

March, 2010



The Lamb's Pen

A monthly publication of Abiding Shepherd Lutheran Church



"BRING them in....LIFT them up....SEND them out"

Missions Update (Ruthann Mickelson)



During the past three years, two young men from India have been attending our Bethany Lutheran Seminary in Mankato, MN. In February, 2010, the two began their "vicar" year back in their homeland of India. During the month of March, pray for Kalyan Gollapalli and Pradeep Lingala as they proclaim the Gospel of Jesus to many lost souls in India. If you haven't had a chance to read the

latest "Mission News", there are still a few copies left on the shelf in the church lobby.

Word & Worship Team

The Word and Worship team is made up of several ministries, which include music. The Music Ministry is one that you already participate in weekly if you sing the church hymns. The overall focus of the Music Ministry is to support God's message through song.



There are additional musical opportunities you may wish to consider getting involved in. These may include, but are not limited to, singing in a choir, playing a musical instrument for communion, or supporting music for special events. If you are interested in sharing your musical gifts at Abiding Shepherd Lutheran Church, please contact Julie Palkowski at jpalkowski@charter.net or (608) 839-0151. You may also indicate your interest on the sign up sheet located on the bulletin board in church. Thank you for considering this call to service.

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Pastor Nathan Krause

**"When you have THE SHEPHERD ...
you have everything you need!"**

Visit our web site at www.AbidingShepherd.org

YOUR CHURCH ... (by Pastor Krause)

Have you ever noticed that when God chooses to bless us, it usually seems as if a special challenge accompanies those blessings? As an example please consider your church family. It seems as if each week and month the Lord brings to us new families and many new faces. That is quite a blessing. But it also presents to each of us a special challenge - making sure we get to know our new members, not forgetting the names and faces of our established members, and differentiating between members and visitors. This all becomes a special challenge if you ever end up attending one of the three weekly services we offer that you otherwise do not ordinarily attend (it is a whole different crowd than you normally see). I would like to encourage you to ask God to help you get to know and befriend all our members and be ready to welcome any guests we have at our worship services.

In Luke 12 Jesus teaches the people, and specifically His disciples, not to worry about the things of this world. Next Jesus goes on to tell the parable of the servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet. It is a lesson on preparedness for the end of our lives and the end of this world. As the disciples ask Jesus to explain the parable, Jesus makes this statement (verse 48): *From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.* Jesus reminds us that when He blesses us abundantly then He also expects us to be abundantly responsible with His blessings.

Your church family is a tremendous blessing to you and to all of us at Abiding Shepherd. The challenge we face is that we not take this blessing for granted. God desires that you continue to love and care about everyone in your church. And so I have another request of you for when you make time to speak to God. Please ask God to keep safe and to spiritually nourish those in your church family who are absent (for whatever reason) from regular worship and the celebration of our Lord's Supper. Ask God that if circumstances prevent members of your family from coming to be with you may He change those circumstances. If it is a matter of your family member's heart coming under attack, or the devil is fiercely trying to separate your brother/sister from God's love, ask God to overcome such evil. Pray God keeps in His family all the members of your church family.

Outreach Team (Ross Metzger)



The outreach team has been busy serving Abiding Shepherd. BethAnn Meier has been working with Pastor and Rita in the area of upgrading our website. Abiding Shepherd's website was due for an overhaul, and BethAnn has the skills and knowledge to make our website user friendly and inviting. Much of her attention will be to inform our community and members, of upcoming events that Abiding Shepherd will be sponsoring and advertising to our surrounding community.

Ed Wren is fine tuning an outing called Project Hope Teen Retreat. This retreat will be targeting an age group from eighth grade through the second year of college. The retreat will concentrate on the challenges of growing up in a world that will constantly challenge our teens' faith and values. Ed is looking at a camping outing that will cover a weekend, and will be held this summer, maybe in June. More information will be forthcoming. If you see Ed in church don't be afraid to ask him about this wonderful Christian retreat planned for our members and friends in the community alike!



Don't forget to give your fellow members BethAnn and Ed a pat on the back for serving Abiding Shepherd. Should you feel you might have some extra time to help them in promoting our events and congregation please speak with Bethann Meier, or Ed Wren. I know we can find a place for you to help them in our efforts to serve our Lord.

Lakeside Scholarship

All students are eligible to apply for the Todd Johnson Memorial Scholarship for full tuition at Lakeside Lutheran for the 2010-2011 school year. Priority will be given to student with notable financial needs. Please contact Melissa Berg at 920-222-1029 or you can email toddjohnsonmemorialfoundation@hotmail.com

Summer Events

LYA Convention: *Wednesday July 28 - August 2.* The Lutheran Youth Association convention this year is in Virginia Beach, VA at Old Dominion University. (High school youth are welcome. This includes those are in 8th grade). A bus will leave from Holy Cross, Madison, sometime on Wednesday and return sometime on Monday. The registration fee is \$215 plus the cost of transportation. You must email Rita at ritaheyholm@verizon.net if you are interested in attending. **A \$100 deposit is needed by April 1st.**



Camp Indianhead: *Sunday July 18 - Friday July 23.*

Registration forms and additional information will be out soon.

Euchre Club (Sue O'Kroley)

Euchre Club this month - Friday, March 19th at 6:30 pm.

Service with a Smile! (by Holly Freund)

Another important area of service is providing Sunday morning snacks. Guests often stop at the snack table where members get a chance to introduce themselves. Guests see that Abiding Shepherd is a warm, friendly place they will want to return to. A special "shout out" goes to Linda Reason. Linda has coordinated serving schedules for many years and is "retiring" from that position. She passes this task on to me. Serving teams are made up of 2 or 3 people who prepare snacks one Sunday, every other month. Several serving positions are open at this time. Please consider joining a team. Call me at 772-5126 and I'll tell you how much fun we have! You can also email me at fabfreunds@gmail.com.

Operations and Finance Team (Dave Finger)

The Operations and Finance Team is off and running, taking care of the daily/weekly routine operations and finance processes at Abiding Shepherd and also looking ahead, goal setting and planning projects for the future.



This month I am going to highlight The Accounting and Financial Reporting Coordinator function held by Mr. Bob Mickelson. Bob takes care of the accounting function. He accounts for the offerings and insures they are properly posted. Bob takes care of the cash disbursements, i.e. paying the bills and Abiding Shepherd's employees. Bob also prepares the monthly and annual financial statements and budget. Bob's experience from his professional/business life as well as his knowledge from virtually day one of Abiding Shepherd's existence is invaluable to our church. Currently, Bob is working on training Rita Heyerholm, the church's administrative assistant, so that she can transition to completely take over the recording of offerings and the contribution process. Bob is also planning on upgrading our accounting software and setting up on-line banking to be able to move money between checking and interest bearing accounts as soon as possible to maximize our interest earnings. Please join me in thanking Bob for all that he does.

Lent and Holy Week Schedule

Our Lenten Bible Study this year focuses on the kings of Israel. It continues each Wednesday from March 3 - 24. A family-style meal is served at 6:00 pm. The study is from 6:30 to 7:30 pm.

Holy week worship is scheduled for Maundy Thursday at 7:00 pm. On Good Friday, we continue the tradition of watching a religious movie together at 6:30 pm. This year we will be watching the movie *FlyWheel*.

Sunday morning Easter worship times are 7:00 and 9:00 am, with an Easter brunch being served from 8:00 until 9:00 am. There is a sign-up sheet for those attending Lenten studies and Easter brunch. There is also a sign-up sheet to assist with the Easter Brunch set-up Saturday morning, as well as serving and clean-up on Sunday - much help is needed. There will be no Monday evening Contemporary Service on April 5th. Please plan to attend one of our Sunday celebration services.



Benevolence and Fellowship... (Rich Herbst)

Greeting from the Benevolence and Fellowship Team! We have been discussing the special events we have had in the past and possible future events here at Abiding Shepherd. So far, our list consists of: Mallards Game; Progressive Dinner; Church Picnic; Golf Outing; Ski Trip; Bowling; Laser Tag; Youth Lock-in; Buck's Game; Brewers Game; Movie Nights; and, Wisconsin Dell's Water Park Trip. Would you like to add to this? We will be conducting a survey for both the adults and youth of the congregation soon. If you would like some early input, please contact our Special Events Coordinator Stacy Zank -stcsf04@yahoo.com.



News & Events (Rita Heyerholm)

Once again God has blessed us as we welcome into membership a new friend and face. Rod Hall who recently completed the adult bible information course was confirmed and became a member on February 7th. We then were given additional reason to celebrate as Rod Hall and Stacy Tuschen (a member of our church) were joined in marriage on February 14th. Please join in giving thanks to God for bringing these two people together and ask God for His

richest blessings on their marriage.

One of our newest little lambs recently born to Holly (and Steve) Johnson was made a child of God in a baptismal service on February 14th. Dalton is the first born son of Holly and Steve. Be sure to give them your warmest congratulations.

Our final event of the month ended with our annual ski outing to Tyrol Basin. We joined up with Faith Lutheran in Oregon and members at Western Koshkonong for a fun afternoon of skiing, snowboarding and fellowship on Sunday, February 21st. We had at least 75 attending from all three churches! Even better, there were no reports of any injuries!



Human Resource Team (by Carl Weisheim)



Sue O’Kroley, the Internal Communications Coordinator has a good start on the Team Lead and Coordinator’s directory. This directory will have the contact information for the Team Leads and Coordinators. A job description for each position will be included. The purpose of the directory is to give everyone a quick reference to important information about the teams. The directory should be in the church boxes in the near future. Mary Metzger, the Assimilation Coordinator, is reviewing the new member packet and working with me to develop a new member process. We discussed how to make our church “sticky.” We want members, new and existing to feel welcomed and part of the family at Abiding Shepherd. We would like to make a place where people want to get involved and grow in the Lord. I continue to meet with the Transition Team to learn about the background of our church structure and to develop policies. I am also attending the other team meetings. This gives me an opportunity to get to know the other team leads and their coordinators. Future actions to be taken by the Human Resource Team: building use process, a new member’s event, and color coding the team leads and coordinators’ mailboxes. I would like to end with a question. Think back to when you joined Abiding Shepherd Lutheran Church. What helped you feel this was the congregation you wanted to be part of? E-mail your reasons to crw50s@yahoo.com or jot them down and put them in my box (216).
