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**Good Shepherd
Lutheran Church**

Press Release

Good Shepherd Announces "A Heart For Cedar Park" Mission & Service Event

Church members set goals of collecting 16,000 food items, distributing thousands of cookies, and hosting a blood drive in one day (beginning at 8am).

Cedar Park, Texas, February 14, 2004:

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church has declared Sunday, February 15, 2004, as "A Heart For Cedar Park" Day. Each church member will show that heart as they respond to challenges to give forty food items to a local food bank, bake and give away forty cookies, and donate blood. With 700 active members the donations are expected to make a noticeable impact.

"We have roughly 400 active families so we're envisioning what 16,000 food items could do to replenish the empty shelves of Hill County Community Ministries' Food Bank," said Rev. Richard Goodwill, Senior Pastor of Good Shepherd. "We're excited to see how the day goes."

Throughout the day, members will crisscross Cedar Park and surrounding areas to deliver cookies they have baked as a gesture of love toward police, firemen, teachers, and other community servants. "We wanted to thank and serve those who have served us, and nothing says 'We love you!' quite like cookies," said Rev. Jerry McNamara, Good Shepherd's Administrative Pastor.

More than eighty-five people have also signed up to donate blood—a response that came as a pleasant surprise to local blood bank officials. A visual display of red balloons will grow with each donor. Other events include morning services focusing on God's people moving out in mission, and a Mission Fair between services to show outreach and service opportunities around Cedar Park and the world. Events begin at 8am and reach their peak near 10:30am.

The "A Heart For Cedar Park" was planned for Valentine's weekend, and is also in conjunction with the church's 40 Days Of Purpose spiritual journey. Members have been gathering in groups to study, read, and pray about God's purposes for their lives and their church. "There's a real buzz at our church right now," shared Susan Johnson, the chair woman for the 40 Days of Purpose program that is sponsoring the "Heart For Cedar Park" event. "People are energized by the experience of not living for themselves, but for God and others."

The 40 Days journey culminates with a Celebration service at Vista Ridge High School on Sunday, February 22, at 10:00am.

PRESS NOTE: Members of the press are welcome to attend and photograph any aspect of "A Heart For Cedar Park" at any time. Interviews with organizers or participants can be arranged on site, or by contacting Rev. Jerry McNamara at 512.632.7336 or Susan Johnson at 512.914.9916.