

Shepherd's

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH

MARCH 2009

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

SHEPHERD NEWS



Lent Service Schedule

**Wednesdays,
March 4—April 1**

7:00 p.m.

**Maundy Thursday
April 9**

7:00 p.m.

**Good Friday
April 10**

7:00 p.m.

Easter Worship

Saturday April 11

5:30 p.m.

Sunday April 12

9:00* 10:30 11:00

* With Communion

Seeking Support as You Seek Work

In this tough economy some people have lost their jobs, due to no fault of their own. To address this issue of loss, Shepherd of the Valley is sponsoring a Dislocated Worker Support Group. This group will be led by Vince Gutierrez who has over 30 years of experience in Human Resources. The first meeting of the group will be Tuesday, March 17 at 7:00 p.m. If you would like to participate in this group contact the office at 651.436.8248 or contact Dick Wagenknecht at dswagenkn@shepherd-lutheran.org.

Get Connected

The first step in membership at Shepherd of the Valley is participation in the New Connections Classes. This is a series of four classes that is offered five

to six times per year. The class is organized in small table groups. Each session includes a small group Bible study and presentations by Shepherd staff members. Remaining classes in 2009 include:

- ◆ 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

Family Open Gym

You are invited to Open Gym after the Saturday Evening Service on March 21 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. All are welcome to come hang out. There will be volleyball, basketball, and more. We ask that all kids 16 and under please be accompanied by an adult. If you have any questions or concerns, talk to Pastor Zach (zthompson@shepherd-lutheran.org)



FROM THE PASTOR

What is Lent About?

Lent is the forty day period of repentance and renewal preceding Easter. It begins on Ash Wednesday and ends with the Easter service. The word, "Lent" is derived from the Middle English "Lente" which means "springtime." It's a special time in the church year when Christ followers make time for prayer and repentance, increased understanding of Christ's sacrifice and resurrection, and renewal and recommitment to the Christian life.

Lent began in the early Church. It was a time for adult baptismal candidates to prepare for their Easter baptism and for Christians to do public penance for sins. In later years public penance became more private and Lent became a time for forgiveness and reconciliation with God for those who acknowledged their sinfulness. During the Middle Ages, strict 40 day fasting and abstaining from certain activities became the way of observing

Lent. It got quite legalistic! Today the emphasis has shifted from long periods of fasting to prayer and reflection on Christ's death and resurrection.

At Shepherd we observe the season of Lent each Wednesday evening with a worship service. This Lent season the worship service will be focused on the meaning of the cross. We will be using some movie clips to assist us in our reflection. I have personally always found this season to be a wonderful time of renewal and refreshment.

I hope you will join me at the Wednesday worship services at 7:00 p.m. As you draw near to Him, He will draw near to you and you will be blessed.

In Him,

Baptism Class



The Baptism class is for parents of children who are to be baptized and for any other person (any age) who wishes to be baptized at Shepherd. This class is offered one time per month; typically on the first Sunday of each month. The next class will be held on March 1 at 9:30 a.m. Next month the class will be held on April 5. If you would like to sign up for one of these classes, or schedule a baptism, please call the church office.

Pastoral Care

If you, or someone you know, is in the hospital, please let our pastors know by calling the church office. One of our pastors will be notified and will be available to make a visit to the hospital. Our pastors care about your well being and consider it a privilege to come alongside of you and pray with you during a rough patch in your life.



WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

Knock and the Door Shall be Open!

Folks have often asked how George and I (senior citizens from Somerset, WI) got to Shepherd of the Valley in Afton, MN. This is my true story:

I was driving through Stillwater (my favorite place) one sunny day and I was praying for our daughter, an F-15 fighter pilot in the Air Force. I looked to my left and on a cozy front porch there was a patriotic display of a red, white and blue quilt, an American flag and a sign which read, "America, Bless God!" which one of the Christian radio announcers always said. I did something I normally don't do. I pulled in that driveway and rang the doorbell.

A pleasant woman greeted me, and I told her my daughter was in Iraq, that I liked her display and sign and she promptly said, "I will make you one!" I offered to pay her for it and she replied, "No, your daughter is

in the military, I will make you one."

With that she invited me into her warm home and introduced me to her husband. I explained that we had moved to Somerset two and a half years before and how tough it was to move sometimes. "You have to find a new doctor, dentist, beautician and my husband and I have been church shopping, also."

This woman and her husband smiled at each other and then said, "Why don't you try our church, Shepherd of the Valley in Afton?"

I said, "Oh yes, **I think** I have heard of that." I then left and the following Sunday I asked my husband if he would like to go to Shepherd of the Valley. He wisely replied, "**Why not, we've been everywhere else!**"

So the next Sunday we went to Shepherd and were warmly greeted by this lovely blonde gal named Kristin and then we walked into the Sanctuary.

Now I had my own criteria for

a church - it had to have a Bible at every place, it had to have Pastors who taught a personal relationship with Jesus and it had to have a contemporary band which played and sang the music I always listened to. Guess what? Shepherd had all three and that day we found a home away from home.

We have been here over five years and we know more people than we knew in all of the 70 years we were in other churches. We've gotten involved in small groups, missions, Servefest, etc. We have met some of the most wonderful Christians in the world whom we consider our spiritual Brothers and Sisters.

Did we ever get our "America Bless God" sign? You betcha! And it was delivered by none other than Dick and Mary Reed, our Angels Unaware. Thanks for answering your door Mary and Dick, and for opening your heart to us and to so many others.

In Jesus,

Janice and George Maurer



FOR KIDS ONLY

Sunday School News

Pre-K—Kindergarten students are working their way through the Old Testament. Parents, please take the time with your children to talk with them about the Bible story. **Students in Grades 1-5** will look at key characters of the Bible and how their lives reflected their walk with God. Students will discuss what it means for them to be a disciple of God.

On Sunday, March 1

Preschool-Kindergarten:

Lesson: The Red Sea

Bible Verse: Joshua 1:9

Point of the Day: God will keep us safe!

1st-5th Grade:

Lesson: Esther

Bible Verse: Esther 4:14

Point of the Day: God has a purpose for my life.

6th Grade:

Lesson: What Does the Holy Spirit Do? (Part 1)

On Sunday, March 8

Preschool-Kindergarten:

Lesson: Food From Heaven

Bible Verse: Joshua 1:9

Point of the Day: God will take care of our needs!

1st-5th Grade:

Lesson: Nehemiah

Bible Verse: Philippians 2:3

Point of the Day: Attitude counts!

6th Grade:

Lesson: What Does the Holy Spirit Do? (Part 2)

On Sunday, March 15

Preschool-Kindergarten:

Lesson: Ten Commandments

Bible Verse: Joshua 1:9

Point of the Day: God gives us rules.

1st-5th Grade:

Bible Story: Shadrach, Meshach & Abadnego

Bible Verse: Ephesians 6:10

Point of the Day: Stand up for God!

6th Grade:

Lesson: How Can I Resist Evil?

On Sunday, March 22

Preschool-Kindergarten:

Lesson: Twelve Spies

Bible Verse: Joshua 1:9

Point of the Day: Trust in God's Power!

1st-5th Grade:

Lesson: The God Man

Bible Verse: John 10:30

Point of the Day: Jesus is God and man.

6th Grade:

Lesson: Review time

On Sunday, March 29

Preschool-Kindergarten:

Lesson: Joshua and the Spies and the Battle of Jericho

Bible Verse: Joshua 1:9

Point of the Day: Trust in God's Plan

1st-5th Grade:

Lesson: The Lamb of God

Bible Verse: John 1:29

Point of the Day: Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Lesson: Why and How Should We Tell Others?

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

First Communion Class



5th graders, it's time to prepare for your First Communion. 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. Your First Communion will take place on Maundy Thursday, April 9, at the 7:00 p.m. worship service. You will receive a letter with detailed information. If your child is not in Sunday School and would like to participate, please contact the church office.

Easter is coming!



Preschoolers-Kindergarteners

It's almost time for our Egg-citing Easter

Egg Hunt! 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 will happen the end of March.

3rd Base...The Stop Before Home

3rd Base is for 4th–6th graders. March meeting dates are the 5 & 26 from 3:30-5:00 p.m.

There is no 3rd Base on March 12 or 19 due to the Honduras Mission Trip (Christie will be gone) & Stillwater's Spring Break. Remember to bring a permission slip to 3rd Base. 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!

Burr... It's cold outside

It's time to think about some summer fun opportunities in Children's Ministry! Sign up for these events at our "Summer Event Sign-Up" on April 26 and May 3.

Bible School

Bible School is for children age 3 (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.

A Sports Explosion

That is Centered Around Christ!

Get Ready for SportsLife Camp at Shepherd! This camp is for kids who are 6-11 years old. SportsLife Camp will happen Monday, July 27 – Thursday, July 30 from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Participants will choose from basketball & street hockey, soccer & ultimate Frisbee, dance & cheer-leading or arts extravaganza. One adult volunteer will be needed for every eight campers. Cost is \$65.00. This is a great event to invite your friends and neighbors to.



Summer Servefun

This event is for students currently in Grades 3-6.

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

Leader Retreat

Small group leaders are reminded of the Small Group Leader retreat on Saturday, April 4 from 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. This is for all adult and senior high small group leaders and coaches. Leaders are encouraged to invite those considering becoming apprentice leaders. Please RSVP to Kristin Lagus or at the Kiosk, indicating your choices for breakout sessions.

Tuesday Morning Women's Group

Interested in the Tuesday morning women's group for next Fall? Please visit us on Tuesday, April 7, 9:30–11:30 a.m., to preview our study for next year. Our format involves Bible study homework, large group video, and small group discussion, using materials produced by Beth Moore. Nursery and preschool are available. Contact Kristin Lagus at klagus@shepherd-lutheran.org or 651-436-8248 ext. 32 for more details and to RSVP. Childcare is available to those who respond by April 1.

Open Doors

Do you have some tough questions about spiritual matters? Do you struggle to know what you really believe about God? Consider this new opportunity to investigate spiritual issues at your own pace with others who are also searching. "Open Doors" is a discussion forum free of lectures or judgments. Just try it once and check it out! The group will begin on Monday April 20. For more information call Tom at 651.730.5027.

Prayer Shawl Meeting



The Prayer Shawl team will meet on Saturday, March 7 at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Chris Ackerman. Are you interested in joining this exciting ministry? The group would love to teach you to knit or crochet. Come and try something new! For more information call Julie at 651.436.6868.

Loaves & Fishes



The team from Shepherd of the Valley does not serve at St. Matthew's in March. Next month the team will serve on April 1. Food preparation begins at 3:30 p.m. You may come at that time or at 4:45 p.m. to help serve the evening meal. Directions to St. Matthew's can be found on the website or by calling the church office.

ServeFest

Join us on March 28 as we head into our community, sowing seeds of God's love. We will depart from Shepherd at 10:30 a.m.

SOV Book Club

The SOV Book Club is currently reading "Like Water for Chocolate" by Laura Esquire. The book club will meet to discuss the book on Saturday, March 21 at 9:00 a.m. at the Hudson Bagel and Coffee Co. Contact Susi at monty@bitstream.net for more information or for directions.



YOUTH IGNITED!

Summer 2009 Jr. High Mission Trip

Thunder Bay Canada

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 at 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 Small Groups



The Winter Session continues through March 8. 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).

Senior High Summer Mission Trip

Ocean Springs, Mississippi

July 11-19, 2009. Join us for amazing experience as we help build houses with Habitat For Humanity Mississippi Gulf Coast and Camp Victor. Please note: you must be at least 16 by July 14 to participate. Cost: \$350.00.

Youth Kiosk and Online Registrations

The Youth Kiosk is located in the Gathering Area, across the hall 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 more information is also available there.

Teens Encounter Christ (T.E.C.)

Senior High Students in grades 9-12 are eligible to attend and are 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.

Up-Coming TEC #83 Weekend:
April 24-26, 2009 at Shepherd of the Valley in Afton.



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

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

March 1	Baptism Class
March 1, 8,	Senior High Small Groups in Host Homes
March 4, 11, 18, 25	Confirmation Small Group Check-In
March 4, 11, 18, 25	Lent Worship
March 5, 26	3rd Base... the Stop Before Home
March 7	Prayer Shawl Meeting
March 21	SOV Book Club
March 21	Family Open Gym Night
March 28	ServeFest
April 5	Sr. High Small Groups Spring Session begins

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

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