

Shepherd's

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH

AUGUST 2008

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

SHEPHERD NEWS

Gray Welcome Pads

Are They Really Necessary?

Do you ever wonder what happens to the data when you sign in on the Welcome Pads at worship? Shepherd of the Valley has grown to a congregation of over 2,500. As you can imagine, it is a big job to keep track of everyone.

You are encouraged to note any changes of your contact information so that we can maintain an accurate database. Attendance records are kept for all members and regular attendees that sign in. We periodically review these records. By doing so, we are able to reconnect with members we haven't seen in awhile.

Visitor's information is entered into a database for follow-up. And visitors are sent a personal

note from Pastor Steve or Pastor Zach.

When folks indicate that they need special prayer or a pastoral visit on the Welcome Pads, the information is forwarded to the Prayer Team and / or the pastors. All of these tasks are completed by Monday afternoon.

As you sign the Welcome Pad you may notice that you are sitting next to someone who is visiting. This presents a great opportunity to extend a warm welcome to someone who is new at Shepherd.

As you can see, the data on the Welcome Pads is a very important part of keeping in contact with those who have made Shepherd their church home. So the next time that the Pads come your way, please be sure and sign in!

"What A Friend We Have in Jesus"

Summer Sermon Series
July 26 & 27 — August 30 & 31

One of the Church's all time favorite hymns is "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." Many of us would agree that Jesus is the best friend a person can ever have. Suppose someone were to ask you, "What kind of friend is He?" How would you describe your friend, Jesus?

Jesus' first friends had all kinds of personal experiences with Him that wound up being recorded in our Bibles. We're going to examine a few of those remembrances during the month of August and learn from them, *what a friend we have in Jesus*.



FROM THE STAFF

Let Me Be Your Servant

I wanted to remind you that I am always available for a visit if you wind up in the hospital.

I know that as Shepherd grows numerically people get the mistaken idea that I am now too busy to bother with such things. Nothing could be further from the truth!

I am your pastor and I care about your well being. Coming alongside of you and praying with you during a rough patch in your life is not a bother. It is a privilege. I've done a lot of pastoral care over the years and it continues to be an important priority in my ministry.

I hope you'll always feel comfortable calling in and letting me know when you need a pastor. I really do want to serve you.

Ignite!

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

Matthew 11:28

From kids camps and sports tournaments to family reunions and vacations, the summer months often leave little room for true rest. It can be a challenge to find quiet time with God or to stay connected with your church home.

We invite you to join us for the *Ignite!* service at Shepherd of the Valley on Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m. Here you will find a casual worship experience filled with food, fellowship, great teaching and great music.

If you are in your garden, on your boat, or finishing a round of golf, we warmly invite you to "come as you are."

Life can be hectic, so come and rest, be filled with His Word, and stay connected to your church home and friends!



Ignite! Worship

At the "Great Minnesota Get Together!"

The Ignite Worship band will be leading worship at the Cross Roads Chapel at the Minnesota State Fair! Join us on Monday, August 25 at 11:30 a.m. Bring your friends, food on a stick, and your voices to lift in song together.

New Connections

Membership at Shepherd

Are you interested in membership at Shepherd of the Valley? The next series of four classes for prospective members will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday evenings, beginning September 8. To register for the class you may sign up at the Information Kiosk or call the church office.



FAITH IN ACTION

Servant of the Shepherd



The Servant of the Shepherd Lutheran Church in River Falls, WI is one of many local outreach efforts that Shepherd of the Valley supports with financial gifts. The Servant of the Shepherd congregation uses a lot of its resources to reach out to people in recovery. They provide counseling to individuals in recovery and their families. They also have a food shelf that is available to families in need.

The congregation is led by Pastors Frank Lukasiewicz and Joel Hanson. Pastor Joel has been a member of Shepherd of the Valley for several years and has recently completed his seminary training.

If you would like to learn more about this congregation you can visit their website at www.servantoftheshepherdchurch.org

Golf Fundraiser

Kilkarney Hills Golf Club

A Two Person Best-Ball golf tournament will be held at Kilkarney Hills Golf Club on Monday, August 18. This tournament is sponsored by Servant of the Shepherd Church. The proceeds from the tournament will help them fund their recovery ministry. If you would like to participate, contact Pastor Joel at jkhanson@comcast.net.

ServeFest

Who wouldn't like to be given a cool treat with a smile on a hot summer day? Please join us as we plant seeds of kindness in our community, letting them know God's love is FREE! Join us at Shepherd on August 2 & 16. We'll meet at 10:30 a.m. and then head out into our community.

Loaves and Fishes



The team from Shepherd of the Valley will serve at St. Matthew's Catholic Church on Wednesday, August 6. Come at 3:30 p.m. to prepare the food or at 4:45 p.m. to help serve the meal. The church is located in St. Paul at the intersection of Robie and Humboldt Ave.

Caring Hearts for Homeless People

Thanks to the many who donated to the "Caring Hearts" drive at Shepherd of the Valley in February. This year 11 medical clinics and 20 congregations collected over \$43,000 (5,085 lbs.) worth of hygiene and medical supplies. These supplies were distributed to St. Paul programs that offer services to the homeless in the East Metro area. Your generosity has made a difference in the lives of others!



FOR KIDS ONLY



Sunday School News

Sunday School Begins September 21

All children registered for the 2008-09 Sunday School year will receive a letter in the mail the second week of September. This letter will include all of the details you will need to know as we begin a new year together. **Parents, please read the policies that are included in the letter carefully.**

Welcome to Sunday School 3 Year Olds!

Are you 3 years old, or will you turn 3 by September 1, 2008? Then you are old enough to go to Sunday School! Did your mom or dad register you yet? If not, Sunday School registration forms are located at the Information Kiosk or online.

To help you get ready for your first day of Sunday School, there will be a welcome hour on **Saturday, September 20 from 10:00-11:00 a.m.** An invitation will be sent to all of you who are registered and your parents. During the hour, you will receive your Beginner Bible and get a feel for what Sunday School will be like. We can't wait to meet you! See you on September 20.



Registration

I haven't registered my child for Sunday School yet... what should I do?

Blank 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. **Please register as soon as possible**, as classes are being formed.

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

Hey... who's going to teach me about Jesus?

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 children. Check out the Sunday School Volunteer form which is located at the Kiosks or online, or talk to one of the Children's Ministry staff. *Affect a Child's Life for Eternity!*



With Gratitude!

Thank you to all who volunteered with Children's Ministry summer ministries! What a blast we had *connecting kids to Christ*. Glory to God!

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"!

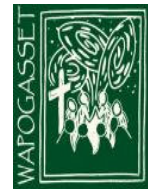
Teens and adults wanting to be a part of SOV's Drama Team are being sought to help excite, ignite, and then highlight some of the greatest stories in the Bible for our Sunday School kids, this fall!

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!!

Summer Servefun

Our final Servefun event will happen Tuesday, August 12. If you are registered, you will receive a postcard in the mail one week prior to the event with the details you need to know. ***Please remember that children must wear closed-toed shoes at Feed My Starving Children.*** If you have any questions, please contact Keri or Christie.

Lake Wapogasset Bible Camp



A great time was had at Camp Wapo! Thirty-three 3rd graders and 78 students in grades 4—6 were blessed as they learned the greatest blessing we have been given: Jesus Christ!



GROWING IN CHRIST

Refresh, Renew, Rejoice!



Women's Retreat September 5-7, 2008

Ladies, please join us for the Women's Retreat, September 5-7 at the Koinonia Retreat Center. Check out their website at www.koinonia-retreatcenter.org. Registration forms are available online at or at the Information Kiosk. Mail them back with your payment, or turn them in at the Kiosk. Guests are welcome. Half the spots are already taken, so act soon! The registration deadline is August 10.

The surroundings and accommodations are beautiful, about 1 ¼ hours away on a lake near South Haven, MN. Free-time options include hiking, a prayer labyrinth, paddle boats, and canoes. Double and triple rooms are available, and two barrier-free single rooms, too. \$140.00 covers two nights lodging, all meals, speaker sessions, and activities. There are some

scholarship funds available if needed. Please talk to Kristin Lagus at 651-436-8248.

The retreat theme is "Refresh, Renew, Rejoice." We'll look at how God wants to give us a character makeover, transforming us through His grace and love. Featured speakers are Gretchen Stevenson, Sarah Tupper, and Jenny Guiton. You're sure to be entertained and inspired. It's a great chance to spend some time with God, and meet some wonderful women.

Would you like to help with this event? Volunteer opportunities are listed on the registration form.

SOV Book Club

The SOV Book Club is currently reading "Thin Places: Where Faith is Affirmed and Hope Dwells" by Mary Treacy O'Keefe.

In 2002, the author and her nine siblings experienced the death of their parents just three months apart. She began to write about "thin places" -

spiritual experiences that connect us to God. She writes; "People struggle with whether God is really personal. Thin places reassure you that there's got to be a God. And that God is very personally involved in our lives and sends us signs all the time."

The Book Club will meet to discuss this book on Saturday, August 16 at 9:00 a.m. at the Hudson Bagel and Coffee Co. For more information contact Susi at monty@bitstream.net.

"As Jesus Sees It"

Christian 12-Step Group

There may be circumstances and behaviors in our life that hinder us from being all God created us to be. The purpose of this group is to grow in relationship with God and develop healthy relationships with one another. Using scripture together with the Twelve Steps can be important healing tools to receive God's healing love and grace. The group meets Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 8:15 p.m.



YOUTH IGNITED

Confirmation News



Grades 7 & 8

Confirmation begins Wednesday, September 10 with a parent and student night from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Grade 9

9th grade Confirmation begins Wednesday, September 3 with a parent and student night from 6:30 – 7:00 p.m. Mark your calendars for Confirmation Sunday on October 26.

Adult Leaders

ADULTS: Do you have a heart for sharing Jesus with youth? Do you get excited at the thought of serving our community alongside teenagers? Do you love to have a ton of FUN? Then Youth Ministry is the place for you! Currently we are in need of both 7th & 8th grade Confirmation Leaders, Senior High Small Group Leaders, and event and trip leaders starting this Fall. Please fill out a leader application located at the Youth Kiosk or online and get

it back to Kim Schmidt or Maria Paulsen today! Fall Leader Training will be on Sunday, September 7 from 6:00–9:00 p.m.

Youth Kiosk

Registrations and More!

The Youth Kiosk is located in the atrium outside the Community Center. For registration forms, information and more, please check it out. Also, please note the “Payments and Registration” slot on the backside of the Kiosk.

St. Croix River Kayak Day

Come paddle like an Olympiad—yes, kayaking is an Olympic sport! On Friday, August 15, we’ll rent kayaks up in Taylors Falls, paddle, picnic for lunch, chill in the water, and paddle some more! The cost is only \$30.00 and includes your rented kayak! If you are entering grades 9 -12 please register at the Kiosk or online today! Spots are limited.

Drop-In Gym Night

Summer’s half way over... are you bored yet? Not if you’re at Drop-In Gym on Wednesday nights between 6:00–8:00 p.m. If you’re entering 9th – 12th grade this fall, squelch that boredom with some basketball, volleyball, badminton, floor hockey, and more at Drop-In Gym! Bring your friends and make some news ones when you come. Drop-In Gym will continue through Wednesday, August 13.

Senior High Night and Small Groups

We’ll be back in September with an all new flavor!! And save the date for October 4 and 5 for this year’s Fall Retreat! Keep an eye on the bulletin or online for further details about dates and times as September draws near! Small Group registration will begin in early September.



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

August 2, 16	ServeFest
August 3	Baptism Class
August 4—9	Senior High BWCA Trip
August 6	Loaves & Fishes
August 6, 13	Senior High Open Gym Night
August 12	Children's Summer ServeFun
August 12	Council Meeting
August 15	Senior High St. Croix Kayak Trip
August 16	SOV Book Club

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

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