

# Shepherd's



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SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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JUNE/JULY 2009

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

## SHEPHERD NEWS

### **Mission in Action**

Our mission statement is *“To connect all people to Christ through nurturing, building friendships and serving.”* This month we will highlight the *serving* part of this statement. Check out the following serving opportunities that are available at Shepherd of the Valley this summer.

#### **ServeFest**

Every other Saturday a team meets at Shepherd at 10:30 a.m. After a short devotion they head into our community to perform random acts of kindness and service, demonstrating to others that God’s love is free! The team will frequently offer a car wash during the summer months: “Jesus washed feet. . . we wash cars.” Imagine the surprise when the car wash really is free, or the car owner is given \$1.00 for the privilege of washing the car!

### **Habitat for Humanity**

This year we have the joy of working on the home of one of our own members! The next chance to serve will be the week of June 15-19. Twenty workers are needed each day at the site in New Richmond, WI. Volunteers to prepare and serve food are also needed. Sign up at the Habitat Booth located in the Gathering Area.

#### **Loaves & Fishes**

The team from Shepherd serves at St. Matthew’s Church the first Wednesday of each month. Come at 3:30 p.m. to prepare the food or at 4:45 p.m. to serve the evening meal. The summer dates are June 3, July 1 and August 5. Call the church office for directions.

#### **Building / Grounds Task Groups**

We rely on a team of volunteers to keep up the grounds. And don’t they do a nice job! Help is always welcome in the following areas: mowing the

lawn, planting, weeding and watering, Don’t like the heat? Consider coming on board to help shovel snow in the winter. We also have a team that washes our windows several times per year.

#### **Usher, Greeter and Communion Teams**

These teams are in place to make to create a welcoming and accommodating environment at Shepherd. Whether they are making coffee, shaking hands at the door, encouraging us to “squeeze together” to make more room, or serving us at the Lord’s Table, their servant hearts are evident!

#### **Audiovisual / Tech Team**

This team works behind the scenes during every worship service, enhancing the worship experience with up to date technology.

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## FROM THE PASTOR

Friends in Christ,

I am an avid reader. To me, it doesn't get much better than sitting out in the sun while reading a great book. People often stop me at church, and ask if I have any good books to recommend. So, with summer on the horizon, with some occasional time to sit back and relax, here are some books I have recently read that I highly recommend:

***True Story: A Christianity Worth Believing In*, by James Chuong**

James Chuong is the divisional director of InterVarsity Fellowship in San Diego, CA. In this book, he helps us envision a new way to describe the good news of the gospel to skeptics and unbelievers. He creates an engaging narrative about a believer and a skeptic who meet at a university, and begin to get together to discuss what Jesus and Christianity are really all about. Within this narrative, Chuong presents a fresh take on how to explain the Christian faith and what God is doing in this broken world of ours. I found this

book to be inspiring and helpful. It helped open up my mind to think about how we should tell the story of Jesus to increasingly skeptical generations.

***Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus: How the Jewishness of Jesus Can Transform Your Faith*, by Ann Spangler and Lois Tverberg.**

In the interest of full disclosure, Lois Tverberg is my Dad's cousin. She and Ann Spangler do a terrific job of illustrating why it is important to understand Jesus within his Jewish context. We often do not spend enough time thinking about the context and the cultural background of what Jesus is doing and saying throughout the gospels. In this book Spangler and Tverberg help explain the Jewish rabbinical system, the significance of many Jewish feast days, and what it means to be a disciple of a rabbi, among many other interesting topics. After reading this book, I feel like I understand many of Jesus' stories and teachings even better. They have taken on an even deeper meaning for me.

***Sin Boldly: A Field Guide for Grace*, by Cathleen Falsani.**

Cathleen Falsani is the religion columnist for the Chicago Sun Times. In this book, she has set out to write about her experiences with God's grace. She shows how God's grace shows up in all different places and situations, from traveling in Kenya to the Sun Times newsroom. Falsani helped remind me to be on the lookout for God's grace breaking into the world all around me, each and every day. God's grace is truly amazing!

We hope to see you at church often this summer. Remember, regular worship is an important part of a dynamic relationship with Jesus. Enjoy your summer—and happy reading!

In His Grip,

**Tune In**

Pastor Steve is preaching on Christian Crusaders radio on Sunday, June 7. The program can be heard in our area on KKMS/AM 980 at 7:30 a.m., and on KLBB/AM 1220 at 8:00 a.m.



## GROWING IN CHRIST

### God's Dwelling Place

This year the Tuesday morning women's group completed a wonderful Beth Moore study, "A Woman's Heart, God's Dwelling Place." It was so interesting to read Exodus 25-30 and learn of the meticulous directions that God gave Moses for the Old Testament Tabernacle. We followed the building of the Tabernacle from the outside, to its innermost room and all the important furnishings.

As we neared the end of the Bible Study, our leaders encouraged us to be sure to be there for the Final Fellowship meeting of the year. Being my first year in the Tuesday morning group, I didn't know what to expect... maybe singing, food and time for fellowship. Well, we had that and SO much more. As I entered the Sanctuary, I could hardly believe what I saw. In the front of the church there was a life size replica of the Tabernacle. The "Tuesday Morning Girl Band" led us in worship with beautiful music, and as our voices raised

in praise to God, my eyes were continually drawn back to Tabernacle. From where I sat, I could see the Basin and the Sin Altar, complete with an offering of a lamb (a toy stuffed one, of course. Thanks to the child that shared his/her lamb with us!) And then volunteers began explaining each and every aspect of the Tabernacle. The words that we had studied from the Bible, came alive as we viewed the replicas of the furnishings. And the resounding message was that God planned all the details of the Old Testament Tabernacle, but everything ultimately pointed to Christ and our salvation through Him. We no longer have the Tabernacle here on earth because we have Christ in us!

We were then invited to enter the Tabernacle. We walked through the courtyard, then entered the Holy Place and were served communion by two lovely sisters in Christ. Then the curtain was pulled back and we entered the "Holy of Holies" where the "Ark of the Testament" rested. There it

was... the ark with the golden cherubim guarding the mercy seat. What an experience to see a visual of what only the High Priest could see in Biblical times. And what an amazing gift to know that, through Christ, we can enter God's presence daily. Words cannot begin to express my feelings... just goose bumps, tears and awed silence! And just when I thought it couldn't get any better, after leaving the Tabernacle there was a big mirror with a sign that said "YOU ARE GOD'S DWELLING PLACE." What a humbling and spirit-filled experience.

Thank you very much to all the women who worked so hard to make the Tabernacle "real" for us. What a privilege to be part of this adventure. I am so thankful that God led me to the Tuesday morning women's Bible Study. I can't wait for the study of Esther next year!

Blessings,

*Karen Hannemann*



## FOR KIDS ONLY



### Sunday School is Over, Now What?

What a fun year we had together learning about God's great love for us. In both the preschool and elementary areas, the students spent the year walking through the Old Testament. Next year the preschool-kindergarten students will finish up the Old Testament and begin the New Testament. The 1-5 grade students will be working their way through the New Testament. Our 6<sup>th</sup> grade students spent the year discussing the basic questions of faith through the *Youth Alpha* curriculum. I encourage you to talk with them about what they have learned and about any ques-

tions they may have. Don't worry... if you don't know the answer to their question, spend time looking for the answer with them. Now that Sunday School is over for this school year, here are some great family faith-building activities for you to do this summer:

- \* Attend worship together! How important it is for your child to worship *with you* so they can see you modeling what it means worship. Don't forget to talk about the service on the car ride home.
- \* Pray with and for your children daily.
- \* Spend time each day with your child in God's Word. This will help them to develop a time daily with God.
- \* Work as a family to memorize a verse each week; placing God's Word in your hearts.
- \* Participate in a service project together; sharing your

love for God through your service to others.

- \* Spend some time daily with your children, talking, listening, playing, serving, and in all things applying God's truth to your lives and theirs.

Have a great summer!

In His  
Grip ~

### Blessings to You 6<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> grade. God bless you,

*The Children's Ministry Team*

#### 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

### 2009-10 Sunday School Registration

Registration is now underway. If you were enrolled last year, and have not yet registered, a form has been mailed to your home. Please update and sign the form and mail it to Shepherd of the Valley: attention Dana Lochner. Or put it in the slot located at the Children's Ministry Kiosk. Are you new to Sunday School at Shepherd? Welcome! Blank registration forms can be found at the Kiosks or online or you may email Dana at [dlochner@shepherd-lutheran.org](mailto:dlochner@shepherd-lutheran.org) to have a form mailed to you.

### Do You Love Christ and Want to Affect a Child for Eternity?

Be a part of *Connecting Kids to Christ* by volunteering in Sunday School Ministry next 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.



### Summer Fun!

#### Bible School

Join us for *Passport to the Holy Land*; June 15 - 19 from 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. This is for children 3 years of age through those who just completed the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Registrations are still available!

#### Sports Life Camp; July 27-30

Get ready for a sports explosion that's centered around Christ! This camp is for kids who have completed grades K - 5. Each day is packed full of physical activity, Bible based learning, singing, friendships, and fun. Participants choose from basketball & street hockey; soccer & ultimate Frisbee; dance & cheerleading; or arts extravaganza. In addition there will be side shows of break dancing, high speed kickball, and a rubber chicken challenge. Cost is \$65.00. This is a great event to invite your friends and neighbors to. **Adult helpers are needed for this event.** Registration forms are available on our website or at the Information Kiosk.



#### Summer Servefun

This is for students in grades 3 - 6. It is currently full because we are limited in our number at Feed My Starving Children. In case of cancellations you may sign up on the waiting list (located at the Information Kiosk). For those who have registered, here are the details:

- ◇ **Thursday, June 25;** 8:15 a.m - 3:45 p.m. FMSC & Grand Slam.
- ◇ **Thursday, July 16;** 8:15 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. FMSC & swimming at Cascade Bay.
- ◇ **Thursday, August 13;** 8:15 a.m.- 3:15 p.m. FMSC & bowling.

#### Hey, Wapo Campers!

If you are registered for Camp Wapo, you will get a letter this month indicating your remaining balance and the details you will need to know about your time at camp. Look forward to an awesome time spent in God's creation! If you have questions, please contact Christie at [ccotner@shepherd-lutheran.org](mailto:ccotner@shepherd-lutheran.org).





# SERVING IN HIS NAME

## Mission in Action

(Continued from Page 1)

### Childcare Team

Volunteers are needed in the nursery, not only during worship services, but also some days and evenings when small groups offer childcare. If you enjoy holding babies or playing with toddlers, please consider coming on board!

### Children's Ministry

MANY opportunities abound, in Sunday School and other events year round. Please check out the *Children's Ministry Volunteer Form* located at the Kiosk or on our website.

### Adult Small Group Leaders

If you have enjoyed your small group experience consider giving others the opportunity to connect by becoming a small group leader. Please contact Kristin Lagus to sign up for the training session for new group leaders. The session will be offered on August 4 and 11.

### Youth Ministry

If you love teens and you love Jesus you may want to consider joining the team as a Confirma-

tion or Senior High small group leader. Looking for a more short-term commitment? Leaders for retreats, events or camps are needed throughout the year.

### A Huge THANK YOU!

Check out the following list. It provides a glimpse into the number of people that are faithfully serving others, in the name of Jesus, throughout the year. The entire staff at Shepherd of the Valley says: "We appreciate you!"

- 25 ServeFest
- 10 Window Washers
- 40 Habitat for Humanity
- 20 Loaves and Fishes
- 10 Prayer Ministers
- 40 Prayer Shawl Ministry
- 32 Funeral Group
- 10 Landscaping / Lawn
- 8 Snow Removal
- 3 Library Team
- 10 Newsletter Team and Office Support
- 20 Meals on Wheels
- 86 Nursery workers
- 240 Sunday School team
- 60 Other Children's Events
- 22 Saturday Ignite Team
- 30 Confirmation leaders
- 8 Jr High Event Leaders

- 15 Senior High Small Group Leaders
- 5 Senior High Home Hosts
- 125 Adult Small Group Leaders
- 15 Worship Music Team
- 30 Adult Choir
- 50 Communion Team
- 60 Ushers
- 56 Greeters
- 15 AV Team
- 12 First Responders

## Something New in the Nursery

If you have kids under the age of four, you have very likely seen



the new play house and library addition to the nursery. We want to thank the many volunteers who helped plan, construct and paint the play house and the library. Their willingness to serve, along with their joyful attitudes, have made this such a fun project! The children will continue to enjoy these additions for years to come! To see more pictures of the building process check out our website.



# YOUTH IGNITED

## Junior High Summer Festival Camp

July 27-31, 2009. Join us for a week at the University of Wisconsin, Stout in Menomonie for Junior High Summer Festival Camp. 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. Cost: \$325.00. Registration forms are available and space is limited.

## Confirmation 2009-10



Registration forms for Confirmation are available for students entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall of 2009. Please return these to the Youth Kiosk or mail by June 28. We are currently seeking small group leaders and substitute leaders for confirmation small groups. If you would like to learn more about this exciting ministry, please contact Kim Schmidt.

## Habitat For Humanity

The team from Shepherd of the Valley will serve the week of June 15-19 at the site in New Richmond, WI. This week is open to all SOV members and youth, 14 or older. If interested, please sign up at the Habitat Booth located in the Gathering Area.

## Senior High Small Groups

We're taking a summer break! But we'll be back this fall, so don't forget to register in September for another awesome year of hanging out with Jesus and each other! Thank you leaders and Host Parents for your awesome service all year long!

## Senior High Leader Study/ Training

Are you currently a Senior High Small Group Leader or do you hope to be one this fall? Join Maria Paulsen for a Leader Study/Training beginning Monday, June 8. We'll meet at

Maria's house from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. on Mondays through June 29. There's no cost, but there is a registration card at the Kiosk. Please fill one out if you are interested!

## Sr. High Summer Mission Trip



Ocean Springs, Mississippi  
July 11-19, 2009

Join us for amazing experience as we help build houses with Habitat For Humanity Mississippi Gulf Coast and Camp Victor. Please note: you must be at least 16 by July 14 to participate. Cost: \$350.00. Registration forms are available at the Youth Kiosk. Registration and deposits are due by June 7.

## Youth Kiosk and Online Registrations

For registration forms, information and more, please check out the Youth Kiosk in the Gathering Area. Most registration forms can also be found on our website.



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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

June 3, July 1	Loaves & Fishes
June 6, 20	ServeFest
June 8, 15, 22, 29	Sr. High Leader Study/ Training
June 15 – 19	Habitat For Humanity
June 15-19	Vacation Bible School
June 18	Wild Mountain Day
June 25, July 16	Summer ServeFun
July 11 – 19	Sr. High Summer Mission Trip
July 17-19	3rd Grade Camp Wapo Weekend
July 19-24	Grades 4-6 Camp Wapo
July 27-30	Sports Life Camp
July 27 – 31	Jr. High Summer Festival

**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

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

*Ignite!* Coordinator: Donna Bennett

Administration: Dick Wagenknecht,  
Kim Hanson

### Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

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