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A message from Pastor Quinn

The Minor Prophets: Obadiah

What's in a name? If you have children think about the time you took to decide what to name them. In the months and weeks leading up to your child's birth perhaps you studied one or more baby name books, going through hundreds or perhaps thousands of names. Maybe you just picked some you liked and then looked up their meanings. If you had a few top choices perhaps you waited to see your child and then made the final decision. "He looks like a ...Peter or Robert or Aiden." When baby boys were born in Israel and Judah Old Testament parents were seeing a lot of Obadiah's. Obadiah was a popular name. There are more than ten Obadiah's in the Old Testament. This may have something to do with the meaning of the name: "The Lord's Servant." What mom or dad wouldn't want their child to live out a name like that?

Since there is no mention of his parents or where he lived it becomes difficult to identify the Obadiah who wrote the Old Testament book Obadiah. We have to look at the events described in his book to help identify him. In the 21 short verses of the book of Obadiah there are some clues that help us date the time of the prophecy and Obadiah's ministry. It seems the Obadiah who wrote this book is the same Obadiah mentioned in 2 Chronicles 17:7 who served under Jehoshaphat and Jehoram, kings of Judah. He lived at the same time as Elijah and Elisha who were prophets to the Northern Kingdom of Israel.

Obadiah's purpose and occasion for writing seems to be connected with the event he describes in his book. These words are addressed to Edom, Israel and Judah's neighbor, and lifelong enemy. The Edomites were descendants of Esau and always had it out for the descendants of Jacob.

¹¹ On the day you stood aloof
while strangers carried off his wealth
and foreigners entered his gates
and cast lots for Jerusalem,
you were like one of them.

¹² You should not look down on your brother
in the day of his misfortune,
nor rejoice over the people of Judah
in the day of their destruction,
nor boast so much
in the day of their trouble.

¹³ You should not march through the gates of
my people

in the day of their disaster,
nor look down on them in their calamity
in the day of their disaster,
nor seize their wealth
in the day of their disaster.

¹⁴ You should not wait at the crossroads
to cut down their fugitives,
nor hand over their survivors
in the day of their trouble.

These words bring two historical events to mind. The one was an attack on Jerusalem by the Philistines in which the city was plundered shortly after an Edomite revolt (2 Chronicles 21:16,17). The second event would take place 250 years after Obadiah when the Babylonians captured Jerusalem once and for all (2 Chronicles 36:15-20) and the Edomites were rooting for the Babylonians (Psalm 137).

Obadiah's message is short and straight to the point. The LORD is jealously protective of his chosen people. He will deliver them from their enemies and punish those who plague them. This was not good news for the people of Edom. But something else about the LORD is revealed in this letter—his perfect graciousness. He holds out the hope of salvation for

all people—even his enemies who repent and turn to him (Obadiah 15-17). What can we learn from Obadiah? No matter how things look on the outside, no matter how oppressed we feel, no matter what enemies we face—even sickness or trouble or death—the LORD is at work for the people he has chosen in Christ. The LORD is at work for you. He is jealously protective of you. He is perfectly gracious to you. No matter what you are facing right now remember that all of God’s promises to you are certain in Christ and wait for him to carry out your salvation.

Coming up in April

April 1	6:00 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Lenten Worship
April 6	Parent-Teacher Consultation No LES
April 9	7:00 pm Maundy Thursday
April 10	7:30 pm Good Friday
April 12	7:00 am Sunrise Service 8:00 am Easter Brunch 9:30 am Easter Festival Service
April 13	Easter Travel Day No LES
April 16	6:30 pm H & S Society
April 21	7:00 pm Voters’ Assembly
April 22	6:30 pm Heart in Focus Bible Class
April 26	Confirmands’ Examination Sunday

HEART IN FOCUS COURSE AT GOOD SHEPHERD

Do you often wonder what God really does think about you and your money? Are you struggling to pay all of your bills? Do you sometimes wish you would have more in the savings account? Are creditors “knocking at your door”? Are you and your spouse in sync with finances? Do you feel a need for changing your priorities? Is personal finance one of your interests? It seems as though we always have questions revolving around money! Whether you are struggling with debt, challenged by priorities, or extremely blessed and wanting God’s guidance, the *Heart in Focus* course has something for you. It is not merely about finances. It goes even deeper. It addresses the inner struggles of the heart, our identity, and how we view life’s purpose.

Heart in Focus is a personal financial course that helps God’s people aim their treasures toward their Christ-centered mission in life. It is a step-by-step process that guides people in the basics of wise finances for daily living. The topics addressed are income, giving, saving, spending, borrowing and leaving a legacy. It is a practical tool on how best to han-

dle money. Participants study how money impacts their daily lives and are given practical skills, resources and tools to:

- Reflect upon one’s identify and purpose in life
- Understand financial decisions are also spiritual decisions
- Prioritize financial goals
- Develop a personalized spending plan
- Identify actions steps to reduce expenses and debt, if applicable
- Create a solid savings plan for the future

Next month we will begin our first *Heart in Focus* course here at Good Shepherd. Beginning on April 22nd we will meet for six consecutive Wednesdays here at church from 6:30-8:00 PM concluding on May 27th. Each participant will purchase a work book with valuable study materials which will be used throughout the course. The cost of the workbook is \$10. Please consider this wonderful opportunity for Bible Study and Christian fellowship as we learn to become faithful in managing what God has given and discover the joy in living for Jesus. Sign up on the church bulletin board. Couples are encouraged to attend together.

Voters’ Assembly April 21, 2009

Our Voters’ Assembly is designed to take care of the business end of Good Shepherd. Expenses, budgets, new programs initiated, the elimination of some programs—all have their beginning in the Voters’ Assemblies. As a voter in the congregation you have an obligation to attend such meetings. If circumstances come up and you cannot attend, please excuse your absence to either of the pastors, the president of the congregation (Mike Krueger) or the Secretary of the congregation (Steve Umphrey) The April 21st meeting will begin at 7:00 pm and we hope to see you there.

Easter

Wednesday, April 1, 2009 will be our last soup supper and following that will be our last Lenten service. April 9th will be Maundy Thursday and Holy Communion will be served. Our Maundy Thursday worship service will begin at 7:00 pm.

Please note that our Tenebrae Good Friday service will begin at 7:30 pm. Then on Easter morning we will have our Sunrise Service at 7 am followed by our Easter brunch. Our Easter Festival Service will begin at 9:30 am.

April 13, the day after Easter, has been set aside by the Board of Education as a travel day so those who have been out of town for the Easter holiday may have an extra day to arrive home. Accordingly there will be no LES on the Monday after Easter

Easter Baskets

A basket for a free will offering is at the back of the church this morning for donations to provide Easter baskets filled with food for members of our congregation who may need a little extra help at this time of the year. There is also a box in the narthex for staples you may want to contribute.

The Easter baskets will be delivered by the Elders in time to assure that a bountiful Easter may be enjoyed by everyone.

Altar Flowers

We have changed florists. From now on we will be ordering from the Lil Pear Tree on Main Street in downtown Midland. We have encouraged people to put down a preference for what they wished but flowers were becoming increasingly expensive and sometimes the arrangements looked skimpy. To maintain the \$40 price for two arrangements the Lil Pear Tree will make a designer's choice, allowing them to take advantage of seasonal flowers. If you want something specific like roses or Gerber daisies they will be available but at an increase in price. We hope this will make our altar flowers more pleasing.

Currently we have a number of blank spaces on the flower chart. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to mark a special occasion such as a birthday, an anniversary or in memory of someone.

Confirmation Coming Up!

April 26th will be Examination Sunday for the 2009 Confirmands. May 3 will be Confirmation Day for the following young people in our congregation:

Cheyenne Lehman
Emily Maraskine
Morgan McGinnis
Ethan Peil
Aaron Pretzer
Megan Schoch

May 10 will be Mother's Day this year and we will also be honoring our new confirmands with cake and punch in the fellowship hall between the 8 o'clock and the 10:45 am worship service. The congregation is invited to participate in this very special welcoming

opportunity to greet and congratulate the new members into our communion fellowship.

We study God's Word

Scripture Readings for April 2009

April 5 Palm Sunday

Zechariah 9:9, 10
Philippians 2:5-11
Mark 11:1-10
Psalm 24

April 9 Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-14
1 Corinthians 10:16, 17
Mark 14:12-26
Psalm 116

April 10 Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13-53:12
Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9
John 19:17-30
Psalm 22

April 12 Easter

Isaiah 25:6-9
1 Corinthians 15:19-26
Mark 16:1-8
Psalm 118

April 19 Easter 2

Acts 3:12-20
1 John 5:1-6
John 20:19:31
Psalm 16

April 26 Easter 3

Acts 4:8-12
1 John 1:1-2:2
Luke 24:36-49
Psalm 118

**As the marsh hen secretly builds on the watery sod
Behold, I will build me a nest
on the greatness of God.**

Sidney Lanier

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Here are the birthdays and anniversaries for April. If you would like to be included in Good Shepherd's roster, please check with Pam Krueger (835-9467).

Birthdays in April are:

April 10	Brian Marquardt
April 10	Nathan Lehman
April 10	Michael Pifher
April 12	Mike Krueger
April 12	Erica Lindesmith
April 13	Gale Krueger
April 15	Laura Cummings
April 15	Daniel Pifher
April 18	Nick Ross
April 19	Jill Butler
April 20	Alyssa Scherzer
April 23	Matt Beyersdorf
April 26	Tommy Ross
April 30	Richard Arbury

April anniversaries:

April 1	David & Jaunita Dilloway
April 13	Steve & Leanne Hocquard
April 14	Mike & Pam Krueger
April 27	Don & Dana Schwab
April 29	Tom & Lisa Ross

Volunteers

Could you volunteer to help with some of the many things that need to be done at Good Shepherd? No organization can function without a certain amount of volunteer time and churches, in particular, rely heavily on volunteers to fill in the corners for various projects. Folding church bulletins, listening to children read, being Picture Lady or Picture Dad, doing the Crusader Connection, and doing copy work for the teachers are just some of the things that volunteers are doing currently at Good Shepherd. If you are available for a couple of hours each week, or even once a month, please call the office at 835-4181 and see if there's something that you can help out with.

Currently we need someone to fill in for Elaine Roslund for two weeks who so faithfully does the Crusader Connection each week even though she also works at Elder Beerman's. She will be taking two weeks off to spend Spring Break with her husband

Lynn and her daughter Elizabeth, currently enrolled at MLS. If you could help out on April 9 and April 16, it would be much appreciated.

School News From Mr. Thies

The Cards

(Keeping Families Connected to MLS)

Successful Basketball Seasons End:

Both MLS teams captured district tournament championships recently! The girls' team then went on to win their first regional game before losing in the regional championship game in double overtime. Wow! was that an exciting game, even though the girls came out on the losing side of things. The boys lost their first regional game, but the fact that they won the first district championship in ten years was a great way to end the year. Professor Terry Vasold is the coach of the girls' team and Professor David Lecker is the boys' team coach.

It isn't just a championship that makes a team successful, at least that's not how we feel at MLS. We believe it's still true that how you play the game is part of success. For that matter, how you cheer at a game is part of that success as well. Because at MLS we feel that cheering positively for our team and not negatively against an opponent is important, we think that is another reason why we've had successful seasons this year. In fact, at one of our games, the local television station handed out a "spirit" award to our fans and filmed it for their highlight show later on.

Here's one more example of successful cheering. After our girls lost that heartbreaking game in the regional championship in double overtime, our fans clapped when the opponents were receiving their medals for winning the game and the trophy. You just don't see that kind of sportsmanship very often. It was a very proud moment for MLS.

Displaying good sportsmanship is not only part of a successful program, in any sport, but at MLS, it's something that we consider to be expected. We hope many of you will join our team in the near future and help us to keep that going!

Did you know?

Students from MLS will be traveling to three foreign countries this summer for Project Titus trips? The countries are Columbia, Korea and China. Maybe someday you can be on one of those trips, too!

Registration for 2009-2010: Just in case you missed

it, the Board of Education has decided to try and implement new registration procedures for the upcoming school year. As you may know, proper planning for the next school year begins prior to the end of the current one. In these economically challenging times, families across the country are taking action to try and reduce their expenses. In light of the recent decision made by our voters to close our preschool at the end of the current school year, we too wish to practice good stewardship by reducing our expenses as well. Therefore, the Board of Education has implemented new registration procedures for the upcoming school year, which they feel will save our school staff and families a lot of work, and our school and congregation a significant amount of money.

On Monday, April 6, our parents and teachers will be meeting together for our third quarter parent/teacher consultations. Along with these consultations, members of Board of Education and our school secretary, will be here to assist parents with the registration of their child(ren) for the upcoming school year. Parents who wish to begin filling out the registration forms prior to the evening of April 6 may find these forms on our school website at www.goodshepherdmidland.org. Should you desire to wait and fill them out the night of April 6, please bring any necessary information (names, numbers, addresses, insurance, etc.) with you to consultations that evening.

Parent/Teacher Consultations: The Board of Education has set aside **Monday, April 6**, as the date for parent/teacher consultations. Signup sheets for these consultations are posted on the school bulletin board. Please sign up for one of the times listed as soon as possible.

School Logo-wear: Thank you to Mrs. Lisa Ross for her work in organizing and assisting with the recent school logo-wear order that was placed. If your family ordered any shirts or sweatshirts, we will contact you once we receive the order.

School Play DVD: On Sunday, April 26, following our late service, the students of our LES will be putting on their annual school play. This year it will be taped with the television camera from MCTV. This will allow us to broadcast the play on MCTV for the enjoyment of our shut-ins, and it will give us the ability to offer a DVD copy of the play to our families who may be interested in owning a copy. If your family is interested in owning a TV quality DVD of this year's play, please fill out the order form attached to your child's Crusader Connection and send it to school with your son/daughter as soon as possible.

The cost of these DVD's is entirely dependent on the number of copies we order; thus, the more we order the cheaper they become. A minimum of 5 DVD's will assure us a cost no higher than \$6 per DVD.

MLS Summer Basketball Camps: Applications are now being accepted for the 2009 24th Annual Michigan Lutheran Seminary Cardinal Basketball Camps. These camps are open to girls and boys in grades 5-9. This year, because of construction to the Michigan Lutheran Seminary campus, these camps are being held on various grade school campuses across Michigan. Please see the poster that is attached to the school bulletin board for application deadlines and camp locations.

Armed Forces Memorial Board

An Armed Forces Memorial Board will be prepared soon in thanksgiving to God for the members of Good Shepherd who have served our country in war and in peace. If we do not have your name down and the specific information that you would like on a plaque, please call the office with the correct information.

Currently we have these names:

Glenn Garchow, Marines, Navy, Coast Guard Reserve
LTC Kenneth Bow, 28 years U. S. Army Reserve, served from 1962-1991
Len Lehman, U. S. Air Force, Cold War
Dan Lehman, U.S. Marine Corp
Ted Lehman, Michigan National Guard, Desert Storm
Mitch A. McGill, Sgt, Air Force 1974-78
Greg Lyvere, Marines E5 Sgt. 1972-1976
Guy Watrous, E4 - U.S. Army Airborne, 1959-1963
Lovell Kain, Sgt, U.S. Army, Korean War
Jack Hillis, WWII, U.S. Army
Rhoda Daniel, Army National Guard, Iraq
LTC Ronald Daniel, Army National Guard, Afghanistan
Tom Fryer Spec-4, U. S. Army 1965-1966 Vietnam War
Gary Garchow, U.S. Coast Guard
Bill Prince, U. S. Navy
Craig Schuette, U.S. Navy
Norman Atkinson, US Navy and U.S. Coast Guard Reserve

We serve others in love.

Our Shut-Ins

Please remember our shut-ins in your prayers.

Call the church office for contact information

Eighth Grade Graduation

June 7th will be graduation day for our eighth graders. This year our graduates will be: Cheyenne Lehman, Aaron Pretzer and Megan Schoch. All three graduates will be attending Michigan Lutheran Seminary in the fall. Cheyenne plans to enter the law enforcement field and hopefully working in CSI. Aaron Pretzer is also looking forward to a career in law enforcement. Megan Schoch is looking for a career in the mathematics field.

Congratulations to all three. Our congregation is so proud of you!

Choir

The choir at Good Shepherd needs more members. It is always a pleasure to hear the choir sing and if you have been blessed with a good singing voice and the time, why not volunteer and share your talent? If committing to an every week schedule at the present time isn't feasible, would you be able to make practices for special events such as the Easter and Christmas seasons? If you think you might be interested, please contact Amy Lindesmith, our choir director.

Refreshments

A sign-up sheet for refreshments is now on the bulletin board. We serve refreshments the second Sunday of each month immediately after the 8:00 am worship service. You don't have to be Betty Crocker or Julia Childs to bring cookies or dessert. Juice is furnished and the coffee is made by the deacon on duty that month. If everyone takes a turn bringing refreshments, we can easily have refreshments every month all year long.

Capital Gains and Offerings

If the Lord has blessed you with stock investments which have increased in value and for which you would have capital gains tax to pay, it is possible to give the appreciated stock as an offering. Good Shepherd would not have to pay tax on the gain. If given as a stock, you would not have to pay capital gains tax either.

Good Shepherd has an account with Scottrade into which your stock offering could be transferred. If you desire more information about the Good Shepherd account you can contact either pastor. Be sure to also check with your accountant for any other tax implications.

¹¹"In that day I will restore
David's fallen tent.

I will repair its broken places,
Restore its ruins,

And build it as it used to be,

¹⁴"I will bring back my exiled people Israel;
They will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them.

They will plant vineyards and drink their wine;
They will make gardens and eat their fruit.

¹⁵I will plant Israel in their own land,
Never again to be uprooted

From the land I have given them,"
Says the LORD your God.

Amos 9: 11, 14-15