

Serving Opportunities

Ten Ways to Serve Shepherd of the Valley

As a group:

1. Volunteer to do childcare in the nursery during a Lenten, Easter, or other special service. For more information, contact Debbie Hoff at dhoff@shepherd-lutheran.org.
2. Offer to usher as a group for a Lenten, Easter, or other special service. For more information, contact Jill Wurm at jwurm@shepherd-lutheran.org.
3. Offer to greet as a group for a Lenten, Easter, or other special service. For more information, contact Jill Wurm at jwurm@shepherd-lutheran.org.
4. Prepare (at the time or ahead of time) baked goods to have available for the next funeral service held at Shepherd. For more information, contact Jill Wurm at jwurm@shepherd-lutheran.org.
5. Participate in outdoor maintenance opportunities, such as snow shoveling, spring clean-up, or landscaping days. Watch the Sunday Bulletin for more details on these opportunities.
6. Bring in a special snack or dessert for the church staff to show appreciation for their efforts.
7. Help with preparation, set-up, or serving for a church event, such as the Parent Seminar on Feb 6, 2010. To learn about scheduled events, contact the church office manager at office@shepherd-lutheran.org or check the church calendar at shepherd-lutheran.org/calendars/events_cal.
8. Identify a ministry within the church and commit to praying for the ministry staff. At the end of the small group session, send a note to let the staff know that you have been praying for their ministry and how much you appreciate their commitment.
9. Select a ministry area within the church that touches the hearts of many of the group members. Contact the director of that ministry and request a 'wish list' of items that could help them in their ministry. Purchase the item(s) as a group, pray over them, asking God to make them useful in the mission of that ministry, and present them to the director with a note of thanks.
10. At 1 o'clock pray for one minute for one member of the church staff.

Ten Ways to Serve Your Group

1. Stay after the group meeting to help the host/hostess clean-up.
2. Agree to coordinate a service project for your group.
3. Agree to coordinate a social event for your group.
4. Volunteer to e-mail prayer requests to group members between meetings.
5. Randomly select someone in your group to bless unexpectedly. Engage the rest of the group in the surprise. Consider preparing a meal, writing notes of appreciation, cleaning their home, or celebrating a special milestone in their life.
6. Select a book you know someone in your group would really enjoy and bring it to them at your next meeting.
7. Emphasize the importance of being transparent with your group by modeling it during your meetings. Share with them your struggles and how God has used them to bring you closer to Him.
8. Invite a group member to spend time with you (meet for coffee, lunch, a walk, etc) so you can get to know each other better.
9. Have each group member write their prayer requests on slip of paper and place them in a pile in the center of the group. Have each member select a request and agree to provide follow-up and encouragement to that group member before the next meeting. This could be done by e-mail, phone, or sending a card.
10. At 1 o'clock pray for one minute for one member of your small group.

Serving Opportunities

Ten Ways to Serve Your Family

1. Take on one of the 'jobs' of a family member without being asked (making dinner, taking out the trash, paying the bills, etc)
2. Select one family member each night to be the 'special guest' at dinner. Then go around the table and allow everyone a chance to share how that person is special to them.
3. Turn off the TV and play a game.
4. Have the family identify someone they think needs to know Jesus. Then pray as a family for that person and for the opportunity to show the love of Jesus with them.
5. Invite a family member (child, sibling, parent, cousin, aunt or uncle) to spend time with you (meet for coffee, lunch, a walk, etc). Emphasize that many people don't have someone in their life that would sacrifice their time just to be with them.
6. Write a note to a member of your family expressing your gratitude for having them in your family.
7. Select a day to 'fast' from yourself and put the needs of your family members before your own.
8. Fill your spouse's gas tank when you know it is needed.
9. Plan a family service project (visit a nursing home, serving at ServeFest, delivering food to a shelter, etc).
10. At 1 o'clock pray for one minute for one member of your family.

Ten Ways to Serve Your Neighborhood/Community

1. Shovel the driveway of a busy neighbor.
2. Think of someone who annoys or irritates you and then find a way to serve them.
3. Identify a widow/widower in your community and have a group member call them to see what needs she has. Find a way for the group to meet one of her needs.
4. Plan a teacher-appreciation celebration at a local school, perhaps for a specific grade. Bring the teachers home-make cookies and notes of appreciation for their commitment and hard work.
5. Select a local government agency your group could serve, perhaps a firefighter, police office, or mayor. You might take a plate of cookies to the fire station near where your group meets.
6. Arrange for your group to join Dick Reed in visiting local senior residences. Contact Dick at 651.274.5279 or richardreed@aol.com.
7. Watch the bulletin for member news, such as births, deaths, and anniversaries. Send a card from the group to these members recognizing and praying for their celebrations or challenges.
8. Host a gathering of friends and ask each to bring a recipe to exchange. Make one or two of the recipes in quantity and distribute to neighbors or to an ailing friend.
9. At the end of the session, host a Visitors' Day in your small group and encourage each member to bring a friend. Use it as an opportunity to preview the curriculum for the next session. Follow-up with each visitor with an invitation to join your group for the next session.
10. Participate in ServeFest, a group that meets every-other-Saturday at SOV and performs random acts of service and kindness in our community. See the Events calendar on the Shepherd website (shepherd-lutheran.org) for details on dates and times of the event.

Serving Opportunities

Ten Ways to Serve a Stranger

1. Challenge yourself to see strangers as Jesus sees them, reminding yourself that each person is created in His image and matters to Him. Ask God to show you what you can do to make your next encounter with a stranger glorify Him.
2. Creatively put together a care package to send to a soldier and include a note indicating you are praying for them. Go to military.com/benefits/resource/support-our-troops for details on how to prepare and send a package.
3. Ask group members to gather gently used clothing and bring it to your next small group meeting. Read Matthew 25:35-40 and pray for the recipients of the clothing. Have one group member bring all the clothing to the Salvation Army or other worthy charity.
4. Similarly, ask group members to bring non-perishable food items to your next meeting, read Matthew 25:35-40, and pray for the recipients of the food. Have one group member volunteer to deliver the food to a local foodshelf.
5. Prepare and serve meals at Loaves and Fishes the first Wednesday of each month. Contact Nancy Fesler at 651.436.7371 for more information.
6. Visit a Senior Citizens' center and help with social activities, or make regular visits to a senior home.
7. Participate in 'Drive thru difference' by paying for the order of the person in the car behind as a way to bless their day.
8. Donate blood through the American Red Cross. Dates and locations of blood drives in Eastern Washington, Polk and St. Croix counties are posted on their website (scvarc.org/services/blooddrives).
9. As a group, begin to collect pop off the tabs from your pop or other beverage cans, soup cans, pet food cans, tennis ball containers, etc. Return collected tabs to participating McDonalds or to Kristin Lagus. Consider volunteering as a group when you bring the collected tabs directly to the Ronald McDonald House of the Twin Cities (rmhtwincities.org/group_volunteering.html). The House is located at 818 Fulton Street SE, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414, 612.331.5752.
10. Watch the bulletin for additional serving opportunities, such as Habitat for Humanity, the Keran Community, and the Honduras mission trip.

See attached list for other local serving opportunities.

Serving Opportunities

Please call ahead of time to confirm service opportunities and number of participants.

Ronald McDonald House

When: Varies

Where: 818 Fulton Street SE, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414

Contact: 612.331.5752

Description: To provide a caring community for families with seriously ill children while increasing children's access to health care services. Volunteer opportunities include meal preparation, assist with house projects, sponsor birthday parties, collect pop tabs, and more.

American Red Cross

When: Varies

Where: 342 5th Ave N, Bayport, MN 55003

Contact: 651.439.0031

Description: A humanitarian organization, led by volunteers that respond to emergencies.

Valley Outreach Food Shelf

When: Varies

Where: 5898 Omaha Ave., Oak Park Heights, MN 55082 (behind SA)

Contact: 651.430.2729

Description: Sorting and stocking food. Donations of food, money, and clothing are welcome.

Feed My Starving Children

When: Varies

Where: 990 Lone Oak Road, Suite 124, Eagan, MN 55121

Contact: Go to www.fmssc.org and select 'Volunteers' to schedule a 2-hour shift. A minimum of 10 volunteers are needed to schedule.

Description: Package food for hungry children around the globe.

Hope House of St. Croix Valley

When: Contact to set up time.

Where: 451 Everett, Stillwater, MN 55082

Contact: 651.351.0361

Description: Co-housing for people living with HIV/AIDS. Prepare and serve meals to residents, assist with household chores and maintenance, or provide clerical support.

Loaves & Fishes

When: First Wednesday of the Month at 4:00pm

Where: St. Matthew's Catholic Church, 490 Hall Ave, St. Paul, MN 55107

Contact: Contact Nancy Fesler at 651.436.7371

Description: Prepare and serve meals to those in need.

Serving Opportunities

Senior Outreach Ministry

When: Sunday afternoons/varies

Where: Various senior residences in the St. Croix Valley

Contact: Dick Reed at 651.274.5279 or richardreed@aol.com.

Description: Visit with residents/assist with worship

Operation Christmas Child - Samaritans Purse

When: Collection approximately the weekend before Thanksgiving.

Where: Shepherd of the Valley

Contact: A staff member or the website (samaritanspurse.org).

Description: Provide a gift-filled shoeboxes to to children in desperate situations around the world and share the Good News of God's love.

Angel Tree

When: Christmas season

Where: Shepherd of the Valley

Contact: Contact Dick Reed by phone (651.274.5279) or e-mail (richardreed@aol.com)

Description: Purchase and deliver Christmas gifts with a message of love to children of prisoners.

ServeFest

When: Meets bi-weekly at 10:30 am on Saturdays

Where: Shepherd of the Valley

Contact; Pastor Steve Kramer at 651.436.8248 Ext. 12

Description: Provide 'love touches' throughout the community by serving in a variety of ways to show God's love.

Union Gospel Mission

When: Varies

Where: 435 E. University Ave, St. Paul, MN 55101

Contact: Visit the volunteer website (ugmtc.org/volunteers) to determine the area to volunteer and who to contact. Note the section that provides opportunities for groups.

Description: Helping economically disadvantaged men, women and children through a variety of ways, such as meal preparation and serving, assisting with recreational and special events, and providing maintenance.

Free Clinic of Pierce and St. Croix Counties

When: Varies

Where: River Falls Medical Center, 1687 Division St., River Falls, WI 54022

Contact: Contact Mary Steele, Volunteer Coordinator, at 715.307.3949

Description: Providing services to the under-insured, the clinic uses medically skilled volunteers in the clinic, along with non-clinic help such as preparing meals for volunteers serving on clinic nights.

Serving Opportunities

New Life Family Services

When: By appointment

Where: 2105 Old Hudson Rd., St. Paul, MN 55119

Contact: Contact 651.730.4342

Description: Assist in providing care for those facing unplanned pregnancies by supporting special events, providing food and refreshments, and maintenance and office help.

Other Resources:

I Can Help Twin Cities www.icanhelptwincities.com

World Vision www.worldvision.org

Compassion International www.compassion.com