

SHEPHERD NEWS

God is Good!

On July 1, 2002 we moved into our "new building." Since that time our growth has been amazing! For example, did you know:

- Our membership has increased from 1404 to 2519.
- Our average worship attendance has increased from 693 to 1033.
- Our 2002 Confirmation Class had 18 students; 63 students were confirmed in October of 2007!
- In 2002 our we had 24 students in the First Communion class. This year's class had 123!
- In the fall of 2002 we had 240 students enrolled in Sunday School. This year we have 609!
- In 2002, 70 volunteers

served in Sunday School. This year we have 210!

- Our special needs ministry continues to grow.

We are amazed at what God has done in six years! God has used individuals like YOU to make this happen.

We are excited at what God is planning for the future. As we begin preparing for the 2008-09 year, please pray about where you could serve.

During the month of April, you are invited to come and see first hand what is involved in serving in various areas of Sunday School. Simply check in at the Information Desk (by the new entrance) during either Sunday School hour and we will be happy to show you around.

Thank you, in advance, for "connecting all people to Christ

through nurturing, building friendships, and serving." You are making a difference for eternity!

Stock Sale

Don't Miss Out on the Opportunity to Invest in a Camper!



On Sunday, April 20, a table will be set up between the worship services where you can buy stock for \$5.00 per share. Your investment will be applied to the fees of campers who worked at the Sloppy Joe Supper and for those in need of scholarships who will be attending Wapo. As camp approaches, you will be given a specific camper to be praying for during their time at camp. Your dividend will come in the form of a postcard from the camper(s) you are praying for. Thank you for supporting our camp ministry!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

April 2	Loaves & Fishes
April 2, 9, 16	Confirmation Small Groups/Worship
April 2, 9, 16, 23	Sr. High Night
April 2, 9, 16	Pioneer Club
April 3, 10, 17	3rd Base... the Stop Before Home
April 5	Prayer Shawl Meeting
April 11-13	Sr. High Zone Weekend
April 19	SOV Book Club
April 23	Confirmation - at Lucy Winton Bell
April 25-27	Jr. High Recharge Weekend at Okoboji
April 26	Couples Conference '08

Saturday Worship: 5:30 p.m.

Sunday Worship: 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.

Our Mission: To connect all people to Christ through nurturing, building friendships and serving.

Shepherd of the Valley Staff

Pastors: Steve Kramer,
Zach Thompson

Children's Ministry: Christie Cotner,
Keri Aldridge, Dana Lochner,
Darla Ostrand

Special Needs Ministry: Becky Max

Youth Ministry: Kim Schmidt,
Maria Paulsen

Adult Ministry: Dick Wagenknecht,
Kristin Lagus, Jill Wurm

Support Ministry: Kim Hanson

Ignite! Coordinator: Donna Bennett

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

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www.shepherd-lutheran.org



FROM THE PASTOR

“Do we Believe That?”

Every once in awhile I will field a question like that from a member and it reminds me that as a congregation we need to review what it is that we are professing to believe as followers of Jesus Christ. Here are three beliefs that we hold onto dearly.

First of all, we believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God; that he died as a payment for humanity’s sins and rose again. We believe that he is THE way of salvation... a person is saved by God’s grace through faith in Jesus.

Next we believe and teach that the Bible is God’s Word. It is God-breathed and our final authority in matters of faith and life.

We believe that the church of Jesus Christ is commissioned to lead others to Jesus Christ and to make disciples. Our mission statement as a congregation says that we exist to

“connect all people to Christ.”
We do that through our words and our actions in this world.

On what basis do we profess these things? First of all, the resurrection! Christ is risen, he is risen indeed! Also, we stand on two thousand years of Christian tradition. It has stood the test of time.

By the way, if you want to do a more thorough review, we have brochures entitled, “What We Teach and Believe.” They are located at the Information Kiosk. You are welcome to take one home for personal study.

In Him,



Baptism Class

The Baptism Class is for parents of children who are to be baptized and for any other person (any age) who wishes to be baptized at Shepherd. This class is offered one time per month, typically on the first Sunday of the month. The next class will be on April 6 at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room.

If you have any questions about baptism at Shepherd, or would like to schedule a baptism or sign up for the class, please call the church office at 651.436.8248.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH IGNITED



WANTED:

Senior High Leaders for Summer Stretch



Join us for an incredible opportunity to be a Youth Leader for Summer Stretch! You will learn how to lead a small group of Junior High youth from all over the St. Croix Valley, and you’ll get to meet new people. We’ll get together on Wednesdays from June 11 – July 9 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for an extraordinary day of challenging and rewarding experiences through service and fun!

All youth who have completed grades 10 – 12 are encouraged to apply. The total cost is \$65.00 for Youth Leaders and includes transportation, all activities, and supplies. Please see Maria Paulsen to obtain an application.

Senior High Night

Senior High Night is back on Wednesdays through April 23 from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. We’ll dive into topics like worry,

doubt, and anger. Topics that will not only transform your heart, but will also revolutionize your relationship with Christ. And on April 23, join us for our end of the year bash here at SOV! Bring your friends!!

Youth Encounter Zone

To all registered youth: we’ll meet at Shepherd at 5:00 p.m., April 11. And we’ll return to Shepherd on Sunday, April 13 at 1:00 p.m.

Youth Kiosk

Registrations

The Youth Kiosk is located in the atrium outside the Community Center. For registration forms, information and more, please check it out. Also, please note the “payments and registration” slot on the backside of the Kiosk.

Sonshine Music Festival



All current 7th – 12th graders, mark your calendars for July 17 – 20 for three days and nights of all out worship, camping, and hanging with friends! Some say it’s the highlight of their summer! Others say it’s the highlight of their lives! We say, it’s Sonshine!!! The cost is \$75.00 for all three days! Please register with a \$25.00 deposit by May 18.

Summer Fest Senior High Counselors

Formerly the TIM Team experience, Summer Fest is an awesome way for Senior High students to take on leadership roles at the Junior High camp. Plus, you’ll have a blast while doing it! Please see Kim S. for a Counselor application.



FOR KIDS ONLY



Sunday School News:

Sunday School Registration

Registration for 2008-09 will take place in May. Watch for information to come.

Got Your Sports Bag? Your Golf Bag? Your Music Bag?

YOUR BIBLE BAG?

It seems that there is always something we are bringing here or there in a bag. This spurred an idea. How about a Bible Bag? Each child in Children's Ministry is given a Bible to be used at home and

at Sunday School. Many students are forgetting their Bibles on Sunday mornings, so how about getting a bag for their Bible? Small canvas bags can be purchased at any craft store for a small amount, and then on Sunday mornings you can say, "Got your Bible Bag?"

Where Do I Find Program Information and Registration Forms?

There are three places that Children's Ministry information can be found:

1. The Information Kiosk (by the Sanctuary)
2. The Children's Ministry Kiosk (by the gym)
3. The Information Desk (by the new entrance)

Registration materials will be at the Information Kiosk and Information Desk.

Pioneer Club Finishes up the Year!

What a great time we had together at the Pioneer Club Potluck Dinner and Camp-In! Thank you to all who helped to make this such a fun evening!

The final unit meeting dates are March 26, April 2, 9, and 16. Meeting time is 6:30—8:00 p.m. Remember to bring your Bibles and Pioneer Club books. The **Pioneer Club Banquet** will happen on Wednesday, April 30. Details for the banquet will be sent home from Club in early April.



Children's Ministry Mission Statement:

To unite with the family in connecting all kids to Christ, so they will know Him as their Lord and Savior, seek His Will for their lives, and share with others His Good News.



FOR KIDS ONLY

3rd Base...The Stop Before Home

4th-6th graders

3rd Base will finish up the year with Fun and Fellowship. April meeting dates are Thursday, April 3, 10, and 17 from 3:30-5:00 p.m. April 17 will be Food Olympics and is our last 3rd Base for the year. Come dressed for mess! Invite a friend! Remember to pick up a permission slip at for them. Kids attending Afton-Lakeland Elementary can hop on the Zebra bus. (Parents, please send a note giving your child permission to ride the bus.)

Register NOW for Summer Fun!

Vacation Bible School "Power Lab"

All children 3 years old (as of September 1, 2007) through current 2nd graders are invited to join us as we discover how Jesus' miraculous power will be bubbling over at Power Lab! Throughout the week we

will learn from God's Word how **Jesus gives us the power...** to be thankful, to help others, to be brave, to live forever, and to tell others about God. As the kids are engaged with fun, science-themed surprises, they will experience amazing things. Join us for Bible School **Monday, June 9 through Friday, June 13 from 9:00—11:30 a.m.**

Registrations are now being accepted for Bible School. The cost is \$20.00 per child with a \$50.00 family limit. The registration deadline is Sunday, May 25. Any registrations received after this date will incur a \$5.00 late fee.

Get Ready for a Sports Explosion that's Centered Around Christ... Get Ready for SportsLife Camp!

SportsLife Camp is for students who are 6—11 years old. It will happen at Shepherd of the Valley on Monday, July 28 – Thursday, July 31. The cost is \$60.00. You will get to choose from basketball, street

hockey, soccer, ultimate Frisbee, dance, cheerleading, and art. Along with these choices, there will be side shows of break dancing, high speed kickball, and rubber chicken challenge. This is a great event to invite your friends and neighbors to.

Summer Servefun

Summer Servefun is for students in Grades 3—6. Summer is a great time to have fun serving Christ!

Join us for a half-day of serving at Feed My Starving Children and a half-day of a fun event.



The dates are **Monday, June 16, Tuesday July 15, and Tuesday, August 12**. Eight drivers and chaperones are needed for each Servefun day. Because we are limited to 30 spots for each date there will only be one location to sign up; at the *Information Kiosk*.



JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH IGNITED

Confirmation Preview

For all 6th Grade Students and Parents



We invite all 6th grade students and their parents to join us for a preview of Confirmation at Shepherd of the Valley. Join us Wednesday, April 2 for worship and large group in the Community Center. We'll meet from 6:30—7:15 p.m.

Jr. High Okoboji Recharge Weekend



April 25-27 Grades 7-9

Come and get reCHARGED! at Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp in Milford, IA. It's just like summer camp but crammed into a weekend! Registrations are available. The cost is \$50.00 if received by March 30, otherwise \$85.00. Friends are encouraged to come. A good time will be had by all.

Summer Festival Camp

July 21 – 25, 2008
University of Wisconsin – Stout

Summer Festival is a Christian summer camp where, for one week, a college campus is transformed to a Bible Camp! Imagine all the fun activities and games along with cabin times, devotions, worship and church group time at college! Plus the food is great! And friends are always welcome to join us for camp!

The cost for camp is \$315.00. If you sign up a friend, you will get \$50.00 off your registration fee. Registration forms are available at the Youth Kiosk and the Information Kiosk. A \$100.00 deposit is required along with the registration form **by April 13.**

Summer Stretch

Join us for this awesome summer program with Junior High youth from all over the St. Croix Valley. All youth who have completed grades 6 – 9 are welcome! We'll get together on Wednesdays from June 11 – July 9 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for an extraordinary day of challenging and rewarding experiences through service and fun!

The total cost is \$100.00 for all five weeks. That fee includes transportation, all activities, and supplies. Please complete a registration form and turn it in to Maria Paulsen by May 4.

First Responders



Have you considered becoming a First Responder at Shepherd of the Valley, but need some training? CPR training will be available at no cost to those who wish to be trained and serve the congregation in this way. Training dates are May 13 and 15 from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at church. If interested contact Jill at jwurm@shepherd-lutheran.org.

Get Connected!

Have you ever thought about getting connected at Shepherd through serving? Some are intimidated at the prospect but it's one of the easiest ways to meet people! We are currently looking for people to serve on usher teams on Saturday evenings and Sundays at 10:30 a.m. As an usher you work with a group of people as you welcome folks into worship, as you help seat people in the sanctuary, help people get to communion, assist in taking

GROWING IN CHRIST



the offering and just generally make worshippers feel welcome. Ushers serve two weeks out of every six. We provide all of the training necessary; you just have to take the first step! Email Jill at jwurm@shepherd-lutheran.org for more information.

Craft Night

The response has been overwhelming... continue a monthly craft night! Set aside the following dates to work on your favorite project: April 10 and May 8; 5:30-9:00 p.m. Bring a dish to share and come when you can. Questions? Email Jill at jwurm@shepherd-lutheran.org. You may sign up at the Information Kiosk.

Managing Life's Stress

Dan Randall is offering this class at Shepherd on Tuesday, April 8 at 7:00 p.m. A free-will donation will be taken (\$10.00 per person suggested) with the proceeds going to the Roatan, Honduras Mission.

SOV Book Club

The SOV Book Club is currently reading "The Faith Club." This book was written by a Palestinian Muslim, an Episcopalian and a Jewish woman who originally came together to write a children's book about their faith differences. Instead they produced this adult book based on their recollections and their growing mutual affection. The SOV Book Club will discuss this book on April 19 at 9:00 a.m. at the Hudson Bagel and Coffee Co. Contact Susi at monty@bitstream.net for more information.



Loaves and Fishes

The team from Shepherd of the Valley will be serving at St. Matthew's Church in West St. Paul on Wednesday, April 2. Food preparation begins at 3:30 p.m. Feel free to come at that time or at 4:45 p.m. to serve the evening meal. Directions to St. Matthew's can be found on our website.