



# THE SHEPHERD'S CALL

SPECIAL RECOVERY EDITION

May 1, 2011

## Church Mutual Comes Through

Good Shepherd has received a check for just under one-half million dollars from our insurer, Church Mutual, to pay for the repairs to our building. The amount is based on a proposal from Dajon Associates, the construction company, and it may increase if additional damage is uncovered as the repairs get underway. Church Mutual of Merrill, Wisconsin, is a 113-year-old mutual company owned by its customers. It insures over 100,000 religious institutions.

A contract between Good Shepherd and Dajon was signed this week. Work will begin imminently.

## “Open Wall” Decisions

The Recovery Task Force met again this week to decide how best to handle the funds and to prioritize work that could be undertaken in the sanctuary while the roof is being repaired.

“We wouldn’t be good stewards unless we thought ahead about what should be done in the church while the walls are open,” said Jon Osborn, President of the Church Council, “but we’re balancing budget shortfalls and variations in giving that make it difficult to plan.”

Nevertheless, “Dajon will have to remove the chandeliers and the pews and open the ceiling. It’s an unusual opportunity to address some of the building issues that need attention,” added Eric Seifert, Vice President of the Council and the Task Force lead for construction. “The lighting controls, for example, are almost 50 years old; they are at the end of their life and can’t be repaired anymore. We need to replace them and can save money if we do it now,” said Eric.

The Task Force has identified artisans and service providers to provide cost estimates for various projects which include refinishing some of the pews, cleaning and rewiring the chandeliers, replacing the lighting controls, modifying the HVAC, and improving the sound system. “We have to go through the process of pricing and sequencing everything that *might* be accomplished while the sanctuary is torn apart, even if we don’t end up doing it all,” said Ken Gentner who is managing the Task Force, “or we wouldn’t be fulfilling our responsibility to the congregation. We’re approaching this as if it’s our own home. How much more do we need to do beyond what the insurance will cover, in order to be satisfied with the outcome and prudent with our money.” The Task Force will separate **wants** from **needs** and recommend a prioritized list of actions to the Church Council at its May 9 meeting.

## Discussion on May 8; Vote on May 15

On May 8 immediately after the service, the congregation is invited to consider the various “open wall” projects and their costs, hear the thinking of the Task Force, and join the conversation on whether or not to undertake any of them.

Then on May 15 immediately after worship, Church Council has called a special meeting of the congregation to be held in the auditorium of Central School. All members are urged to attend to vote on whether or not to raise the funds for a short list of “open wall” projects as determined by Council.

Please continue to worship, pray, and give of your time, talent, and treasure during this time away from our sanctuary. 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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