

We regret that the editor of *'The Flock'* is experiencing some challenges and needs to take a breather. However, we do understand and hope that things quiet down. Meantime, we keep Corky Pinette, and her family, in our thoughts and prayers. And so, dear reader, here is a brief newsletter regarding the goings on at Good Shepherd this Lent.

We regret that our "miracle" organist, Martha Runnerstrom, finds that the job is too physically arduous and has resigned. We hope for better health for Martha. We are most grateful for The Rev. Dale Holden and Ms. Camille Pierce, who are offering us their musical talents as they are able, while we regroup! If anyone knows of someone who would like the job, which pays the going rate, let us know.

There will be a Lenten Bible Study each Sunday after church. This will be a fun exploration of the Old Testament, starting at "day one," Genesis, which in Hebrew is named "bereshit", or "in the beginning." The Old Testament is foundational to the Jewish, Christian, and Muslim faiths. We are all "people of the book."

As is the custom, there will be a series of 7PM Wednesday evening ecumenical Lenten services, where different area churches host the evening service, while the preaching is done by ministers from other denominations. Good Shepherd will host the service on March 11 with either Father Dave or Deacon Al from St. Mary's preaching. Leslie+ will preach at the Hodgdon Methodist Church on April Fool's day! Come if you dare! For the other offerings there is a posting on the bulletin board.

The Youth Flock and their leaders have experienced "Night Watch" at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City. It sounds like the whole experience was pretty neat, including spending the night at our own St. Luke's Cathedral and having the Dean give them a personal tour. We're told a high point was Compline in the lovely side chapel at St. Luke's. They're planning a slide show and story sharing in the near future, during the worship service at Good Shepherd. This should be very special.

Now, dear readers, just a little word from Leslie+. "Lent is a season that can be challenging, can be daunting, can be ignored, or can feed the hungry thing inside us after a long, dark, very cold winter. Lent offers food for the soul and warmth for the spirit if we know where to seek these things. As the days grow longer, even if the weather wears us down, sunlight bears us up. If we are weary, going the extra mile to attend special services in the company of other Christians who are giving their best can warm us as well. Spending ourselves in special acts of prayer, or giving, or contemplation, or reading of the Bible in a disciplined way, adds strength to our spiritual "backbone" that we will need in the easier days of my own favorite time, "ordinary time." Lent is for strengthening us, for sitting quietly connecting with God, and for touching others in community, which is where we serve and find Jesus. I bid you a holy Lent."