



Rod and Staff

October 2009

“All God’s Children are Welcome at His Table”

Volume 13, Issue 9

Good Shepherd Church, ELCA

25 Alexander Circle
Romeoville, IL 60446
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www.welcome432.org



We are in the process of vision discernment, a time of seeking God’s Voice as we determine who we are called to be and what we are called to be about.

Pastor Suzanne Anderson-Hurdle

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2009 Church Council:

Lynne Soja, President
Teresa Linaweaver, Vice Pres.
Debbie Suchomel, Treas.
Chris Daniels, Fin. Sec.
Lydia Faber, Secretary

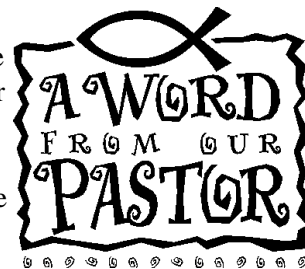
Good Shepherd Preschool

Marilyn Pierce, Director
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We are proud to be a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

On Sept. 13, the Council hosted a “Family Gathering” after our service. We used this time to hear reflections from George Sanchez on his trip to the ELCA Assembly and to talk together about what’s happening in and around our church. I asked those gathered to share what they think is going well in our church and places or areas in which we need to grow. Here are some of the responses:



Things going well: Reconciling in Christ ministry; worship; small groups; friendly/welcoming atmosphere; food pantry; more people from 8:15 am service serving

Areas of growth: preschool – need more students and more people to volunteer and serve; need to tap into the community more – especially through social ministry projects and learning opportunities; more people need to step into leadership positions, i.e. chairs of teams; need to increase our financial support for our ministries

After this discussion, I asked those present to share what brings them joy as they serve. I believe that when we are serving in the places where our spiritual gifts and our passions merge, we will experience joy in serving. Likewise, on the other side, if we are not serving where our gifts and passions merge, we will likely experience frustration and burnout. Here are a few of the responses that people shared about what brings them joy:

- Miss Jean – serving in the pantry
- Judy Jordan – reading the Bible lessons at the worship service
- Paul Suchomel – doing road crew and being part of the technology team
- Carol Viduna – serving in the pantry
- Kim Hanahan – serving in the pantry – not just serving by giving food, but serving the person
- Pat Hurdle – serving on the preschool team and in the ministry
- LeaAnne Stoughton – getting involved in several small groups
- Camille Garcia – getting involved in several small groups – Bible Studies and ‘Tweeners

We had a good discussion that day and I always enjoy hearing people’s stories. If you weren’t able to be there, I hope you’ll find a place to share your story, a place to connect your gifts with your passion.

The Church Council has been talking and praying about our focus as a church. We really feel that God is calling us to focus on two areas in the coming months: small groups and stewardship. As you’ve heard me, and others, say, being in a small group changes your life

Pastor’s Message, continues on page 3

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CHURCH COUNCIL

Highlights from August Council Meeting:

• Preschool

- Questions were asked about what was done to increase enrollment and what kind of effect the current economy might have on enrollment.
- After hearing about how many people helped with the painting, Pastor Suzanne encouraged the team to continue to let others in the congregation help with projects so that one or two people aren't doing all the work.
- Due to the lower enrollment, any fundraisers held this year will go toward offsetting the budget deficit in the preschool budget and then, if there is leftover money, it can go toward other expenses.

• Financial Secretary's Report

- As of July 31, 21 of 41 giving units are behind in their pledge for a total amount of \$5,092. There are 10 giving units ahead in their pledge for a total amount of \$1,335.50 and 10 units are even in their pledge. Chris pointed out that each month we are behind adds to the "behind" amount from the month before, thus causing difficulties in meeting our budget – for income and expenses.
- Chris will continue to send the list of behind pledging units to Pastor Suzanne and together they will determine a course of action. Chris noted that several families have come to her to tell her that they will be reducing their pledge, primarily due to work circumstances.

• Treasurer's Report

- The expenses that have come in from the youth trip to DCLA exceed the monies raised by \$388. The Council decided that the families will either need to contribute an additional \$35 per person or they will need to do another fundraiser to make up the difference. Pastor Suzanne will send an email to the families of the youth who attended to let them know.
- Total bills pending from 8/30-9/17 is \$8895.09. Approximately \$2965 is needed in offerings for upcoming Sundays in order to meet our expenses. The Council will continue to pray about our financial situation.

• Pastor's Report

- Laura Snyder will begin working on the website, to rebuild it and update it. She will work with Pastor Suzanne and the teams to make sure things are as up-to-date as possible.
- Pastor commented on how excited she is to see so many active small groups and she is looking forward to see how the groups that are restarting after the summer break will grow.
- Pastor shared a thought she had regarding the pantry; she would like to see team members or other volunteers meet with the pantry clients on a regular basis to see what other ways we can help to empower them. She suggested perhaps partnering with local colleges/universities and their social work programs to find people interested in assisting in this area.
- Looking forward to starting midweek RENEW study and worship. She is hoping that people will take advantage of this opportunity to refresh and "renew."
- She will facilitate discussion at the 9/13 "Family Gathering," following the Unity Service. She hopes to get feedback from the congregation on how things are going in the church.
- Pastor requested that she be allowed to take an additional ½ - 1 day off per week, in addition to Fridays. These days would be used as needed. As was pointed out by the Council, Pastor knows that she needs to work harder on taking care of her health – physical, emotional, and spiritual. She feels having this opportunity to take a little "extra" time off will help. The Council approved her request.

• Ministry Team Reports

- *Evangelism* – Sue Hattimer will be working with Laura Snyder on the website; we will be doing Trunk or Treat on 10/31; the gmail email account will be checked by the pastoral assistant, once someone is hired
- *Fellowship* – Lydia will talk to the Preschool Team about perhaps offering some Little Lambs activities with church and preschool families; a Progressive Dinner has been scheduled for 9/26 for 'Tweens
- *Learning* – most of the current small groups will restart in September and Debbie will be checking in with them to get contact names for the website, as well as what they will be studying; YBS will meet at the Suchomels' home on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month from 2:30-4:30 p.m.; still working on the traveling library; Sunday School will begin again on 9/21 and will go from 9:15-9:55 a.m.; Pastor will be starting a "Christianity 101" group that will meet the 2nd Tuesday of the month

CHURCH COUNCIL



August Council Highlights, continued from page 2

- *Worship* – the team is working on organizing a “chair campaign” to purchase new chairs for the church – we will receive a sample and Jan will be coordinating the campaign; a CD recorder and duplicator has been purchased so that Pastor Suzanne’s sermons and parts of the 10 a.m. service can be recorded and distributed as a way of spreading the word about our church; each member of the crew will be responsible for the set-up of the RENEW worship services on Wednesdays; the team continues to seek volunteers to serve on the Road Crew.
- **Unfinished Business**
 - *Pastoral Assistant* – Pastor Suzanne has received 9 resumes to date and will be starting interviews
 - *Office Hours* – Pastor Suzanne will have set hours from 9:15-11:15 a.m., Mondays-Thursdays. She will continue to take Fridays as her day off.
 - *Membership Roster*; Motion, “to accept the list of names to be removed from active membership of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, as presented by Pastor Suzanne.
 - *Ghana Project* – Teresa and Pastor Suzanne will continue to communicate with Pastor Harding, in Accra, Ghana. They will send a money gram once they have received the voided money order. The money gram will be used to purchase Bible listening devices for the villages Pastor Harding works with. We will continue to find ways to raise money to provide Aquatabs for clean water and, ultimately, to get a well for the village.
- **New Business**
 - *G2R Study* – A concern was raised about Pastor Suzanne’s absence at this group. Pastor explained that she was dealing with some personal issues regarding balance and will be praying about her involvement in this group. She shared that she was very excited to have this group start and has struggled with not attending.
- **Comments**
 - Pastor Suzanne requested permission to purchase window coverings for the east windows in the church office, as it gets very hot in the main room during the day. Permission was granted by the Council.

Pastor’s Message, continued from page 1

– it’s held me accountable as a believer, and has allowed me to share my story with other believers, not as the pastor, but as a fellow sister on the journey. Small groups matter and, if you’re not currently in one, I’d like to challenge you to try one of our groups (you’ll find a list in this newsletter on the Learning page). There are a lot of opportunities. However, if there is nothing that clicks with you – in your schedule or your interest area - I encourage you to talk to Debbie Suchomel about starting a new group.

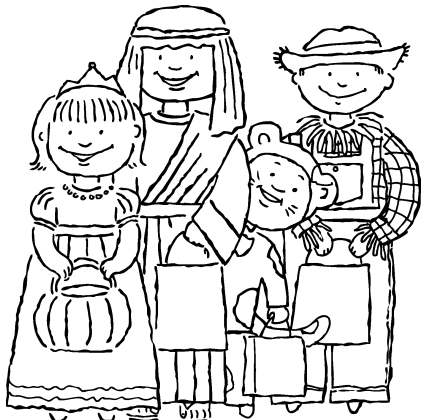
As for stewardship – most of you have heard me talk about this area of ministry over the years. I once heard stewardship defined like this: it is everything we do with everything we have after we say, “I believe.” In other words, stewardship is seeing everything we’ve been given as a gift from God and our offerings back to him are just that – offerings of thanks and praise. You’ll be hearing more about stewardship in the weeks and months to come.

I’m proud of who we are as a body of Christ, as family of God. I also know we have much more work to do. There are too many in our community who don’t know God and don’t have a relationship with Jesus. You and I need to do whatever we can to invite and encourage people to join us – for Bible studies, worship, activities, etc. The number one way most people come to a church for the first time is through an invitation by a friend.

So, as we look to the fall months, I’d like to ask you to pray about how you will help us keep doing the things we do well and help us to find ways to grow in the areas we need to do better. Your voice, your heart, and your spirit are important to us and are needed. God planted you here, in this place, at this time, for a reason...now it’s time to find out why and do something about it. I promise, when you serve in your giftedness and passion, you will never be the same again!

Evangelism - Sharing our Faith ...

Our mission is “to make Christ known to people wherever we go.”



Trunk or Treat

Trunk or Treat
Saturday, October 31
1-3 p.m.

Coming up for October! Trunk or Treat on Saturday, October 31 from 1 - 3 p.m. The Evangelism team will be looking for volunteers to help by dressing in kid-friendly, non-scary costumes or decorating your car in a festive and happy way! Let your creativity flow! We'll hand out candy and small gifts from 1 - 3 p.m. and hopefully help produce some extra smiles for some of our community's children and parents. Please see the sign up sheet on the information table on Sunday or contact Sue Hattimer or Pastor Suzanne if you would like to volunteer for this opportunity to reach out to our community or donate candy to hand out.

Prayers for Children is back on its way!

Parents, please be sure to return the information letter for your children to Natalie Hoff when you receive it. Volunteers, you will be matched up with children shortly and can begin corresponding. If anyone wishes to volunteer, please contact Natalie Hoff.



Prayer List:

At Good Shepherd, we believe in the power of prayer. We offer several prayer chains, as well as this monthly prayer list and a list on our website. For urgent prayer requests, please contact Debbie Suchomel (phone prayer chain) or Bill Haack (email prayer chain). Other requests can be placed on the Prayer Request form on Sundays.

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Baby Elijah, Karen and Pam | the Burnidges family | George Kobzina | Mary Janoski | Jean Lees |
| Albert Contreras | Millie Rigan | Terri Hahn | Audrie R. | Baby Lauren |
| the Van Houtan family | the Anderson family | Mike and Jill | Joyce Knepp | Bill Theisen |
| MaryAnn Lawrence | Scott C. | Holly | Joe Sous | Laurie Hawkins |
| Jody Smith | Ignacio Arellano | Bob Deik | Bernice | Amanda |
| Judy | the Stec family | Yvonne Larose | Karen Kolschowsky | Jan Balletto |
| The Borozak family | the Cardoza family | Dan and Marjorie | Dana | Stacy |
| Katie | George Morris | Keith | Edith | Paula Mather |
| Richard Bauman | the Burke family | Lori | Jennifer | Tina |
| Doug | Carrie | Jack Campbell | Pat G. | June Aseves |
| the Stock family | Sara Douglas | Catherine Smith | Steve Hurdle | Bishop Mark Hanson & staff |
| Bishop Gary Wollersheim & staff | Joleen | Brett | The Pond family | Steve Hurdle |

Fellowship - Getting to Know Each Other ...

Our mission is *“to feed souls and nourish spirits.”*

Ethnic Dinner November 14

Make your family’s favorite dish and be prepared to talk about it for a few minutes. This dinner will be at the church/preschool. Time to be determined.



Ethnic Dinner

Sunday Lunch Bunch

Join us after 10am church for conversation and lunch--place varies according to our whim!



“HERE WE COME A-CAROLING!”

December 13 will be Christmas Caroling and cookies at the Church/Preschool , Time to be determined.

Flylady--join us at 7pm at Lydia’s on the first Thursday of each month to learn about how to FLY--Finally Love Yourself and be better organized!



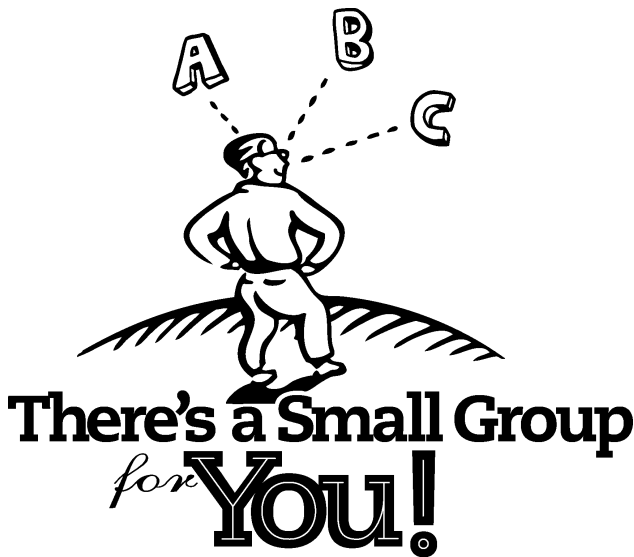
Connection Cafe--always need people to bring Sunday morning snacks, please sign up at church.



Learning - Growing in Faith ...

Our mission is *“to inspire people of all ages to come closer to Christ through continuous education using God’s loving Word.”*

Look for a place to connect with a small group that interests you!



Sunday school – meet in the art room in the recreation center the 1st & 3rd Sunday of every month at 9:15 – 9:55 a.m..

Sunday study – meet 1st & 3rd Sunday every month at Rosie’s Restaurant at 12:30. They are currently studying the Book of Romans.

Youth group – meet the 2nd & 4th Sunday at the Suchomel home from 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.. They will be reading the Book of Leviticus.

Monday night – They meet every Monday at the home of Paul and Debbie Suchomel from 7 – 9 p.m. They will be reading the book of Proverbs.

3rd Monday – They continue to get together at the Sanchez home at 7:00 p.m. They will be continuing their study on Acts.

M&M’s (Mary’s & Martha’s) – They meet on the first Tuesday of each month, at the home of Jan Sanchez, beginning at 7 p.m.. They are undertaking a study on the Parables.

Christianity 101 – They will be meeting at the Kay’s home next month and may alternate homes each month. They will meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

Renew – This group meets each Wednesday night at the church and begins at 6:30 p.m.. They will be studying the Gospel of Mark.

G2R (Genesis to Revelation) – This group continues to meet at the Stoughton home every 1st & 3rd Thursday at 7 p.m. They are working their way through Genesis at this time.

Flylady (Finally, loving yourself) – This group meets the 2nd Thursday of each month and learn about organizing and prioritizing their lives so that they can “Finally love themselves.” They meet at Lydia Faber’s home at 7 p.m.

Other Learning News:

-**Traveling Library** – Still working on getting books and book carts.

-**Youth Group** – They have a new addition to the team. Cassie Soja has agreed to help out, not only as a chaperone when needed, but also as a youth group leader.

- **Brochure** – The learning team, possibly in conjunction with the stewardship team and/or evangelism team would like to put together a brochure that would include all the small group opportunities.

- **1st Communion** – There will be a 1st Communion class in the spring.

Social Ministry - Helping Others ...

Our mission is “*to reach into the community with Christian compassion and sharing God’s love.*”



CROPWALK

CROP Hunger Walk

Thank you to everyone who participated in the CROP Walk on Oct. 10. Whether you walked, were a spiritual walker, helped at the site, or donated to support a walker, your efforts are appreciated. More information on how much money was raised will be announced soon.

Pantry News



“Wear If You Care Campaign” - “Wear If You Care” is a community-wide campaign to raise money and food for local food pantries. This campaign is a joint effort between RHS Leadership Club and the Romeoville Chamber of Commerce to bring not only awareness but to help restock the shelves at our Good Shepherd Food Pantry along with the shelves at St. Andrew Seven Loaves Food Pantry. The campaign has created t-shirts and polo shirts designed to be worn by RHS students during homecoming week and by members of the community throughout the year. The campaign began on Sept. 24 and will culminate the week of RHS’s homecoming Oct. 12-16th. If you would like to make a donation, please make your donation out to the Romeoville Chamber of Commerce with a note that the funds are for “Wear If You Care”, and

mail it to the Chamber at 27 Montrose Dr., Romeoville, Il. 60446. Donation cans and food donation boxes are located at various businesses throughout the village.

Thanksgiving Baskets - The food pantry is gearing up to give away Thanksgiving baskets in November. We are able to purchase a basket from Northern Illinois Food Bank for as little as \$15 for one family. That includes a 12 - 14 lb turkey, vegetables, mashed potatoes, stuffing, and dessert. Please spread the word to your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers about possibly sponsoring a family.

Harvest Saturday - Harvest Saturday is Nov. 21, please consider coming out to help that day, we need all hands on deck. Please see Kim Hanahan or Cami Garcia to sign up, or look for the sign up sheet at the info table during Sunday services.

Volunteers Needed - The Pantry’s Angels are on a mission to recruit some new volunteers. All it takes is just one Saturday a month for 3 hours. It is more than just giving out food, it’s about reaching out to the community and showing God’s Love. Please talk to Cami Garcia, Kim Hanahan if you have any questions or just drop by on a Saturday to give it a try.

Shopping List - The Pantry needs Peanut Butter and canned Corn. If you are shopping and see these items for sale, please consider picking one up for the pantry.

Stewardship - Sharing our Time, Talents & Treasures ...

Our mission is *“to bring glory to God by spiritually connecting, preparing, and encouraging His children to serve Christ through the sharing of their gifts.”*

How well are you handling or mishandling your personal finances? I'm not asking you to share your response with me but I know that many, if not all of us have asked ourselves that question at one time or another in our lifetimes.

Our Freed-up Financial Living group has completed our studies and I thought that it might be useful to share a few of the basic principles of the program.

I think everyone would agree, money can be a very powerful thing. The drive to get it and the things that it can buy can have great impact on our lives, our priorities and our relationships. If we don't learn to control it, it will control us. Our relationship with money can have great impact on our relationship with God. Matthew 6:24 “No one can serve two masters... You can not serve both God and money.” And, by the way, isn't it our God who gives us the opportunities and abilities to acquire it? If it weren't for God, would any of us have it? Too often we respond to the pull of culture and not to the Words of God.

After we put some of these principles in the right order, we went to work on our personal earning, spending and giving. It's an important and sometimes shocking place to start. Developing these baselines was critical and for some of us, a first. By the way, this is where some of us found real-number proof that we were spending more than we earned. This is one way of getting ourselves into the credit card/time payment/2nd mortgage, etc. pit.

It took some time but, after some great examples and discussions, we agreed that paying down debt, limiting impulse buying and developing a savings plan would go a long way to freeing up some cash for more important things (giving, tithing and working towards a tithe for furthering God's work in the world) and permanent things (new house, car or college tuition - things that will provide security for our families and loved ones).

Overall, the program provided an opportunity for our group to discuss real-life money issues and ways of dealing with them. It helped us realize just what part money played in our personal lives and helped us develop ways of tracking and controlling our spending. It helped us to think positively about the action steps we needed to take to put money in its proper place. Most importantly, it reminded us that God needs to be involved in our financial lives.

Next month we'll get the groups feelings about the program and how they are doing in their commitment to make change in their financial lives.

The Stewardship Team will be offering another opportunity for you to take part in a Freed-up Financial Living small group early next year.


 “Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give,
 
 not reluctantly or under compulsion,
 
 for **GOD** loves a cheerful giver.”

2 C o r i n t h i a n s 9 : 7

Worship - Honoring God with our praise ...

Our mission is *“to create a ‘space’ where all are welcomed and comfortable to offer themselves in worship to God – heart, mind and spirit; and to provide a continuous opportunity for the hearing of God’s Word and the sharing of the Lord’s Supper.”*

New Church Chairs

The Worship Team chose a chair for the new church chairs. Jan Sanchez is in contact with the company and we will go from there.....more info to come. We will have a sample to view, and Jan will be organizing a “chair campaign” to purchase the new chairs for the church.



RENEW Services

Wednesday evening RENEW services have resumed, with a time of quiet, prayer and communion. A Bible study begins at 6:30 p.m., followed by the service at 7:30 p.m.

One Service

A combined service will be held on Sunday, Oct. 25, beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the Rec Center.



Videographer wanted

The Worship team is looking for someone to video and edit the 10 a.m. service to hopefully get us on RPTV.

Worship Technicians Needed

Audio Recordings Available

Steve is now using a CD recorder/duplicator for the 10 a.m. service, so audio recordings are available of that service.

Future Dates of interest:

Thanksgiving “service” Wed. Nov. 25

Advent begins Nov. 29



Road Crew News

Additional Road Crew members are still needed. Contact Audrey McDaniel for more information.

OCTOBER



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9/27 8:15a - Worship 10a - Worship	9/28	9/29	9/30	1 7p - G2R Study	2	3 1-3p - Pantry
4 8:15a - Worship 9:15a - Sunday School 10a - Worship 12:30p - Sunday Study	5 7p - Monday Study	6 7p - M&Ms	7 RENEW 6:30p - Bible Study 7:30p - Worship	8 7p - Flylady	9	10 Cropwalk: 9:15a - reg- istration 10a - walk 1-3p - Pantry Youth group outing
11 8:15a - Worship 10a - Worship 2:30-4:30p - YBS	12 7p - Monday Study	13 7p - Christianity 101 Group	14 RENEW 6:30p - Bible Study 7:30p - Worship	15 7p - G2R Study	16	17 1-3p - Pantry 4-6:30p - Praise Team Rehearsal
18 8:15a - Worship 9:15a - Sunday School 10a - Worship 12:30p - Sunday Study	19 7p - Monday Study 7p - 3rd Monday Group	20 7p - Ministry Night	21 noon-5:30p - Cookie Dough pickup RENEW 6:30p - Bible Study 7:30p - Worship	22	23	24 1-3p - Pantry
25 9:30a - Worship ONE SERVICE 2:30-4:30p - YBS	26 7p - Monday Study	27 7p - Council Meeting	28 RENEW 6:30p - Bible Study 7:30p - Worship	29	30	31 9:30a - Cof- fee w/ Bishop in Joliet 1p - Trunk or Treat 1-3p - Pantry

Trunk or Treat
Saturday, October 31
1-3 p.m.

Join the Evangelism team for a not-so-frightful event for the community. We'll gather at Spartan Square parking lot on Halloween day, (Saturday, October 31) from 1 - 3 p.m.

Dress in kid-friendly, non-scary costumes, and feel free to decorate your car in a festive and happy way! Let your creativity flow!

We'll hand out candy and small gifts from 1 - 3 p.m. and hopefully help produce some extra smiles for some of our community's children and parents.

Please see the sign up sheet on the information table on Sunday or contact Sue Hattimer or Pastor Suzanne if you would like to volunteer for this opportunity to reach out to our community or donate candy to hand out.



The Rod and Staff

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