



# SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH

CALLED . . .

EMPOWERED . . .

SENT . . .

“Called through the Gospel to be a nurturing, dynamic community, celebrating God’s presence in our lives, and sharing with all God’s abundant grace in Jesus Christ”

JANUARY 6, 2012  
VOLUME 38, No. 1



## 2012 FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL OF OUR YOUTH

Beginning Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, we will continue using the *FaithWeaver* curriculum from Group Publishing for our 3 year olds - 5<sup>th</sup> grade youth. In this curriculum, both parent and youth Bible lessons cover the same story in an age-appropriate class, so it’s easy for families to talk about their faith! In addition, we will follow the schedule below for class time:

- ◆ **PREK - 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE [AND PARENTS/ADULTS] IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL.**
  - 9:45 - 10:00 am Music with Kevin McClure, Director of Music
  - 10:00 - 10:45 am:
    - ❖ 1 - 3 year olds & Parents [10:15, Fellowship Hall, Room B]
    - ❖ Pre K - Kinder [Fellowship Hall, Room A]
    - ❖ 1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade [Room 101/102]
    - ❖ 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> Grades [Room 1-4/105]
    - ❖ Parent Discussion Group [Room 103]



6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade youth will begin a **New Series** for Faith Formation, “**LIVE**”, through ‘Simply Youth Ministry’. This series will allow youth to cultivate community with one another; explore God, ourselves, the world around us; and connect with God's Word.

- ◆ **6<sup>TH</sup> - 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE AND 9<sup>TH</sup> - 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE IN THE YOUTH ROOM.**
  - 9:45 - 10:00 am Gathering Time/Highs & Lows/Refreshments [both groups together]
  - 10:00 - 10:40 am Learning time [divide into two age groups for discussion]
  - 10:40-10:45 am Prayer Time [both groups together]
- ◆ If you don’t receive the **Weekly Youth and Family E-mails** or **electronic Youth and Family Newsletter** we ask that you give Amber Reber, Director of Youth and Family Ministry, your E-mail address so you can receive weekly announcements [amber@shephills.org].

### WHEN YOU COME TO WORSHIP . . .

MORNING WORSHIP - 8:30 & 11:00  
YOUTH FAITH FORMATION - 9:45 AM  
ADULT FAITH FORMATION - 10:00 AM

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 8 THE EPIPHANY

The lessons will be: *Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:1-12; & Matthew 2:1-12.*

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 15 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

*The Celebration of Holy Communion.*  
The lessons will be: *Samuel 3:1-10; Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; and John 1:43- 51.*

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 22 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

The lessons will be: *Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:6-14; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; and Mark 1:14-20 .*

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 29 FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

*The Celebration of Holy Communion.*  
The lessons will be: *Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; and Mark 1:21-28.*





## ADULT FAITH FORMATION BEGINS SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 10:00 AM

- **GREETINGS FROM GUATEMALA** [Sanctuary] - Come see pictures and hear stories from those who traveled on the Mission Trip last October.
- **LION'S DEN** [Library] - A lay led study of the Bible.
- **SONSHINE BUNCH** [Sonshine Room] James Parks & Jason Booth explore Matthew's interpretation of the life of Jesus.
- **PARENT DISCUSSION GROUP** [Room 103]
- **THE TIME OF PAUL'S LIFE** [Sanctuary] **January 15** - Join guest author and engineer, David L. Kellogg, who will pinpoint the events of Paul's life that influenced his understanding of Jesus.
- **STORIES BEHIND THE MUSIC** [Sanctuary] **JANUARY 22/29** Kevin McClure, Director of Music, will "dish out scoop" behind the hymns and their meaning in our lives.

## MEN & WOMEN'S SPRING RETREATS

**Women's Retreat** - April 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> at T bar M in New Braunfels. Women of all ages from Shepherd of the Hills and the R.O.C.K are invited to gather under the theme "A Time for Everything." More details coming soon.

**Men's Retreat** - March 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> men of all ages will gather at T bar M in New Braunfels for a weekend of renewal. More details coming soon.

## WITHIN THE FOLD



### BAPTISM

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism will be celebrated January 8 for **Andrew Alfred Nuernberg**, son of Peter and Svetlana Nuernberg. Andrew's sponsors are Steven Andrew & Katherine Louise Nuernberg [via Ivanovo, Russia] and Nikolai Krestov and Evgeniya Kolokshanskaya [via China]. His Guardian Angel [4<sup>th</sup> grade sponsor] will be Megan DeVaney.

### DEATHS

Our thoughts and prayers surround:

- + **Mark Nogalski** upon the death of his mother;
- + **Cathy Zoch** upon the death of her father.

### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 pm, we will gather together for the **Annual Meeting** in the Multi-Purpose Room. Annual Reports and Membership Directories will be available soon.



### 2012 OFFERING ENVELOPES

**Offering envelopes for 2012** are available in the narthex. After you have selected a box, please write your name on the sheet next to the number of the box you take. Thank you.



### SATURDAY, JANUARY 10



- ◆ Men of the congregation are invited to attend **Men's Breakfast** Saturday, September 10, 8:00 am in the Multi-Purpose Room.
- ◆ **Quilting** in the Upper Room, 9:30 am. Join others for fellowship, sewing, and tying knots.

### "PRAY & PUTT" FELLOWSHIP

#### LOST CREEK COUNTRY CLUB

Wednesday, January 18 . Tee time: 10:00 am  
Cost: \$40. 59 [green fees, cart, range balls]  
Contact Jerry Schmeil by Mon., January 16 to participate [261-3404, jvschmeil@aol.com].

- ➔ Save the Dates. . Thursday, February 23  
Flintrock Falls, 10:04-10:28 am, \$55.00
- ➔ Thursday, April 26, The Hills of Lakeway;  
10:04-10:28 am, \$69.00



## THE LUTHERAN STORY . . . BEYOND GARRISON KEILLOR

You can learn more about the “Lutheran Story” in America. “More” because it’s a safe assumption that the majority of members of Shepherd of the Hills [and almost any Lutheran congregation] have scant knowledge of the Lutheran story in this country. How did we get here? Why are there different Lutheran bodies in America? How do they differ? And much more of the story. More than Garrison Keillor gives us.

On Sunday, January 8, Pastor Merle Franke will be leading a **discussion of the Lutheran Story** after the 11:00 o’clock service. We’re calling it “**Sunday Lunch and Learn.**” Lunch will be brought in and we will eat at 12:30 in the Multi-Purpose Room. The “learn” part will start at 1:00 – location to be decided depending upon the attendance. We’ll talk about Lutherans until 3:00 maybe longer. We hope to paint a verbal picture of *who we are* as Lutherans – and how we got here.

## UNLEARNING CHURCH BOOK STUDY SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5<sup>TH</sup> AND 12<sup>TH</sup>



Church as we know it is not working. How can you unlearn outdated, bad church habits and learn innovative ways to reach those who have disengaged from church? Mark your calendar for a “highly recommended” Adult Faith Formation class Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am in the sanctuary. The Church Council has read the book Unlearning Church and invite you to participate in a two session class and conversation facilitated by Council Members, Weldon Allison and Fred Schleede.

If you are interested in participating order the book, Unlearning Church by Michael Slaughter now. We can order the book for you if you contact Pastor Ron [ron@shephills.org, 327-3370] no later than Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> to order for you at a cost of \$18.00 or you may order on your own through Amazon.com.




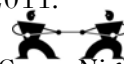

## 2012 CHURCH COUNCIL AND OFFICERS

- + On Sunday, January 8 the following members will be installed to their positions on the **Church Council**: Weldon Allison [*President*], Rev. Ron Bessert, Jan Burnight, David Butler, Bob Cannon, Ed Christians, Sam DeVaney, Dana Dertien, Linda Plummer [*Vice President*], Anne McDonald [*Secretary*], Jordan Scott, Fred Schleede, Rev. Heidi Schwerdtfeger-Jones, Rob Spillar [*Treasurer*], and Trixi Spinelli [*Financial Officer*].
- + Please keep them and our ministry in your prayers upon their **all day retreat** on Saturday, January 14.

## JANUARY YOUTH EVENTS



### ☺ 6<sup>TH</sup> - 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE YOUTH

- ✓ Wednesdays  
5:45 Confirmation instruction resumes January 18, 2011. 
- ✓ Sunday, January 8   
6:00 - 8:00 pm Youth Game Night
- ✓ Sunday, January 22  
Service Project [TBD]
- ✓ Sunday, January 29   
4:00 - 8:45 pm Bowling and Worship Youth Night [UT Campus]

### ☺ 9<sup>TH</sup> - 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE YOUTH

- ✓ Sunday, January 8   
6:00 - 8:00 pm Youth Game Night
- ✓ Sunday, January 15  
6:00 - 9:00 pm New Years' Party [TBA] 
- ✓ Sunday, January 22  
Service Project [TBD]
- ✓ Sunday, January 29   
4:00 - 8:45 pm Bowling and Worship Youth Night [UT Campus]



### COMING THIS SUMMER . . .

- ✓ **Summer/Confirmation Camp** - Camp Chrysalis, Kerrville, June 3-8 for 2<sup>ND</sup> - 8<sup>TH</sup> grade.
- ✓ **Vacation Bible School**  
June 25-29, 9:00 - 12:00 noon
- ✓ July 19 - 22, 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade to **National Youth Gathering in New Orleans**
- ➔ Contact Amber Reber, Director of Youth and Family Ministry [amber@shephills.org] or Amy Ruedas Directors of Child and Family Ministry, [327-3370, amy@shephills.org], for more information about these summer events.



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### SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS STAFF

Ronald Bessert, *Pastor* ❖ Heidi Schwerdtfeger-Jones, *Pastor*  
Merle G. Franke, *Pastor* ❖ Amy Ruedas, *Director of Child and Family Ministry*  
Kevin McClure, *Director of Music* ❖ Amber Reber, *Director of Youth and Family Ministry*  
Vernon Moeller, *Organist* ❖ Trixi Spinelli, *Financial Officer*  
Mary Gimenez, *Building Manager* ❖ Lisa Schaffer, *Administrative Assistant*  
❖ Karon Miller Hammond, *Butterfly Preschool Director*

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*Good News* FOR JANUARY 2012

**The true light, which lightens everyone,  
was coming into the world.”**

***John 1:9***

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