



# THE SHEPHERD'S CALL

SPECIAL RECOVERY EDITION

March 6, 2011

## **Forty Days in the Wilderness, and Counting**

It's been forty days since we were turned out of the sanctuary. They have been important days for Good Shepherd. The congregation has come together to address the challenges of our failing roof. We have experienced an outpouring of good will by our neighbors and friends. We have been able to continue a robust Sunday School and worship at Central School on Sundays and all the other ministries at church from Monday through Saturday. Nevertheless, it has been difficult.

March 9<sup>th</sup> marks the beginning of Lent. It is a reminder of the forty days that Jesus is believed to have fasted in the wilderness – a time of testing -- before beginning his public ministry.

During the next forty days, we will be tested, not just spiritually as we walk towards the cross, but physically as we find ourselves still in the wilderness, away from our church.

## **Forward Progress**

A limited Certificate of Occupancy has been issued to allow partial use of Fellowship Hall and the elevator!

Also, late this week we received the forensic engineering report prepared by an engineering company hired by our insurance company. The report describes some possible methods of restoration that will be evaluated. This step has also enabled our insurance company to engage two construction companies for estimating the cost of repairs. Both firms appear well qualified to make the repairs and they have direct experience with the materials and methods in question.

Until we know what the recommended alternatives may be in terms of their aesthetics, cost, and time to implement, we cannot speculate on when the sanctuary might be fit for use. While we have no official word from Church Mutual that they have accepted the claim, these events seem to move us in a positive direction.

## **Family Promise Shelter – A Successful Week**

Today, four homeless families, including eight children, concluded their week of living at our church. Our guests particularly appreciated the privacy they were afforded while at Good Shepherd. Each of four Sunday School rooms was transformed by the shelter committee into a cozy, welcoming bedroom for a mom and her children who ranged in age from one to 17. The chapel was set up as a dining and recreation center with tables for dinner as well as couches where the kids watched TV and played games. Volunteers from three other churches supplemented our members to provide meals and stay overnight with our guests. Weekday mornings, our guests were picked up at 6 AM for school and work, but on Saturday morning, they were treated to breakfast prepared by the Luther League. The next week for Family Promise at Good Shepherd begins on Easter Sunday. Could you help?

*While we're in the wilderness, God is with us, all the time. All the time, God is with us.*

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

233 South Highwood Avenue | Glen Rock, NJ 07452 | 201.444.6598 | <http://www.GS.LTHR.NJ.org>