

Shepherd's

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH

JUNE / JULY 2008

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

SHEPHERD NEWS

Ladies, Mark Your Calendars!



Refresh, Renew, Rejoice!

Shepherd of the Valley is excited to offer a Women's Retreat September 5-7, 2008 at the Koinonia Retreat Center (www.koinoniaretreatcenter.org)

This will be an opportunity to get away and enjoy fun, fellowship and a makeover—a character makeover. We need times of retreat with others who can

identify with our joys and struggles, and where we can learn about the way God works in our hearts and lives to bring renewal.

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. 2 Corinthians 3:17-18

Transformation is never easy, no matter if you are redoing your hairstyle, your wardrobe

or any room in your house. But the transforming work that Christ does in our lives is done with love and grace.

Come be a part of this exciting women's weekend, as we invite God to transform us to be more like Him

Watch for registration information later in June, both online and at the Information Kiosk. \$140.00 covers two nights' lodging, meals, speaker sessions and fun! Space is limited, so please register early. Contact Kristin Lagus at klagus@shepherd-lutheran.org.

Summer Sermon Series

"The 7 Habits of Highly Ineffective People"

A Look at the Seven Deadly Sins

Be sure to join us for the Summer Sermon Series. We will be taking a look at the Seven Deadly Sins, and seeing how God desires to free us from those things so that we can live the life He intended for us. The series begins May 31 - June 1.





FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends in Christ,

Isn't it great to see Spring finally breaking through, after way too much wet and cold?! It is such a gift to feel the warmth of the sunshine, to see the flowers growing, and the grass turning green. We hope and pray that you are able to find time this summer to bask in the warmth of God's grace, to rest and relax in His presence, and to enjoy the relationships that he has blessed you with.

During the summer we often think in terms of breaks and vacations. I know I can't wait to take some time and get away this summer! But sometimes summer also ends up being a time when worship becomes less of a priority. We all need to be reminded that our relationship with Jesus is a dynamic thing that needs to be renewed and energized each and every day—and weekly worship is a key part of that.

So, this summer I want to personally invite you to come to worship and take a look at an

intriguing topic with us. Our sermon series in June and July will be on the “**Seven Deadly Sins.**” They are often quoted and used in popular culture, and there was even a Brad Pitt movie filmed about them a few years ago!

You might be thinking, “What a downer!” But our goal in this series is not to add more guilt to the mix. Instead we want spotlight the incredible grace and freedom that God offers to us through Jesus and the cross. Many sins permeate our culture and our lives, but God invites us into a better way of living. His desire is that we live a life full of *humility, generosity, gratitude, kindness, love, self-control, and hopefulness* (among others)—guided by the Holy Spirit.

So, join us this summer as we consider “**Seven Habits of Highly Ineffective People.**” And come hear about the *grace filled vision God has for your life!*

In His Grip,

Baptism Class

This 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. At each class we look at baptism's Biblical roots, the most commonly asked questions about baptism and what the baptismal ceremony will look like. The next classes will be offered on June 29 and August 3 at 9:30 a.m.

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

New Connections

This first step in membership at Shepherd of the Valley is participation in the New Connections classes. This is a series of four classes that is offered five or six times per year. The next series will be held on Sunday mornings at 10:15 a.m. and will run from June 22—July 20. If you know of someone who is interested in membership at Shepherd of the Valley have them call the church office.



FROM THE STAFF

Thank You, Becky!

For the past 5 years, Becky Max has served as our Special Needs Coordinator. At the end of June, she will be leaving this position. What a privilege and joy it has been to work alongside someone so passionate about connecting ALL kids to Christ! She has shared her love with the children as well as the volunteers in this ministry. She will be greatly missed. God's blessings to Becky as she pursues the path God has planned for her!

Thank You...

Children's Ministry Volunteers!

It has been a joy to serve alongside the many incredible volunteers who God called to serve in the *Sunday School Ministry*, *Pioneer Club*, *3rd Base*, the *Christmas Musical*, and other opportunities this school year. We praise God for your love and dedication to accomplish the mission of *Connecting Kids to Christ* and *affecting a child's life for eternity!* We look forward to the team God will call upon for next year!

A Lasting Treasure

What a fun last day we had in Sunday School! I went from room to room to share a message that we desire each child to know... that God loves us SO MUCH, He sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment for our sins. And that if we believe in Jesus as our Savior, one day we will be celebrating with Him in heaven.

I entered Kris Coyer's kindergarten classroom. They were really partying! Miss Kris asked her students to tell me the reason for the party.

They said, "We each told 10 people about Jesus! That means we told 100 people all together!"

I thought, "How awesome is that! God has used these little children to fulfill His mission of sharing with others His Good News!"

My heart praises God for what He is doing through the lives of children. It also causes me to pause and ask... how many people would be told about

Jesus if you and I did as these children?

And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 18:3-4

Adult Leaders & Volunteers

Are you being called to serve in Youth Ministry?

We are looking for junior and senior high small group leaders for this fall. We also welcome adult volunteers to help with events and trips. We seek people who love Jesus and like teens and like to have a lot of fun! We encourage you to pray this up and see Kim S. or Maria P.



FOR KIDS ONLY

Sunday School News



Blessings to You 6th Graders!

What a joy it has been having you as part of the Children's Ministry for the past 10 years! We pray that during these years, you have claimed Christ as *your* Savior. He loves you and is with you always. Live your life for Him! Youth Ministry is excited to welcome you as you enter into 7th grade.

Sunday School Registration

Registration is underway for the 2008-09 school year. If you were enrolled for the 2007-08 year and missed the May registration, a form has been mailed to you. Please update, complete and sign the form(s) and return to Shepherd, attention Dana Lochner. Or you may put the

form in the slot in the Children's Ministry Kiosk.

Are you new to Sunday School at Shepherd?

Welcome! Registration forms can be found at the Children's Ministry Kiosk, Information Desk, Information Kiosk, or online. You may also email Dana at dlochner@shepherd-lutheran.org to have a form mailed to you.

Do You Love Christ and What to Affect a Child's Life for Eternity?

Be a part of *Connecting Kids to Christ* by volunteering in Sunday School Ministry during the 2008-09 school year. There are even places to serve if you don't like working directly with kids. Check out the Sunday School Volunteer form (located at the Kiosks or online) or talk to one of the Children's Ministry staff.

Lights! Camera! Action!

Do you have a gift for drama? Do you love working with kids? Do you love Jesus and all the wonderful stories about Him? Then YOU may be perfect for this "part"! Teens and adults wanting to be a part of SOV's Drama Team are being sought to help excite, ignite, and then highlight some of the greatest stories in the Bible for our Sunday School kids this fall! Sign up on the Sunday School Volunteer Form **this Sunday**, or contact Nancy Mock at 651.436.4581. Be a part of the fun and prepare to be blessed!!

It's spring cleaning time... the SOV Drama Team would like to help! Do you have fun old hats, clothes, shoes, or accessories? Contact Nancy Mock to see if it is something that the Drama Team can put to good use onstage, ministering to our Sunday School kids this fall.

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

Summer Fun!

Bible School Power Lab!



Bible School is for those who turned 3 years old as of September 1, 2007 – current 2nd graders. What a great way to share the Good News of Jesus with others; invite your friends to Bible School!

This year students will experience Jesus' miraculous power bubbling over at *Power Lab!* They 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 **Monday, June 9 – Friday, June 13** from 9:00-11:30 a.m. The cost is \$20.00/student or \$50.00/family. Registration forms are available and can be turned in at the Information Kiosk. **Don't miss the fun; sign up today!!**

Get Ready for SportsLife Camp at Shepherd!

Get Ready for a Sports Explosion that's Centered Around Christ. This camp is for students who are 6-11 years old. 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. Camp will happen **Monday, July 28 – Thursday, July 31** from 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. The cost is \$60.00. This is a great event to invite your friends and neighbors to. **Sign up today!**

Summer Servefun For current 3-6th graders

Summer is a great time to have fun serving Christ! For registered students the details are as follows:

- Monday, June 16
8:45 a.m.—3:45 p.m.
FMSC & Grand Slam
Cost \$15.00
- Tuesday, July 15
8:45 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

FMSC & swimming at Cascade Bay.

Cost \$15.00

- Tuesday, August 12
8:45 a.m.—3:15 p.m.
FMSC & roller skating at Skateville.
Cost \$6.00

Summer Servefun has quickly filled because we are limited in our number at Feed My Starving Children. Because cancellations happen, a waiting list has been established and is available at the Information Kiosk.

Adult Chaperones are still needed for each event. There is a 1 adult/3 student ratio required by Feed My Starving Children. If you can chaperone in the morning, but not the afternoon, let us know.

Camp Wapo Dates:

- For current 3rd graders: Friday, July 18 through Sunday, July 20
- For current 4th–6th graders: Sunday, July 20 through Friday, July 25

Talk to Christie if you are interested in going to camp.



GROWING IN CHRIST

Small Group Update

About 600 adults were involved in small group experiences through Shepherd of the Valley this year. On any given day of the week, at least one or more groups were meeting. Some met at church, some in homes, and some in area restaurants or coffee shops. Groups offered a variety of topics, Bible study, fellowship and fun. Without the dedication of about 100 small group leaders, this would not have been possible. Thank you leaders! Because you offer your time and talents, many people are able to build meaningful friendships and grow in their faith together.

If you weren't able to participate in a small group this spring, information and registration for the Fall session will be available in September, with groups starting at the beginning of October. We invite you to join a small group. Don't miss out!

Small Group New Leader Training



A two-session training for new small group leaders will be offered Wednesdays, July 16 and 23 at 7:00 p.m. The training will include tips on starting a group, covenants, icebreakers, prayer and leading group discussions. If you are interested in participating, or in finding out more about the training, please contact Kristin Lagus at klagus@shepherd-lutheran.org.

For Small Group Leaders

Willow Creek Small Group Conference

This year's conference is October 15-18. See Kristin Lagus for further details if you are interested in attending. \$75.00 before June 30 holds your spot. Sign up soon as limited space is available.

Summer Adult Fellowship Opportunities

- Weekly Golf
- SOV Bicycle Group
- "Shepherd's Flock" Motorcycle Group
- Women's Volleyball & Badminton
- Men's Softball
- SOV Book Club
- Prayer Shawl Ministry
- ServeFest
- Landscaping Team
- Loaves & Fishes
- Habitat for Humanity
- Adult Volunteer at Children or Youth Events
- Task Groups
- Saturday Ignite! Food Teams

Check out the Information Kiosk for more information or to sign up for any of these activities.



YOUTH IGNITED

Welcome to Youth Ministry Day

Wild Mountain Monday, June 16

This is a day set aside for students entering 7th grade to learn more about the Junior High Ministries at SOV, meet some awesome leaders and staff and build community. Friends are welcome to join us. Registration forms and a signup are at the Kiosk and online.

Summer Festival

UW Stout, July 21 – 25

For one week a college campus will be transformed to a Bible Camp! Imagine all the fun activities and games along with cabin times, devotions, worship and church group time at college! Friends are always welcome! The cost is \$315.00. If you sign up a friend you get \$50 off your camp fee. Turn in your \$100.00 deposit ASAP.

Summer Fest Senior High Counselors

Formerly the TIM Team experience, this is an awesome way for senior highers to take

on leadership roles at camp. See Kim S for a leader application.

Summer Stretch

All registered youth, please meet at Trinity Lutheran Church in Stillwater each Wednesday from June 11 – July 9 at 8:30 a.m. After a full day of service and fun, we'll meet back at Trinity at 4:30 p.m. On the last day, we will be going to Valley Fair, and we won't get back to Trinity until 8:00 p.m. **Adult drivers and leaders are needed** for each of the five days, especially for Valley Fair day. Please contact Maria Paulsen if you can help!

Senior High Montana Mission Trip

Hey team! Our final meeting is on June 7 at 12:00 p.m. at SOV. Please come ready to serve at the Feed My Starving Children event here at SOV. Your final payment is due that day. The final parent meeting will be on June 29 at 10:00 a.m. The Commissioning Service will follow at the 10:30 a.m. worship service. We depart for Montana on July 5!

Drop-In Gym Night

All students who will be in grades 9 -12 this fall, we want you to come hang out this summer for some sweet games of basketball, volleyball, badminton, foosball, and so much more! Drop in anytime between 6:00—8:00 p.m. on Wednesday nights from June 11 through August 13. Get ready for some serious fun! Bring all your friends, and come make some more! **Adult leaders are needed.** Please let Maria know if you are available.

Sonshine Music Festival

All current 7th – 12th graders, join us July 17- 20 for three days and nights of 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 today!



14107 Hudson Road South
Afton, Minnesota 55001
www.shepherd-lutheran.org

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

June 9-13	Bible School "Power Lab"
June 11, 18, 25, July 2, 9	Summer Stretch
June 14, 28	ServeFest
June 16	Welcome to Jr. High Day
June 16, July 15	Summer ServeFun
June 21-27	Jr. High Mission Trip
July 5-11	Sr. High Mission Trip
July 17-20	Sonshine Music Festival
July 18-20	Camp Wapo Grade 3
July 20-25	Camp Wapo Grades 4-6
July 21-25	Jr. High Camp
July 28-31	Sports Life Camp

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,
Darla Ostrand, Dana Lochner

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

14107 Hudson Road South
Afton, Minnesota 55001

Phone: 651.436.8248

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