



Volume 26

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A message from Pastor Quinn

I Am the Bread of Life

One evening when my son was one year old he was sitting in his high chair waiting for supper. He usually ate a few crackers or a little fruit before he had his main course. On this particular night I grabbed the container of baby cheese puffs and put a couple on his tray. He quickly put one in his mouth and then made a funny face. It was his yuck face. This surprised me because he usually likes cheese puffs. Then I popped one in my mouth and found out why he made that face. The usually delicious snack was stale. I had forgotten that after some end of summer trips it had been nearly three weeks since my son was at home. In that time the once delicious cheese puffs had turned into mushy, chewy, inedible blobs. They had spoiled. That's what happens with food. It spoils and is no longer good to eat. Spoiled food has lost all of its value. But there is a kind of food that lasts forever.

After Jesus fed the five thousand near the Sea of Galilee he slipped away to the other side of the lake. When the people found him he spoke with them about the difference between food that spoils and food that lasts. He did that because the people who had been fed were more than willing to work for the food that spoils and didn't even care to know about the food that lasts. They weren't concerned about their spiritual fullness because they couldn't see past the fullness of their stomachs.

Isn't it a shame that far too often we are just like those crowds. We run around all day focusing our attention on things that pass away while the food that lasts—the one thing we truly need—takes the backseat or even no seat at all. **“Seek first the kingdom**

of God and the rest will be given to you,” are words of Jesus which are long forgotten as we seek after the food this world has to offer, much of it rotten already. Instead of a fresh glass of sexual purity do you want the spoiled milk of lust? Instead of a healthy helping of contentment do you desire the stale bread of greed? Instead of a satisfying meal of love and kindness would you rather go dumpster diving for gossip and grudge? It's amazing what we will do for food that spoils!

What's even more amazing is that our God keeps offering us the food that lasts—the food that is worth working for. The food that lasts is the food that brings eternal life. It is the forgiveness we need for chasing after the rotten food of sin. It is the salvation that is given only by God's Son who won it by his perfect life and death in your place. It is the feast of the heavenly banquet prepared by our Savior for us to taste here on earth through his gospel and forever in heaven as his bride. That's the food that lasts. That's food that's worth working for.

How does one get this food? Only through faith in Jesus. Just by believing in him. “That doesn't sound like work,” you say. You're right. Because all the work has been done by our Savior God. In his grace he has prepared the feast, he has invited us to it through his Word, and by his Holy Spirit he has made sure that we will make it there. Jesus is the food that lasts. He is the bread of life that alone satisfies and never spoils. So, let's eat. Let's feast on Jesus in his word today and every day.

²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, “Rabbi, when did you get here?”

²⁶ Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, you are looking for me, not because you saw miraculous

signs but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. ²⁷ Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. On him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.”

²⁸ Then they asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?”

²⁹ Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.”

³⁰ So they asked him, “What miraculous sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? ³¹ Our forefathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”

³² Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

³⁴ “Sir,” they said, “from now on give us this bread.”

³⁵ Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty” (John 6:25-35).

Coming up in February

February 9	7:00 PM	Church Council
February 10	7:00 PM	H & S Society
February 14	Valentine’s Day	
February 16	7:00 PM	Board of Education
February 17	6:00 PM	Soup Supper
	7:00 PM	Ash Wednesday
February 23	7:00 PM	Board of Elders
February 28	12:00 PM	Forensics Dinner

Ash Wednesday

The Lenten season begins on February 17th this year with Easter being celebrated on Sunday, April 4th. Holy Communion will be celebrated on Wednesday, February 17th. Our traditional soup supper will precede each Lenten service. Please sign up on the sign up sheets on the bulletin board if you plan to attend. But, please remember, if you decide to come at the last minute but haven’t signed up, you are more than welcome. We always have enough to go around.

Dinner and Silent Auction

The MLS Foundation is hosting their annual Friends of the Foundation Dinner and Silent Auction at Sullivan’s Black Forest Restaurant, 281 Heinlein Street, Frankenmuth, on Sunday, February 14th from 4:30 to 8:30 PM. Join us for an evening of fun and Christian fellowship. As in the past, we will have a silent auction as a part of the festivities. In addition we will have some items available through a ticket auction and a couple of services and fun things will be auctioned live! Browsing begins at 4:30 PM and dinner will be served throughout the evening. Tickets for the event are \$30 and includes all you eat plus a \$10 donation to the MLS Foundation. You may make your reservations on-line at www.misem.org or by calling the Foundation at 989-793-7511. We also need your new donated items and services to make the auction a success. You can find a donation form and a list of suggestions online or ask us to mail you a form.

News from the Voters’ Assembly

19 January 2010

MEMBERSHIP TRANSACTIONS: December 2009

Transfers In:

Ryan and Darcia Anderson from St. Bartholomew in Kawkawlin, MI

Keith and Inez Humbert from Good Shepherd in Beaverton, MI

Reception of Communicant Members:

Rhoda Daniel as a communicant member based on her confirmation 2 August 2009 and her children Hannah, Eric and Isaac Daniel as baptized members.

Baptisms:

Maggie Jane Wallace 25 October 2009

Taryn Sosinski 1 November 2009

Reception of Voting Members:

Ryan Anderson

Irvin DeLong

Mike Browning

Joe Lange

Transfers Out:

Eric and Autumn Weber to Christ in Shields, MI

Releases:

Kallai Cunningham

Perry Cunningham

E. NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. The Voters adopted the following special offerings for Spring 2010:

Midweek Lenten, Christian Relief Fund

Palm Sunday, Crown of Life, Cadillac

Maundy Thursday, St Martin, Roscommon

Good Friday, Pregnancy Counseling Center, Saginaw

Easter, Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund

We study God's Word

Scripture Readings for February 2010

February 7 Epiphany 5

Isaiah 6:1-8

Ps 85

1 Corinthians 14:12b-20

Luke 5:1-11

February 14 Transfiguration

Exodus 34:29-35

Ps 148

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Luke 9:28-36

February 21 Lent 1

Deuteronomy 26:5-10

Ps 91

Romans 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13

February 28 Lent 2

Jeremiah 26:8-15

Ps 42-43

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Luke 13:31-35

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Here are the birthdays and anniversaries for February. If you would like to be included in Good Shepherd's roster, please call the church office, 835-4181 and we will be happy to add your birthday and/or your wedding anniversary.

Birthdays in February are:

February 7 Katherine Pretzer

February 8 Kyle Lewis

February 10 Adam Peil

February 10 Dan Lehman

February 11 Ben Johnson

February 11 Karen Prince

February 11 Morgan McGinnis

February 12 Tailor Gunsell

February 13 Amy Browning

February 17 Tyler Wirth

February 27 Della DeLong

February anniversaries:

February 14 Jim and Diana Johnson

February 22 Kevin and Carrie Hennig

We serve others in love.

Meals Available if Needed

One of the services the Ladies Guild of Good Shepherd provides is preparing meals for those who are incapacitated temporarily. Ladies Guild tries to keep on top of those who are ill but sometimes the news doesn't reach the right people. Please remember that if you are confined to home because of illness, please call the church office who will relay the information to Kim Schuette who is in charge of that particular service to members of Good Shepherd.

Our Shut-ins

Please remember our shut-ins in your prayers.
For a list of shut-ins, please see your paper copy of this newsletter, or call the church office.

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT

Dearest Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I would like to thank the Board of Education for the diligent work they performed over the last year. Their Christian stewardship of the gifts and talents that God has bestowed upon our congregation is to be commended.

The Lord has provided for our congregation and children with a tremendous amount of talent in our full time teaching staff, Mrs. Seifert, Mrs. Tafel, and Mrs. Seeger. Their dedication to their craft, their continuous and tireless efforts to help us rear our children "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" is to be praised. Along with Principle Quinn, and our Church Secretaries, they have made our Christian Day School a smooth and efficiently functioning tool in the education of our Christian children.

These efforts by our staff would be much more difficult to accomplish without the dedicated group of volunteers that do so much for our Lutheran Elementary School and Congregation. Volunteering to spear head hot lunch programs and put together yearbooks. The attendance at sporting events, helping with concession stands and set up and tear down of church events and kitchen clean-up. School parties and special events for the children and teachers, as-

sisting children with reading and other homework skills. Making copies of materials for the classroom and church, freeing the teachers and secretaries to do other work. Driving for practices, physical education and field trips. Serving at the hot lunch program. I am sure I have missed many of the volunteer activities that our members and parents have donated to our school, for that I am sorry if I overlooked your important works. Please know... They are all appreciated, Thank You.

We also have been blessed monetarily through LES Special Gifts. We were able to purchase many items for our classrooms, to encourage and increase our teacher's ability to educate our children. Through these special gifts we were able to purchase a new laptop and projector for the 6-8 room, TV and wall mount for the K-2 room, a school camera, wall maps, and several smaller items. Thank you to all those people who were able to assist the school and congregation with these gifts and blessings.

We ended the 2008-2009 school year on a sad note. Having to discontinue our Pre-school program because of insufficient funding, ending a very good program and outreach tool for our LES. Over the course of the 2009-2010 school year, the Lord has blessed us with another terrific teacher in Mrs. Seeger, and she has made tremendous strides with our 6-8 graders in correcting some academic deficiencies. Mrs. Schuette has had great success and response with spreading Gods Word to our younger children through the Little Lambs program. The Sunday School, VBS, and Christmas for Kids continue to also thrive in our church and community as outreach tools.

The Lord continues to bless and keep us safe and in good running condition. Our teachers and pastors continue to preach and teach the Good News of Salvation to our young ones. The Lord continues to use our Christian day school as an instrument to further the work of his kingdom. May we all find in our hearts to assist our called workers to do his work, respect the good work they do, and thank them for their tireless efforts.

Kevin Hennig Chairman Board of Education

Board of Elders Report

Usher/Deacon check list updated and posted in Sacristy.

Membership Transactions acted upon with recommendations to Church Council and Voters' Assembly.

Membership activity addressed from Elder contacts and calls made being 31.

Christian Relief Fund requests and approvals made of \$2,482.00. Balance as of January 2010 is \$94.00

Members of Ladies Guild prepared food baskets and were distributed by Elders for Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter.

“Armed Forces Board” completed. Please notify Church office if you were/are in the Armed Forces and wish to have your name with Branch of Service posted.

“Congregational Pictorial Membership Board” is now installed. Pictures are currently being taken to fill/complete board.

“Heart in Focus” classes approved and promoted.

Calls filling staff for VBS, Sunday School, Choir Director and Christmas for Kids are done.

“Parents with Small Children” signs approved and in place on pews for worship.

Elders portion of budget for 2010 created and forwarded to Voters’ Assembly for implementation.

Joe Tafel, Chairman Board of Elders

Board of Trustees Report

Another year has flittered by and I have been blessed and privileged to serve once again as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Although not as much may have been accomplished as I thought might be or would have liked, I try to keep in mind that our service here on earth will not be perfect but most certainly will accomplish that which the Lord desires. Therefore it should not surprise us that despite what most of the world would consider tough economic times, the church still stands.

Thinking back on this then, I am thankful for all the help that Good Shepherd has received – your time, talents, and treasures. We were blessed this past year with reliable volunteers and staff to help with the maintenance, cleaning, and upkeep inside and out – lawn mowing, floor waxing, clearing brush, raking leaves, painting, etc. – I don’t think I could list it all without missing someone or something. Many people helped make the place sparkle and shine, and we were even able to complete the pew upholstery project. And so I also find myself looking ahead and thinking about some things that have been mentioned as possibilities for the churches future...

Several large items come quickly to mind, such as a sanctuary or gymnasium expansion (\$800k-\$1.5M), resurfacing the parking lot (\$25k-\$50k), new carpeting or tile for the sanctuary, hallways, and classrooms (\$18k-\$30k), and installing new furnaces

with air-conditioning (\$10k-\$15k). Other items that won’t require as much money, but nonetheless still get peoples’ hopes up and thoughts racing, include things like remodeling and improving the bathrooms, new/more lighting for the sanctuary, and a new sound system for broadcasting and recording the church services.

As it is with any time I start thinking about the potential for “making the church great”, I must also remember to be humble and try to understand that regardless of all these possibilities, the true Christian Church only needs that which the Lord provides. I then take comfort in Paul’s words:

I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength. – Philippians 4:12-13.

So, whether Good Shepherd ends another year in the red or begins a new one in the black, I urge you to remember that we are here to spread the Gospel, to serve in faith and love. We can only hope to be the perfect servant that Jesus Christ is.

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – all the more as you see the Day approaching. – Hebrews 10:24-25.

I want to thank you all again for all the help we received this past year and I ask that you keep us, your servants, in your thoughts and prayers this coming year. I have often been weary and tired, but never have I regretted the time I spent serving nor wished I had expended less effort for the church. Please stop us, ask us questions, or lend an encouraging word or helpful hand – we are your servants.

And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen. – Philippians 4:19-20.

Daren Roehl, Chairman Board of Trustees

How Do I Order Flowers for the Altar?

When you see flowers on the altar or read in the bulletin that they are to mark an anniversary or a birthday, do you wonder how you could do that, too? It's simple, really. There is a flower sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway opposite the church office and you write your name on the Sunday you would like to put flowers on the altar. There is also a space so we know what the occasion will be so we may put that in the bulletin as an acknowledgment of the occasion.

Currently we are ordering our flowers from The Lil Pear Tree in downtown Midland. The cost is \$40 for the two bouquets to fill the altar vases plus a \$3 delivery charge so the total cost is \$43. You are welcome to take your flowers home after the second worship service on Sunday.

Meditations

The new Meditations will be put in mailboxes on February 21. Following is a list of members who have paid for a year's subscription. We have taken these names from the Sunday tally sheets and find that some money has been recorded but no names were given. If your name is not on the list below and you paid for a subscription to Meditations, please let the church office know.

Kriss and Carol Arbury (3)
Matt and Angie Beyersdorf (1)
Sharon Crawford (1)
Virginia Florey (1)
Norene Garchow (1)
Klaus and Marge Hartig (1)
Gale and Judy Krueger (1)
Mike and Pam Krueger (1)
James and Guyan Lange (1)
Len and Ros Lehman (1)
Tim Mitin (1)
Tim and Pat Peil (1)
Jess and Debbie Peil (1)
Bill and Karen Prince (1)
John and Paula Pretzer (1)
Mike and Lindsay Sosinski
Jason and Carrie Yopp (1)

Church Mailboxes

Although the Sunday bulletin is no longer put in your mailboxes there still are some items distributed in mailboxes yet. The monthly newsletter, the Daily Bible Readings and the monthly calendar are still put

in the mailboxes as well as things such as new church directories and voters' material. Please check your mailbox. Sometimes the mailboxes are too full to add anything else. Thank you for your cooperation.

A Thank you from the Lower Grades Classroom

In the event that you wondered what in the world old tennis balls could be used for in the lower grades classroom, here's the answer. Old tennis balls are slit open and then put on the chair legs so when the children are moving around the chairs don't unduly mark the floor up. Mrs. Tafel reports that thirty tennis balls were received and are being put to good use. Thank you for always being willing to help with requests.

From Mike Krueger, President of our Congregation

I was struck by how the New testament lesson last week from 1 Corinthians 12 applies to us at Good Shepherd. We are all a part of the Body of Christ. We are all a part of Good Shepherd. God arranged all of us just as he wanted us to be. He put all of us here at Good Shepherd, each of us with the talent he has given us. Is it teaching Sunday School? Is it attending Bible Class on Sunday? Is it listening to the children read? Is it cooking a meal for someone who is incapacitated? Is it belonging to Altar guild? Is it serving as an usher, a deacon, an elder? Is it just being a faithful worshiper each Sunday? Each one of us is a part of the Body of Christ with our own part to play. Find your part, and serve in that capacity faithfully. .

I praise Thee while my days go on;
I love Thee while my days go on:
Through dark and dearth, through fire and frost,
With emptied arms and treasure lost,
I thank Thee while my days go on.
E. B. Browning