

Shepherd's VOICE

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2009

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

SHEPHERD NEWS



Lent Service Schedule

Ash Wednesday
February 25

5:30 & 7:00 p.m.

Wednesdays,
March 4—April 1

7:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday
April 9

7:00 p.m.

Good Friday
April 10

7:00 p.m.

Dinner is Served

On Ash Wednesday, February 25, the students who will be attending Camp Wapo this summer will be serving a *Sloppy-Joe Supper*. Join us from 6:00-6:45 p.m. in the Community Center. The suggested donation is \$3.00 per person. All proceeds will help to defray the costs of summer camp for those who work the supper. Thank you for supporting our summer campers!

Caring Hearts...

For Homeless People

With our harsh economy, escalating losses of homes and reduction in available jobs, homelessness is on the rise. Shepherd of the Valley is partnering with the Health East Care System in providing hygiene items,



non-prescription medications and other necessities to the homeless in the East Metro area. These supplies are especially crucial during the cold Minnesota winters. The supplies are distributed to homeless adults, youth and children through the following agencies: *Healthcare for the Homeless, Listening House, and Safe Zone.*

To participate in this drive, pick up a shopping list at the Information Kiosk. Bring your donations to the bins beneath the Kiosk between February 1 and 22. Monetary donations are also welcome! Please make checks payable to *HealthEast Foundation Homeless Project* and turn them in to the staff person at the Kiosk. Volunteers are needed to sort and deliver the supplies. Please call the church office if you are interested in helping. *Thank you for giving from your heart!*



FROM THE PASTOR

Review Time!

Shepherd of the Valley's purpose is to:

"Connect all people to Christ, through nurturing, building friendships, and serving."

Every once in awhile I am reminded how well that statement has served us over the years as we've used it as our guide in doing ministry. The reminders usually come in the form of personal statements from members such as:

- ◆ "I love my small group Bible study! I'm learning so much about the Bible that I never knew before."
- ◆ "I've never felt closer to God than when I started serving him in this ministry."
- ◆ "I never had close spiritual friends until I came here and got involved in my group."
- ◆ "My kids love being in Sunday School and they're learning so much about God."
- ◆ "When I leave this place after worship I feel closer to Jesus."

- ◆ "This is the first time in my life that I've had a personal relationship with Christ."

That's why we exist! To create testimonies like this in the lives of people who need to discover the unsurpassable worth of being connected to Jesus Christ. Shepherd exists to connect people to Jesus. The Holy Spirit makes that happen as we develop and offer ministries that nurture with the Word, build friendships with one another, and call us to serve others in Christ's name.

May 2009 be an exciting year of creating testimonies for Christ!

What is Serve Fest?

Have you ever thought about what life would be like without God's love? Serve Fest is a simple way of reaching out to another person in a practical way. Being kind is easy and it builds a bridge for another to receive a touch of love from God.

Here's how it works... Meet at

Shepherd Saturday morning at 10:30 a.m. whether you are a member or not and whether you are young or old. Enjoy a light snack, fellowship and a devotion. Then choose from several serving opportunities, which might include: a random give-away, restroom cleaning, raking, shoveling and other holiday or weather permitting choices. Head out with a team to serve, returning to Shepherd by 11:45 a.m. for fellowship and prayer. Head home at 12:00 noon. Spend the rest of your day with a light heart, thanking God for the privilege of serving Him. If you have felt God nudging you, we would love to serve with you! February dates are the 14 & 28.

Christian Crusaders

On February 8 Pastor Steve will be preaching on Christian Crusaders radio. Listen to his engaging, Gospel-based sermon on KKMS/AM 980 at 7:30 a.m. and on KLBB/AM 1220 at 8:00 a.m. Pastor Steve has been an associate speaker for this historic ministry since 2005.



YOUTH IGNITED

Summer 2009

Thunder Bay Canada Jr. High Mission Trip

Mark it down for June 20 – 26. 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 and registration forms are available at the Youth Kiosk or on our website.

Family Day at Afton Alps



**Saturday,
February 21
9:00 a.m. – 9:30 p.m.**

Afton Alps is partnering with SOV for a Family Day which includes discounted lift tickets, rentals and lessons: \$24.00 lift tickets, \$18.00 rentals & \$4.00 lessons. Registrations are available at the Youth Kiosk. Please complete a registration form and payment and return it to the **Youth Kiosk by Sunday, February 8.**

Junior High Winter Festival

February 27 – March 1 at YMCA Camp Pepin. An entire week of Summer Camp packed into one weekend! Cost: \$105.00 for the entire weekend. Leaders and drivers are needed. Registration forms are available. Friends are always welcome.

Junior High Summer Festival

July 27-31, 2009

Join us for a week at the University of Wisconsin, Stout in Menomonie for Summer Festival Camp. Junior high dorms, swimming, club, and everything you love about camp – especially Jesus! Plus, if you bring a friend to camp who has never been before, you will receive \$50.00 off your camp fees and \$25.00 off each additional friend you bring. Registration forms are now available at the Kiosks.

Sr. High Small Groups

The Winter Session continues through March 8. The Spring Session will begin on April 5 and end on May 17. There is always an open chair at our Small Groups and we'd love for you to come check one out this week! Groups meet at Host Homes in the area on the first three Sunday nights of each month from 6:30–8:00 p.m. For information on locations, check out our website or call Maria Paulsen (Youth Small Groups Coordinator).

Senior High Revamp

Are you looking for a way to experience poverty issues rather than just talking about stuff? Are you interested in learning more about the city that's only miles away from us? Revamp will help answer those questions and more. Join us for a weekend of experiencing God's heart for the poor in Minneapolis on March 13 – 15, 2009. The cost is \$75.00 for the entire weekend. **Registrations due Sunday, February 8.**



FOR KIDS ONLY



Sunday School News

No Sunday School on
Sunday, February 15

Preschool-Kindergarten students will continue working their way through the Old Testament. Parents, please take the time with your children to find the story they are studying in their Bible and talk with them about the story.

1st-5th grade students will continue working in the Old Testament on the unit titled **Big doGs** (disciples of God). Students are looking at key characters of the Bible and how their lives reflected their walk with God. During Shepherd time, students will talk about how

they can be a **Big doG**. You are encouraged to talk with your child about what it means to be a **disciple of God**.

6th grade students will study the Holy Spirit.

On Sunday, February 1

Preschool-Kindergarten:

Bible Story: Baby in a Basket.

Bible Verse: Philippians 4:13.

Point of the Day: God watches over us.

1st-5th Grade:

Bible Story: David's Heart.

Bible Verse: 1 Samuel 16:7.

Point of the Day: God wants us to love Him with our whole heart.

6th Grade:

Lesson: Who is the Holy Spirit?

Bible References: Ezekiel 36:26-27; John 7:37-39; Acts 2:38

On Sunday, February 8

Preschool-Kindergarten:

Bible Story: The Burning Bush.

Bible Verse: Philippians 4:13.

Point of the Day: Listen to God.

1st-5th Grade:

Bible Story: Solomon.

Bible Verse: James 1:5.

Point of the Day: Ask God for wisdom.

6th Grade:

Lesson: Review day

On Sunday, February 22

Preschool-Kindergarten:

Bible Story: Ten Plagues.

Bible Verse: Philippians 4:13.

Point of the Day: God wants us to be persistent.

1st-5th Grade:

Bible Story: Elijah and Baal.

Bible Verse: Exodus 20:3.

Point of the Day: God is the one true God.

6th Grade:

Lesson: What does the Holy Spirit do? (part 1)

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

Winter Blues Getting You Down?



Look ahead to summer! Here are some dates of Children's Ministry summer events to help you plan ahead.

Lake Wapogasset Bible Camp

This year's theme is "*Called—a study of Discipleship!*" Campers will explore their callings as Christians in the world and look at how they might respond according to His will. We have reserved 30 spots for our 3rd graders and eighty spots for our 4th-6th graders. These spots will be reserved through March. Find registration forms at the Children's Ministry Kiosk, Information Kiosk, or Information Desk. Dates are as follows:

- ◇ For students currently in Grade 3: July 17- July 19. Cost \$110.00
- ◇ For students currently in Grades 4-6: July 19- July 24. Cost \$360.00

The following items are **due Sunday, March 1:**

- ◇ Your registration form

- ◇ Health form
- ◇ Copy of insurance card
- ◇ Payment: \$105.00 full payment for 3rd graders. \$100.00 deposit for 4th -6th graders.

Fundraising Opportunity

Children's Ministry will offer one fundraising opportunity that will apply to those going to Camp Wapo. On Ash Wednesday, campers will have the opportunity to work at a Sloppy-Joe Supper. Watch for more instructions and sign-ups at the Children's Information Desk and the Information Kiosk in February. For campers who participate, parents will be asked to donate food and help oversee the supper.

Vacation Bible School

This is for 3year olds (as of September 1, 2007) through students currently in 2nd grade. It will happen Monday, June 15 – Friday, June 19 from 9:00-11:30 a.m. More information and registrations in May.

Summer Servefun

This is for those currently in 3rd -6th grade. Summer is a great time to have fun serving Christ!

Join us for a half-day of serving at Feed My Starving Children followed by an afternoon fun event. Dates are June 25, July 16, and August 13. Watch for more information and registration in May.

SportsLife Camp

Get ready for a sports explosion with a Christ-centered emphasis. This is for kids ages 6-11 and will happen Monday, July 27 – Thursday, July 30 from 9:00 -12:00 noon.

Participants will choose from basketball & street hockey; soccer & ultimate Frisbee; dance & cheerleading; or arts extravaganza. One adult volunteer will be needed for every eight campers. Cost is \$65.00. This is a great event to invite your friends and neighbors to. Registration will be available in April.

3rd Base...The Stop Before Home

(4th-6th graders)

February means it's time for *Camp Cook-a-Bit*. Join us Thursdays on February 5, 12, 19, and 26 from 3:30-5:00 p.m. Invite a friend and join the fun!



GROWING IN CHRIST

Young Adult Event



After the service on **Saturday, February 21**, all SOV Young Adults (20s, 30s, 40s...) are invited to come hang out in the Community Center. There will be volleyball, basketball, assorted video games, and lots of food. We will start at **6:30 p.m. and go until 8:30 p.m.** Childcare will be available for a small fee. Sign up at the Information Kiosk. Contact Pastor Zach if you have questions.

Prayer Shawls

The next gathering of the Prayer Shawl Ministry will be February 7 at 9:30 a.m. at the church. The team would love to teach you to knit or crochet. Yarn is available and no commitment is necessary! Do something new this year... join the prayer shawl team!

In His Service

One of the privileges in my job at church is that I get to help

serve people who are going through the painful loss of a loved one. When there is a funeral at Shepherd of the Valley, lots of people are serving, many of them behind the scenes! When it comes to the meal after a funeral service we, of course, need people to help out in the kitchen. Just as importantly, we need lots of people to drop off some kind of a salad or bars/cookies. This is a short-term service opportunity for all who are part of the Shepherd community.

If you are interested in being a part of the funeral team, please let me know! I can be reached at 651.436.8248 ext. 31 or by email at jwurm@shepherd-lutheran.org. Team members will receive an email letting them know that there is a funeral coming up. If the timing works with their schedule to serve and/or drop off food, they respond back to me. It's an easy way to keep this large church of ours feeling like a church "family."

Jill Wurm
Task Group Coordinator

Sharing God's Love

Drew Kansas' 2nd grade class had just finished a health lesson and were coloring in small groups. The subject of Christmas came up as it was only a few days away. This is what happened...

Girl: I think my favorite part of Christmas is all the presents.

Drew: *I think my favorite part is about Jesus' birth because he is the true king.*

Girl: Who is Jesus?

Drew: *He was God's son who saved us and that is the true meaning of Christmas. Gabriel is a angel who went down to earth and told Mary that she is going to have a king as her son and she has to name him Jesus. Joseph felt weird inside and surprised. And he thought in his head, should I marry Mary? And then he got married with Mary. Oh, and I was the Gospels in the play at my church.*

Girl: What are they?

Drew: *Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. I was the Gospels in the Christmas play.*

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...)



WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

Sharing God's Love

(...CONTINUED)

Drew: *Oh, and if you want to talk to Jesus you have to pray.*

Girl: What's praying?

Drew and Other Friend in group: *Praying is talking to Jesus and saying blessings and if you just want to talk to him about your problems. Oh, and you hold your hands like this.*

Girl: Oh.

Drew: *I go to Shepherd of the Valley Church every Sunday. It's really fun.*

Another Student: I go to church every week, too.

Girl walks up to teacher and asks: "Do you know that Jesus is our true king?"

Teacher: *Yes, I do.*

How I Came to Shepherd

About five years ago I received a call from the Red Cross Blood Donor Division to report to the Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church for my usual

blood donation. I asked them the Church location and was told it was a new church, built on an abandoned sand pit in Afton.

As I traveled to the church I pondered Matthew 7:26 that cautions those who would build their houses upon the sand. But Exodus 34 proclaims our God is all knowing and merciful and I was sure He had instructed the builders to install some kind of firm structural foundation.

I entered the church and was impressed by the beauty of the building and went into the room to offer my blood donation to those in need. As I reclined on the table I felt an amazing comforting presence. It seemed God's Holy Spirit was giving me a special hug that I really needed right at that time.

I rushed home to share the experience with my wife, Jeanene, and we admitted to each other the spiritual emptiness we had both felt recently and believed it was the Holy Spirit encouraging us to find more fellowship. Together we

visited Shepherd of the Valley Church the following Sunday and felt it was God's place for us at this time in our lives. We have continued to worship here since that day and found opportunities to serve, wonderful friends, the support of a loving church family and the perfect peace that God gives when we know we have followed His leading.

The church may have been built on sand, but the solid Word of God was the real foundation and that Word will stand forever.

Dick Peulen

What's Your Story?

Shepherd of the Valley's purpose is to "*Connect all people to Christ, through nurturing, building friendships, and serving.*" How do you see this happening in your life or in the lives of others around you? Please share your story, that we may share it with others, that they may be encouraged. Submit your story to Kim at office@shepherd-lutheran.org.



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

February 1	Senior High Small Groups
February 4, 11, 18	7 th & 8 th Grade Confirmation
February 4	Loaves & Fishes
February 5, 12, 19, 26	3rd Base... the Stop Before Home
February 7	Prayer Shawl Meeting
February 8, 15	Sr. High Small Groups in Host Homes
February 14 & 28	ServeFest
February 21	Family Day at Afton Alps
February 21	SOV Book Club
February 21	Young Adult Evening at Shepherd
February 25	Ash Wednesday Services

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

Adult Ministry: Dick Wagenknecht,
Kristin Lagus, Jill Wurm, Maria
Paulsen

Ignite! Coordinator: Donna Bennett

Support Ministry: Kim Hanson

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

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