."

Grandpa Bunny continued. "Well, my young friend, this is the tricky part. Let me see if I can help you understand." He proceeded to thumb through a small black Bible that seemed to appear from out of nowhere. "Hmmm." said Grandpa, as he adjusted his bunny spectacles and continued his search. "It says here in Ecclesiastes, chapter three, that there is a time to be born, a time to plant, a time to harvest, a time to laugh, a time to cry, a time to be quiet and a time to speak up, a time for loving and a time for peace. . . These are all things that we do. Sometimes we make mistakes or do not do something well enough. So, you see, we need a new year so that we can correct our mistakes. If we have done some things that aren't quite right in the old year, then this is another chance to do it better. God will forgive us at any time, but this new beginning seems a good time to correct mistakes and make a decision to do better. Some call these decisions *New Year's resolutions*. It doesn't matter if they are large or small. God hears them all. 2007 has gone full circle, season after season. Walk the path of the circle with Jesus. He will help you when the path isn't easy. Let Jesus help you be your very best. It is time for a new beginning."

The cousins were deep in thought, while the swing swayed to and fro. Madeline snuggled in Samantha's lap and clapped her little hands. She began lilting, "Heart, heart, JESUS, Happy New Year!"

"Yes," Ben chimed in, "I understand now. It really is time for a happy new begin-



**A
Blessed and Happy
New Year
To You & Yours!**



Hattie Helen Lovekamp

Hattie, 100, was received into the arms of her Savior on Tuesday, December 11, 2007, at her home in Carthage. She was born July 18, 1907, in Stanton, Nebraska. On

April 22, 1933, she was married to Otto J. Lovekamp.

Hattie is survived by her two children, son Edwin Lovekamp and wife, Lawana, and daughter Mary Ann Lovekamp, two grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, three great-great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and close friends.

Hattie was a charter member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, and her family suggests memorial gifts be made to the church.

Burial and a graveside service was held Monday, Dec. 17th at Park Cemetery, Carthage.

Thank you!

We would like to thank everyone for their expressions of love and sympathy at the death of our mother, Hattie Lovekamp, last month. It meant a great deal to us, and was a great comfort. She will be missed, but we rejoice in the life she has been given through Jesus, her Lord and Savior.

We also thank everyone who has given a memorial in our mother's name. It will be given to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church to help pay for an elevator.

Blood Drive, Sunday, January 20th, 8:30 am-12:30 pm

There is always a need for blood and we again have an opportunity to "help out" by sponsoring a blood drive on Sunday, January 20th, from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm.

The blood mobile will be set up in the youth building and it doesn't take very long to give. Refreshments are served after your donation.

If you would like to help with the refreshments, please contact the church office.

2008 Contribution Envelopes

The 2008 envelopes are ready to be picked up. They are on the table in the narthex.

If you do not see your name and want envelopes, please contact the church office. Likewise, if you prefer not to use them and see your name, merely write NO on the label.

Reminder: please discard your 2007 envelopes and use only the 2008 envelopes beginning in January. Since the new envelope numbers have already been changed in the computer, it makes it much easier and less confusing for Don Wilson, our financial secretary, to record your contributions.

Thanks.

A Peek Into the Past

Does this somehow seem familiar? This is a reprint from the January 2003 Newsletter:



Winter Storm Cancels Christmas Eve Service

"I'm dreaming of a White Christmas" may be a popular sentiment, but when accompanied by ice & snow-covered roads and blizzard conditions, a White Christmas is best spent at home. The elders decided to cancel our Christmas Eve Service rather than risk the safety of our members. On Christmas morning, however the blizzard abated, and left a beautiful backdrop to our "O Little Town of Bethlehem" Christmas scene.

Bulletin Bloopers

- The peacekeeping meeting scheduled for today has been canceled due to a conflict.
- On Sunday, a special collection will be taken to defray the expenses of the new carpet. All those wishing to do something on the new carpet, please come forward and get a piece of paper at the end of the service.
- For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.



Just for KIDS

IN WITH THE NEW

It's "time" for New Year's resolutions! We should always want to improve ourselves for God, looking to Jesus as our example. God will work with us and through us when we come to him in prayer.

Using the clock's hour hand, copy each word to help you complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.

" _____ , _____ is _____ , is a _____
 _____ ; the _____ has _____ , the _____ has _____ !"

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

Answer: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

2008 Church Officers

President: **Earl K.**
 Vice-President: **Sonny E.**
 Secretary: **Jan G.**
 Treasurer: **Rob S.**
 Fin. Sec: **Don W.**
 Director of Ed: **Wendy R. & Jennifer S.**
 Elders: **Michael G.**
 Shawn P.
 Glenn M.
 Don L.
 Rick C.

Trustees: **Steve L.**
 Tony Q.
 Howard K.
 Bradley M.
 Richard S.
 George M.
 Gary S.

Committee Chairs:
 Evangelism: **John & Rhonda N.**
 Fellowship: **Dave & Lora W.**
 Stewardship: **Corinne W.**



The Shepherd's Staff is the monthly publication of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Rev. James Schnackenberg, Pastor; Doug Dickey, Mary Parks, Linda Danner, Dorothy Lovejoy, & Wynette Quade, staff members; Members of the congregation, contributing writers. Articles without a byline have been written by the editorial staff. Contributions may be edited for publication.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (LCMS) is located one mile west of Carthage, at the northwest corner of the US 71 Business and MO 96 Highway interchange. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 257, Carthage, MO 64836-0257. Our telephone number is 417-358-1325; fax line is 358-1381. Our e-mail address is goodshepherd@ecarthage.com. Check out our website at www.gslc-carthage.com.

Sunday Morning Worship services are at 8:15 am and 10:45 am, with Sunday School for all ages beginning at 9:30 am. Wednesday Ladies' class, 6:30 pm; Thursday Bible Study and Fellowship, 9:30 am.