

Merry Christmas



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[www.goodshepherdlink.org](http://www.goodshepherdlink.org)

## December Calendar

[Click Here To See Our December Calendar](#)

## E-NEWS Feedback!



Greetings and welcome to Good Shepherd's ... December, 2011 "Shepherd's Staff" E-Newsletter!

We continue to encourage your feedback on what you like or concerns you may have with E-news. Please e-mail Sue Carlson at [office@goodshepherdlink.org](mailto:office@goodshepherdlink.org) with your feedback.

If you would like to receive E-News from Good Shepherd go onto our website at [www.goodshepherdlink.org](http://www.goodshepherdlink.org) on the front page and find Sign-up for E-News!

Thank you...we value your feedback!

## The Season of Advent...*Anticipation & Hope*



Advent is marked by a spirit of expectation, of anticipation, of preparation, of longing...  
Join Good Shepherd for worship during Advent at 7:00 pm on the following dates:

- Wednesday, November 30
- Wednesday, December 7
- Wednesday, December 14

## Advent by Candlelight - for Women



When? **Sunday, December 4**, 6:30-8:00 pm.

Mark your calendar now as we look ahead to this special time of the year where we seek to prepare our hearts for the celebration of Jesus' birth.

This worshipful evening will be filled with a Christ-centered program, great desserts, warm fellowship and wonderful music.

If you would like to hostess/co-hostess a table or have questions please contact Val Hicke at 763-780-8398.

# Christmas at Good Shepherd



Unlike any other baby, the one born that night in Bethlehem was unique in all of history. He was not created by a human father and mother. He was a heavenly pre-existence (John 1:1-3,14). He is God, the Son-Creator of the universe (Philippians 2:5-11). This is why Christmas is called the incarnation, a word which means "in the flesh." In the birth of Jesus, the eternal, all-powerful and all-knowing Creator came to earth in the flesh.

Why would God do such a thing? Why would he come as a baby, instead of appearing in power and majesty? Why make himself a true man and live among us, when he knew full well how terribly he would be treated?

It was LOVE! It was necessary, if you are to be saved!

## **Sunday, December 18**

The Sunday School children will sing at the 9:00 & 10:30 worship services.

## **Christmas Eve- Saturday, December 24**

*Family Christmas Eve Service-4:00 pm...* geared for the children but enjoyed by everyone. There will be a wonderful message of the gift of Christmas...Jesus Christ, along with Christmas carols.

*Christmas Eve 6:00 PM Service...*this service welcomes you and the community to enjoy Christmas carols, special lighting, and a message of hope through the birth of our Lord and Savior!

## **Christmas Day - Sunday, December 25**

Join us to celebrate the joy of Christmas morning at our **10:00 am** worship service with carols and a message of God's amazing love for the world.

# The Giving Tree



## **Giving Tree...Share the Christmas Spirit With Friends in Need!**

1. Pick as many gift card tags as you'd like off the "Giving Tree" in the church lobby.
2. Purchase the gift cards in any dollar amount you choose from Target, Walmart, Cub, Festival Foods, and Holiday gas (please write dollar amount on card).
3. Place the gift card in the drop off box on the Welcome Center any time through December 25. Gift cards are always needed throughout the year for families in need.
4. Good Shepherd will distribute the gift cards to families in need from our congregation and families to whom we minister to in the community.

## **Christmas Wishes!**

*Good Shepherd's Women's Ministry Team* would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas!

A reminder of events to look forward to:

**Advent by Candlelight** - *Sunday, December 4, 6:30-8:00 pm*

**Breakfast, Bibles & Blessings** - *Saturday, January 28, 2012 - 9:00-11:30 am.*

Detailed information will be available in January... all women are welcome!

May God's richest blessings be yours!

*Good Shepherd Women's Ministry Team,*

Val Hicke, Kristine Sherman, Kim Huso, Sue Carlson & Carrie Hoshaw

# True SPIRITUALITY...according to Jesus

## Beginning January 4th on Wednesday Nights

by: Chip Ingram

President and Teaching Pastor, Living on The Edge Ministry

Chip Ingram author of *Living on the Edge* challenges us to reflect on how Jesus defines true spirituality? True spirituality is not religious activity or keeping religious rules...it is lived out in life's key relationships as we love God and love people. So the more important question becomes...how close is your relationship with Jesus Christ?

*True SPIRITUALITY according to Jesus* is a DVD small group series by Chip Ingram that teaches us through God's word how being a genuine disciple of Christ flows out of a relationship with Him. It's about experiencing God's grace, not earning His love through performance. A real relationship with Jesus Christ will produce a follower whose life looks progressively more like His life. Romans 12 provides a relational profile of an authentic disciple. Christians who live out this kind of lifestyle are what Chip Ingram refers to as 12 Christians.

God is willing to go deeper and help you become like Jesus...are you ready?  
R12 Christian...

- Surrendered to God Romans 12:1
- Separate from the world Romans 12:2
- Sober in self-assessment Romans 12:3-8
- Serving in love Romans 12:9-16
- Supernaturally responding to evil with good Romans 12:17-21

Romans 12 is an executive summary (the Cliffs Notes) of what a fully mature follower of Jesus looks like. It's the Apostle Paul's syntheses of Jesus' teaching on discipleship.

Romans 12 is the START HERE for the Christian life. It's not everything, but if you're struck-START HERE; if you are a new believer and unsure how to grow-START HERE; if you are a mature believer and are looking for a pathway to disciple others-START HERE.

Are you ready for the journey of your lifetime?

### **START on Wednesday nights 6:00 to 6:45 PM:**

January 4, 2012 - Session 1: what is true spirituality?

January 11, 2012 - Session 2: giving God what He wants the most

January 18, 2012 - Session 3: getting the very best from God

January 25, 2012 - Session 4: coming to grips with the real you

February 1, 2012 - Session 5: experiencing authentic community

February 8, 2012 - Session 6: overcoming the evil aimed at you

Please contact Carrie Hoshaw, Director of Family Ministry at 763-784-8417 or [carrie@goodshepherdlink.org](mailto:carrie@goodshepherdlink.org) with questions.

## Family Fun Fiesta Night



Good Shepherd will once again host **Family Fun Fiesta Night** on **March 2, 2012**. The event will include food, a chili cook-off competition, games, silent auction and a charitable drawing. All funds raised at this event will go towards church improvements and youth activities.

If you would like to donate an item(s) for the raffle or silent auction or offer your help, please contact Carmen Binger at [rcbinger@comcast.net](mailto:rcbinger@comcast.net) . A good time to shop for silent auction items would be during the upcoming holiday season when there are a lot of great deals!

## Marriage Ministry Event



### Marriage Ministry Event Save the dates...Feb. 10-11!

Marriage ministry is presenting a weekend conference right here at Good Shepherd Church. It will be held **February 10-11** (Friday night and Saturday). The conference is called the Art of Marriage and it is a DVD based teaching presented by Family Life, a ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ. Family Life presents this conference in various cities in the U.S., but we are bringing it right here to Good Shepherd...how convenient! Please mark your calendar and plan to join us. If you have children, find care for them and take this time to strengthen your family by strengthening your marriage! It is for all married couples no matter where you are on your journey.

Also in the plans for marriages is a short Bible study about finances coming in March. We all can benefit from knowing what God's Word says about finances! Keep watching the newsletter for more details.

If you have any questions regarding these opportunities, please contact Brent and Kristine Sherman at 651-784-7688.

## Ladies Tuesday Morning Bible Study



Ladies Tuesday morning Bible Study is from 9:30-11:00 am in the lower level of the church. We will continue our study on "The Unexplained - mystical experiences, near death experiences, dreams, demons, and angels," seeing what the Bible has to say about these topics.

All ladies are invited to be a part of this study, please call Charlene Behne at 763-784-8320.

**Study dates in December: 6 & 13. Due to Christmas activities, there will be no Bible Study on December 20 and 27. We will resume meeting on January 3, 2012.**

## Women's In-Depth Bible Study



This Bible Study meets approximately two times per month on Monday evenings from 6:30-8:00 pm in the lower level youth room and is open to all women. The study for this year is "Jesus: The One and Only" (*a Beth Moore series*) which includes: viewing a DVD, discussion, and prayer time. If you have questions regarding this Bible Study, please contact the church office at 763-784-8417.

You are welcome to drop-in any time with no long-term commitment. Check us out!

**Study Dates:** December 5; January 9 & 23; February 6 & 27; March 19; April 2.

## Men's Bible Study



Men's Bible Study is 6:30-8:00 pm in the lower level of the church.

**Study Dates:** December 5; January 9 & 23

## WINGS News



The WINGS (Women in God's Service) group will meet on **Tuesday, December 13** at 7:00 pm in the lower level of the church for an evening of Christmas fellowship featuring carol singing, games, sharing the Christmas gospel, etc.

Please bring a snack to share for six to eight people.

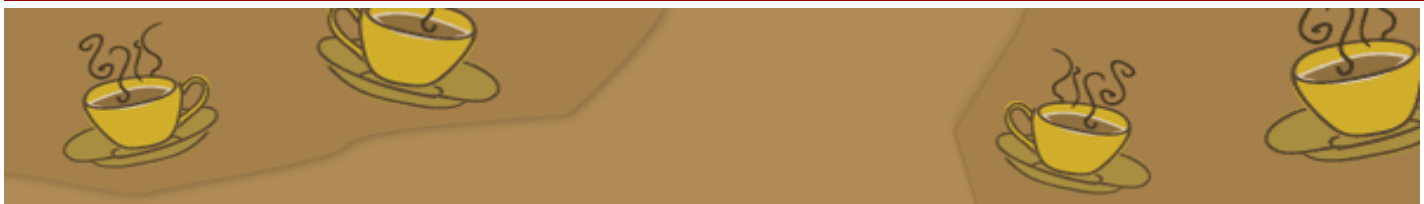
All ladies are invited to attend. If you have any questions please call Charlene Behne at 763-784-8320.

## Women's Ministry Information

Stop by the *Welcome Center* in the church lobby to pick up a "hot pink" flyer with dates and times for Women's Ministry activities for the rest of 2011 and 2012. *Articles are included in this newsletter with detailed information.* We always encourage you to invite others to attend. Information can also be found at [www.goodshepherdlink.org](http://www.goodshepherdlink.org).

- Women's In-Depth Bible Study (Beth Moore DVD series)
- Breakfast, Bibles & Blessings
- Advent by Candlelight

## Breakfast, Bibles & Blessings for Women



Join us for a single session study for women on selected **Saturdays throughout the year**. We encourage you to invite a friend.

The morning includes:

- Continental Breakfast
- Music, DVD lesson, discussion & prayer
- Children's Ministry will offer programming on these dates for children 3 years through 5th grade to help support mom's who want to attend.

**Mark your Calendar for the following dates: January 28 and March 24**

**TIME: 9:00-11:30 am**

## Introducing...Knit Together!



**A New Good Shepherd Ministry,** "Knit Together" is a service ministry designed to reach out with Christ's love through the gifts of handmade items to bring comfort, joy and blessings to those who mourn, parents of a new child and those facing health issues.

People of all ages will knit or crochet prayer shawls, baby blankets, hats & booties, cancer kerchiefs and lap blankets. Sewing items are welcome also. This will mostly be done by individuals on their own over the winter months.

Please visit the Welcome Center display for more information and take a flyer. Together, we can make a difference!

*Psalm 139:13 - "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb."*

## Thanksgiving Altar Food Collection Update!



An opportunity was set-aside for everyone at Good Shepherd during this Thanksgiving Season to donate a bag of food to the local Centennial Food Shelf.

**We are happy to report that 746 lbs. of food was collected!**

Your donations will truly bless families in need during this holiday season. Thank you for caring and sharing!

# Normal is not Enough...

*Acquire the Fire Youth Event 2012*

## NORMALS NOT ENOUGH

Minneapolis, MN... February 3-4, 2012

The Acquire the Fire Youth Event is open to High School students 9th -12th, registration forms are available in the youth room. If you have questions please contact Carrie Hoshaw at [carrie@goodshepherdlink.org](mailto:carrie@goodshepherdlink.org) or 763-784-8417. **Cost to attend this youth event is \$50.00 per person.**

### EVENT FEATURES:

- **Biblical Teaching** - Practical application of scripture for everyday life that results in life change.
- **Relevant Speakers** - Living a godly life and successfully navigating the culture by cutting through the lies that surround us every day.
- **Youth Leader Training** - Helping parents relate and address the difficult issues that teenagers face. Clear teaching for parenting in a culture that is hell bent on destroying their kids.
- **Serious Worship** - Creating an atmosphere of life-altering, face to face time with God.
- **Great Bands** - Bands who play great music AND truly live their lives as ministers of the Gospel.
- **Compelling Drama** - Story-lines and characters dealing with the issues our ATF teens experience everyday in their own lives and see in the lives of their friends. They find themselves in the story and see that it is possible to find freedom in Christ.

### ***What Jesus did on the cross wasn't normal ... neither are His followers!***

In this "me first" culture there is a venomous lie poisoning the hearts of American youth. That lie ... that normal is enough.

The normal life says take the path of least resistance ... it's easier that way. But the path of least resistance makes crooked rivers and crooked men ... Normal's Not Enough!

The world says that normal is just getting by in the shallow stagnate waters of a self-centered life ... but Normal's Not Enough!

Much of today's popular "cotton candy Christianity" tastes sweet but lasts only for a moment. A diet consisting only of this kind of "normal" gospel is making this generation sick ... killing them. These "cotton candy Christians" dissolve in water and melt at the first sign of fire, living their lives in a cardboard box of false security shielding their dear little delicate constitution. Normal's Not Enough!

Today's "Normal" culture creates a suffocating vacuum into a lifestyle of powerlessness; paralyzing its victims with apathy and boredom. People want to be different, but they are not sure what to do to get there. Many have attempted to break out of the clutches of the "normal" life by partying, getting involved in sports, music, or fashion but those activities simply lead deeper into a shriveled dying "normal" life ... because Normal's Not Enough.

**You were made for so much more than merely NORMAL.** What Jesus did on the cross wasn't normal ... neither is what He calls His followers to. God is looking for people that will be set apart and totally sold out for God! This has often been scoffed at, criticized or even violently opposed. But it is without exception the

will of God. We know that spiritual barrenness always follows rampant mediocrity. This generation of youth is NOT looking for a new definition of Christianity ... rather a NEW demonstration of Christianity. Because Normal's Not Enough!

This is our hallowed moment, our clarion call for action. If we will unshackle ourselves from the things of this world and give ourselves wholly for 27 hours to God ... He will grip this generation with cause and a vision that will drive back the dark angel of complacency and destruction ... the world has never been moved by ... the mildly motivated. The time for fresh fire is now. Normal's Not Enough!

**Heaven and earth collide over 27 hours.** Acquire The Fire infuses powerful messages, and anointed worship that are far reaching, life changing, and pattern breaking. ATF's purpose is to bring thunderous volume and clarity to God's voice and amass a generation of passionate radicals that engage a full-on assault on the kingdom of darkness.

## Many Thanks!



Thank you to the Good Shepherd's First Impressions Team (Nancy Skallman, Darci Gawthrop, Cheryl Eggenberger, Colin Mansell, Lisa Mansell, Mel Belford and Val Hicke) for making our church look festive and welcoming during this very special Christmas Season.

## Prayers



*If you have a prayer request that you would like forwarded on to the "Prayer Team" please contact the church office at 763-784-8417 or [office@goodshepherdlink.org](mailto:office@goodshepherdlink.org).*

Continue to pray for Good Shepherd's congregation and staff.

Pray for all those who are suffering in any way, give them hope and peace of mind and continued reassurance. Healing for the sick; safety for our troops; struggles from losing a loved one; marriages that are in trouble; financial struggles; the unemployed, that they find jobs soon; for our country.

We give thanks to our Lord and Savior for all the blessings He bestows on us each and every day, whether they are big or small.