

# Shepherd's VOICE

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH

OCTOBER 2009

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

## SHEPHERD NEWS

### Rake A Difference Day



On Saturday October 24, ServeFest participants will take part in Washington County's annual national day of service. What a great chance to help others in Jesus' name! We will spend the morning raking the yards of seniors and people with disabilities. Meet at Shepherd @ 10:30 a.m. and we'll finish by 12:30 p.m. Bring gloves and a rake if you have them. Please sign up at the Information Center so we can let Washington County know how many yards we can do.

### Baptism Class

The next Baptism class will be offered on October 14 at 6:00 p.m. Note that the day has changed from Sunday morning to Wednesday evening. This class is for anyone who wishes

to have their child baptized at Shepherd, or for any adult who wishes to be baptized. To sign up for the class, or to schedule a baptism, please call the church office.

### New Connections

If you or someone you know is considering membership at Shepherd of the Valley, sign up now for the New Connections class. This is the first step in membership at Shepherd.

New Connections is a series of four classes that is offered five times per year. The class is organized into small groups. Each session includes a small group bible Study and presentations by Shepherd staff members. The next New Connections class begins on Tuesday, October 6 at 7:00 p.m. Childcare is available. Please sign up at the Information Center or you may call the church office to register.

### Adult Education

#### Tough Questions & Controversial Issues

It's not too late to plug into this series of classes, taught by Pastor Zach on Sunday mornings. Each week's lesson stands alone so come as you can! The classes are offered at 8:45, 10:00 and 11:00 a.m. Join us before or after your worship service of choice, or while your children are in Sunday School. Upcoming sessions include:

- ◆ *Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?*
- ◆ *What About Sex & Marriage*
- ◆ *Is the Earth Really Only 6,000 Years Old?*
- ◆ *Am I Going to be Left Behind?*
- ◆ *Is God a Republican or a Democrat?*
- ◆ *Is the Bible Really True?*
- ◆ *More Questions... to be determined by the class*

For more information talk to Pastor Zach.



## FROM THE PASTOR

### Sharpen Up!

*“Iron sharpens iron and one person sharpens the wits of another.” (Proverbs 27:17)*

Business organizations follow this bit of wisdom. Education understands it as well. Leadership book authors also point to it as a must for personal growth. Perhaps we would be wise to put this to work in our lives as followers of Jesus. If you want to grow in your understanding and use of God’s Word in your life then you will act upon this proverb. Here’s how...

First, get into a small group because sharpening is what happens when God’s people gather and discuss God’s Word and how it intersects with our lives. I have heard over and over again from various participants in our groups how much this has helped them to grow in understanding God’s Word and how it applies to life.

Also, on Sunday mornings great adult education is offered every hour. Zach Thompson is a gifted teacher and is leading a series on “Controversial Issues” this Fall. There will be

other offerings, as well, along the way. You will find these forums challenging and interesting.

As followers of Jesus we have committed ourselves to being his tools in this world. If we’re going to be useful tools in God’s hand, let’s be sharp! Come and sharpen up!

In Him,

### In the Word

Shepherd is a church that loves the Bible. We believe it is our final authority on matters of faith and life, and is truly the Word of God. Our hope and prayer for every person connected to SOV is that they become students of the Bible, and that they learn about the amazing love of God and his plan for salvation through Jesus.

I have been asked about which Study Bible SOV recommends. The favorite study Bible of many of the staff is the *Life Application Study Bible* (NLT or NIV). It has thousands of notes that help apply the text to everyday life.

Another good study Bible is *The New Oxford Annotated Bible* (NRSV). This version provides an academic view of Scripture. Other good options include: *The ESV Study Bible*, the *NIV Study Bible*, and *The Lutheran Study Bible* (ESV, Concordia Publishing).

There are many translations to choose from and each has its strengths and weaknesses. Three that are used at Shepherd include: **NLT** (*New Living Translation*) is a newer, contemporary translation. It is a “phrase by phrase” translation which helps to better communicate the original meaning and context of each verse. **NIV** (*New International Version*) has been the preferred choice of many evangelicals for many years. **NRSV** (*New Revised Standard Version*) has been the preferred choice of many mainline denominations. Please see [www.shepherd-lutheran.org/bible](http://www.shepherd-lutheran.org/bible) for more information about reviewing or ordering these Bibles. Sample copies are located at the Information Center.



## MISSION CORNER

### A Purpose in the Sun

Did you ever sit in the sun with your face to the sky and think, “Dear God, I am so blessed... how can I ever show you how grateful I am for all you have done for me?” That is how it all started.

Bob and I spend the winter months in Yuma, AZ. Early one morning a lady came to the pool to ask the gals for help to make polar fleece blankets for an orphanage in Morelos, Mexico. She explained that 30+ children were sleeping 2-3 in a bed and sharing blankets. That afternoon we cut and tied 38 blankets.

Through this project we got to know the couple who regularly traveled to the orphanage, bringing gifts of money, food and clothing to help the children. For health reasons this couple decided to move from Arizona to be closer to their children. As the wife shared her concerns for the children in the orphanage I could feel God nudging me and saying, “You said you were so grateful for

your winters in Arizona. Here is your chance to make your time in the sun count for something.” The words spilled out, “My husband and I would be glad to take over driving to the orphanage.” I couldn’t believe I had said that! What had I gotten myself into? How was Bob going to take this? Were people going to help us support these orphans? The doubts flooded my head.

I should have known that God’s plans are far greater than all my worries. He has been with us each step of this wonderful, heartwarming and fun journey. Bob jumped right in to help, never questioning my offer. Our friends in Yuma have donated groceries and have raised money to support the orphanage.

So it went as we made our trips to Morelos, Mexico. Upon our arrival the children would flock to our van and shower us with hugs and wonderful smiles. We passed out treats and spent time playing. Language is no barrier when pushing a child on a swing. We returned to our northern homes for the

summer. As we told our story God continued to touch hearts. And we have witnessed His faithful provisions: groceries, washing machines, new buildings, a power pole for electricity, computers, committed volunteers, a new foundation (*Friends of Morelos Orphanage*) with a board of directors and even a small church that meets on the property.

I know that God answers prayers—but sometimes He overwhelms me!

*Kathleen Maynard*

### The Dwelling Place

The *Dwelling Place* is a shelter for women that Shepherd has been supporting for several years. It is the only Christian domestic abuse organization in Minnesota that provides safe housing, supportive services and basic necessities for women and children fleeing abuse. All are invited to attend their Annual Gala, *Hope Now*, on Friday, October 9. For more information, or to donate items for their silent auction, please contact Micki at 651.735.2367.



# FOR KIDS ONLY



## Sunday School News

The halls are filled with children! What a blessing for God to allow us to be His instrument to affect a child's life for eternity. Welcome to the many new families that God has brought into our ministry. Thank you to the many volunteers who answered "yes" to God's call to serve in *connecting kids to Christ!*

### Check-in/Check-out Procedures

Parents, here's how you can help to make things run smoothly on Sundays:

1. Please check you child in no earlier than 10 minutes before Sunday School begins. This will alleviate congestion and allow Shepherds prayer and preparation time prior to their Sunday School hour.

2. Please pick up your child promptly after the service.
3. Please have your child bring their Bible to Sunday School each Sunday.
4. Please have your young child stop for a potty break before coming to Sunday School.
5. Remember, no preschool-5<sup>th</sup> grade child will be released on their own.
6. 6<sup>th</sup> graders will come and go on their own.

### Bringing a guest to Sunday School?

Check in all guests at the Information Desk by the east entrance. They will receive a nametag and Parent Pass.

### Oh no, we're going to be late!

Here's the procedure for students who arrive late:

1. Pre-K & Kindergartners: Check in at the Preschool Resource Room. Someone there will assist you and escort your child to large group.

2. 1-5 Graders: Check in at the Information Desk and someone there will assist you with your nametag and escort your child to large group.

### Where do Sunday School Offerings Go?

Offering envelopes are distributed at the beginning of the Sunday School year. Children's offerings throughout the year help support Brandon & Amanda Maxwell in Tanzania, Shenice through *Sandy Bay Lighthouse Ministry* in Roatan, Honduras, and Nicholus, Pamela, & Luis through *Compassion International*. Each class will write to these children and to Amanda and Brandon throughout the year. During November, we will participate in *Operation Christmas Child - Shoebox Ministry*. Giving is purely at your discretion and will not be recorded individually. Use this opportunity to teach your child that we give out of our love for Christ.

### 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

Do you wish to register your child for Sunday School?



Blank registration forms can be found at all Information Centers or on our website. Once we receive your registration, you will be notified with the class time, location, and Shepherd for your child

### Do you have a child with special needs?

Tammie Proue, our Special Friends coordinator, is ready to help your child join in the fun of Sunday School ministry. Please contact Tammie with any questions at [tproue@shepherd-lutheran.org](mailto:tproue@shepherd-lutheran.org).

### It's not too late to join the Children's Ministry Team!

Be a part of *Connecting Kids to Christ* by volunteering in Children's Ministry. Volunteer opportunities include the Sunday School ministry, 3<sup>rd</sup> Base... The Stop Before Home, the Christmas Musical, and other periodic programs. Questions? Talk to any of the Children's Ministry staff.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Base...The Stop Before Home

#### Is Back in Swing!

This is an after-school program for 4-6 graders that offers faith, fun, food, and friends. October's theme is *Fun and Fellowship*. It meets on Thursdays from 3:30-5:00 p.m. on the days that the Stillwater school district is in session. October meeting dates are the 1, 8, 22, & 29. NO 3<sup>rd</sup> Base on October 15 – MEA. Kids attending Afton-Lakeland Elementary can hop on the *Ostrich* bus. Be sure to send a note giving permission to ride the bus.

Here's how to join the team: Pick up a permission slip, fill out the front of the form, read the expectations on the back of the form, sign it and bring it with you to 3<sup>rd</sup> Base. Friends are always welcome! Just remember they need a permission slip, too. *Don't sit on the sidelines...join the team!*

Adult extra hands are needed. The time commitment depends on the number who sign up for a rotating schedule. Contact Christie if you want to help.

### Christmas Musical Practice

Students in Grades 2-6, mark your calendars... we will soon be getting ready for this year's Christmas Musical! If you are in 3-6 grade, you can try out for a speaking part on Tuesday, October 27 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. 2-6<sup>th</sup> graders that want to try out for a dancing part can do so at the same time.

Rehearsals will happen Sundays from 12:15-2:00 p.m. and Tuesdays from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in November and early December. The dress rehearsal and performance will be on Saturday, December 12. Those who receive speaking and dancing parts will be asked to rehearse for an additional 30 minutes. On the Sundays that we practice, you may send a lunch with your child.

Adult help is needed in the following areas: the reception following the musical, props, costumes, program, working lines and set up and take down the day of the musical. Questions? Talk to Christie.



# GROWING IN CHRIST

**Yes!**

## **That is the Answer!**

As the Ignite coordinator here at Shepherd, I have frequently been asked if the Saturday, Ignite service will continue with all the recent time changes. My answer is an emphatic "Yes!" While we have added a service to the Sunday line up, we will continue to have an awesome worship experience on Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m. This service features many of the worship songs heard on contemporary Christian radio, the same teaching that is presented on Sunday mornings and a worshipful, candlelit ambience.

We have called this the "come as you are" service, because we know that you may be coming from work, the ball field, shopping, hunting or home. Don't worry about dressing up. God looks at the heart of the worshipper, not their clothes! Our life takes us many places, but I can't think of any better place to be, but in worship with fellow believers.

We invite you and your children to come and connect!

Children's programming is offered and includes a children's sermon, an activity bulletin that is based on that week's message, a kid's craft table and youth Bible verse challenges. Nursery service is also offered. Each week you will be filled with great food, contemporary music, biblical teaching and lots of fellowship!

Psalm 95:6 says, "*Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our maker.*"

Come as you are! Come and worship!

In Christ,

*Donna Bennett*

## **Loaves & Fishes**



It's Shepherd's turn to serve at St. Matthew's Church on Wednesday, October 7. Food preparation begins around 3:30 p.m. Feel free to join us at that time or come at 4:45 p.m. to help serve the evening meal. Directions are available on our website or by calling the church office.

## **Library News**

We are proud of the service and resources provided by our library at Shepherd! Sometimes you need to keep the item that you checked out a bit longer. It is okay to renew an item you have checked out: books for an additional three weeks and other items for one week. To do so, simply email Susi at [monty@bitstream.net](mailto:monty@bitstream.net) to let her know your intentions. On a different note: over 140 items are missing that have a replacement value of \$1600.00. Please check your shelves at home to see if any books, CD's or videos are from the SOV library. If so, please return them so they can be enjoyed by others.

## **SOV Book Club**

The Shepherd of the Valley Book Club is currently reading "One Thousand White Women: the Journals of Mary Dodd" by Jim Fergus. They will meet to discuss the book on Saturday, October 17 at 9:00 a.m. at the Hudson Bagel and Coffee Co. For more information email Susi at [monty@bitstream.net](mailto:monty@bitstream.net).



# YOUTH IGNITED!

## Confirmation News:



### Grades 7 & 8

Students in Grades 7 and 8 will not have class on October 7 and 14 but will have small group bonding time. Classes will resume at SOV at 6:30 p.m. on October 21.

### Grade 9

Students in Grade 9 do have class on October 7 and 14. They will have their pictures taken on October 21. The Confirmation Service will be held at 12:30 p.m. on October 25.

## Upcoming Concerts:

Mark your calendars for two concerts that are coming to the Twin Cities area. Relient K is performing on Wednesday, October 14. And the David Crowder Band will perform on Thursday, October 22 at Hosanna! Church in Lakeville. Both concerts are for all ages. Please see Kim Schmidt to purchase tickets and for more information.

## Castaway Camp

### For students in Grades 9-12

Mark your calendars for a great weekend getaway to Young Life's Camp Castaway in Detroit Lakes. We're partnering with a number of churches to put this weekend retreat together from Thursday, October 15 through Sunday, October 18. The cost is \$150.00. Registration forms and deposits are available. Bring a friend and make some new ones! More details are on the registration form.

## A Link for Parents

Parents, we would like to send you a great free e-mail resource called *ParentLink*. This is a monthly e-mail that is intended to help you connect with and understand your teen. Relevant information such as: dating, social networking, and sharing your faith with your child are included along with a monthly SOV Jr. High Ministries calendar and description of events. If you would like to receive this, e-mail Kim at [kschmidt@shepherd-lutheran.org](mailto:kschmidt@shepherd-lutheran.org).

## Senior High Small Groups

Is a small group for me? Face it. Life was never meant to be done alone. We all need people we can rely on and trust when life is awesome and when life just isn't going our way. In a small group you'll get to know other teens who are dealing with a lot of the same things you are. And you'll be encouraged by other teenagers and adult leaders who genuinely care about you. It will be a safe place to ask questions, learn about God, have fun with old friends and make some new ones. Yes, a small group is for you! Groups meet in homes throughout the valley on Sunday nights from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Groups never close so you can join one any time. Registration forms are at the Information Center or online.

### Senior Summit

This small group for high school seniors meets at Shepherd from 12:15-1:30 p.m. on Sundays. In large and small groups we will discuss topics that will prepare you for life after high school.



14107 Hudson Road South  
Afton, Minnesota 55001  
[www.shepherd-lutheran.org](http://www.shepherd-lutheran.org)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non Profit  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Lakeland, MN  
55043  
Permit No. 6

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

October 1, 8, 22, 29	3 <sup>rd</sup> Base...The Stop Before Home
October 4, 11, 18, 25	Sunday School, Sr. High Senior Summit
October 6, 13, 20, 27	New Connections
October 7	Loaves & Fishes
October 7, 14	Grade 9 Confirmation
October 10, 24	ServeFest
October 14	Baptism Class
October 14, 28	Kids Connection Worship Team
October 15	Bingo at Croixdale
October 17	SOV Book Club
October 21, 28	Grade 7 & 8 Confirmation
October 25	Confirmation Service

**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

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

14107 Hudson Road South  
Afton, Minnesota 55001

Phone: 651.436.8248

[www.shepherd-lutheran.org](http://www.shepherd-lutheran.org)