



Volume 25 Issue 8

September 2009

A message from Pastor Quinn

We study God's Word

The Minor Prophets: Zephaniah

“Be silent before the Sovereign LORD, for the day of the LORD is near” (Zephaniah 1:7).

The “day of the Lord” is a term which appears many times on the pages of Scripture. The first thing we think of when we hear or read that term is usually the Last Day. That is the day the Lord will bring final destruction on his enemies and final deliverance to his people. We eagerly look forward to that day. The term “day of the Lord” is used by the prophets to speak about the final Judgment Day, but also to speak about other judgment days along the way. The day of the Lord is any day when the Lord intervenes to bring judgment on his enemies and deliverance to his people. The prophet Zephaniah focuses on the day of the Lord in his prophecy. Even though he spoke to God’s people over twenty-five hundred years ago we would do well to still listen to his message today. That’s because Zephaniah’s message about being prepared for the day of the Lord is a timeless truth we all need to hear and put into practice.

Zephaniah’s place in history and location of work can be difficult to place. While he does not come right out and say it the internal evidence of his book leads us to believe that he served in Jerusalem during the reign of good King Josiah. Josiah’s great-grandfather was good King Hezekiah. Josiah’s grandfather and father, whose reigns came in between the two good kings, were wicked rulers who led God’s people into idol worship. Josiah brought about religious renewal and a return to the worship of the LORD. This renewal took place with the guidance of the godly advisors who influenced Josiah’s rule. Zephaniah was just such a man. In his prophecy he spoke about the nation being rid of idol worship once and for all. He

must have been a powerful ally for good King Josiah as he went about his work of reform. If the Hezekiah that Zephaniah lists in his genealogy is good King Hezekiah, then the king and the prophet were also relatives—working together to return God’s people to the LORD.

Zephaniah’s message prepares God’s people for the day of the Lord. He speaks of destruction for those who disobey the Lord and follow idols—a destruction that reaches to the end of the world. But the day of the Lord is also a day of rejoicing because God will restore his people and live with them forever. The question Zephaniah leads his readers to ask is this: “How ought we to live since the day of the Lord is near?”

That question is the same that we are led to ask as we read this important book. The great and glorious Day of the Lord—the day when our Savior comes to judge—is ever drawing near for us too. How will we be prepared for his return? How will he find us when he returns? Those are questions that all people need to answer. The answers, of course, are found in God’s Word—the one place where we find what Christ has done to make us ready for his return.

The words of Zephaniah the prophet are timely and timeless. Take the opportunity to read this book on your own.

“On that day they will say to Jerusalem, ‘Do not fear, O Zion...The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save’” (Zephaniah 3:16,17).

Coming up in September

September 1	Ladies Guild
September 7	Labor Day
September 8	Opening LES Service 6:30 PM
September 9	Half-day of LES
September 10	Full LES School Day
September 13	Fall Worship Schedule Begins
September 13	Mission Festival

School News

The opening service for our LES for the school year 2009-2010 will be Tuesday evening, September 8th at 6:30 PM. Wednesday, September 9th will be a half day of school. Thursday and Friday will be regular school hours.

Mission Festival—September 13

Mission Festival Sunday will be September 13th this year. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board for your convenience. It is suggested that each family bring a main dish and a salad or dessert to pass.

Heart in Focus

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 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. It also provides 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.

A workbook for \$10 is necessary for the course. The meetings will begin September 9th from 6:30 to 8:30 and we will meet for six consecutive weeks.

A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. Couples are encouraged to attend together. Please sign up soon as there is some pre-work to do before the course begins.

Scholarship Fund

A special offering for Good Shepherd's scholarship fund will be collected in the back of church on September 20th and September 27th. These scholarships help sons and daughters of our congregation who are training for full time gospel ministry at Michigan Lutheran Seminary, Martin Luther College, and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. Offerings for the scholarship fund are accepted at the church office any time. Please consider this opportunity to help prepare more workers for the harvest field.

We serve others in love.

Ladies Guild

Ladies Guild will have its September meeting this Tuesday, September 1st beginning at 7:00 pm.. Pam Krueger, president of Ladies Guild for the year 2009-2010, will host the group at her home. If you are a regular member or would just like to attend a meeting to see what the group is about, please come to the September 1st meeting. As with any group, the more people we have, the more we can accomplish.

Our first meeting will begin at 7:00 PM with refreshments and fellowship until 7:30. Bible study will follow and after the Bible study, we will have our monthly business meeting.

Little Lambs Bible School

The Little Lambs Bible School will begin at Good Shepherd on Thursday, October 1st and will be held each Tuesday and Thursday from that date on. The children will meet with Mrs. Kim Schuette from 9 to 11 on those days for a Bible story, a craft project, singing and snacks. Children from the age of two years to young five's are welcome to attend this new program.

With the closing of our Preschool, the Board of Education and the pastors thought that there should be something for small children so they may learn about God before they begin LES. Each Tuesday and Thursday there will be a bible story with a craft and singing that will tie in with the bible study for that day. Snacks will also be provided. Children from the age of 2 to young 5's are cordially invited to attend. There is no charge for this new program.

If you know someone who has small children you might pass the word along about our Little Lambs bible School Please contact the church office 989-835-4181 for more information.

We share the Truth with all people.

LWMS Rally

The October LWMS Rally will be held at Emanuel in Tawas City, Michigan on Saturday, October 17 beginning with registration at 10:30 am. Everyone is invited. You do not have to be a member of Ladies Guild to attend any LWMS meeting.

Questions? Please call the church office 989-835-4181.

Meals Needed?

Did you know that one of the services provided by the Ladies Guild at Good Shepherd is providing meals to those who are in need of a hot meal because of illness or some incapacity preventing them from preparing meals at home? Please call the office if you could use a little help with meals or contact Pam Krueger, president of Ladies Guild.

Secret Sisters

Paula Pretzer is in charge of the Secret Sisters for the 2009-2010 year. This year invitations have been put in the mailboxes of all the ladies of the congregation. A form is attached so you may list your favorite colors, your birthday, your hobbies and numerous other things so your Secret Sister will know a little something about you.

If you are unable to celebrate your secret sister's birthday, anniversary, or other special occasions, then please let someone else have the opportunity to do so. Remembering your secret sister monthly should not cause a financial burden to anyone. You do not have to give an extravagant gift. A letter, a scripture quote in a card, or their favorite type of candy bar is enough to brighten someone's day.

Scripture Readings for September

September 6 Pentecost 14

Joshua 24:1, 2a, 14-18
Ephesians 5:21-31
John 6:60-69
Psalm 71

September 13 Pentecost 15

Deuteronomy 4:1,2, 6-8
Ephesians 6:10-20
Mark 7:1-8, 14
Psalm 119c

September 20 Pentecost 16

Isaiah 35:4-7a
James 1:17-27
Mark 7:31-37Psalm 146

September 27 Pentecost 17

Isaiah 50:4-10
James 2:1-5, 8-10, 14-18
Mark 8:27 -35
Psalm 116

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Following is a list of birthdays and anniversaries being celebrated this month by members of Good Shepherd.

Birthdays:

September 5 Sheila Farquharson
September 5 Irvin DeLong
September 13 Len Lehman
September 15 Ben Shaffer
September 16 Brandon Lehman
September 18 Rod Gunsell
September 25 Robert Beeman
September 28 Aaron Pretzer

Anniversaries:

September 1 Gale and Judy Krueger
September 16 Brian and Debbie Marquardt
September 19 Len and Ros Lehman
September 25 Dave and Sue Rummel
September 26 Ben and Heidi Cummings

Our shut-ins

Please call the church for contact information, or see your paper copy of this newsletter.

Besides our regular shut-ins who get our newsletter, Daily Bible Readings and Meditations, we also have a mailing list of those who are not shut-ins but may live in another town and still want to hear about Good Shepherd (like former members). Our monthly newsletter is mailed to 13 people as well as our Daily Bible Readings. Tapes and DVDs are mailed each week to those who cannot attend worship services and several who were on our mailing list now watch our worship services on MCTV, Channel 3.

Choir

At this time Choir will be held each Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM. Amy Lindesmith will once again be the choir leader. If you would like to use your talents by singing in the choir, more voices are always welcome.

Saginaw Pregnancy Counseling Center

Due in part to the current economic situation in Mid-Michigan, they are seeing a record number of clients at the center. For example, on June 15th the Saginaw Center was open from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM and they had eight more clients come for material assistance and one client needed a pregnancy test. Some brought family members or friends with them so they had the opportunity to share Jesus with 12 people in one day.

As information is taken down about each client, including children's birth dates, it's natural to ask if their kids have been baptized. Explaining the reason we all need baptism (that we are all born sinful, spiritually dead and enemies of God) and then sharing the blessings of Baptism (how God washes away sins and adopts us into his family).

Clients come to get things they and their children need and those working at the Center have the privilege of giving them what they need the most, the Gospel. Not only do they hear God's word at the Center, but they are sent home with Bibles, Bible study books and Christ-centered pamphlets.

Receptionists, hotliners and lay counselors are needed right now. Please consider how you could play a roll in this ministry. Pray for the Lord's guidance and see if there is an area where you can serve. For more information please contact the church office, Pam Krueger, or Mary Shaffer.

Currently there is a waiting list for clients needing bassinets, cribs, infant car seats, toddler car seats, booster car seats, changing tables, small dressers. Playpens, high chairs, double strollers, strollers, toddler beds, swings, Exersaucers/walkers and potty chairs.

Altar Flowers

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board if you would like to remember a special occasion with flowers. We order our flowers from the Lil Pear Tree on Main Street in downtown Midland. Flowers are \$40 for two bouquets and \$3 for delivery.