



# *The Good Shepherd News*

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## **A Word from the Pastor**

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

"...confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you might be healed."  
(James 5:16 NIV)

Healing is a part of life in the church! Our Lord Jesus cares about our physical ailments every bit as much as our eternity. He demonstrated that in His earthly ministry by healing all kinds of people from all walks of life. The early church carried on the tradition of healing as well.

We too, are in a healing ministry. While we tend to downplay such things as wild and crazy televangelists have almost a theatrical mockery of the miracles God does, we still bring about healing; not with clever gimmicks or limelight, but with the power of God's Word spoken for the forgiveness of our sins.

Sin affects our bodies every bit as much as it does our soul. We suffer ill health for all the poor choices we've made. Sometimes this is more obvious than at other times. Laying awake at night thinking about what you did to your coworker might be a good example. This wears us down to the point that our health suffers.

Then there's also the incredible strain of bearing guilt for unforgiven sins. David says "When I kept silent my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long... Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity." (Psalm 32:4-5 NIV)

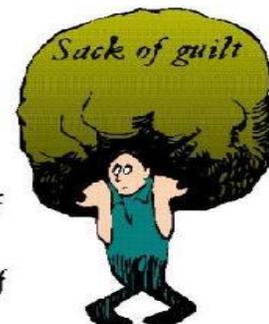
God's people have always known that the key to physical health is to be right with God and that confession and absolution is the path we take to achieve such healing. For this reason the Church of all ages has held healing services from time to time, with a focus on confession and the forgiveness of sins. For this reason we too will offer a healing service in the near future.

Watch the announcements, listen for the PhoneTree, and like us on Facebook. Such a service is coming just as soon as I can put it together.

God's blessings!

Pastor Bruce

For all  
have  
sinned  
and  
fallen  
short of  
the  
glory of  
God....



and are  
justified  
freely  
by his  
grace  
through  
Jesus  
Christ.

## STEWARDSHIP CORNER



### FINANCES FOR FEBRUARY 2016(\$)

FOR FY 2016	<u>MONTHLY ACTUAL</u>	<u>YEAR-TO-DATE ACTUAL</u>
GENERAL FUND INCOME	24,906	180,230
OTHER INCOME (SAVINGS)	0	10,725
GENERAL FUND EXPENSES	22,697	196,840
<b>GENERAL FUND NET INCOME (LOSS)</b>	<b>2,209</b>	<b>(5,885)</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL BALANCE (including all liabilities and building fund savings):</b>		<b>10,095</b>

### ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

	<u>FEBRUARY 2015</u>	<u>FEBRUARY 2016</u>
WORSHIP SERVICE TOTALS (AVERAGE)	148	139

### **It Is What It Is**

Last year we wanted to have a neighborhood block party and invite all our neighbors. We have a big outside area with a pool and good privacy, shielded on three sides, with the closest neighbor hundreds of feet away. One neighbor in particular, since he moved here about 10 years ago, has been very difficult. Always a ruff demeanor. Never said hello. Never waved. Just his attitude. He even went out of his way to build a fence very close to our chain-link fence just to block our view. Very un-neighborly.



I wanted to invite him to the block party but my wife exclaimed no way was she going to give him a flyer announcing the event. So I told her I would do it. Shortly thereafter I noticed him outside in his yard. I took a flyer and handed it to him inviting him to the block party. I then proceeded to ask him why he put up the fence. He said "I have my grandson over a lot and I kept seeing naked bodies over there". I burst out laughing. All this time we were thinking he was the jerk and all along it was US! His next comment was "It is what it is". After I stopped laughing we went on to have a good conversation and we are now very good neighbors with him going out of his way to say hi. Every time I hear someone say "it is what it is" I smile!



Joseph Laberge

*May Newsletter articles will be due no later than April 18, 2016. Please email your article to [office@titusvillelutherans.org](mailto:office@titusvillelutherans.org) or leave it in the church office by Monday, April 18. Thank you to all who contribute every month.*

## FROM YOUR HISTORIAN



Our Historian had a very busy Month of March (As did the church secretary), and our Historian did not have time to write an article for the April Newsletter. So we are going to revisit an article she wrote back in 2014. We hope you enjoy it and she will return with a new article in May. Now let's revisit....

Another month has swiftly passed (obviously), and it's time to review more details from Good Shepherd's past. Some of this will be "old hat" to many of our members; but there are new folks on the scene who haven't heard all the facts yet (if that's what they want to do!). Let's return to the sanctuary and try to remember the way it was. If you look up at the church ceiling, you might notice darker lines on the boards at each corner of the chancel. Those are the outlines of little "closets" that defined a much narrower chancel (and a much shorter communion rail). Communicants had to go up several steps to reach the rail. The steps are still there, but now the communicants kneel at the original floor level, using the first step as a kneeling "bench" (with cushions, of course, for knee comfort). Before this change and with an aging congregation a shiny black metal railing was placed in the center of the steps for safety's sake This could be removed for weddings and other events. Can you imagine the chancel with two Christmas trees stuffed into its meager space? The permanently affixed altar was smaller and fastened to the back wall. The altar, pulpit and lectern were made of white terrazzo, matching the floor (which was covered in gold carpeting in the chancel only with center aisle carpeting coming later.) These terrazzo furnishings were built into the floor, and were pulled out with much effort 25 years later when the big renovation took place.

Red was the color of the day, and eventually the gold carpeting was replaced with red, while Larry Johnston's dad, a retired upholsterer, made red seat cushions for all of the pews! And we didn't always have the wooden pews, having to rely on noisy metal folding chairs for several years until a group of blond oak pews was offered to us by First Baptist Church of Mims which was replacing its. That was a golden opportunity, and is why many have a non-Lutheran feature of little holders for small communion glasses on either side of the hymnal racks because Baptist deacons bring the communion grape juice to the members at their seats. Metal folding chairs continued the seating in the back third of the church until a dear member (Bert Prieskorn) donated funds in memory of Rudy to complete the project with Lutheran pews which do not have communion-glass holders. Check out the pew in front of you next Sunday--is it Baptist or Lutheran? Incidentally the double set of exit doors were red on the exterior, these eventually being replaced with one pair of all-glass doors. Some of our pictorial directories can show you what it used to look like.

Around the time Pastor Abrams graduated from assistant to No. One pastor upon Dr. Meier's retirement, big changes were in order: removing the "closets" and extending the chancel across the front of the sanctuary along with a full-width altar rail, replacing the terrazzo furnishings with light oak, adding a free-standing altar, upholstering the pews in a plush-like fabric, ordering some single upholstered chairs to match, new carpet for the side aisles as well as the center and chancel and a change in color from red to shades of blue. This is where we are today. To be continued. . .

Your Historian



## Helpful Health Hints By The Congregation Nurse



A volunteer is a "person who offers himself or herself for a service without obligation to do so". We are blessed to have, among us, many of you who are VOLUNTEERS in many areas of our church and community, and in recognition, a week in April has been designated as **National Volunteer Week**. Our Lord created us in His image and enables us to share our gifts and talents with one another. Romans 12:5 says, "so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others". We are encouraged to live out our love for one another out of gratitude for what Christ has done for us.

**WHY BE A VOLUNTEER?** There are many reasons. Service to others allows us to:

- Offer tangible help to someone who needs it and in the process receive proven benefit to yourself.
- Share our love for Jesus by living a life that He has called us to
- Feel more connected to others
- Experience personal satisfaction knowing we are able to make a difference
- Witness to others showing them what we value, while acting as a positive role model to family and friends

**JUST DO IT!** 50% of Americans volunteer 2-3 hours a week to help others. Much of this is done through church and related organizations. If you are a volunteer thank you for all you do and I would like to encourage you to continue to "Be a Blessing." For others who are interested please consider the following:

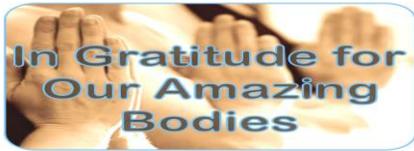
- Start with prayer. "God does not call the equipped, He equips the called."
- Consider your abilities; are there those you know that are in need? Can you mow a yard, write a letter, wash a car, take someone shopping?
- Think about your church, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church – volunteer for Altar Guild, Food Pantry, Yard work, be an usher, a reader, help with Rebecca's Garden. The list of opportunities is long.
- Call non-profit groups who always need volunteers, Parrish Medical Center, Hospice of St. Francis, meals on wheels, Habitat, PMC Children's Center, BETA, just to name a few,
- Lastly, enjoy the benefits of sharing Jesus' love with others.

Barbara  
(adapted from Seasons for Wholeness)

### Lunch Bunch



The lunch bunch will meet at Victorios on N. US 1, April 28<sup>th</sup> @ 11:30. Please sign-up on the sign-up sheets on the bulletin board in the Sanctuary and in Shepherd's Hall. Come join in the good fellowship, good food...good fun! Everyone is welcome. Any questions call Gary or Barbara Gullikson.



## OUR AMAZING BODIES

Our created bodies are nothing short of amazing. Did you know your heart pumps 2000 gallons of blood per day and beats more than 100,000 times per day. One takes in 17,000 breaths per day and your lungs hold 6 liters of air. Your amazing immune system destroys thousands of bacteria and cancer cells every day. Your brain processes 50,000 to 60,000 thoughts per day which allows us to speak 5000 words per day and your stomach digests food with acid but also produces an alkaline substance to protect itself against the acid. You blink almost 30,000 times per day. It's like having lifelong lasting windshield wipers. Your body heat could light 25 light bulbs. Each blood cell travels a full circuit in your blood stream in 1 minute, and lives for 40 days. One million skin cells are replaced every day. Added together your hair grows 150 feet per day! Your liver is a multi-task factory producing blood plasma, and whatever nutrient the body needs and filters 1.5 quarts per minute. The average person consumes 50 tons, yes tons, of food in the average lifetime and every 20 years you are literally a different person having replaced every cell in your body. Thank you Betty!

Joseph Laberge



## LWML NEWS



**WONDERING WHAT TO DO** with empty inkjet printer cartridges, empty laser printer cartridges, used cell phones, laptops (include power cords) digital cameras, e-readers, tablets, GPS systems, and Scientific Calculators? Here's a suggestion-donate them to the LWML. We will collect them and redeem them for cash to help fund the LWML's 2019 National Convention in Birmingham. Ask your family, friends, neighbors-even the place where you work- if they would like help disposing of their empty ink jet and laser cartridges or other recyclable items. Then, bring them to the church and drop them in our collection box in (meeting room in church or the gathering room in Shepherd's Hall. We'll appreciate your help....and so will the environment! **Remember to purge any personal information on your donation. (Please no monitors, computer towers, keyboards, fax or copy machines)** Thank you very much LWML.

Thank you, again, to everyone who filled eggs and donated candy, toys, and money. A fabulous egg hunt was enjoyed by a lot of kids, parents and grandparents.

It would not have been possible without your help!

Suzanne





## PLEDGES

For the last two years this church has struggled with its finances just like many churches today. We have a strong and giving congregation that has given to meet the need. A pay down the mortgage drive last year helped pay down the almost \$1.5 million mortgage down to \$1.2 million. Now if all could just honor their pledges from the year before we will be fine. However the current shortfall of almost 16% is beginning to add up so we plead with all to increase your offering by that amount or at least to honor the amount you pledged. We know the decision is in God's Hands so please let Him guide you as to how much to give. No matter the amount, Thank you.



Joseph Laberge



Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, is pleased to offer a preventive health event at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on 5/11/2016. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. **In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit [www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners](http://www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners).**

## Thank You Very Much!

So many thanks go out to all the people involved in making the Easter Breakfast a success! From set up to clean up, donated, time and talent. We couldn't do it without your participation!



### April Birthdays



1 <sup>st</sup>	Lucy Erickson	18 <sup>th</sup>	Helen Laberge
1 <sup>st</sup>	Glenna Lau	20 <sup>th</sup>	Kari Shaver
5 <sup>th</sup>	Jelena Schumacher	21 <sup>st</sup>	Jeanne Forte
6 <sup>th</sup>	Danielle Baxter	22 <sup>th</sup>	Bella Mia Hall
9 <sup>th</sup>	Suzane Alberts	27 <sup>th</sup>	Peder Larson
11 <sup>th</sup>	Michael Bross	30 <sup>th</sup>	Lesley Lundberg
16 <sup>th</sup>	Miriam Rauha	30 <sup>th</sup>	Gabriel Alberts

### April Anniversaries

16 <sup>th</sup>	Clair & Pearl Held
19 <sup>th</sup>	Rich & Diana Good
21 <sup>st</sup>	Tom & Jamie Affeld



We join in thanking God for His blessings in the past. We ask Him to keep you in His Grace and love in the future. If your birthday or anniversary was not listed correctly, please contact the office.