

Shepherd's VOICE

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH

JANUARY 2010

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

SHEPHERD NEWS



Revolutionary Parenting

Join us at Shepherd on Saturday, February 6, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for this CCN broadcast featuring George Barna, Dr. Jim Burns, and Dr. John Townsend. The challenges facing today's kids are increasingly tough: overextended families, invasive technologies, unhealthy media influence, and pressures to grow up too fast. The information

presented in this conference will help parents, grandparents and educators beat the odds in raising a new generation of spiritually grounded kids. Based on recent ground-breaking findings from *The Barna Group*, this video training offers an eye-opening and practical look into the kind of parenting that today's kids need most. Parents: there is no quick fix but there is hope! The cost is \$15.00. Registration forms will be available on January 10.

Lutherans: Past, Present and Future

Pastor Zach will present this adult education class Sundays at 8:45, 10:00 and 11:00 a.m. Come to learn about the history of the Lutheran church, including the current challenges that we are facing.

January 10

A History of Lutheranism:

How scores of Lutheran groups merged into the ELCA, LCMS, and WELS, and where SOV fits into that history.

January 24

The Lutheran Landscape

Today: A missional, theological, and confessional crisis in modern Lutheranism.

January 31

The Future: Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC):

How can SOV best further its mission *To Connect All People to Christ?*

Shepherd of the Valley

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 31 @ 1:00 p.m.

Special Congregational Meeting: to vote on our future affiliation with the ELCA

Sunday, January 31 @ 2:00 p.m.

All confirmed and adult members of Shepherd of the Valley, who are present at the meetings, are eligible to vote. If you have questions regarding your status as a member, please call the office.



FROM THE PASTOR

Yesterday, Today and Forever

No matter where you turn, things seem to be constantly changing with time and circumstances. Some days it seems as if everything is up for grabs. Even in the church. As Christians we are reminded that there is one thing that never changes - Jesus Christ. The author of Hebrews wrote: *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever."* (Hebrews 13:8) The author was attempting to keep a congregation on the straight and narrow. Because of hardship, they were toying around with changing some of the basics. The whole letter was an attempt to keep them holding on to Jesus and the truth of what he was all about.

His coming is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He is God's Son speaking to us; a reflection of God's glory. (Hebrews 1:1-3)

His calling is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He was to die on a cross as the perfect once and for all sacrifice for humankind's sin. (Hebrews

10:12) He himself said he came to "seek and to save the lost." Without him, an individual is lost. With him, is forgiveness and eternal life.

His commands are the same yesterday, today, and forever. *"This is my commandment, that you love one another, as I have loved you."* (John 15:12) *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. And a second is like it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself."* (Matthew 22:39)

His commission to his church is the same yesterday, today, and forever. *"Go make disciples of all nations."* The church has the all important job of connecting lost people to him and building them up to serve him.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, as we enter another new year of history, let us continue to hold fast to what has been passed down to us through the ages in God's Word. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. AMEN!

Membership at Shepherd

If you, or someone you know, is interested in membership at Shepherd of the Valley, the next step is participation in the New Connections Class. Each session includes a series of four classes. The classes are organized in small table groups and the discussions are led by members of Shepherd. Each class includes a small group Bible study and presentations by Shepherd staff members. The following sessions will be offered in 2010:

- ◆ Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.
February 10 - March 3
- ◆ Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.
May 7 - 28
- ◆ Sundays at 10:15 a.m.
July 19 - August 9
- ◆ Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.
October 6 - 27

To sign up for the February session please sign up at the Information Center or call the church office. You may also register online.



YOUTH IGNITED

Confirmation News

Students in Grades 7 & 8 will meet on Wednesdays, January 6, 13, 20 and 27 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Gym.

Junior High Broomball Tournament



Come to Shepherd on Saturday, January 9 at 6:30 p.m. We'll head to the rink at UW River Falls for an evening of broomball, then return to church for hot cocoa and snacks. Pick up time is 10:00 p.m. All broomball equipment, transportation, drinks and snacks are included. Dress warm and wear boots.

Permission slips are located at the Information Center. They are due, along with your payment of \$5.00, by Sunday, January 3. Please let Keri Aldridge know if you are able to help with driving for this event (kaldridge@shepherd-lutheran.org).

Senior High Small Groups

January is the perfect time to join a senior high small group! There is always an open chair so please consider joining one today! Small groups meet every Sunday night at various host homes from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Register for a small group today by filling out a blue registration card found at the Information Desk or online on the Senior High Ministry page. For more information on Senior High Small Groups contact Maria Paulsen or check out our website!

Sr. High Black & White Dinner



All students in grades 9-12 are warmly invited to join us for the 4th annual Black & White Dinner. Come to Shepherd on Sunday, January 10 from 5:00 - 9:00 p.m. The evening will include a delicious multi-course dinner, prizes for the best tie and best shoes, and a way to give back at the end of the

evening! And new this year: a super cool photo booth where you can take crazy photos with your friends! Find your black & white outfits and register today at the Information Center. The cost is \$15.00 for the evening and the money plus registrations are due by Sunday, January 3. Remember: your friends are always welcome!

Senior High Mission Trip to Kansas City, Kansas!

All current 9th through 12th grade students are invited to join us on an incredible service experience in Kansas City this summer! We will leave on Saturday, July 24 and come back home on Friday, July 30. Our church will partner with YouthWorks for 5 days of building, painting, playing with kids, talking with the elderly, and so much more! Spots are limited so please register today at the Information Center. Come and see how God can use you to make a difference! Contact Maria Paulsen for more information.



FOR KIDS ONLY



There will be **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL** on January 3. See you back on January 10, 2010.

January Sunday School Lessons:

Preschool-Kindergarten:

- January 10 - The Brave Queen
- January 17 - Fiery Furnace
- January 24 - Daniel and the Lions
- January 31 - Jonah and the Big Fish

Grades 1-5:

- January 10 - The Wisemen
- January 17 - Mary and Martha

January 24 - Jarius' Daughter Raised

January 31 - The Parables

6th Graders - Youth Alpha:

January 10 - How does God Guide Us - Part 1

January 17 - How does God Guide Us - Part 2

January 24 - Who is the Holy Spirit

January 31 - Review Week

Special Needs NEEDS

Come and share in God's blessings by building a relationship with some extraordinary people. Begin by building a relationship with a newly confirmed young adult on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m. This young man is eager to learn about Christ in a small group setting and you may be challenged to dig deeper into the Bible. Please contact Tammie Proue ASAP if interested.

The First Leon

The true meaning of Christmas was uncovered!

Fifty-eight of our students in grades 1 through 6 performed in the Christmas production of *The First Leon*. *Come into my heart, Lord Jesus...you can have it all* was the invitation Leon made. It is one we hope you make as well. A **special thank you** to the many who gave in various ways to make this performance a success! To God be the glory.

Kid's Connection Worship Team

The Kid's Connection worship team will meet on Wednesdays, January 6 and 20 from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.



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

3rd Base... The Stop Before Home



4th-6th Graders

January is M & M (movies and messages) month. Meeting dates for January are the 7, 14, 21, and 28 from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. 3rd Base is an after school program offering faith, fun, food, and friends. Kids attending Afton-Lakeland Elementary can hop on the **Ostrich** bus. (Parents, please send a note giving your child permission to ride the bus.) Friends are always welcome!

Join Us for Family Fun Night

Friday, January 22
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

When is the last time your family had a *family fun night*? Families are invited to come and spend time together doing some fun activities in the gym on Friday, January 22 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Sign up for this event at the Information Desk or Information Center.

Looking Ahead to Summer



Are you dreaming of warm days of summer? Here are the dates of Children's Ministry summer events to help you plan ahead.

Vacation Bible School

Bible School is for 3 year olds (as of September 1, 2009) through students currently in 2nd grade. Bible School will happen Monday, June 21 - Friday, June 25. Registration will be in May.

Summer Servefun

For students currently in
Grades 3-6:

Join us for a half day of serving at Feed My Starving Children and a half day of a fun event. Summer Servefun will happen on June 17, July 15, and August 12. Registration will be in May.

Lake Wapogasset Bible Camp

For students currently in Grade 3:

Friday, July 16 - Sunday, July 18 (30 spots available)

For students currently in
Grades 4-6:

Sunday July 18 - Friday, July 23
(90 spots available)

Camp registrations will begin in February.

SportsLife Camp

For students currently in
Grades K-5

SportsLife Camp will happen Monday, August 2 - Thursday, August 5. SportsLife Camp develops children's faith in Jesus through sports and arts programs. Registration will be available in April.





GROWING IN CHRIST

Adult Small Groups

Winter Sessions begin the week of January 10

Participating in a small group is a great way for you to meet new people and grow your faith. No prior experience is required – anyone can join! Information on available groups and registration are available at the Information Center and on our website. Most groups meet once per week for six weeks, with a variety of days, times, locations and topics offered.

Many groups will follow a small group sermon series titled, “Serving Like Christ Together.” This series will focus on cultivating an attitude of service. For six weeks, our pastors will preach messages that go along with the topics studied and discussed in the groups. Please purchase the sermon series books at the Information Center. The cost is \$8.00.



There are men’s, women’s and mixed groups, and some target more specific groups (young adults, parents, etc.) Be sure to check the complete list of groups, but here are some groups to consider:

Faith & Music Group: Music has always been a powerful medium for worship, evangelism, and expression of Christian faith. This small group meets Monday evenings. They’ll study the sermon series, with a bit of a musical twist. If you are inspired by Christian music, this would be a great group to try.

A new group geared toward **empty nesters** will meet on Tuesday evenings in West Lakeland. This group will follow the “Serving Like Christ Together” sermon series.

The NewComer group meets on Monday evenings at 7:00 at church. This group is great for people new to Shepherd, or new to a small group experience. Childcare is available. This group will follow the “Serving Like Christ Together” sermon series.

The Friday Morning Women’s Group will follow the sermon series. Childcare is available.

Part of the **Tuesday Morning Women’s Group** will begin Beth Moore’s “Esther.” This is a ten-week, in-depth study, involving five daily homework lessons per week, as well as a DVD viewing and small group discussion. Come and find out how God helps us when it feels “tough to be a woman.” A few nursery and preschool spots are still available for a modest fee.

All Leader Huddle

Attention small group leaders. Remember to mark your calendars for the January 5 (7:00 p.m.) All-Leader Huddle and Leader Appreciation. We’ll have some fun, pick up some small group tools, enjoy dessert and fellowship, and gear up for the start of the winter session. Childcare is available. R.S.V.P. at the information center or by e-mailing Kristin at klagus@shepherd-lutheran.org.



GROWING IN CHRIST

***Ignite!* Worship**

Come . . . Worship . . . Connect

At Shepherd of the Valley, our mission is to “connect.” Often times we are so busy with all the demands of sports, work and other activities that it is difficult to connect with the Word of God and to connect with each other.

We invite you to bring your family and friends and join us for the *Ignite!* worship service at Shepherd of the Valley on Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m. This is a casual, candlelit, come-as-you-are service, complete with great teaching and great music. After being filled with God’s Word, stay afterwards for warm drinks, great food and fellowship. It’s a wonderful way to connect with your church family!

If you are busy on Sunday . . . worship Saturday! Busy Saturday? Worship Sunday! Just come, worship and connect!

Donna Bennett

Ignite! Coordinator

Loaves and Fishes



The team from Shepherd will serve at St. Matthew’s Church on Wednesday, January 6. Come at 3:30 p.m. to prepare the food or at 4:45 p.m. to help serve the evening meal. Directions are available on our website, at the Information Center or by calling the church office.

ServeFest

God’s love is free - no strings attached! Please join us as we reach out to our community with simple acts of kindness in Jesus’ name. We will meet on Saturdays, January 16 & 30, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Care Groups

There are a number of support and care groups that meet at Shepherd each week. If you are looking for a place to find healing, support, and love... check out these groups:

Dislocated Worker Group

In this tough economy many people have lost their jobs, due to no fault of their own. To

address this issue of loss, Shepherd of the Valley offers a *Dislocated Worker Support Group*. This group is led by Vince Gutierrez, who has over 30 years of experience in Human Resources. This group meets on Monday mornings at 10:00 a.m. If you would like to participate in this group call the church office.

Alcoholics Anonymous

AA meets at Shepherd of the Valley on Thursday nights at 7:30 p.m. (mixed group) and on Saturday mornings at 8:00 a.m. (for men only). Both groups meet in Fellowship D.

Chance to Change

This is more than just a “recovery program.” It is a “beyond recovery program” in that it shows gamblers not only how to quit gambling, but also how to live the victorious life God intended for them. This group meets on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. The group is ongoing, so come when you can. Contact Dewey for more information: 715.425.8098.



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

January 6	Loaves & Fishes
January 6, 13, 20, 27	Confirmation
January 6, 20	Kid's Connection Worship Team
January 7, 14, 21, & 28	3rd Base... the Stop Before Home
January 9	Prayer Shawl Meeting
January 9	Jr. High Broomball Tournament
January 10, 17, 24, & 31	Sunday School
January 10	Sr. High Black & White Dinner
January 16	SOV Book Club
January 16, 30	ServeFest
January 17, 24, 31	Sr. High Small Groups
January 22	Family Fun Night

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

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

Ignite! Coordinator: Donna Bennett

Administration: Dick Wagenknecht,
Kim Hanson

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