



THE SHEPHERD'S CALL

SPECIAL RECOVERY EDITION

July 31, 2011

Financial Matters

A loan application by Good Shepherd for \$35,000 was submitted this week to the ELCA Mission Investment Fund. Their decision will take 20 days. At the Church Council's direction, the loan amount is intended to cover "open wall" projects that are underway, including:

- HVAC equipment and installation in the ceiling above the choir loft to provide heat as well as air conditioning
- Lighting controls and installation
- Chandelier cleaning and rewiring
- Building permits

According to Eric Seifert, who is coordinating the work of a number of contractors, we will need about \$20,000 in hand quickly to move these projects along.

Informally, several individuals have indicated their willingness to extend a loan to the church. Since the ELCA loan isn't certain and, in any case, will take a month to resolve, borrowing from members is a good alternative. It's also a way for the church to avoid interest expenses.

Scott King, acting as our attorney, has prepared a simple, formal loan agreement that specifies the terms. Members who are earnest about making a loan to Good Shepherd and are in a position to do it soon may request a copy of the agreement from Jon Osborn (josborn@optonline.net) or Ken Gentner (kgentner@optonline.net).

If you can extend a no-interest loan to Good Shepherd, it will be repaid through capital fundraising we expect to do in 2012. Your money would be put to work immediately and our rebuilding project could continue in a timely way.

Visioning Continues

Visioning Clusters have been meeting through the month of July to elicit the opinions of the congregation about various renovation and renewal work that may be undertaken once the Sanctuary is rebuilt. If you were not able to participate in a Cluster meeting, we still want to know what you think! For the next four weeks, questionnaires will be available outside the Central School auditorium as well as online. All members are invited to weigh in. Ask an usher for the paper questionnaire or go to our website and click on "Member Survey."

Budget News

This bears repeating. Offerings for the first half of 2011 met the budget! We are "in the black" – although only slightly – which is a testament to the congregation's response to the Council's call to arms. Since January, the Council carefully tracked income and expenses to insure we met our target and, as promised, with positive cash flow on June 30, **made the decision to keep our staff intact**. Thanks to all for rising to the need.

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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