

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

March 1	Prayer Shawl Meeting
March 5, 12	Confirmation Small Groups/Worship
March 6, 13, 27	3rd Base
March 7	Pioneer Club Potluck Dinner
March 8, 22	ServeFest
March 11	First Communion Class
March 20	Maundy Thursday Service; First Communion
March 21	Good Friday Service
March 26	Confirmation Resumes
March 26	Senior High Night
March 28-29	Junior High Spring Lock-In

**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: Becky Max

Youth Ministry: Kim Schmidt,  
Maria Paulsen

Adult Ministry: Dick Wagenknecht,  
Kristin Lagus, Jill Wurm

Support Ministry: Kim Hanson

Ignite! Coordinator: Donna Bennett

### 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)



### Making Good Marriages GREAT!

#### Couples Conference '08

Join us on Saturday, April 26 at Shepherd for this conference for couples. It will feature some of the nation's leading experts on marriage, including Dr. Gary Smalley, Erwin McManus, Kim McManus, Henry Cloud and Les Parrott. Topics include: *Loving from the Heart, Loving with Integrity*, and more!

Great marriages are built on trust, not just communication skills! Discover the secrets to building a secure, caring marriage grounded in love and faithfulness. This seminar will offer practical tips for making your marriage better than you can imagine! Whether you have been together for a long time, are newly married or engaged, this conference is for you! For more information, see Pastor Zach.

### Tuesday Morning Women's Group

#### Invites You to Visit

Ladies, interested in finding out more about Beth Moore Bible studies? Come and visit the Tuesday morning group on Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. You'll get a taste of the Tuesday morning group format and preview next year's study "*A Woman's Heart, God's Dwelling Place.*"

This in-depth Bible study explores the fascinating account of the building of the tabernacle, the significance of its intricate design, its pivotal role in God's eternal plan, the grand fulfillment of its purpose by Jesus Christ, and its variety of meanings for your walk with God today. This study will take place October 2008-April 2009.

If you'd like to visit on March 11, RSVP by March 4 at the Information Kiosk, or by e-mail at [klagus@shepherd-lutheran.org](mailto:klagus@shepherd-lutheran.org). Please indicate childcare needs.



### Easter Service Schedule

#### Maundy Thursday March 20

7:00 p.m.\*

#### Good Friday March 21

7:00 p.m.

#### Saturday Easter Worship March 22

5:30 p.m.

#### Easter Sunday March 23

9:00\* 9:45 & 10:30 a.m.

\* With Communion



# FROM THE PASTOR

## He Lives... So Shall We!

Recently, the Minnesota Twins traded away Johann Santana, whom many consider to be the best pitcher in baseball. Prior to that, Torii Hunter, our star centerfielder signed with another team. The new general manager has been busy trying to add some new players that will make the Twins strong and competitive in the 2008 season. As they head into spring training, everyone is keeping their fingers crossed and hoping that the Twins will make a run at winning the pennant... but we're not certain that they will.

That is not the kind of hope that a Christian has when we think of eternity. We KNOW that because Christ is risen, we too shall be raised to eternal life. When Scripture writes of the "hope that is within us," it is not talking about wishful thinking. We have absolute certainty and confidence that, because Jesus lives, we shall also live as we trust in him.

This kind of confidence is not arrogant or presumptuous. It is a sign of faith in Jesus Christ who

died to rescue us from sin and death and rose again. We don't rest on our own laurels but in the promises of the one who conquered death on Easter.

So enjoy this Easter! Christ has won. We share in the victory. Celebrate what is yours in Christ. We know that because he lives, we shall live also. That is our sure and certain hope.

Hallelujah!

## SOV Men's Retreat

### At Lake Wapogasset Bible Camp in Amery, Wisconsin

Men of Shepherd, mark your calendars for the weekend of May 16 - 18. 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 golf, fishing, canoeing, hanging out, relaxing, and getting to know some new guys. The cost for this weekend retreat is \$100.00 which includes lodging and all meals (golf will be extra).

We only have a limited number of spots, so sign up today! Registration forms are at the Information Kiosk. For more information, talk to Pastor Zach.



## Get Connected!

Have you ever thought about getting connected at Shepherd of the Valley through serving? Some people are intimidated at the prospect. Actually, it's one of the easiest ways to meet people! We are currently looking for people to serve on usher teams at 10:30 a.m. As an usher you get to work with a group of people as you welcome folks into worship, help seat people in the sanctuary, help people get to communion, assist in taking the offering and just generally make people feel welcome. We provide all of the training necessary; you just have to take the first step! Ushers serve two weeks out of every six. Sign up at the Information Kiosk. Questions? Contact Jill Wurm at [jwurm@shepherd-lutheran.org](mailto:jwurm@shepherd-lutheran.org) or at 651.436.8248.

## Nursery News

With many of the Spring Breaks in the area converging on Holy Week, we are finding that many of our regular nursery volunteers will be out of town! If you are in town over Easter, please consider helping out in the nursery. We are looking for people to help on Maundy Thursday (7:00 p.m.), Good Friday (7:00 p.m.) as



# GROWING IN CHRIST

well as Easter morning (9:00, 9:45 and 10:30). No experience necessary. Teens welcome. Sign up at the Information Kiosk. If you are interested in helping out on a regular basis (once every six weeks) indicate that on the sign-up sheet. Questions? Call Debbie Hoff at 651.351.0759.

## SOV Book Club

The March selection is *Chocolat* by Joanne Harris. The Club will meet at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 15 to discuss the book, then adjourn to a member's home to watch the movie. Email Susi at [monty@bitstream.net](mailto:monty@bitstream.net) for more information.

## Divorce Care

DivorceCare is a support group for separated and divorced people. It is a place where one can find friendship, support, and guidance through God's Word. We seek to experience God's grace and healing as we journey through this difficult time together. Newcomers are always welcome! DivorceCare meets in the Fellowship Room on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. For more information call Donna at 651-714-2349.

## Car Care Program

### A Personal Story

When one gets involved in a ministry, you may question whether you are really making a difference. From time to time, the St. Croix Valley Christians in Action Car Care Program gets a glimpse of God at work.

RS, a single mom, called to express thanks for the service she received when she brought her car in for repair. The support gave her a boost when she had been feeling financial despair. The budgeting instruction was just what she needed to start making progress in this area of her life. Most importantly, she saw a softening in the heart of her teenage son. He came with her on the Saturday her car was worked on. He had refused to go to church for a long time. But when he saw a bunch of real men, serving his family in the name of Christ, he changed his mind. God let us know that we were His instruments in drawing that mom and her son to Him and His church. As you might guess, it only takes one of these events every so often to keep us rev'd up and involved in this ministry.

*Mark Colman*



# FOR KIDS ONLY

## Sunday School News

No Sunday School on  
March 16 & 23.

Have a Blessed Easter!



## First Communion Class

5<sup>th</sup> Graders, it's time to prepare for your First Communion.

You and your parents will join Pastor Zach and Christie for your First Communion Class on Tuesday, March 11 from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Your First Communion will take place on Maundy Thursday, March 20, at the 7:00 p.m. worship service. A letter was sent the week of February 24 with detailed information. **If you have not received a letter, please contact the church office and one will be mailed to you.**

## Pioneer Club News



Hey Pioneer Club Families...  
It's time for a Potluck Dinner!

Pioneer Club does not meet during Lent so your family can attend the worship services. All Pioneer Club families are invited to a **Potluck Dinner** on Friday, March 7 at 6:30 p.m. If your last name begins with A-E, please bring a dessert; F-Mc, please bring a salad/fruit dish; Me-Z, please bring a main dish. Beverages will be provided. Join us for this fun evening of fellowship.

Following the potluck dinner, **Club members in 2-6<sup>th</sup> Grade** (Pathfinders, Trailblazers and Challengers) are invited to stay overnight for the **Pioneer Club Camp-In** (this is optional). Throughout the evening, Club members will work on requirements to earn activity badges.

Please RSVP for both the Family Potluck and the Camp-In to Keri at [kaldridge@shepherd-lutheran.org](mailto:kaldridge@shepherd-lutheran.org) by **Sunday, March 2**. Pioneer Club will resume after Easter on March 26.

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

For 4 - 6 Graders

March means it's time for to get ready for *Easter!* Meeting dates for this month are the 6, 13, and 27 from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

*Note: there is no 3<sup>rd</sup> Base on March 20 due to Stillwater's Spring Break.*

Invite a friend! Remember to pick up a permission slip for them. Kids attending Afton-Lakeland Elementary can hop on the **Zebra** bus. (Parents, please send a note giving your child permission to ride the bus.)

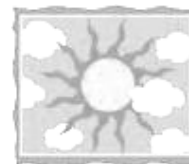
### Children's Ministry Mission Statement:

*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

Brrr...  
it's Cold  
Outside!



It's time to think  
about Summer Fun  
in Children's Ministry!



## Summer Servefun

For Current  
3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> 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. The dates are **Monday, June 16; Tuesday July 15; and Tuesday, August 12**. More details and sign-ups will be available in May.

## Bible School is Back!

Bible School is for children 3 years old (as of September 1, 2007) through current 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders. Jesus' miraculous power will be bubbling over at **Power Lab!** Throughout the week we will learn from God's Word how **Jesus gives us the power...** to be thankful, to help others, to be brave, to live forever, and to tell others about God. As the kids are engaged with fun, science-themed surprises, they will experience amazing things. Join us for Bible School **Monday, June 9 – Friday, June 13 from 9:00-11:30 a.m.** Watch for registration information in the next Voice.



## A Sports Explosion... That is Centered Around Christ!



Get Ready for SportsLife Camp Here at Shepherd!

For kids who are 6-11 years old!

You will get to choose from basketball, street hockey, soccer, ultimate Frisbee, dance, cheer-leading, and art. Along with these choices, there will be side shows of break dancing, high speed kickball, rubber chicken challenge and sports explosion.

SportsLife Camp will happen Monday, July 28 – Thursday, July 31. The cost is \$70.00. This is a great event to invite your friends and neighbors to. Watch for registration details to come later this spring.



# GROWING IN CHRIST

## Adult Small Groups

### Spring Session begins March 30

Small groups will begin the 8-week Spring Session the week of March 30. There are many groups to choose from with different topics, days, times, and locations. A complete list of groups and sign-up information can be found at the Information Kiosk or online. Don't miss this opportunity to get connected to some great people and grow in your faith! Contact Kristin Lagus at 651-436-8248 for help finding a group.

### Adult Small Group Leaders

- Small group leaders are reminded to order Spring curriculum by March 1, or sooner!
- Please RSVP. at the Information Kiosk or to Kristin for the All-Leader Retreat on Saturday, March 29 at SOV; 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

## Spiritual Formation Groups

Spiritual Formation Groups are for women who want to go beyond traditional Bible study to focus on deepening their relationships with Jesus. A 9-week

session will be offered in April and May. There will be an informational meeting on Sunday, March 2, from 10:00 - 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Room. Come and learn about this opportunity!

## New Connections

New Connections Classes are the first step in membership at Shepherd of the Valley. This four-week class gives prospective members a chance to find out more about what Shepherd of the Valley believes, teaches and offers. The next session will be offered on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m., March 6 – April 3. Child-care and New Connections - Kids are offered in conjunction with the adult class. You may sign up at the Information Kiosk, or register online.

## Craft Night

Looking for an evening out to work on your favorite project? Come to the Fellowship Room at church on March 4 from 5:30 - 9:00 p.m. (or whenever you can make it). Bring some food to share and we'll have a light supper together. Work on your knitting, scrap booking, card making, quilting or just come for the fellowship! Sign up at the Informa-

tion Kiosk or RSVP to Jill Wurm at [jwurm@shepherd-lutheran.org](mailto:jwurm@shepherd-lutheran.org)



## Casting Crowns

Saturday, April 26

Join us at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul! We have reserved a block of seats in Rows 13-15 on the main floor. Tickets are \$42.00. To reserve your ticket, sign up at the Information Kiosk AND submit your payment with your check made out to "Shepherd of the Valley."

## "As Jesus Sees It"

### A Christian 12 - Step Program

This is a weekly, ongoing, non-denominational study. Its mission is to practice genuine Christianity; establishing a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, to hear His voice and to follow His directions using Scripture and the Twelve Step principles.

Meetings are Thursday evenings, 7:00 - 8:15 p.m. at the church. Please call the church office for further information.



# YOUTH IGNITED

## Junior High Spring Lock-In

March 28 - 29, Grades 7 - 9

Join us and bring some friends to the Jr. High Spring Lock-In! We've got some great games and activities to get you thinking summer. Plus-some guests will be joining us to share about Summer Festival Summer Camp! Retreat hours are from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. The cost of \$5.00 covers all!

## Okoboji Recharge

April 25-27, Grades 7-9

Cost: \$50.00 if received by March 30; otherwise \$85.00. Come and get reCHARGED! at Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp in Milford, IA. It's just like Summer Camp but crammed into a weekend! Registrations are available. Friends are encouraged to come. Good time will

## Summer Festival Camp

Summer Festival is a Christian summer camp where, for one week, a college campus is transformed to a Bible Camp! Join us

July 21 - 25 at the University of Wisconsin - Stout campus. Imagine all the fun activities and games along with cabin times, devotions, worship and church group time at college! Plus the food is great! Come to the *Spring Lock-In on March 28-29* at SOV for a preview of Camp, meet some Camp staff and just have a great time! And friends are always welcome to join us for camp! The cost is \$315.00. If you sign up a friend you get \$50.00 off. Registration forms are available at the Youth Kiosk and the Information Kiosk. Turn in your \$100.00 deposit, along with the registration by April 13.

## Senior High Events

### Senior High Night

We will start back up on Wednesday, March 26 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Throughout the month of April, we will dive into topics like worry, doubt, and anger. Topics that will not only transform your heart, but will also revolutionize your relationship with Christ. And on April 23, join us for our end of the year bash!



## Montana Ski Trip

We're heading back to Bridger Bowl-Bozeman, MT, March 16 - 21. Cost: \$225.00 plus meals and equipment rental, if needed. Included: transportation, lift tickets (3 days), posh hotel accommodations, snow and great fellowship. Space is very limited. Registrations are available online and at the Youth Kiosk.

## Youth Encounter Zone

Senior High Youth, time is running out! Now's your chance to register for this year's Zone at the Marriott in Minnetonka! Join us for a weekend spent growing in faith, asking tough questions, and putting your faith into practice on April 11 - 13! The cost is only \$75.00 for the entire event! Space is limited, so please register with a \$50.00 deposit by March 16. Registration is available online and at the Kiosks.