

Shepherd's

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH

MAY 2009

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

SHEPHERD NEWS

Mission in Action

Shepherd of the Valley's mission is *"to connect all people to Christ through nurturing, building friendships and serving."*

Let's take a look at the *building friendships* part. Check out the following fellowship opportunities offered this summer.

Men's Retreat

Join us May 15-17 at Camp Wapo for an awesome weekend of fishing, golf, fellowship, and hanging out. The cost of \$110.00 includes lodging and food (golf is extra). Register at the Information Kiosk.

Monday Evening Golf

We have reserved tee times at Afton Alps for each Monday at 5:30 p.m. from May 4 through August 31. All adults and High School juniors and seniors are invited. Come whenever you can! If interested, please sign up at the Kiosk.

SOV Book Club

The SOV Book Club is currently reading "The House at Sugar Beach: In Search of a Lost African Childhood" by Helen Cooper. They will meet to discuss the book on Saturday, May 16 at 9:00 a.m. at the Hudson Bagel and Coffee Co.

And More...

If you prefer to connect with others and build friendships while serving, consider the following:

- ◆ ServeFest
- ◆ Habitat for Humanity
- ◆ Loaves & Fishes
- ◆ Bingo at Croixdale
- ◆ The *Ignite!* Hospitality Teams
- ◆ Prayer Shawl Ministry
- ◆ SOV Task Groups
- ◆ Volunteer at Children's or Youth Summer Events

Shepherd's Got Talent!

Calling all Junior High and Senior High students who play a musical instrument and / or sing... We are having open auditions on Wednesday, May 20 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, May 24 at 12:00 noon for opportunities to be part of the youth music ministry. The Junior and Senior High Bands will have the chance to lead worship throughout the year. The Bible says, *"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!"* We want to honor God and do just that!

Please contact Kim Schmidt or Donna Bennett for more information, to reserve your audition time and pick up your audition piece. They may be reached by email at: kschmidt@shepherd-lutheran.org or dbennett@shepherd-lutheran.org.



FROM THE PASTOR

Bits and Pieces from Steve

Shepherd and the economy

Like everyone else, we're feeling the pinch. The council and staff are being extra careful on spending right now so that we don't get too far behind. We presently are behind on the giving. We took great care in structuring our budget conservatively this year and if everyone follows through on their annual pledges and building pledges, we won't be hindered in our mission to connect people to Christ through our ministries.

My take on the recent ELCA sexuality statement

I'm disappointed but not surprised at the recently released sexuality statement and recommendations that have stemmed from it. It basically says we're a divided Church on the issues of same/sex marriage and the ordination of people in same/sex relationships and suggests that we ought to be flexible and let churches or synods

operate according to their own conscience on these issues. My concern over this is the erosion of biblical authority.

The ELCA national convention will take action on this in August. Zach is one of our delegates. If you are interested in reading the statement, you can read it online at www.elca.org.

A profitable read

If you'd like to increase your understanding of your Bible and how to get more out of it, I just finished a book that I highly recommend - *How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth* by Gordon Fee and Doug Stuart. I found it to be a very helpful tool.

A new adventure in my life!

I'm going back to school to get my Doctor of Ministry degree in preaching. I will be attending Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary. It's a three year program, with two weeks per year spent on campus. The rest of the work is done from here. I start in May. It's going to be a lot of work but I'm excited about doing this. I'm hoping

this will make me a better preacher of the gospel.

The Twins and the playoffs

Once they get that bullpen situation ironed out they will be on top at the end of the season.

New Connections

If you or someone you know is interested in 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. You may also sign up online or by calling the church office.



FAITH IN ACTION

A Word of Thanks!

“From the blue, purple and scarlet yarn, they made woven garments for ministering...”
Exodus 39:1

Our son Ken and his wife Teri live in Minnesota but Teri often returned to her home state of Texas to visit her mother, Beth, who had health problems. Last winter those visits became more frequent as Beth became increasingly ill. Beth and I had only met briefly, long ago. But on a Saturday before Christmas I was addressing cards and Beth came suddenly to mind. I thought of the pain of her long illness and a great weight of sadness came over me. I felt that the Holy Spirit was leading me to write to her. But what could I say? I did not know her well but I knew that mothers love to hear about their children. So I wrote about Teri; her talents, her humor, her thoughtfulness and I said, “Thank you Beth, for I know that so many of her lovely qualities come from you and your guidance.” That evening, very late, Teri called and said “Mama is worse and I’m

flying to Texas tonight. Mama is in so much pain and she has chosen to go off dialysis and I will stay with her until the end.”

The sadness I felt earlier became a deep ache in my heart as I thought of Teri, flying off on that sad journey, and of Beth, saying her final farewell to her family. I wished I could go with Teri. I wished I could somehow comfort them, hug them. I felt helpless. What could I do? There was nothing I could do. Then, like a light turning on in the darkness, I thought of the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

The following morning after the 9:00 Service at Church I asked Jill if there were prayer shawls available. In a private room she brought out shawl after lovely shawl. But none seemed right. Then I saw a blue one, Beth’s favorite color. It had a jewel tone as the light turned the yarn to a mixture of pale blue and dark blue with turquoise shadows. It was the kind of fringed shawl you would see in a painting, draped on a table beside roses, fresh cut from a garden. I knew it

was the exact shawl that would bring the comfort of Jesus to Beth.

I took the shawl into the crowd of people in the Church Gathering Area. I found four friends who joined me in praying, and laying hands on the shawl. I explained in a letter to Beth that every stitch in the shawl had been made with prayers for the one who would receive it and I included the small written message of hope in Jesus that came with the shawl. I sent it by Overnight Mail.

Beth received the letter and the shawl, and for a week of long days and long nights it brought comfort and beauty to the difficult vigil in that sick room. Finally, when Beth had reached out to all five of her children, she slipped away to the peace and joy of Heaven.

When Teri returned home she said, “Thanks for your thoughts and gifts while Mama was dying. We buried her... with the beautiful prayer shawl.

Jeanene Allen Peulen 4/1/09



FOR KIDS ONLY



Sunday School News

The last day of Sunday School
is May 17

May Lessons

Pre-K Students

May 3:

Lesson: Ruth & Naomi

Bible Verse: John 15:12

Point of the Day: Take care of each other.

May 10:

Lesson: Hannah's Prayer

Bible Verse: John 15:12

Point of the Day: God hears our prayers.

May 17:

Lesson: A Voice in the Night

Bible Verse: John 15:12

Point of the Day: Listen to God's call.

1-5 Grade Students

May 3:

Lesson: Old Testament

Rewind

Bible Verse: Romans 1:20

May 10:

Lesson: Review Challenge

May 17:

Small Group Celebration Day

6th Grade Students

May 3:

Review Day

May 10:

Service Project Day

May 17:

Small Group Celebration Day

Thank You

Children's Ministry Volunteers!

Thank you to the team of people that God brought together to serve in the *Sunday School ministry, 3rd Base, the Christmas Musical and other opportunities* that occurred in Children's Ministry throughout this school year. What a joy and privilege it is to serve alongside over 250 incredible volunteers! I praise God for your love and dedication as you served to accomplish the mission of *Connecting Kids to Christ*. Thank you for saying "yes" to God's call and *affecting a child's life for eternity!*

I look forward to the team God will call upon for next year!

In Christ,

Christie

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

Sunday School Registration

- * May 10 and 17
- * At tables located in the Atrium outside of the Community Center.

Parents of Children Currently Attending Sunday School:

1. Pick up your child's registration form, make any changes and fill in any new information, and write the hour you desire your child to attend.
2. Turn the completed form in to the person stationed at the end of the registration table.

Parents of New Registrants:

1. Pick up a new registration form and fill it out.
2. Turn in the completed form to the person stationed at the end of the registration table.

Not going to be here on May 10 or 17? You can print off a registration form from our website, or you can email Dana at dlochmer@shepherd-lutheran.org and she will mail a form to you.

Volunteer Opportunities

Be part of *Connecting Kids to Christ!* Volunteer forms will be

available at the Registration Tables. Check out the following opportunities:

1. Do you have a love for creatively telling or acting out a Bible story? Join one of our drama teams. You will serve one Sunday a month at both hours.
2. Do you love relating to children? Become a Shepherd. A shepherd guides their class each Sunday, caring for them and helping them to apply the Bible lesson to their lives. What a wonderful opportunity to disciple children in their walk with Christ.
3. Do you enjoy working with crafts and games? Join the Discovery Team. You will help to prepare the craft and/or game that will enhance the lesson for the Preschool-K area on the Sunday you are scheduled to work. You will serve one Sunday a month.
4. Do you enjoy music? Help lead the Preschool-K students, or work with the Kids Worship Team for the grade school age.
5. Do you enjoy assisting a child one-on-one? Become a Special Friend to a child with

special needs. You will walk with a child throughout the morning and assist them wherever they need a hand.

6. Would you rather work "behind the scenes?" There are opportunities to make and set up props for drama, purchase and set up treats on Sunday mornings, fill buckets with the supplies need on Sundays, substituting, etc.
7. Do you like to welcome and greet people while keeping children safe? Be a part of the Security Team that welcomes parents as they drop off and pick up their children.

Kids Connection Worship Team

Thank you for a great year! To celebrate a wonderful year of serving Christ together, we will meet at church on May 13 at 5:30 p.m. and head to the bowling alley for an evening of fun. We will be back at 8:00 p.m. Permission slips will be mailed out to team members and signed slips must be turned in for kids to go. Contact Keri with any questions at kaldridge@shepherd-lutheran.org



KID'S SUMMER EVENTS

Event Sign-Up

Sunday May 3

Forms are located at all Kiosks. Your spot is reserved when your registration forms and payment are turned in at the table located in the Atrium by the Community Center. If you are not going to be here, registration forms will be available on the Shepherd website under the Children's Ministry page. These can be mailed in with payment.

Bible School

Passport to the Holy Land

June 15-19, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

This is for children who turned 3 as of September 1, 2008 – current 2nd Graders. This year students will travel with visits to Nazareth, Jerusalem, Capernaum, Bethlehem, and Bethany. Throughout their travels students will learn about Jesus as they explore a carpenter shop, marketplace, a synagogue, a sheep fold, and the home of Mary and Martha. Cost is \$25.00/student or \$50.00/family. Don't miss the fun!

Sports Life Camp

Get Ready for a Sports Explosion that's Centered Around Christ!

This camp is for kids who are currently in Grades K-5. Each three-hour day of camp is packed full of physical activity, Bible-based learning, singing, friendships, and fun. Participants choose from basketball & street hockey; soccer & ultimate Frisbee; dance & cheerleading; or arts extravaganza. Along with these choices, there will be side shows of break dancing, high speed kickball, and rubber chicken challenge. SportsLife Camp will happen Monday, July 27 – Thursday, July 30 from 9:00-11:30 a.m. Cost is \$65.00. This is a great event to invite your friends and neighbors. SportsLife leaders along with adult helpers from our church will oversee this week of fun. **Adult helpers are needed for this event.**



Summer Servefun



This event is for current 3-6 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. Details are as follows:

- * **Thursday, June 25:**
8:15 a.m.-3:45 p.m.
FMSC & Grand Slam. Cost \$15.00.
- * **Thursday, July 16:**
8:15 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
FMSC & swimming at Cascade Bay.
Cost \$15.00.
- * **Thursday, August 13:** 8:15 a.m.-3:15 p.m.
FMSC & bowling at Sun Ray.
Cost \$15.00.

Adult Chaperones are still needed for each event. There is a 1 adult / 3 student ratio required by Feed My Starving Children. Chaperones can volunteer for just the morning, or the entire day.



YOUTH IGNITED!

Wild Mountain



Mark your calendars for Thursday, June 18! Spend a day at Wild Mountain with us on the water slides, go-karts and alpine slides. Registration forms are at the Youth Kiosk, or download one from our website. Cost: \$20.00. We'll meet at 9:00 a.m. at SOV, jump on the bus and return by 5:00 p.m. Friends are welcome! Sign up and register by Sunday, May 24.

Junior High Open Gym Friday

Friday, May 8, come and bring your friends to an open gym event from 6:30-8:30 p.m. We'll be playing basketball and also be hosting a *Wii Bowling* Tournament and *Guitar Hero* Tournament as well! It's going to be great! No cost or sign up.

Habitat for Humanity

June 15-19: This week is open to all SOV members and youth 14 or older. Sign up at the Booth in the Gathering Area.

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. Cost: \$325.00. Registration forms are available and space is limited.

Senior High Small Groups

The Spring Session continues every Sunday night through May 10 from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. at Host Homes. There is always an open chair, so bring a friend! Check out our website for locations and more information.

Senior High Small Groups Bash

Join your Small Group and the rest of the Senior High small groups on Sunday, May 17 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. for an end of the year bash! We want to celebrate how awesome it is to be in community with one another! There will be food, games, and fun! Sign up at the Kiosk today!

Sr. High Mission Trip Ocean Springs, Mississippi



July 11-19, 2009. Join us 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 16 by July 14 to participate. Cost: \$350. Registration forms are available at the Youth Kiosk. Registration and deposit are due by June 7.



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

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

May 2	Prayer Shawl Meeting
May 3	Children's Summer Event Sign Up
May 3, 10	Senior High Small Groups
May 8	Junior High Open Gym
May 9, 23	ServeFest
May 10, 17	Sunday School Registration
May 16	SOV Book Club
May 15-17	Men's Retreat
May 17	Last Day of Sunday School
May 17	Sr. High Small Groups End of Year Bash
May 19	Senior High Leader BBQ

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