

Shepherd's

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2008

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me." John

SHEPHERD NEWS

"A Christmas Extravaganza"

Sunday December 14 4:00 p.m.

Come to Shepherd of the Valley for an afternoon of music that is sure to put you in the spirit to celebrate the birth of our Savior! There will be choirs, an orchestra, a brass quintet and a Christmas carol sing-a-long. Stay afterwards for a dessert reception.

THANK YOU . . .

For participating in Operation Christmas Child – Shoebox Ministry! Hundreds of shoe boxes were collected for distribution to children through Samaritan's Purse. Along with the gift, children receive the Good News of Jesus Christ!



Winter Sermon Series

January 11 - February 21, 2009

Many small groups will opt to follow the winter sermon series, "Keeping the Joy Going." This will be a six-week study of the book of Philippians. Small groups meet at various times and locations during the week to discuss the text and lesson. The following weekend the sermon will address the same text.

Never been in a small group? It's a great way to take your faith to the next level, and to meet new friends as well.

Consider joining a small group – there are many to choose from. Visit the Information Kiosk or www.shepherd-lutheran.org later in December for group information and to sign up for a group.



Christmas Worship

Wednesday,
December 24

2:30 p.m.

Service for Children
"Happy Birthday Jesus!"

4:00 p.m.

Traditional with Choir

5:30 p.m.

Contemporary Worship
with Band

10:30 p.m.

Candlelight Service with
Communion

Thursday,
December 25



FROM THE PASTOR

Ramblings from Steve

This is one of those bits and pieces news articles.

Thanks to all of you who pledged to keep running for Christ in your giving for 2009. We will soon be totaling up those pledges and a few other giving numbers to build a ministry budget for next year.

Maria Paulsen is stepping down from her leadership position in Senior High School ministry. I want to thank her for the enthusiasm, effort, and effectiveness she brought to this ministry. I will miss working with her.

With Christmas coming, we are having an **Advent Sermon Series** to prepare us for that celebration entitled, "What Christmas Means for Me."

Speaking of Christmas... **I encourage you to invite** a friend, neighbor, or unchurched relative to attend a Christmas worship service. People are more open to invitations to worship during this time of year. We'll

put a schedule out in the lobby area for you to pick up and hand out to anyone you invite. Remember, when you invite, offer to either bring them or promise to wait for them at the front door of the church. Your invitee will be grateful.

In January, the small groups will be following a sermon series that Zach and I will be doing entitled, "*Keeping the Joy Going*." It's a study of the Book of Philippians that I know is going to be a joy-filled experience. If you're not in a group, this is a great time of year to jump into one. Call Kristin Lagus, our Small Groups Minister. She'll be glad to get you connected.

Finally, may you have a blessed Christmas season with your loved ones, as you **stay focused** on the greatest gift of all, Jesus Christ.

Christian Crusaders

Tune in Sunday, December 14 on KLBB/AM 1220 at 8:00 a.m. and on KKMS/AM 980 at 7:30 a.m. to hear Pastor Steve on Christian Crusaders radio. This is a nonprofit radio and Internet ministry that has been broadcasting continuously since 1936, with Pastor Steve serving as an associate speaker since 2005. Tell a friend unable to attend church, or tune in yourself to hear an inspiring and uplifting sermon from Pastor Steve.

Get Ignited!

Have you noticed the *Ignite* section in the Weekly Email Update? Each week this section will give you a look into the service for that week, including the list of songs, the sermon topic, a sneak peek at the Kid's Craft, the verse of the week for the Ignite Youth Bible Challenge and perhaps the menu for the fabulous food being served after the service. As you can see, there is something for everyone at *Ignite*. Invite your friends, come as you are and join us for **Great Worship, Great Food & Great Fellowship!**



YOUTH IGNITED

Spirit Mountain Winter Ski Retreat



**Spirit Mountain
Duluth, Minnesota**

This retreat is scheduled for January 23-25, 2009 and is for students in Grades 7-9. The cost of \$125.00 includes two nights lodging on the slopes and two days lift tickets.

Deposits and registrations are due on **Sunday, December 26**. Friends are welcome.

Summer 2009 Junior High Mission Trip

Thunder Bay, Canada

For all students in Grades 7-9, we will be heading to Thunder Bay, Canada and partnering with Youth Works Canada for a week of service and ministry in the Thunder Bay community. Space is limited so sign up soon. You'll find registration forms at the Youth Kiosk.

Senior High Small Groups

As Christmas draws near, we are going to take this month to serve in our Small Groups. Instead of meeting in host homes, you will meet with your group to serve our community in whatever capacity your group desires, and whatever day or time your group decides upon. Don't forget that Small Groups will meet back at your Host Homes again beginning Sunday, January 4 from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Youth Kiosk and Online Registrations

The Youth Kiosk is located in the atrium outside the Community Center. For registration forms, information and more, please check it out. Please note the "Payments and Registration" slot on the backside of the Kiosk. Also, check out our new website www.shepherd-lutheran.org. Registration and information on events is also available online.

The 3rd Annual Black & White Dinner

All students in Grades 9-12 are invited to join your friends on Sunday, December 7 from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. at SOV for this incredible night!

What can you expect upon arrival? Come dressed in your favorite black and white apparel. You will enter into the Community Center which has been beautifully transformed by candlelight. You will be served a multicourse dinner including decadent desserts. There will be singing, dancing, and outrageous fun! And you will have a chance to make a difference in the lives of others.

The cost is only \$15.00 for the entire night. To register, go online or stop at the Information Kiosk today!





FOR KIDS ONLY



Sunday School Lessons:

Preschool-Kindergarten:

December 7 - Jacob's Dream
December 14 - Jacob and Esau Meet Again
December 21 - Baby Jesus is Born

1-5th Graders:

December 7 - Challenge Sunday
December 14 - Joseph Heard the Good News
December 21- Small Group Celebration

6th Graders- Youth Alpha:

December 7 - How and Why Should I Pray?

December 14 - Review Week
December 21 - Christmas Celebration

Little Voices Raised in Song

The preschool through 1st grade Sunday School students are excited to sing the message of Christ's birth at the beginning of the worship services on Sunday, December 14. The children will sing during the hour they attend Sunday School. Children will be practicing their songs in Sunday School. Parents, you will receive a letter with details about this Sunday.

No Sunday School on December 28 or January 4

May God bless your Christmas season. We look forward to seeing you back on January 11, 2009.



"The Mystery of the Manger"

December 13 @ 4:00 p.m.

You are invited to the performance of "The Mystery of the Manger" on Saturday, December 13 at 4:00 p.m. The children in Grades 2 through 6 have been working hard to prepare for this year's Christmas Musical! Invite your family, friends and neighbors to hear the Gospel truth!

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

Thoughts from Christie

Need Some Ideas for Your Children for Christmas?



It's a great time to get items that will encourage your child in his/her walk with Christ. Head to your favorite Christian bookstore or go online and look for games, children's devotion books, family devotions, Bible tabs and/or a Bible carrier, etc. that will enhance their walk. After they receive their gifts, spend time together and... *"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it."* Proverbs 22:6.

The Advent Season

Parents, Advent is here... take time together as a family to prepare for the celebration of the Christ child. Read God's Word, share in devotions, and focus on the greatest gift of all... **Jesus!**

Christie

3rd Base... the Stop Before Home

4th-6th graders

It's time for *The Joy of Giving*. During the month of December, we will provide Christmas gifts for children in need. **Each person coming to 3rd Base is asked to contribute \$5.00** to purchase gifts for the children we are sponsoring. Here's how the month will look:

Thursday, December 4

- Kids divide into groups and plan what they will give the child their group is sponsoring.
- Groups will make an ornament to include and decorate wrapping paper and tags.
- Permission slips will be distributed for the shopping trip on December 11.

Thursday, December 11

- Permission slips must be returned in order to go on our shopping trip. (Drivers and chaperones are needed for that day... let Christie know if you can help.)
- Off we will go to shop for the presents.
- Gifts will be wrapped upon return.

Thursday, December 18

- We celebrate the greatest gift of all ... Jesus!

There is no 3rd Base on December 25 or January 1. See you back on January 8.





GROWING IN CHRIST

Prayer Shawl Ministry



Are you looking to share God's love in a real and practical way? Maybe the Prayer Shawl Ministry is for you. A gift of a shawl is a wonderful way to share God's love with someone who is hurting or ill. Or it's a way to share in celebrating life's blessings, such as when a shawl is given for a wedding or a baptism. If you don't know how to knit or crochet we'd love to teach you. Come to our next gathering on **December 6** at the home of Elaine Asp, beginning at 9:30 a.m. If you are unable to join the group you can still participate by making the shawls at home. For more information call Julie at 651.436.6868.

Small Group Leaders

Adult small group leaders, mark your calendars. The All-Leader Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 6 at 7:00 p.m. at the church.

ServeFest

*"Small things done with great kindness can change the world."
Mother Theresa*

God's love is the most indescribable gift we've been given. And it's free! Christmas is the perfect time to demonstrate His love to our community, pointing to our Savior's birth. Join us on December 6 & 20 at 10:30 a.m.

Coming in January

Growing in Marriage— A Class for Couples

"Learn to Speak Each Other's Language"

Come join us for a class all about learning to communicate more effectively. Communication is such a vital part of a happy and healthy marriage, and all of us (newlyweds or long time marriage veterans) could stand to work on how we communicate with each other. This class will include lots of time for discussion, video presentations by Drs. Les and Leslie Parrott, and much more. This class will last six weeks, and

begins Thursday, January 8 at 7:00 pm. Sign up at the Information Kiosk, or contact Pastor Zach with any questions.

"Faith and Doubt" Satellite Broadcast with Jon Ortberg

It may sound paradoxical: Doubt is a part of faith. Uncertainty can lead to trust. Rather than hiding these doubts and uncertainties, John Ortberg invites your community to bring those struggles into the light! This inspiring program reveals the role that doubt plays in transferring our hopes from something - to someone - Jesus Christ. Join us **Sunday, January 25** from 6:00-7:00 pm.

Men's Ministry Outreach Event

"Athletes in Action 2009 Super Bowl Breakfast" with Bart Starr, Tony Dungy, Anthony Munoz, Brent Jones, The winner of the 2009 Bart Starr Award and more. Live via satellite from Tampa, Florida. Bring your friends, family, and sons. There will be a continental breakfast served, and plenty of coffee. This event takes place **Saturday, January 31**.



A CHANGED LIFE

Sharing the Warmth



Dear Pastor Steve and members of Shepherd of the Valley:

What wonderful timing and a blessing your members have given through the 117 coats that came into the inner city last month. Many of them were given out when we did street ministry on Saturday. I had to keep coming back to church for more coats and warm clothes. We are seeing more living on the streets or in cars. Warm outerwear and blankets truly become blessings. Thank you for partnering to share Christ's love in tangible ways.

*Pastor Joy
Bethlehem Church
on the Midway*

Habitat for Humanity

The team from Shepherd of the Valley spent the week of September 15-19 working on a home in Elmwood, WI.

Earlier this year the team from Shepherd had served two other full weeks; both spent working on a home in Spring Valley, WI.

Overall it was a very successful, spirited, spirit-filled week with the Shepherd crew happily and energetically doing what they always do and doing it very well. On Monday we started with a capped basement and by Friday we had the house completely framed, including the interior walls on the upper floor, and half of the roof shingled. We were also joined by a crew of about six people from Bethel

Lutheran on Thursday, that turned out to be a busy, productive day.

This week provided the first experience for several volunteers. They have been inspired to join our group of regulars and work one day a week throughout the year.

The homeowner, Becky, lives in Chippewa Falls and commutes to her job at a care center in Elmwood. She worked with us for several hours each day

and seemed inspired by the fact that people are willing to take their time to help build her a home. She told her story at break one day and it's a powerful story of trial and redemption. She has endured many hardships and struggles that caused her to distrust and lose faith in people. That made this week a real reaffirming experience for her. We want the congregation to know that we are connecting with a real person, not just a building, as a result of this important ministry.

Habitat for Humanity Team

Loaves and Fishes



The team from Shepherd will serve at St. Matthew's Church on Wednesday, December 3. Food preparation begins at 3:30 p.m. Join us at that time or come at 4:45 p.m. to help serve the evening meal. Please contact the church office for directions or for more information.



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www.shepherd-lutheran.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

December 4, 11, 18	3rd Base... the Stop Before Home
December 5, 12, 19	Grade 7 & 8 Confirmation
December 6	Prayer Shawl Ministry
December 6, 20	ServeFest
December 7	Black & White Dinner
December 13	Children's Christmas Musical
December 14	SOV Choir Christmas Extravaganza
December 18	Bingo at Croixdale
December 20	Senior High Night @ SOV
December 29	Red Cross Bloodmobile @ SOV

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: Tammie
Proue
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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