

Shepherd's VOICE

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUMMER 2010

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

SHEPHERD NEWS

Summer Picnic at Shepherd

Saturday, July 31

*Save the Date...
and Invite Your
Friends!*



Come join us for an afternoon of BBQ, fellowship, outdoor *Ignite!* worship, and a concert.

This will be an awesome opportunity to connect with your church family. It also gives you the chance to reach out to and invite the community to come hang out! Be sure to extend the invitation to your neighbors and friends.

If you are interested in volunteering in any capacity, please contact Pastor Zach at zthompson@shepherd-lutheran.org or Donna Bennett at dbennett@shepherd-lutheran.org. You will not want to miss this great event.

Monvee: A New Program to Help You Go Deeper!

Have you been wondering, "How can I go deeper in my walk with Jesus?" Do you want to be more intentional about your relationship with Jesus? Do you wish you had some personalized guidance on how to grow spiritually?

You're in luck! We, at Shepherd of the Valley, believe that following Jesus is a growing experience. God's desire for us is that we move from spiritual infancy to spiritual maturity. But it can often be overwhelming trying to figure out what steps to take or where to turn for resources.

SOV is excited to be partnering with a new spiritual growth program called "Monvee." This discipleship tool includes a spiritual formation inventory

that helps craft a personalized spiritual growth plan based on your own unique characteristics. It will take into consideration how you are made, how you learn and even your stage in life. The results will give you guidance and suggestions on how to intentionally keep growing in your relationship with Jesus.

Would you like to find out more? Pastor Zach will be offering an introduction and overview to the Monvee program, at a variety of times. Join us on **Sunday, May 16** at 10:00 and 11:00 a.m. and **Tuesday, May 18** at 7:00 p.m. Come check out this exciting new resource!





FROM THE PASTOR

Try a Little Kindness

Do you have any fun summer projects planned? Here's an idea.

When I was a teenager, Glen Campbell seemed to always be on the top of the pop charts with songs like, "Gentle On My Mind," "By the Time I Get to Phoenix," and "Wichita Lineman." One of my favorites of his was a song entitled, "Try A Little Kindness."

*If you see your brother standing
by the road,*

*With a heavy load, from the
seeds he's sowed.*

*If you see your sister, falling by
the way,*

*Just stop and say, "You're going
the wrong way."*

*You've got to try a little
kindness;*

Show a little kindness.

*Just shine your light for
everyone to see.*

*And if you try a little kindness,
Then you'll overcome the
blindness*

*Of narrow-minded people,
On their narrow-minded
streets.*

(1969 Airefield Music)

Try a little kindness. It's easy to get so busy with our own lives, or so bogged down with having to be 'right' when we find ourselves at odds with one another, that kindness and civility get set aside. A shortage of this, can kill the spirit of a congregation. The apostle Paul knew that and instructed the early Christians to "clothe themselves with kindness..." It's something the Spirit empowers us to choose. Using kind words and actions will positively impact others and ourselves. Random acts of kindness in Christ's name have the potential to change the dynamic of a community. If we as a faith community are truly committed to being a shining light and a connecting people, let us consciously choose to show kindness to one another and to the world around us.

Try a little kindness - now that's a worthwhile project.

"Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless." Mother Teresa

Christian Crusaders

Christian Crusaders Radio and Internet Ministry has been broadcasting continuously since 1936, and Pastor Steve has been associate speaker since 2005. Tune in Sunday mornings on June 6, July 18 and August 29 as he gives an uplifting, Gospel-based message. This half-hour radio worship service can be heard in our area at 7:30 a.m. on KKMS/980AM and at 8:00 a.m. on K1BB/1220 AM.

Ignite!

Summer is coming... don't forget to come to church and connect. Remember that Saturday *Ignite!* is offered weekly at 5:30 p.m. Come early to visit; stay late for food and fellowship. Each week your children will enjoy a kid's craft and an activity sheet with an emphasis on that week's message. Dress is casual so come as you are and enjoy contemporary worship and great teaching.

Ignite: Great worship, food, fellowship and fun for the entire family.



FAITH IN ACTION

Summer Serving

Loaves & Fishes

The summer months can become busy and we can forget about this wonderful ministry.



Loaves & Fishes is a great way to get to know others from Shepherd as you are being the hands and feet of Jesus. We cook and serve a meal of tacos, fruit and cookies to those feeling the effects of our down economy. Join us at 3:30 p.m. to prepare the food or at 5:00 p.m. to serve the evening meal. Clean up takes place from 6:00 - 6:30 p.m. Come for whatever fits your schedule. The summer dates are June 2, July 1 and August 5. Directions are available on our website or by calling the church office.

Serve Fest

Serve Fest offers a chance to demonstrate God's free love in a tangible way. Here is what one Serve Fest participant shared: "Serve Fest is a blessing in many ways for me. Serve Fest provides an opportunity to serve for Jesus, and as I have

served with other members of Shepherd, it reinforces that serving is at the heart of our church. Serving stretches my heart as I try, imperfectly, to share Jesus with people during Serve Fest activities. Also, I have realized that my kids are watching and wondering what it is all about, and have participated as well. Serving makes scripture come to life for me." Summer time favorites include: free car washes, the Washington County Fair, and other outdoor activities. We serve every other Saturday morning from 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon.

Bingo @ Croixdale

Playing Bingo with the residents at Croixdale has provided a wonderful way to share God's love with them. Besides Bingo, we have spent time singing, praying and building friendships. We would love to have you join us. The residents love children and this is a great way for a family to serve. Meet us at Croixdale in Bayport at 6:30 p.m. on Thursdays, June 17 and August 19.



Carin' for the Karen

New families are arriving on a regular basis and do not have anything when they arrive, nor do they know anyone. If you, your family, or your small group would like to become involved in the lives of these refugee families, there are many ways to serve. For more information contact Kim Ashton.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

It has been a blessing to watch our church step out and serve people in the Midway area in St. Paul. On the first Monday of each month our team is serving approximately 200 lunches to those who are facing difficult circumstances. This summer will bring a variety of chances to serve. Sign up at the Information Center.

Window Washing

If you would like to serve within our church but do not have a lot of time and need flexibility, washing a section of windows involves only 1-2 hours per quarter. Please contact Kim Ashton if you would like to participate.



FOR KIDS ONLY



Thank You Children's Ministry Volunteers!

Thank you to those who God called to serve in the Sunday School Ministry, 3rd Base, the Christmas Musical, those working on decorating, and other various opportunities that happened in Children's Ministry throughout this school year! What a privilege it has been to serve alongside you. We praise God for your love and dedication to *Connect Kids to Christ - affecting their lives for eternity!*

In Him,

The Children's Ministry Staff

Sunday School Registration

Registration is now underway for the 2010-2011 year. If you were enrolled in Sunday School for the 2009-2010 year, and have not yet registered, a form has been mailed to your home. If you wish to register your child, please update and sign the form and place it in the slot located at the Children's Ministry Kiosk or Information Center. Or you may mail it to:

Shepherd of the Valley
Attn: Dana Lochner
14107 Hudson Rd. S.
Afton, MN 55001

Are you new to Sunday School at Shepherd? Welcome! A blank registration form can be found at the Kiosks or online, or you may email Dana at dlochner@shepherd-lutheran.org and have a form mailed to you.

Do you Love Christ and Want to Affect a Child's Life for Eternity?

Join those who will be serving to *Connect Kids to Christ*

through the Sunday School Ministry. 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 Information Desk, Information Center or online, or talk with one of the Children's Ministry staff.

Blessings to You 6th Graders!

What a joy it has been having you a 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.

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

Bible School



High Seas Adventure

Come along on the **High Seas Adventure** for the voyage of a lifetime! Experience the deep rolling waters of God's love and explore Bible truths with us. Bible School will happen Monday, June 21 – Friday, June 25 from 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. for children 3 years of age through those who just completed the 2nd Grade. Registrations are available at church or online. Cost is \$30.00 and some need based scholarships available. Registrations received after May 30, incur a \$5.00 late fee. Please keep the children and staff in your prayers during this fun week.

Sports Life Camp

Get Ready for a Sports Explosion that's Centered Around Christ! This camp is for kids who are currently in Grades K-5. Each day of camp is packed full of physical activity, Bible-based learning, singing, friendships, and fun. Participants

choose from basketball/hockey; soccer/frisbee; dance/cheerleading; or arts extravaganza. Along with these choices, there will be side shows of: an obstacle course, a sports explosion, capture the noodle, wacky water world, and an outrageous SportsLife scavenger hunt.

Camp dates are Monday, August 2 – Friday, August 6 from 9:00 a.m. - noon. The cost is \$70.00. This is a great event to invite your friends and neighbors to. SportsLife leaders, along with adult helpers from our church, will oversee this week of fun. Please talk to someone on the Children's Team if you would like to help. Registration forms are available online or at the Information Desks.

Hey, Wapo Campers!

If you registered for Camp Wapo, you will be receiving a letter by the end of June indicating your remaining balance and detailing all you will need to know about your time at camp. If you have questions, contact Christie at ccotner@shepherd-lutheran.org. Please

pray for our campers attending the Seeds Weekend Camp, July 16-18, and those attending camp the week of July 18-23.

Summer Servefun

Summer is a great time to have fun serving Christ! Students in Grades 3-6 are invited to join us for a half day of serving at Feed My Starving Children and a half day of a fun event. Details are as follows:

- ◆ **Thursday, June 17;** 8:30 a.m. – 3:45 p.m. FMSC & Grand Slam. Cost \$15.00.
- ◆ **Thursday, July 15;** 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. FMSC & swimming at Bunker Bay. Cost \$20.00.
- ◆ **Thursday, August 12;** 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. FMSC & Afton Bike Ride/Skating. Cost \$10.00.

Adult chaperones are still needed for each event. Feed My Starving Children requires a ratio of 1 adult/3 students. You can volunteer for just the morning, or the entire day.





GROWING IN CHRIST

God Hugs

Given Through Prayer Shawls



Prayer shawls are given whenever and wherever needed; for baptisms, weddings, funerals, illnesses or other life challenges or celebrations. A written prayer is included with each shawl. The Prayer Shawl Team meets monthly to share stories, patterns, shawls, food and fellowship. Attendance at the monthly gathering is not required to participate in this ministry. There are many ways to get involved: prayer, making shawls, supply the yarn - or contribute coupons from a local craft store (talk to Julie for more details), or be part of the distribution team. If you would like to find out if God has a plan for you in this ministry, come to an upcoming meeting: June 5, July 24 (summer lunch potluck) or September 11. You may also contact Julie at 651.436.6868.

Women's Fall Retreat

We are excited to announce the 2010 Women's Retreat coming

September 10-12. Our speaker is Betty Horgen, who has years of experience with Young Life. She's warm, dynamic, insightful, and lots of fun. You'll enjoy her heartwarming messages about friendship and her challenges to grow in your faith.

The retreat will be held at the *Lodge at Crooked Lake* in Siren, WI. Their web address is www.mylodge.com. Rooms are similar to hotel rooms, most with two queen beds. The lodge has a pool, sauna and exercise room. It also has great proximity to shops, restaurants, trails and golf. You'll have plenty of options for your free time! Please feel free to invite a friend, or come and make some new ones! More information and registration coming soon.

Fall Sermon Series

And Small Group Connection

Small groups play an important part in fulfilling our mission of connecting people to Christ. This fall we will offer a sermon series that will encourage even more people to meet Christ in a small group. We will be studying and preaching from "Live

Like You Were Dying," a five-week curriculum that will teach us to love deeper, speak sweeter, give forgiveness, and embrace eternity so that we can live our "one and only life" each day.

Differing from sermon series in the past, this fall we will invite groups to consider taking a short 'vacation' to allow group members to create and become the HOST of their own group. The curriculum is designed to make HOSTing easy, and HOSTs will receive some basic training prior to starting their group.

The congregation will be encouraged to invite neighbors, co-workers, or others you want to know better to join a small group community. No one participating as a member or as a HOST would be committing to anything beyond the sermon series. But we pray that the experience will be fulfilling and will encourage people to make small groups a part of their life.

Look for more information on the fall sermon series throughout the summer.



YOUTH IGNITED!

Valleyfair

On Wednesday, June 16, the Youth Department will be going to Valleyfair for the day. We will meet at 9:00 a.m. at SOV and return by 6:00 p.m. Cost is only \$25.00 (includes entrance to the park and transportation). Sign up and pay at the Information Center (forms will be available May 23). Registration is due Monday, June 14 at 5:00 p.m. Due to transportation logistics, no exceptions can be made.



Thunder Bay Mission Trip

June 26-July 3 our junior high students will be heading up to Thunder Bay, Canada for a week of ministry and service projects. Make sure to keep them in your prayers during this week.

Grill n' Chill #1

Wednesday,
July 21



Be sure to come for the first of two **Grill n' Chills** that will be offered this summer. From 1:00-4:00 p.m. we'll hang out, grill some brats, hot dogs and burgers. Then, we're going to play a series of water games outside on the church lawn. Cost is only \$5.00. Sign-up at the Information Center but bring your \$5.00 with you on the day of the event. Bring a friend. Bring your bathing suit (ladies one-piece or tankinis only). We're going to have a blast.

Grill n' Chill #2

Wednesday, August 18

Don't miss the second of our **Grill n' Chills**. From 1:00-4:00 p.m. we'll hang out and eat some food. Then, we're going to have an **Epic Battle of the Sexes**. Games, competitions, trivia, food, food and more food. We'll be outside. We'll be inside. We'll be all over the

place. The cost is only \$5.00. Sign-up at the Information Center but bring your \$5.00 with you on the day of the event. See you there.

Youth Leaders Needed

Life is full of moments, be there for the ones that matter. Be a junior high or senior-high small group leader. Contact Chris in the Youth Department at Cbook@shepherd-lutheran.org for more information.





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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

June 2, July 7, August 4	Loaves & Fishes
June 5, July 24	Prayer Shawl Meetings
June 5, 19; July 17,31; Aug 14, 28	ServeFest
June 17, July 15, August 12	Summer ServeFun
June 19, July 17, August 14	SOV Book Club
June 21-25	Vacation Bible School
June 26 - July 3	Jr. High Mission Trip
July 11-16	Jr. High Okoboji Bible Camp
July 16-18	3rd Grade Camp Wapo Weekend
July 18-23	Grades 4-6 Camp Wapo
August 2-6	Sports Life Camp
August 3 & 10	Small Group Leader Training

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: Chris Book

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

Ignite! Coordinator: Donna Bennett

Administration: Dick Wagenknecht,

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

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