



THE SHEPHERD'S CALL

SPECIAL RECOVERY EDITION

February 27, 2011

The Music Continues ...

Fear not! The instruments in our sanctuary have been protected and they will be ready to play when we finally return to our building.

Immediately after learning of the roof failure, Peter Calabro, Director of Music Ministries, recruited half a minyan of able-bodied men to move the grand piano out of the nave. They removed its legs, hoisted it onto a cradle and dolly, and rolled it down the hall to the choir room where it now resides in a ying-yang fashion with the other piano for the duration of our exile.

Our organ, on the other hand, can only be moved with great cost and potential damage to mechanical and electronic systems so protecting it in place is the best option. We have wrapped the pipes and the console in heavy-gauge contractor's plastic and further secured the console from potential falling debris with a wooden case. Geovanni Santos, our sexton, built the case for the console and bench, which makes Peter -- and the rest of us -- somewhat relieved. "I keep dreaming of the organ. Our organ is incredible and it really fits our space perfectly," says Peter.



Instead of practicing organ masterpieces in the loft for the past month, Peter has been preparing special piano preludes and postludes, as well as piano accompaniments for the choir and congregational hymn-singing.

Experimenting with the location of the choir and the Joyful Noisemakers is all part of adapting to our Central School digs. "My first concern is the quality of the worship service," said Peter, "and making it the best we possibly can while we're temporarily away from our beautiful organ."

Ready for Family Promise

The Sunday School rooms and bathrooms have been painted, the floors scrubbed, carpets cleaned, new curtains hung, furniture and bedding readied, and the kitchen stocked for Good Shepherd's first Family Promise guests. Three families will arrive today and for the next week our church will be their home. This new ministry continues a 20-year commitment by Good Shepherd to housing homeless people. For the first time, we will be providing food and shelter to intact families. During a time when we have lost the use of our sanctuary, our ability to help homeless families is particularly meaningful.

God is with us, all the time. All the time, God is with us.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

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