

Good Shepherd News & Notes

(Palm Sunday) April 2, 2023

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Church Office: (402) 423-7639
E-mail: info@goodshepherdlincoln.org
Website: www.goodshepherdlincoln.org



KNNA radio: 95.7FM or www.thecross957.org
Services broadcast live Sundays at 8 am & 10:30 am
and Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

BE READY FOR A FAVORABLE WIND

There is an old Chinese sailing proverb that goes like this, "Be ready for favorable wind." It is echoed in other cultures in various ways, but the gist is this, when your opportunity arises, take advantage of it – whether sailing or not. When the wind blows your direction, set your sails and glide to your destination.

Why bring this up? Because the winds have changed in our congregation's financial picture, and today we have an opportunity to take advantage of it.

The finance committee has worked hard the last several years to keep a balanced budget and because of your help, Good Shepherd is currently sitting in a financially stable position. We have an operational cash reserve, and are meeting our monthly budget commitments. As a result, today, we have the ability to do some hard work together to pay off our remaining loan.

The congregation currently owes about \$1.8 million towards our building mortgage. At current payment levels, we have about 22-25 years left to pay, depending on interest rates. That said, the winds have changed so that we stand in a good position to make extra payments towards the mortgage and pay it off early. In fact, the Finance Committee has set a goal to be **"DEBT FREE BY 2030"**.

How?

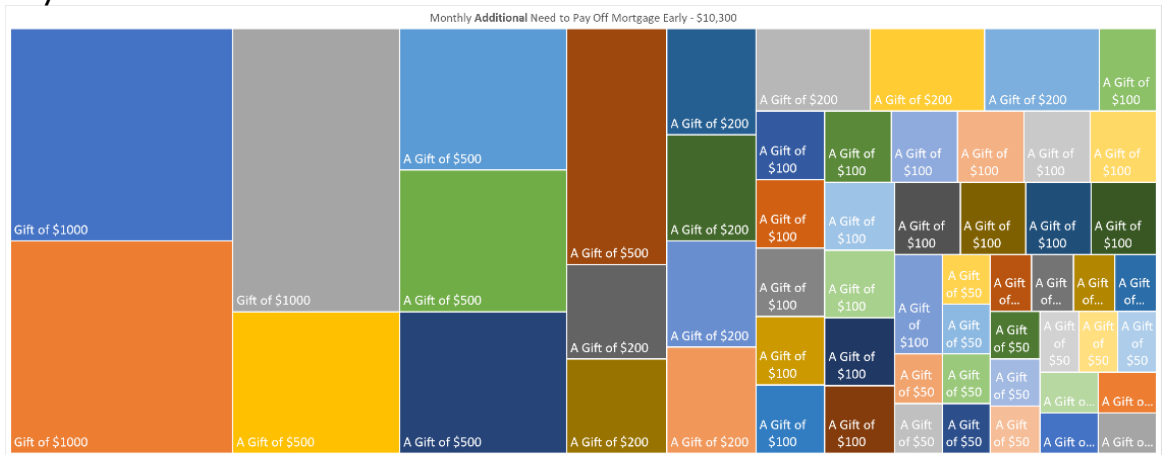
The School rental is providing income that has already begun making early payments on our behalf. If we raise an additional \$10,300 a month towards early payments, we will have it paid off by 2030. Paying off our mortgage by 2030 will save the congregation over \$700,000 in future interest payments. That would be \$700,000 that we could use for the ministry of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, instead of paying it to the bank.

\$10,300 seems like a lot. And yet, in November last year, Pastor Poppe laid the groundwork for this push by leading a Bible study on debt and stewardship. Since that time, we have already received over \$55,000 in extra payments towards our debt. That's almost half of what we would need per year to pay our debt off by 2030 donated in only 3 months! Add to this some thriftiness in the budget and the financial winds have changed so much that **we can accomplish** the goal of paying

our debt off early.

The Extra Needed Per Month:

- 3 gifts of \$1,000
- 5 gifts of \$500
- 9 gifts of \$200
- 20 gifts of \$100
- 20 gifts of \$50
- Total - \$10,300



And if we fall short? We still win. Every dollar we pay towards our mortgage this year eliminates around a dollar of interest over the life of the loan.

We are not going to do an expensive “capital campaign” or knock down your door asking for money. What we are going to do is keep you apprised of our progress in the News and Notes. We will keep a running tally (in a yet to be determined way) somewhere in the Narthex. We will try to give you updates at Council Meetings, Voter Meetings, and a yearly update by letter. By God’s grace, and by steady efforts, we can eliminate the mortgage debt of our congregation, and begin to serve ourselves and our community.

The scriptures don’t talk much about wind and ships, but they do talk about debt. “The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is the slave of the lender.” (Proverbs 22:7) Let’s stop being a slave to our debt. The winds have become favorable, and are pushing us that direction. Let’s shift the sails to ride the wind and become a debt free congregation.

If you have questions, please contact one of our finance committee members!

In Christ,

The Good Shepherd Finance Committee

Joe Ehrich, Joel Kaldahl, Ken Knaus, Rich Lichtenfeld, John Reigle, Aron Wiest

LENTEN MEAL

Our last Lenten service and meal will be on Wed., March 29th. Services for the evening are at **4 pm and 6:30 pm**. The Church Council will serve sloppy joes, green beans, and mac and cheese **from 5—6:15 pm** with midweek classes beginning at 5:30 pm. Funds donated at the meal will go towards paying extra on the mortgage principal.

EASTER LILIES

Last chance to order Easter lilies to beautify the sanctuary for Easter is **Palm Sunday**. Sign up on the table in the narthex. The **cost is \$10 each**. If paying by check, make the check payable to Good Shepherd and designate that it is for flowers.



PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK

If you have a prayer request, please contact the church office at (402) 423-7639. Your request will appear for 6 weeks. If you would like to keep it on the

prayer list, you may call during the 6th week to renew it.

- **Barb Poppe**, with short-term memory issues (1)
- **Joyce Thompson**, in rehab at The Cove, following surgery for a broken hip (3)
- **Leena Mackey**, grand-daughter of Linda Clark, for her ongoing medical care (5)
- **Pat Perrin**, mother of David Perrin, recovering from a knee replacement (6)
- **Maurice Lange**, recovering from surgery and anticipating radiation and chemotherapy (5)
- **Rev. John Schmidt**, recovering from surgery on Monday, March 27th (2)
- **Jan Young**, daughter of Arlene Nelson, having medical issues following hip replacement surgery (1)
- **Lynda Mahloch**, recovering from eye surgery on March 27th (1)
- **Elaine Van Valkenburg**, recovering from carpal tunnel surgery on 3/16 (4)
- **Adam Von Busch**, for recovery from pneumonia (1)
- **David Votaw**, father of the daughter-in-law of David & Lois Kirchhoff, recovering from triple bypass surgery (1).
- **Brianna Merriman**, great-granddaughter of Rich & Lorelee Novak, hospitalized following an accident (1)
- **Al Fox**, father of Nancy Stepp, for healing from health issues (4)
- **Dean Posner**, for healing from health issues (4)

- **Holly Herrod**, recovering from a shoulder replacement surgery (5)
- **Travis Cornell**, brother of Deb Grimmette, diagnosed with end-stage kidney failure & needing dialysis (6)
- **Shani Beeman**, friend of Terry Fitzgerald, recovering from back surgery and efforts to clear up an infection. Please pray for healing. (5)
- **Thanksgiving for the birth of a daughter to Joe & Ashley Ehrich (1)**

LUTHERAN WITNESS

There is a **sign-up sheet for renewing your Lutheran Witness subscription or to begin a new subscription** on the table by the north balcony staircase. The price will be **\$19.20 for a year (11 issues: the June/July issue is combined)**. Please **sign up by Easter Sunday** for both renewals and new subscriptions. You may place your check or cash in one of the envelopes next to the sign-up sheet and place it in the offering plate. Please **put your name on the envelope** so that we can mark your subscription "paid." Thanks.

THRIVENT CHOICE FUNDS

Thrivent members are reminded to direct 2022 Choice Dollars to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church by 3/31/2023. To accomplish this you may **contact Thrivent at 800.847.4836 and when prompted say, "Thrivent Choice"**. Thanks to Thrivent members who have already accomplished their donation!

Be Aware that Easter lilies and cats need to be isolated from one another. The entire lily plant, including stem, flower, leaves, and pollen is toxic to your cat.

Good Shepherd News & Notes

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT—Matthew 21: 3 “If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.” Did Jesus really need the donkey? If the man had refused to give the donkey, would the work of salvation have been derailed? Of course not. But what an honor for the man who owned this donkey and foal! Likewise, with us — the Lord needs none of us, but what an honor for God to choose to use our generosity in the work of His church.



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES (April 2— April 8, 2023)

People celebrating birthdays are:

Renee Jackson Darla Posner
Jacob Schlatter Paige Renter
Ivy Theewen Brent Travis
Hannah Burmeister Helen Snook
Melissa Peters Angela McNabb
Elizabeth Phillips Maureen Marshall
Shelley Poore

Couples celebrating anniversaries are:

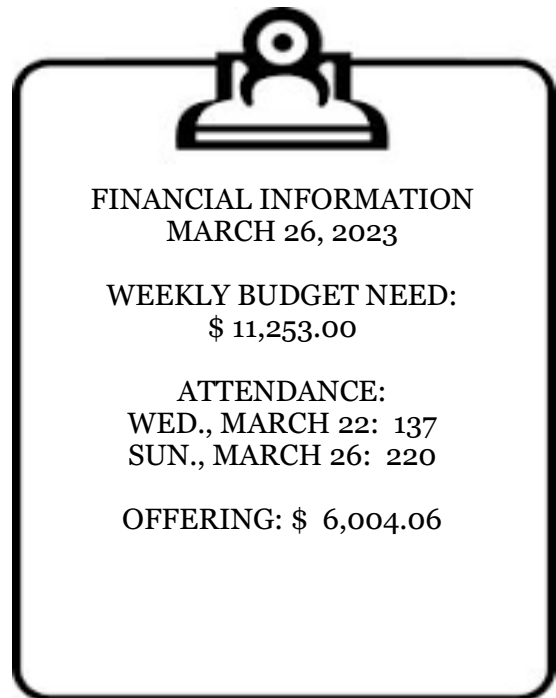
Curt & Corie Christiansen
Steve & Joyce Eckhoff
Rev. Mark & Katherine Williamson

LIFE MOMENT

Our true identity turns us back toward our Creator, to one who not only made us but also defines us in His Word. So, permit me to remind you of that truth once more: You are a created child of God. You are hand-made by Him, loved by Him, redeemed by Him, and sustained by Him. The gifts you possess are gifts He’s given you; all that is good comes from Him. Your identity and your value are, always were, and always will be, found in Him.

PALM SUNDAY PROCESSIONAL

Please have your children arrive 5-10 minutes before the service begins on Palm Sunday to participate in the Palm Processional during the first hymn. This will allow time to distribute the palm branches and give instructions to the children. Parents are encouraged to join the littlest ones in the processional.



FINANCIAL INFORMATION
MARCH 26, 2023

WEEKLY BUDGET NEED:
\$ 11,253.00

ATTENDANCE:
WED., MARCH 22: 137
SUN., MARCH 26: 220

OFFERING: \$ 6,004.06

PALM SUNDAY CONCERT

Concordia Academy High School Choir from St. Paul, MN will be presenting a concert at Good Shepherd at 7 pm on Palm Sunday, April 2nd. What a great way to begin Holy Week by listening to some inspiring and thought-provoking music and words of His love offered by this group of students. The director of the choir just happens to be the mother-in-law of our previous vicar, Pastor Lawson Short. Join us for the evening.

SERVING AT GOOD SHEPHERD THIS WEEK:

DOORKEEPERS: (Wed., March 29): David Perrin
(Sun., April 2): 8 am: Tim Higgins
10:30 am: Jerry Sidlo
(Mon., April 3): 6:30 pm:
(Tues., April 4): 6:30 pm: Terry Fitzgerald
(Wed., April 5) : 6:30 pm: Terry Fitzgerald
(Maundy Thurs., April 6): 6:30 pm: Loraine Harnett

ELDER TODAY: (Wed., March 29) : Chad Renter
(Sun., April 2): Wayne Gudgel
(Mon.—Wed., April 3-5): Wayne Gudgel
(Maundy Thurs., April 6): Mark Reinke

USHERS: (Wed., March 29): 4 pm: Pfeister, Indgjer, Brodbeck
6:30 pm: Huff, Kaldahl, Klutz
(Palm Sunday, Apr. 2) 8 am: Huff, Higgins, Von Busch (A)
10:30 am: Perrin, Princ, Von Busch (D)
(Holy Monday, Apr. 3): 6:30 pm: Kaldahl, Novaks
(Holy Tuesday, Apr. 4): 6:30 pm: Kaldahl, Pfeister
(Holy Wed., Apr. 5): 6:30 pm: Pfeister, Novaks
(Maundy Thurs., Apr.6): 6:30 pm: Indgjers, Graphenteen

ACOLYTES: (Wed., March 29): Nolan Keller
(Sun., April 2) 8 am: Braxton Beed
10:30 am:
(Wed., April 5): Broderic Beed
(Maundy Thurs., April 6): 6:30 pm: Sam Perrin

ALTAR GUILD ASSISTANT: (Wed., March 29): Khloe Bauer
(Sun., April 2): Mayah Stolcpart
(Maundy Thurs., April 6):

COMMUNION SET-UP: (Wed., March 29): Marilyn Meyer

COMMUNION CLEAN-UP: (Wed., March 29): Marilyn Meyer

COFFEE SERVERS: (Palm Sunday, April 2): Loraine Harnett, Nancy Stepp

EASTER BREAKFAST

Easter Sunday services will be at 7:30 am and 10:30 am with Easter breakfast at 9 am. Volunteers are needed to help with set-up, serving and clean-up and to supply various food items. Please check out the sign-up sheets in the narthex and volunteer where you are willing to help. Thanks to all our volunteers. You are much appreciated.



GOOD SHEPHERD SHUT-IN MEMBERS:

Several of our shut-in members have requested to be listed in the News & Notes in order that members might pray for them. Below is the beginning of an answer to this request. Further developments are in our thoughts.

Ron & Janet Amack (at home)
Betty Bluhm (at The Grand Lodge)
Joe & Sharon Burke (at home)
Jim & Peggy Cather (at home)
Elaine Egner (at home)
Shirley Kalina (Pemberly Place)
Janet Kniep (at home)
Tish Loomis (at home)
Bob McClellan (Gateway Vista)
Cindi Olson (Country House)
Dean Posner (Holmes Lake Rehab)
Alice Urbach (at home)

Anita Armitstead (at home)
Irma Brandt (Yankee Hill Village)
Jim & Marilyn Carr (at home)
Georgene Duer (at home)
Verneda Gerdes (at home)
Arlyss Ketelsen (Savannah Pines)
Jerry Kohl (The Woodlands)
Lynda Mahloch (Legacy Estates)
Dorian Merritt (at home)
Francine Poppe (Azria Health, Central City)
Marvin & Joyce Thompson (The Landing)
Don Wiese (Southlake Village)

On the table near the Stephen Ministry banner is a way for you to send birthday and anniversary greetings to our shut-in members. There are cards to sign or you may write a short note to those having birthdays and anniversaries in the current month. For beginning of the month of April: **Arlyss Ketelsen, Darla Posner, and Helen Snook** will be celebrating birthdays. Cards will be available to sign **until April 2nd (Palm Sunday)**. Thank you to everyone who has taken advantage of these opportunities to stay in touch with our shut-in members.

PALM SUNDAY CONCERT/VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Concordia Academy High School choir, St. Paul, MN will be presenting a concert at Good Shepherd the evening of Sunday, April 2. There will be a meal served for the students and director at 5:30 pm prior to the concert. If you would be willing to bring food or help serve, please sign up on the sign-up sheet in the narthex. **Contact Elizabeth Moline (701.640.7989)** with any questions.

CLEAN-UP DAY

On Saturday, April 1st from 9 am — noon, there will be an indoor clean-up at Good Shepherd to get ready for Easter. Volunteers are asked to check with Steve Wright when you arrive to check on what needs to be done and to get the cleaning supplies needed. Thanks to all our volunteers!

DIAPER DRIVE

Nathan and Cosette Kieser, a couple of our college students are having TWINS! Since they are in for twice the fun, let's shower them with some diapers to help them out! Any time between now and April 15, please drop off any diapers size newborn to size 2 on the table in the narthex or give donations to Elizabeth Moline.

