



Volume 27

Issue 1

February 2011

## A message from Pastor Quinn

### Philipp Nicolai: How Lovely Shines the Morning Star

Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608) was born the son of a Lutheran pastor in a little village not far from Waldeck, Germany. He followed in his father's footsteps and was ordained in 1579. He assisted his father until 1583 when he became pastor of his own parish at Herdecke. It was here that the first of the serious difficulties in his life began. Most of the members of the town council were Roman Catholic, and when Spanish troops invaded Herdecke in 1586, just three years after he had arrived, he was forced to resign his position. He ministered for a while secretly to a congregation of Lutherans until he became deacon and later pastor in another little village near Waldeck. Later in life he served as chief pastor at Altwildungen and was court preacher to Countess Margaretha of Waldeck. During this time Nicolai held firmly to the biblical (and Lutheran) doctrine of the real presence of Jesus' body and blood in the Lord's Supper against the false Calvinist teaching which opposed it. During this Sacramentarian controversy he urged the clergy of the area to adopt the Formula of Concord as a sound exposition of biblical teaching and Lutheran doctrine. Once again he was prohibited from preaching for his faithful stance on Holy Scripture's truths. In his next position as pastor in Unna his conflict with the Calvinists continued. During this time there was also a great plague in Unna which took the lives of 1,400 citizens. During this time Nicolai served the families faithfully, supposedly conducting burials for up to 30 victims per day.

Throughout his short but busy and trouble filled life, Philipp Nicolai remained a faithful preacher and pillar of Lutheranism. Even in the midst of persecution, plague, and imminent death he found

comfort and joy in his gracious God and Savior and in the proclamation of his saving name to others. We see this confident spirit in his hymn *How Lovely Shines the Morning Star* (CW 79). Often referred to as the "queen of chorales" this hymn was published in 1599 during the time of the great plague in Unna. Originally titled "*A spiritual bridal song of the believing soul concerning Jesus Christ, her heavenly bridegroom, founded on the 45<sup>th</sup> Psalm of the prophet David*" it was published in the appendix of a short treatise he wrote setting down thoughts of comfort and joy in anticipation of his departure from this world and reception into heaven.

*How Lovely Shines the Morning Star* appears in the Epiphany section of *Christian Worship* and the theme of Jesus' revelation as true God and true man is apparent in the first two stanzas. Stanza three focuses on the comfort the Christian takes in his eternal election for the sake of Christ and God's promise to preserve his elect through all circumstances of life. Stanzas four and five focus on the Christian's eager expectation of heaven and the praise filled life that flows from Christ's presence both now in this life and forever in eternal life. These powerful words coupled with a triumphant musical setting make this hymn appropriate not just for the season of Epiphany but any season of our Christian life. For these are the words of a confident and expectant Christian who knows that with Christ we can endure all things with praise on our lips as we look forward to final victory in heaven.

*How lovely shines the Morning Star! The nations see  
and hail afar the light in Judah shining.  
O David's Son of Jacob's race, My Bridegroom and  
my King of grace, for you my heart is pining.  
Lowly, Holy, Great and glorious, O victorious Prince  
of graces, filling all the heav'nly places.*

*Lift up the voice and strike the string, let all glad sounds of music ring in God's high praises blended. Christ will be with me all the way, today, tomorrow, ev'ry day till trav'ling days are ended. Sing out, Ring out triumph glorious, O victorious chosen nation; praise the God of your salvation.*

*(CW 79 st. 1,5)*

## Coming up in February

February 1 Board of Trustees 7:00 PM  
February 3 Board of Education 7:00 PM  
February 8 Church Council 7:00 PM  
February 10 Last Class for Heart in Focus  
February 14 Valentine's Day  
February 15 Home & School Society 6:00 PM  
February 22 Board of Elders

## News from the Voters' Assembly 18 January 2011

The Voters' Assembly met for their quarterly meeting on Tuesday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. The 2010 Annual Report was reviewed. The reports were placed in members' mailboxes. Action was taken by the Voters to approve the Council and Elders recommendations on the following items:

1. In keeping with the consistency in compensation between our called workers that has been our practice, the budget for last year and this year was increased by \$429.50 to provide additional compensation for Pastor Quinn from last July 2010 through **June 2011**. This change is reflected in the Annual Report.
2. Special Offerings designations, which will be received in our special offering envelopes, were set for the following:
  - a. **Palm Sunday** – Crown of Life, Cadillac (a sister mission congregation)
  - b. **Maundy Thursday** – St. Martin, **Roscommon** (a sister congregation)
  - c. **Good Friday** – **Michigan Lutheran Seminary** (one of our Synod's preparatory schools)
  - d. **Easter** – **Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund** (supporting and encouraging the sons and daughters of our congregation

enrolled in our Synod's ministerial education schools)

The midweek **Lenten** offerings have been designated for Good Shepherd's Christian Relief Fund (providing aid to members and others in need).

**If you have any questions please speak with our congregational president, Mr. Mike Krueger, a Church Councilman, or one of the Pastors**

## Forward in Christ

Copies of Forward in Christ have been ordered and when they arrive those who have signed up for them will have them in their mailboxes. .

If you have not paid for your order yet, please put a check for \$10.50 in an envelope and give it to the church office. Please make your check out to Good Shepherd.

## Scripture Readings for February 2011

### February 6 Epiphany 5

**Isaiah 58: 5-9a**

**Psalm 11**

**1 Corinthians 2:1-5**

**Matthew 5:13-20**

### February 13 Transfiguration

**Deuteronomy 30:15-20**

**Psalm 119a**

**1 Corinthians 2:6-13**

**Matthew 5:21-37**

### February 20 Epiphany 7

**Leviticus 19:1, 2, 17, 18**

**Psalm 103**

**1 Corinthians 3:10, 11, 16-23**

**Matthew 5:38-48**

### February 27 Epiphany 8

**Isaiah 49:13-18**

**Psalm 119b**

**1 Corinthians 4:1-13**

**Matthew 6:24-34**

## **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

## **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.

Please see your paper copy of the newsletter for information on our shut-ins.

## **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.

The silk flower arrangements that sometimes decorate our altar are made by two very talented members of Good Shepherd: Susan Pifher and Mary Shaffer. Our sincere thanks and appreciation to them for using their talent in serving our Lord.

## **Losses in Our Lives**

Good Shepherd has had the loss of two very special people in the space of a week. One, Joan Beeman, was a member of Good Shepherd and the other was Elizabeth Pretzer, the mother of Paul and John Pretzer and a member of St. Johns in Hemlock.. Elizabeth and Joan have left the Church Militant to join the Church Triumphant. Our sincere sympathy to the Beeman and the Pretzer families.

### **Elizabeth Louise Pretzer (Seegert)**

Liz was born November 23, 1942 in Oakgrove, Wisconsin to Ervin and Irma (Krause) Seegert. She attended St. Peter's Lutheran School in Oak Grove, WI for grades 1-8. She attended Juneau High School and graduated in 1960. Liz went on to (Doctor) Martin Luther College in New Ulm, MN where she graduated with a teaching degree in 1964. Liz came to Hemlock, Michigan in 1964 to teach at St. Johns Lutheran school grades K-8 and taught for three years. She married Raymond Pretzer on June 24, 1967 and they had 44 blessed and beautiful years together.

Liz was an active member at St. Johns WELS Church in Hemlock as an organist for over 40 year and also loved being a member of the St. John's Altar Guild. She loved to cook and bake for friends and family.

Her favorite saying was, "What can I get you?" followed by a delicious piece of pie, cake or cookies. She loved to play card games, board games with her grandchildren and attended their school functions. Liz was an avid read of books. A perennial favorite that she loved reading from "The Long Winter" by Laura Ingalls Wilder.

Liz went home to be with her Savior on January 22, 2011 after a prolonged battle with cancer. She is survived by her loving husband Raymond and her sons, Paul (Maria), John (friend Ellen) and Matt (Sue). Her grandchildren Meagan, Elisa, Chaim, Liam, Noam, Aaron and Katherine and great grandchild Anwen. She will be greatly missed by her family, friends and all who knew her.

The funeral was held on Wednesday, January 26, 2011 at St. Johns in Hemlock.

### **Joan DeGeer Beeman**

Joan Beeman was born August 14, 1930 to Eugene and Nitina DeGeer in Midland, Michigan. She graduated from Midland High School and was married to Robert Beeman on May 15, 1948. Their marriage was blessed with five children: Michael, Robert, Jr., Connie, Tina and Sue. Eventually their family included 10 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

Joan had many hobbies and enjoyed doing crafts, painting, sewing and quilting. She volunteered at Good Shepherd listening to the children read for extra practice.

Joan died on January 22, 2011. Her funeral will be held at Good Shepherd on Tuesday, February 1st.

### **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.

### **News from MLS**

MLS will host the WELS Boys' Tournament for Small Schools on February 4th and 5th. They will host the WELS boys' Tournament for Large Schools on February 11th and 12th.

The MLS Foundation Dinner & Auction will be held on Sunday, February 13 at 4:00 at Sullivan's Black Forest in Frankenmuth. Tickets are \$30 each of which \$10 directly supports the MLS Foundation. Attendance is limited to 250 so please reserve early. You may make your reservation and payment on line at [mls-foundation.org](http://mls-foundation.org) or by calling the Foundation office 989-793-7511

MLS is offering a \$50.00 discount for applications made by March 15. Our application numbers are very high for this time of year and we thank God for the interest in MLS.

The Science and Fine arts Fair at MLS has been moved back one week to March 12 due too the chapel renovation. Please make note of that on your calendars.

The MLS chapel is undergoing some changes these days. It's a project that actually was scheduled to be done last year in connection with their one hundred year anniversary but was put on hold until this year. The project is being paid for by generous donors who wanted to help us make some improvements in one of the most important places on campus. They will be having chapel services in the gym (morning) and cafeteria (evening) until some time in March..