

Shepherd's VOICE

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2009

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

SHEPHERD NEWS

Christmas Concert at SOV

Sunday,
December 13
4:00 p.m.



Join the Shepherd of the Valley Choir, the St. Croix Valley Symphony Orchestra, special soloists, and the River Valley Brass ensemble in concert as we celebrate the music of the season. Sing-along with brass, and enjoy special narrations by actor/author Michael Norman as we reflect and celebrate the magic and majesty of Christ's birth.

Be sure to join us after the concert for a reception of holiday treats. Please bring a donation for the St. Croix Valley Food Shelf as a good-will offering, as there is no charge for this concert.

Children's Musical

The First Leon!

Students in grades 1-6 will perform the Christmas Musical *The First Leon* on Saturday, December 12 at 4:00 p.m. in the Community Center. After Leon finds out that his name spelled backwards is Noel, he feels *called* to share the meaning of Christmas by being in the Christmas play. Unfortunately, he doesn't do too well at the try-outs. Invite your family, friends and neighbors to join us for the performance and see what happens to Leon.

Thank You!

Operation Christmas Child / Shoebox Ministry

Hundreds of shoeboxes were collected for distribution to children through Samaritan's Purse. Along with the gift the children will receive the Good News of Jesus Christ!



Christmas Worship

Thursday,
December 24

2:30 p.m.

Service for Children

4:00 p.m.

Carol Service with Choir

5:30 p.m.

Carol Service

10:30 p.m.

Candlelight Service with
Communion

Friday,
December 25

10:30 a.m.



FROM THE PASTORS

Make a Christmas Connection

Our mission as a congregation is “to connect all people to Christ through nurturing, building friendships, and serving.”

Christmas is a great time to invite unconnected friends and relatives to worship. Many people are very open to taking in a Christmas Eve worship service for all kinds of reasons: sentimental childhood memories, they love the Christmas carols, it just seems like the “right thing to do.” It’s a great opportunity for outreach. Invite them. Bring them.

Let’s make a covenant with one another. If you’ll make an attempt to bring an unconnected person to a Christmas Eve worship service, or even on a Sunday leading up to Christmas, I promise (and I know I speak for Zach and the worship team) that we will put forth our very best efforts to give them a positive worship experience. And we will point people to the greatest gift of all – Jesus Christ, the Savior.

Have a fruitful Christmas season, servants of Christ!

In Him,

Prayer at SOV

Shepherd of the Valley is a church that believes in the power of prayer. We have a number of ways to get involved and/or receive prayer at SOV.

We have a large prayer network that is ready and willing to pray for any requests that you might have. If you have a prayer request, you can submit it at www.shepherd-lutheran.org/request.

We also have prayer ministers that are available to pray with you after any of our worship services. At the Saturday *Ignite!* service the prayer minister stands in the front of the sanctuary. On Sundays they typically can be found towards the back of the sanctuary, by the door leading into the cry room and prayer chapel. Look for their red name tags.

There is also a weekly group (“People in Prayer”) that meets Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. to pray together. This group is open to anyone who would like to join in, and is also willing to pray over anyone who comes to their meeting.

Finally, many people don’t realize that we have a beautiful prayer chapel that is available for you to use. It is located through the cry room (the door is just to the right of the entrance to the sanctuary).

We are anticipating some regularly scheduled healing prayer services in 2010. More details will be forthcoming.

Also, be sure to come for the next **Congregational Prayer Meeting** on Sunday, December 6 at 7:00 p.m.

If you have any questions, or would like to get involved in this important ministry, talk to Pastor Zach at zthompson@shepherd-lutheran.org or by calling the church office: 651.436.8248 ext. 13.



YOUTH IGNITED

Confirmation News



Grades 7 & 8

Students in Grades 7 & 8 will meet Wednesdays, December 2 and 9 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Gym. No Confirmation on December 16, 23 or 30. Confirmation will resume on January 6 at 6:30 p.m. See you then!

Leader Meeting

Confirmation small group leaders will have a meeting on Wednesday, December 16 at 6:30 p.m.

Senior High Small Groups

Love Out Loud!

This month small groups are taking a look at what it means to "love out loud." In other words, how do we take the love of Jesus Christ outside of the church walls and spread it to everyone we come in contact with?

Groups will be meeting together to serve in and around the community this month as well. Check with your leaders for more information on your group's service project.

Small groups will not meet on Sunday, December 27 or Sunday, January 3. Groups will start up again on Sunday, January 17.

If you are in 9th through 12th grade, you can join one of our Senior High Small Groups anytime. Contact Maria Paulsen for more information or sign up at the Information Center today! There is a small group just for you!

Senior High Black & White Dinner

The 4th annual Black & White Dinner will be held on Sunday, January 10 at SOV. All Senior Highers in grades 9-12 are invited to join us for an incredible meal of several

courses, great music, games, and prizes. As always, there will be a winner for the best tie and the best shoes!

Check out the bulletin for more information and for details on registration! Don't forget that friends are ALWAYS welcome, so please bring them!



Youth Director Position

A team has been assembled and the search is underway to fill the open Youth Director position. We are confident that we will find the right person that will embrace the mission of connecting all youth to Christ! We will keep you in the loop as the process continues.

Youth Ministry Mission Statement:

To connect all youth to Christ, so they will know Him and impact their world through Him.



FOR KIDS ONLY



Sunday School Lessons:

Preschool-Kindergarten

December 6 - Naaman is Healed

December 13 - Boy King Josiah

December 20 - Jesus is Born

Grades 1-5

December 6 - The Unforgiving Servant

December 13 - The Wiseman

December 20 - Christmas Fellowship

Grade 6: Alpha

December 6 - How & Why Should I Pray? (Part 2)

December 13 - Why Should I Read the Bible?

December 20 - Christmas Fellowship

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL on December 27 or January 3.

May God bless your Christmas season. We look forward to seeing you back on January 10, 2010.

Little Voices Raised in Song

The preschool through kindergarten Sunday School students are excited to sing the message of Christ's birth at the beginning of the worship services on Sunday, December 13. 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 more details regarding this Sunday.

Children's Christmas Musical Rehearsals

The First Leon

The students in grades 1-6 have been working hard to get ready for this year's Christmas musical. The December rehearsal times are as follows:

- ♪ **Tuesdays**, December 1 & 8 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- ♪ **Sunday**, December 6 from 12:15-2:30 p.m.
- ♪ **Friday**, December 11 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- ♪ **Saturday**, December 12: dress rehearsal from 9:30-11:30 a.m.
- ♪ **Saturday**, December 12: Return at 3:00 p.m. for the performance at 4:00 p.m.



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



Advent is Here...

Take this special time together as a family to prepare for the celebration of the birth of the Christ child. Read God's Word, share in devotions, and focus on the greatest gift of all... Jesus!

Need some gift 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. This is also a great time to teach them about the joy of giving!

"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it."

Proverbs 22:6

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 3

- ◇ Kids divide into groups and plan what they will give the child their group is sponsoring.
- ◇ Groups will make an ornament to include and will decorate wrapping paper and tags.
- ◇ Permission slips will be distributed for the shopping trip on December 10.

Thursday, December 10

- ◇ Permission slips must be returned in order to go on our shopping trip. (Drivers and chaperones are needed

for that day... Please let Christie know if you can help.)

- ◇ Off we will go to shop for the presents.
- ◇ Gifts will be wrapped upon return.

Thursday, December 17

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

There is no 3rd Base on December 24 or 31. See you back on January 7, 2010.

Looking Ahead... Mark Your Calendars

Family Gym Night

Join us at Shepherd for a family night in our gym on Friday, January 22 from 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Parenting Seminar

This seminar will take place on Saturday, February 6. More details will be available soon.





GROWING IN CHRIST

Adult Small Groups

It's time to start thinking about joining an adult small group for the winter session, beginning the week of January 10. Many groups will be following a small group sermon series titled, "Serving Like Christ Together." This six-week experience will inspire us to cultivate an attitude of service, learning from Jesus, the Ultimate Servant. For six weeks, our pastors will preach messages that go along with the topics studied and discussed in the groups. Don't miss this great opportunity to grow in faith, deepen some friendships, and have fun serving together in creative ways.

Some small groups may study topics other than the sermon series. Postings of group information and registrations will be available in mid-December, online and at the Information Center. There are men's, women's and mixed groups, and some target more specifically (young adults, parents, etc.) Be sure to check the complete list of groups, but here are some groups to consider:

Faith & Music

Music has always been a powerful medium for worship, evangelism, and expression of Christian faith. This group meets Monday evenings and they'll study Biblical themes in Christian music and in the stories of Christian singers and songwriters. If you are inspired by Christian music, this would be a great group to try.

Empty Nesters

A new group geared toward empty nesters will meet on Tuesday evenings in West Lakeland. This group will follow the "Serving Like Christ Together" sermon series.

Newcomer Group

This group meets on Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. at church. This group is great for people new to Shepherd, or new to a small group experience. Child-care is available. This group will follow the "Serving Like Christ Together" sermon series.

Tuesday Morning Women's: Esther

This is a ten-week, in-depth study, involving five daily homework lessons per week, as well as a DVD viewing and small group discussion. Come

and find out how God helps us through when it feels "tough to be a woman." A few nursery and preschool spots are still available for a modest fee.

You will find that small groups are friendly, welcoming, and they require no previous experience! Come as you are!

Adult Ed

December 13: 8:45, 10:00, 11:00

Join Pastor Steve in an Open Forum discussion of the issues we are facing regarding the recent actions taken by the ELCA.

January, beginning January 10:

Lutherans: Past, Present, and Future and What Does This Mean for SOV? Join Pastor Zach at 8:45, 10:00, or 11:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings. We will be looking at the history of Lutheranism in America. We will look at the present landscape and the challenges that Lutherans are facing now. Finally, we will take a look at some various groups and associations that can help best position SOV to successfully carry out its mission of *Connecting All People to Christ*.



GROWING IN CHRIST

Christmas Carin' for the Karen



Imagine coming to a new country with nothing but the clothes on your back. You cannot speak the language. You're a refugee. The land you escaped from is a tropical climate. Now you're experiencing the shock of Minnesota's cold weather. That's what the Karen (pronounced: Car-en) people from Myanmar are experiencing. Many of them are our brothers and sisters in Christ. Christmas is coming. They have very little. If you'd like to show some Christmas care for a Karen family, come pick up a picture of an individual or a family along with a Christmas needs list. These can be found on our Karen Christmas tree in the lobby area. People will be there to help you get signed up. We are going to be delivering them to the families at a central location in St. Paul on Sunday afternoon, December 20. Sign ups begin the weekend of November 28 and 29.

ServeFest

It's Faith in Action

December is a month of celebrating the birth of our Savior. We are called to let our light shine for Jesus! Please join us as we point to our Savior's birth and celebrate His joy with others. We meet at Shepherd at 10:30 a.m. on Saturdays, December 5 & 19.

Bingo!

Connecting others to Christ is our mission. Shepherd has been involved with our community in a variety of ways over the years. Yes, even Bingo. On the 3rd Thursday, of every other month from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m., we spend time with the residents at Croixdale in Bayport. Through time and fellowship, relationships are growing. Through the gifts of our *Prayer Shawl Ministry*, many have received the gift of God's comfort in a tangible way. We have often been given prayer requests, and as brothers and sisters in Christ, have been blessed with caring for a spiritual need. The next opportunity will be December 17 at 6:30 p.m. We meet

directly at Croixdale. If you have any questions or would like more information please contact Kim at *kashton@shepherd-lutheran.org*.

Annual Blood Drive

For many years the Bloodmobile Drive held at Shepherd of the Valley was led by George and Kathy Reul. They always did an excellent job of planning and organizing the drive. This past summer George died suddenly and left a big leadership hole to be filled. Kathy would like to continue leading, but she will need some help, especially in the area of making phone calls to schedule blood donors. Donations of treats are also needed. If you would like to come alongside Kathy and help with this worthy endeavor you can let us know by contacting the Church Office. For more information on this volunteer role, contact Kathy Reul at 651.436.8952. The next Blood Drive will be held at Shepherd on Monday, December 28 from noon–6:00 p.m.





14107 Hudson Road South
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www.shepherd-lutheran.org

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

December 1, 6, 8, 11	Children's Musical Rehearsals
December 2	Loaves & Fishes
December 2, 16	Kid's Connection Worship Team
December 2, 9	Grade 7 & 8 Confirmation
December 3, 10, 17	3rd Base... the Stop Before Home
December 5	Prayer Shawl Ministry
December 5, 19	ServeFest
December 12	Children's Christmas Musical
December 13	Christmas Concert @ SOV
December 17	Bingo at Croixdale
December 19	SOV Book Club
December 28	Red Cross Blood Drive @ SOV

Saturday Worship: 5:30 p.m.

Sunday Worship: 8:45, 10:00 and 11:00 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

Small Group Ministry: Kristin Lagus,
Jill Wurm, Maria Paulsen

Ignite! Coordinator: Donna Bennett

Administration: Dick Wagenknecht,
Kim Hanson

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