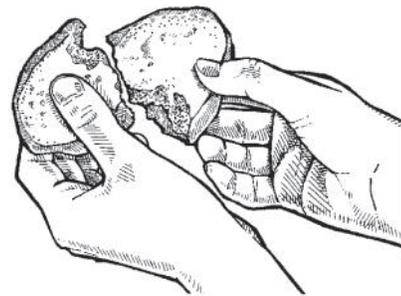


November 2014

Good Shepherd Catholic Church  
Newsletter

# BREAKING BREAD



## ***If You Believe in God, You Believe in Stewardship.***

True stewardship calls us to recognize one simple yet profound truth: everything we have comes from God. Everything we “own” is really on loan from Him. This is what makes us stewards. Stewardship is not a “program”, or a fundraising campaign. Stewardship is not a buzzword or round-about way of asking for more money. As we grow in our understanding of true stewardship we recognize everything as gift. Living stewardship allows us to use our gifts wisely, to the very best of our ability, for the good of God’s Church.

Living as a true steward requires a conversion of the heart; taking us down a path toward a deeper, more meaningful relationship with God. Prayer, worship, reflection; these are the foundational building blocks of faithful stewardship. Stewardship simply defined, is putting our faith first – making God a priority in our lives. Before we can sincerely give any portion of our time, talent and treasure to God, we must give Him ***all*** of our hearts.

In thanksgiving we reflect on all the times in the past year that our parishioners have stepped forward to give of their time, their talent and their treasure. We are aware that sometimes good people feel that they are asked, and asked and asked again – all without the efforts they contribute being recognized. Some wonder, “How much more do they expect from me?” We are very grateful for everything that our parishioners do to build our faith community. The true message of stewardship, however, is not about counting volunteer hours, documenting service or establishing giving requirements. It’s not about how much any church expects of its members. It is about the expectations of our God, and our answer to his final question, “*What have you done with all that I have given to you?*”

- *Stewardship is challenging - challenging each of us to return to the Lord in proportion to the gifts we have received.*
- *Stewardship is demanding – often contradicting the powerful influences of our culture.*
- *Stewardship is personal – stemming from our individual relationship with God.*
- ***Most of all Stewardship is rewarding – in this world and the next.***

As Catholic Stewards, ***We Are Called*** to share, each one in proportion to ability. In the coming weeks you will be encouraged to think and pray about the ways God has blessed your life. You will be invited to consider how your life is enriched by our parish community, and about how you make a difference for others through your support of parish ministries.

# The Diaconate

by Deacon Sandy Sites

Good Shepherd Parish has been blessed with two deacons over our rich history – Deacon Gene and Deacon Sandy. Some may not be fully aware of the charisms and call of the Deacon. The ministry of the Deacon is “service”. The diaconate is one of the three ordained ministries in the Roman Catholic Church, with the presbyterate and the episcopacy. It is a diocesan ministry open to men who are married or single.

Today in the United States, there are nearly 17,000 ordained deacons serving abused children, battered women, the mentally ill, drug addicts, those with HIV/AIDS, the homeless, prisoners, refugees, migrants, rural poor, victims of racial and ethnic discrimination. The deacon preaches, evangelizes and catechizes. Liturgically, he baptizes, witnesses marriages, brings Communion to the sick, and administers the Church’s sacramental. At the Holy Eucharist, the deacon proclaims the Gospel, assists the presider, and is the minister of the cup. In a special way he connects the Church’s worship with its mission of loving service to the poor and needy. Simply put, the deacon makes present Christ and the Church as Servant.

*“Yours is not just one ministry among others, but it is truly meant to be...a “driving force” for the Church’s diaconate. By your ordination you are configured to Christ in his servant role. You are also meant to be living signs of the servanthood of His Church.” (Saint Pope John Paul II, “The Heart of the Permanent Diaconate,” address given in Detroit, 9/19/1987)*



If any in our community are interested in finding out more, and perhaps feel the call to Holy Orders as an ordained deacon, please contact Deacon Sandy at [sitess@archmil.org](mailto:sitess@archmil.org).

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## Growing Faith

by Mike Crain

“Like a tree planted by a running stream”

On Sunday, September 28 the kids from Generations of Faith (GoF) gathered upstairs to learn more about their faith. We call this program Growing Faith and we hope it helps to give context to the things we do together in the GoF program. We have 106 kids from K4 to Grade 11 who are participating in this program. The students meet by grade level with volunteer adults who help them to understand their Catholic faith more clearly.



This new monthly program will help children and adolescents explore being a Catholic in age appropriate ways and think about how being Catholic might impact the way they live. It will reinforce what we do at GoF and provide a systematic presentation of elements of our faith and practice. We will be meeting most months on the fourth Sunday between the Masses.

So if you notice some additional noise and activity in the building between the Masses here at Good Shepherd on the fourth Sunday of the month it’s just our young people Growing Faith.

# Meet *Mark and Lauren Lewis*

By Meriel Christensen



Families like the Lewis' are hard to find these days. Mark is one of nine children and Lauren is one of five. Mark has three sisters and five brothers and Lauren has two sisters and two brothers. Both sets of parents have died so Mark and Lauren are now the new generation. Both were raised Catholic. Mark's parents were Catholic. Lauren's mother was Lutheran and her dad Catholic, so she was raised Catholic. That's how it was before Vatican II.

Lauren has a son from a previous marriage and he will be 31 soon. October 1<sup>st</sup> Mark and Lauren celebrated 20 years of marriage.

Lauren grew up in the Falls, and attended Saint Mary's church. Mark went to Saint Margaret Mary as a boy. They share a very strong faith life and firmly believe that their faith will get them through the toughest times. It doesn't matter if their prayers are ones of Praise to God, strength to get through sad times, or a request for a safe drive home from a wedding in Las Vegas to Wisconsin in February, they trusted in the power of prayer.

Mark is looking forward to retiring in the near future. But as Lauren says, "We'll just have to see about that." He has been selling appliances at Sears, for 20 years and Lauren has worked for Jacobus Energy – fuel supplies, for almost 10 years.

Fun is spelled "l a k e h o m e". The home is on a no wake lake in the Wautoma Area. When there in the summer they attend mass at St. Marks

Parish in Red Granite. Like so many of our families they too like to ride bikes. This past summer they rode the bike path in Stevens Point with Lauren's sister and her husband. It's called the Green Circle Trail and they did the 26 mile loop.

A vegetable garden supplies them with enough tomatoes and peppers, to preserve about 40 jars of salsa. Lettuce, zucchini and broccoli are also some favorite crops. In the front yard is a cherry tree that also provides pies for the winter.

Mark has a passion for cooking and he used to be a pastry chef. If you have attended the yearly appreciation dinner you have eaten his famous cheese cake. Lauren is his sous chef. "Lauren says they make a wonderful team." She really appreciates the fact that Mark shares the credit for the foods they prepare. He says, "It takes the two of us to make it all come together."

Life at Good Shepherd is also busy. Lauren and her son were greeters when he was small. They served coffee and juice after church. Lauren was a loyal member of the Baptism Committee for many years. If you have attended some of the prayer offerings during the seasons of Lent and Advent as well as Ordinary Time you may know the Lewis's. They not only attend them but say they learn so much about themselves as individuals and as a couple, and have made new friends during these events.

Thanks Lauren for adding a new idea for the Family Story, A Pet Peeve. Three words make up her pet peeve. One is *Professional* and the others are *Starter Home*. She says each one of us is professional, no matter what job we do. A janitor or the president of the company deserve the same respect. And a home, is a home, is a home, no matter the size.



We need families  
to feature in  
"Meet the Family".

Please call  
Meriel Christensen  
(414) 353-6376  
or email at  
meriel1204@att.net

# Pastoral Council Meeting Notes

October 6, 2014

Guest visitor, Sharon Ellis expressed concern about the impression that the nearly empty collection baskets might give to parishioners and guests. Since the majority of our financial gifts come through monthly contributions, there is no way for participation in the offering of gifts at every weekend Masses. Sharon felt that it is important for us to remember our gifts of time, treasure, and talent on a regular basis. She suggested that a set of small cards be developed with suggestions of a "gift" for the coming week. These cards could be laminated and reused weekly. People could take a card as they enter, read the suggested message, and place the card in the collection basket at the offering of gifts." The idea was well received and will be sent to the Stewardship Committee

for planning and implementation. Sandy suggested that it might be good to initiate this at the beginning of Advent or Lent. Sharon offered to help in any way she can.

## Monthly Reports

The roof repairs are complete. The first quarter year-to-date financials may show a loss due to a drop in the value of investments; contributions are holding steady.

## Parish Director Report

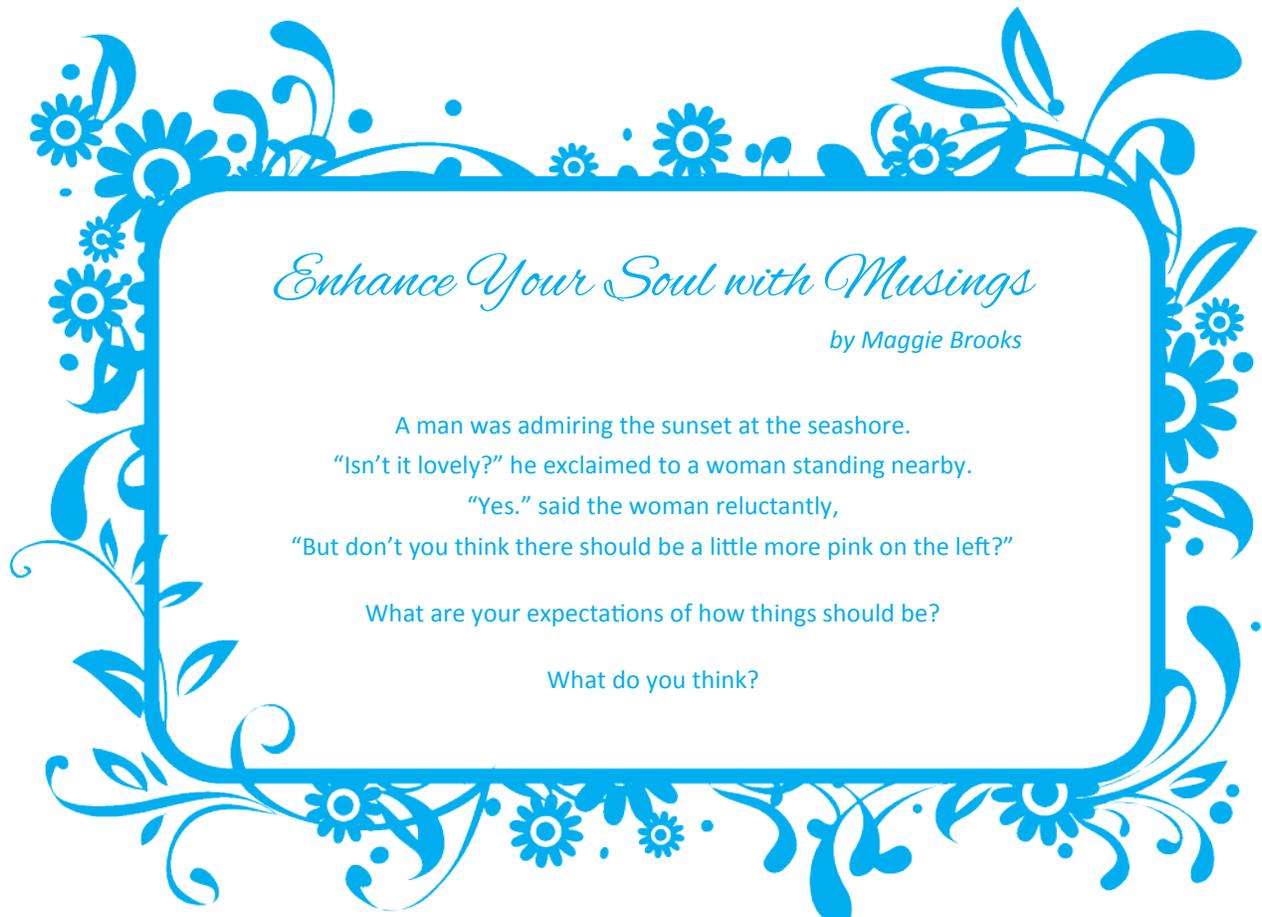
Advent - working on a different approach to include: theme of joyful anticipation, emphasis on simplicity, simplest form of petitions, celebration of silence, no warmup, lower lighting, entering in silence, temporary removal of wall



hangings, no entry song, lighted Advent candle brought in during entry procession.

Stewardship Sunday - November 15 and 16; the Stewardship Committee is working on an active plan.

Good Shepherd Visioning the Future - Strategic Implementation Timeline - basic format presented; Sandy expressed need for a professional organizational development expert to help with development of a plan.



## New Finance Council

by Mark Steimle

Starting on July 1, 2015 Good Shepherd made an important change to our organizational model. In addition to our already existing Pastoral Council, we now have a **Finance Council**.

The Archdiocese has put forth a new set of norms requiring that each parish establish a **Finance Council** to help guide each parish community. The role of the new **Finance Council** is to assist the Pastor, or in our case Parish Director, in the administration of parish assets. This role includes, preparing and reviewing budgets,

monitoring the financial condition of the parish including financial reviews and communication of financial information to the parish community. In the past some of this work was done by the Pastoral Council, particularly the budget aspects. The Pastoral Council has now been freed up to focus on other elements of parish leadership such as parish mission and shaping a vision for the future.

The new **Finance Council** consists of 7 members: the Pastor/Parish Director – Deacon Sandy Sites; 4 Members at

Large- Jeff Bloedorn, Bill Latus, Barb Murphy and Tim Nolan; and 2 members of the Pastoral Council – Jane Goesch and Chuck Koenig. Director of Administrative Services, Mark Steimle serves as a resource to the **Finance Council**.

The **Finance Council** will assume some of the work previously done by the Administrative Services Commission and will be working to establish some committees in the areas of Agenda, Budget, Building and Grounds, Stewardship (jointly with the Pastoral Council) and Personnel.

## A Reflection on Living and Dying

by Mary Ann Erdtmann

As we remember our deceased loved ones during the month of November and all those in the Communion of Saints who have gone before us, it might prompt us to also think about our own dying and death.

Death is a reality and yet it's like the elephant in the room. It's there, but nobody wants to talk about it. We prepare a will, take out insurance and preplan funeral arrangements, but how do we prepare for dying? As I age, I think about my own dying, not in a morbid way, but how I can prepare for my death, to not be afraid, to accept letting go of life as I know it.

I was also moved to think about my dying at a recent retreat during which a video was shown on "The Gift of Life: Death and Dying, Life and Living" by Fr. Thomas Keating, a Trappist monk. He gave some beautiful insights on the intertwining of life and death and the presence of God in all of it.

I am aware of the cycle of life and death in the various seasons. At this time of year, the flowers are gone and tree limbs are bare. But we know come spring, plants will come to life again.

Dying and letting go are part of life. We do that every day. We let go of favorite toys as we grow older; we let go of living with parents as we marry or start a job. We let go of children as they go off to college and leave home. These "letting go's" prepare us for the final letting go of life as we know it. But each letting go makes way for something new. As people of faith, we believe that the final letting go is not leaving life, but entering into it more fully in eternity.

In talking about death, I do not want to gloss over the pain and grief of losing a loved one. That is very real. I remember the intense grieving I experienced when my husband Ralph died. How I missed his physical presence, his smile, his putting his arm around me. And at the same time I trusted that he is with the Lord.

So maybe the best way for me to prepare for dying is to live fully, to live in the present moment.

The Good News is that God is present, in our living and dying. We strive to become more aware of God in life until we share in the full awareness of God's presence in eternal life.



By Laverne Schoonover

**It's Flu Season Once Again**

Have you had your annual flu shot yet? It's not too late! Some people hesitate getting the shot because either they or someone they know seemed to have experienced side effects afterwards. The flu vaccine does not contain the live virus, so if someone has experienced an adverse reaction after receiving it, it most likely was because they already had the virus before receiving the vaccine.

There is a new study that suggests that flu shots significantly reduce the risk of stroke. According to a report from the Massachusetts General Hospital news letter: "An analysis of data on more than 47,000 adults who experienced a stroke or a TIA (mini stroke) between 2001 and 2009 linked having a flu shot with a 24% reduced risk for stroke in the 12 months following vaccination.

The flu shot was most effective in lowering risk for stroke in individuals who were vaccinated early in the flu season, and did not significantly affect risk for a mini-stroke, according to a report on the research published online January 28,2014 in the journal, "Vaccine".

The flu shot is thought to help prevent stroke by reducing vulnerability to respiratory infections that put stress on the cardiovascular system. Earlier work by the same researchers linked flu shots with lower risk for heart attacks."

So please don't hesitate, and don't be afraid, get your shot! The flu is nasty business.



By Mary Kult

**Save the Date!!!  
Winter Market  
December 7th, 2014  
at Good Shepherd**

**Supporting the Spiritual Integrity of Rural Life and Farming**

Since 2004 a major emphasis has been linking farmers to consumers through MARKETS AND MEALS FOR HOPE held in local churches in the winter months. These markets and meals have provided farmers with increased sales and marketing opportunities in the winter season while educating consumers about the importance of buying locally- raised produced food.

Food stations will be set up for a meal of foods prepared with products of participating farmers.

Participating farmers selling their products [if they reach a gross threshold of \$150] donate 10% of their proceeds to HARVEST OF HOPE FUND. HAREST OF HOPE helps farmers meet emergency financial assistance to farmers in need.

**WHY HOST A MARKET?**

- Provide a public market to buy farmstead food, fiber, and bath products for your own household. Also a GREAT IDEA FOR GIFT GIVING THIS CHRISTMAS!!!
- PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE FARMING METHODS AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE FOR LOCAL FARMERS.
- ENCOURAGE EATING WHOLESOME LOCAL FOODS. This helps to cut negative environmental impact of food and food production, since agriculture-related transportation burns up 20% of all fossil fuel used annually in the UNITED STATES.
- Generate relationships between consumers and food producers.
- Helps with donations to the Harvest of Help Fund.

Please put December 7th on your calendar. Consider purchasing some of the products for Christmas Gifts. Support Generation of Faith who will be assisting with the market as part of their faith shared learning. Look for further information in the bulletin and December's Breaking Bread.



*Celebrating Baptisms*  
**Kevin & William Manfredi**  
**Emery John Schiller**  
**Katelyn Allie Stelpflug**



*Welcoming New Members*  
**~ Jim and Sue Yenter**  
**~ Jessica and James Gehrke**

**BREAKING BREAD**

Furthering the spiritual growth of the Good Shepherd Community by providing an inspirational view of parish life.

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