

Shepherd's

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH

APRIL 2009

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

SHEPHERD NEWS

SOV Men's Retreat

At Lake Wapogasset Bible
Camp in Amery, Wisconsin

Men of Shepherd, mark your calendars for the weekend of May 15-17 for the 2nd Annual Men's Retreat. The retreat begins at 6:00 p.m. on Friday and ends at 12:00 p.m. on Sunday.

Join us for a great time of fishing, golf, fellowship and hanging out. The cost for the weekend retreat is \$110.00 which includes lodging and all meals (golf is extra).

Registrations are at the Information Kiosk. Be sure to sign up soon as we only have a limited number of spots. For more information see Pastor Zach.



Stock Sale

Don't Miss Out on the
Opportunity to Invest
in a Camper!

For one day only, you can buy stock to invest in the camp opportunities for SOV's children attending Camp Wapo. On Sunday, April 19, stock will be sold between worship services at a table near the sanctuary for \$5.00 per share. Your investment will be applied to the fees of campers who worked at the Sloppy Joe Supper and for those in need of scholarships who will be attending Wapo. As camp approaches, the name of a camper will be sent to you to lift up in prayer during their camp week. Your dividend will come in the form of a postcard from the camper you've been praying for while they are at camp. Thank you for supporting our camp ministry!



Holy Week Schedule

Maunder Thursday
April 9

7:00 p.m.

Good Friday
April 10

7:00 p.m.

Easter Worship

Saturday April 11

5:30 p.m.
with Praise Band

Sunday April 12

9:00 a.m.
with Communion, Brass, Choir

10:30 a.m.
with Praise Band

11:00 a.m.
Family Worship in Community
Center with Praise Band



FROM THE PASTOR

The True Story

Over the past few months I have been asked many, many times, “Have you read *The Shack* and what did you think about it?” Christians, and even many outside the faith, are abuzz about this little book and I’m hearing a lot about it. The story obviously has stirred many peoples’ hearts because there are so many who are asking others if they’ve read it and telling them to do so if they haven’t.

My response to the question, “Yes, I have read it. I enjoyed the story. It’s a captivating piece of fiction; it opens doors for God conversation, but I wouldn’t build my theology upon it.”

As people are talking this story up, I’m reminded of an illustration Leith Anderson used in his book, *Winning the Values War*:

“John Grisham became one of the top selling fiction writers of the 1990s after the success of his second book, *The Firm*. His

first book, *A Time to Kill*, had been sort of a flop, selling only 5,000 copies in first-run hardcover. His second book didn’t receive great reviews or much publicity, but many who read it loved it and *The Firm* quickly sold seven millions copies and was made into a movie starring Tom Cruise. Why? Because people who liked the book persuaded others to read it. The success of *The Firm* created interest in Grisham’s other work, and *A Time to Kill* was republished and became a best seller. Word-of-mouth promotion can’t be bought for any price. And it can’t be stopped.”

He then went on to say, that this is what evangelism and witnessing is about - a satisfied customer persuading someone else to read or hear the story of Jesus like we have. Why? So that he or she might get in on what we’ve discovered ourselves.

As Easter weekend approaches, Jesus is counting on those of us whose lives have been touched by His story to tell others about it and even encourage

them to come and hear it for themselves. Surely, if we can ask others, “Have you read this particular piece of fiction?” then we can point them to THE TRUE STORY that gives eternal life.

Invite someone to come and hear the story this Easter.

Christian Crusaders

Tune in on Sunday, April 5, when Pastor Steve will be preaching on Christian Crusaders Radio. The program can be heard on KKMS/AM 980 at 7:30 a.m. and on KLBB/AM 1220 at 8:00 a.m. If you have family or friends who are unable to attend church, let them know they can tune in for an inspiring sermon from Pastor Steve, who joined this historic radio ministry as an associate speaker in 2005.



YOUTH IGNITED

Summer 2009 Thunder Bay

Jr. High Mission Trip

Mark it down for June 20 – 26. We will be heading to Thunder Bay, Canada and partnering with Youth Works Canada for a week of service and ministry in the Thunder Bay community. Space is limited and registration forms are available the Youth Kiosk or on our website. This is open to all current 9th Grade Students.

Junior High Summer Festival

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. Registration forms are now available.

Senior High Summer Mission Trip



Ocean Springs, Mississippi

Join us July 11–19 for an amazing experience as we help build houses with Habitat For Humanity Mississippi Gulf Coast and Camp Victor. Please note: you must be at least sixteen by July 14 to participate. The cost is \$350.00. Registration Forms are available at the Youth Kiosk.

Senior High Small Groups

The Spring Session will begin on April 5 and end on May 17. There is always an open chair at our Small Groups and we'd love for you to come check one out this week! Groups meet at Host Homes in the area on the first three Sunday nights of each month from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. For further information on locations, check out our website or call Maria Paulsen (Youth Small Groups Coordinator).

Youth Kiosk & Online Registrations

The Youth Kiosk is located in the Gathering Area across from the Library. For registration forms, information and more, please check it out. Please note the “Payments and Registration” slot on the backside of the Kiosk. Also, check out our website www.shepherd-lutheran.org. Registrations and information are also available online.

T.E.C.

Teens Encounter Christ

Upcoming TEC
#83 Weekend is
April 24–26, 2009

at Shepherd of the Valley. Senior High Students in grades 9-12 are eligible and encouraged to apply. There is a \$65.00 fee, which covers the entire weekend and scholarships are available. Adult Leaders are needed to serve on various teams. If you are interested in learning more about how you can serve, please check out the website or see Kim S.





FOR KIDS ONLY



Sunday School News

No Sunday School on April 12
Happy Easter!

April Lessons

Pre-K students

April 5:

Lesson: Jesus Is Risen

Bible Verse: John 3:16

Point of the Day: Jesus Is Alive! Share the Good News!

April 19:

Lesson: Gideon's Battle

Bible Verse: Deuteronomy 6:5

Point of the Day: Obey God's Directions!

April 26:

Lesson: Sampson

Bible Verse: Deuteronomy 6:5

Point of the Day: God Is Our Strength!

1-5th Grade Students

April 5:

Lesson: Easter Fellowship

Bible Verse: John 3:16

Point of the Day: He Is Risen!

April 19:

Lesson: Daniel and the Lion's Den

Bible Verse: Philippians 4:6

Point of the Day: Pray continually!

April 26:

Lesson: Jonah

Bible Verse: 1 John 1:9

Point of the Day: I can ask God to forgive me!

6th Grade Students

April 5:

Lesson: Does God Heal Today?

April 19:

Lesson: What About the Church?

April 26:

Lesson: What Should I Do With the Rest of My Life?

Sunday School Registration

Sunday School Registration for 2009-10 will happen on May 10 & 17.

Kids Connection Worship Team

Do you love to sing, dance and get others excited about worshipping? If you are currently in Grades 3-6, you are invited to be part of the worship team for Sunday School in 2009-2010. The commitment involves a practice every other Wednesday evening and coming in on half hour before Sunday School. We also have three workshops throughout the year. If you're interested we will be having an informational meeting followed by tryouts on Sunday, April 26 from 12:00—2:00 p.m. Sign up at the Children's Kiosk or contact Keri at 651.436.8248 ext. 15.

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

Easter is coming!



It's almost time for our Egg-citing Easter Egg Hunt!

Preschoolers—Kindergartners, mark your calendars for Saturday, April 11 and join us for an eggs-traordinary Easter story, craft and egg hunt from 10:00-11:00 a.m. Sign up sheets are at the Information Desk and Kiosks.

First Communion

Are you in 5th grade? Then it's time for your First Communion Class. 5th graders, you and your parent(s) will join Pastor Zach and Christie for your First Communion class on Tuesday, April 7 from 6:30–8:00 p.m. This class will prepare you for your First Communion which will take place on Maundy Thursday, April 9, at the 7:00 p.m. worship service. A letter has been sent to the students we have in our database. If your 5th grade child did not receive a letter, please contact the church office.

3rd Base...The Stop Before Home

4th-6th graders

It's our last month of 3rd Base for this year...don't miss out! April meeting dates are the 2, 16, 23, & 30 from 3:30-5:00 p.m. Note: there is no 3rd Base on April 9 (Maundy Thursday). Kids attending Afton-Lakeland Elementary can hop on the Ring bus. (Parents, please send a note giving your child permission to ride the bus.) Invite a friend! Remember to pick up a permission slip for them.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
★ Sign up for the following at ★
★ our Summer Event Sign-Up ★
★ on April 26 & May 3. ★
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Bible School

This is for children who are 3 years old (as of September 1, 2008) through current 2nd graders. It will happen Monday, June 15 – Friday, June 19 from 9:00-11:30 a.m. The cost is \$25.00 per student or \$50.00 per family.

Sports Life Camp

Get Ready for a Sports Explosion that's Centered Around Christ...get Ready for *Sports Life Camp* at Shepherd! This camp is for kids who are 6-11 years old. Sports Life Camp will happen Monday, July 27 – Thursday, July 30 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. Participants will choose from basketball & street hockey; soccer & ultimate Frisbee; dance & cheerleading; or arts extravaganza. One adult volunteer will be needed for every eight campers. The cost is \$65.00. This is a great event to invite your friends and neighbors to.

Summer Servefun

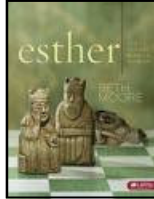


This is for current 3-6th Graders. Summer is a great time to have fun serving Christ! Join us for a half day of serving at Feed My Starving Children and a half day of a fun event. Summer Servefun dates are June 25, July 16, and August 13.



GROWING IN CHRIST

Tuesday Morning Women's Group



Ladies, are you interested in finding out more about Beth Moore Bible Studies? Come and visit the Tuesday morning women's group on Tuesday, April 7 from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. You'll get a taste of the Tuesday morning group format, and preview next year's study, "Esther: It's Tough Being a Woman."

This Bible study is an in-depth and personal examination of a great story of threat and deliverance. Just as it was tough being a woman in Esther's day, it's tough today. See how contemporary and applicable the story of Esther is to our lives and times. This study will take place October 2009-April 2010.

If you'd like to visit on April 7, RSVP by April 1 at the Information Kiosk, or by e-mail at klagus@shepherd-lutheran.org. Please indicate childcare needs.

Men's Ministry Event



NCAA Final Four

Come and watch two great hoops games on Saturday, April 4 with a bunch of guys from Shepherd in our Community Center. There will be lots of food, we'll watch the games, and shoot some buckets at half-time. Bring a snack to share and drop in for as long as you can, beginning at 5:00 p.m. Sign up at the Information Kiosk. Questions? See Pastor Zach.

Ignite!

Are you an "untraditional worshipper"? Do you work in a hospital, factory or in retail where your schedule shifts each week? Do you have children in travelling sports? Is Sunday morning your day to sleep in? Perhaps you are that "untraditional worshipper" or maybe you know someone who fits that mold. If so, we would like to encourage you to check out the Ignite Service at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday nights.

Worship is an important time during the week that "ignites" our passion to live as Christ would have us live and to share our life with others.

Yes, we know that Saturdays are busy too, that is why we also encourage you to "come as you are"... from the garden, the soccer game, the fishing boat or even work! If you joined us last month for our Family Open Gym Night, you may have found your sweat pants quite comfortable in the gym! Our next Open Gym Night will be April 18, immediately following the Saturday Ignite service.

So, join us for Ignite, where you will find Great Worship, Great Food and Great Fellowship!

By the way, Easter Saturday will be "SWEET"...

Ignite Worship Coordinator,

Donna Bennett



GROWING IN CHRIST

Open Doors



Do you have some tough questions about spiritual matters? Consider this new opportunity to investigate spiritual issues at your own pace with others who are also searching. "Open Doors" is a discussion forum that will take place on Mondays at 7:00 p.m., beginning April 20. For more information, or to sign up, call Tom at 651.730.5027 or stop at the Information Kiosk.

Serve Fest

Easter - what an amazing opportunity to celebrate our Risen Savior and to fling the seeds of God's love and hope into the hearts of others around us! Acts of kindness can build the bridge for a person to receive a touch of love from God. It's simple, practical and fun! Join us on Saturdays, April 11 & 25 at 10:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome to join us!

Habitat for Humanity

This year the team from Shepherd will be working on a home in New Richmond, WI. the weeks of May 11-15 and June 15-19. Reserve these dates now and be ready to sign up at Habitat Booth in the Gathering Area, beginning the weekend of April 18-19. Twenty volunteers are needed each day and anyone 16 and older is eligible to work. Volunteers to prepare and serve food are also needed.

People in Prayer

This group meets faithfully on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the Prayer Chapel at Shepherd. The team prays for requests that have been submitted during the past week from the Welcome Pads, the Prayer Box or the Prayer Net on our website. You are invited to join them in prayer as they intervene for others and seek God's will for our lives, our church, our community and our world.

New Connections

If you or someone you know is considering membership at Shepherd, the next step is participation in the New Connections Classes. This series of four classes is offered five times per year. The next session will be held on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. beginning May 7. A sign up sheet is located at the Information Kiosk. Alternately, you may sign up online or by calling the church office.

Loaves and Fishes



It's Shepherd's turn to serve at St. Matthew's Catholic Church on Wednesday, April 1. It is located on the corner of Humboldt and Robie in West St. Paul. Food preparation begins at 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.



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

April 4	Prayer Shawl Meeting
April 4	Men's Ministry NCAA Final Four Event
April 5	Baptism Class
April 5, 12, 19, 26	Senior High Small Groups
April 7	First Communion Class
April 9	Maundy Thursday
April 10	Good Friday
April 11, 25	ServeFest
April 1, 15, 22, 29	Confirmation Small Groups
April 2, 16, 23, 30	3rd Base... the Stop Before Home
April 18	SOV Book Club
April 18	Open Gym Night

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

14107 Hudson Road South
Afton, Minnesota 55001

Phone: 651.436.8248

www.shepherd-lutheran.org