

# Shepherd's

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2008

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

## SHEPHERD NEWS

### We Give Thanks!

The community wide Thanksgiving service will be held at Shepherd of the Valley on Wednesday, November 26 at 7:00 p.m. Come and join your church family and your friends in offering thanks to God for His many blessings!



### Angel Tree Ministry

Shepherd of the Valley, again this year, is participating in the Angel Tree ministry. This is a ministry of Prison Fellowship.

This year we will be serving 165 area children in the east Metro area who have a parent who is incarcerated. These children are the innocent and sometimes forgotten victims of their parent's choices and situations. This is an opportunity to share the true message of Christmas and Jesus' love for them.

Request forms to sponsor families will be available in mid-November. You will receive your family information by December 5 and then have a couple of weeks to distribute the gifts. More information will be available in our December newsletter, as well as email and bulletin announcements.

### Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry

Do you want to experience the blessing of reaching out to a child in need? Partner with the Sunday School Ministry in Operation Christmas Child - Shoebox Ministry (offered through Samaritan's Purse). Shoeboxes filled with gifts are gathered nation-wide and delivered to hurting children around the world. Each box also tells them about God's greatest gift - *Jesus!*

Here's what you do to participate:

- Pick up a brochure on Sunday, **November 9.**
- Fill a shoebox with any of the suggested items. A good idea is to use a plastic box with a fitted lid instead of a shoebox. This will be put to good use by its recipient!
- Wrap the shoebox and lid separately.
- Attach the label from the brochure, marking the gender and age category.
- Enclose \$7.00 in the envelope attached to the brochure to help with shipping.
- Place a rubber band around the shoebox.
- Bring them back to church on Sunday, **November 23.**

If you would like to volunteer at the Minneapolis Processing Center, call 612.359.7025.



## FROM THE PASTOR

### It's Review Time!

#### How does Shepherd of the Valley build its budget?

That's one of the questions we attempt to clearly answer in each new members class taught at Shepherd. I have learned over the years though, that it's also good to do a review now and then.

Shepherd of the Valley builds its budget based upon three sources:

1. First we use members' annual pledges. Each year we have a pledge campaign in November. The pledge cards are brought to the altar during a weekend service and the pledges are totaled up.
2. Next, we look at the past year giving for those who didn't get their pledge in and add those figures up.
3. Finally, we look at the loose offerings from the past three years and do an estimate from that average.

We add the three sources together and, *voila* - there is the

budget for 2009. We go into the year trusting God and one another to make it available so that the ministry can be carried out. That is how we've been doing it for over twenty years.

This November we will be looking at the theme: "Looking to Jesus" for our giving campaign. It is a wonderful passage on faith which comes from Hebrews 12:1-2.

During these times of financial uncertainty it seemed that faith is another good subject to mull over. Of course, we will again review our long time biblical teaching on what Christian giving is about: *We give out of love to Christ in the area of our faith.*

A pledge card will be sent to each member's home. I am asking you to fill it out and bring it to the altar on November 22 or 23. May God guide, encourage and enable us to keep running the good race for Christ.

In Him,

### Baptism Class



The next Baptism class will be offered on Sunday, November 2 at 9:30 a.m. This class is for parents who wish to have their child baptized at Shepherd, or for anyone who wishes to be baptized. To sign up for this class, or to schedule a baptism, please call the church office.

### New Connections

The next series of New Connections classes for prospective members will be held on Thursday evenings beginning November 6 @ 7:00 p.m. If you or someone you know would like to register please call the office at 651.436.8248 or sign up at the Information Kiosk.

### ServeFest

Join us on Saturdays, November 8 and 22 at 10:30 a.m. We'll head into our community, demonstrating to others that God's love is free!



## FAITH IN ACTION

### Adventures in Africa

#### A Mission Report from Emkhuzweni, Swaziland

We are finally able to have fairly reliable internet access to keep you posted on our work here in Swaziland! We have finished our first two weeks of mission work here in a little rural town called Emkhuzweni. Our first two weeks have been incredible, though it was a little challenging at times; we had to walk 45 minutes just to get our food for cooking, and we showered with a “bucket.” We were able to see many of our dreams for this trip fulfilled in one way or another!

We were able to feed the children after school and do Bible programs with them. For those of you who know the organization called “Feed My Starving Children” from Minneapolis, we had the opportunity to prepare and serve those meals to the children! We were so excited!

God opened our eyes to a number of the children who needed clothing and we were able to bless them from the supply we

brought. Not only that, but several families of orphans were brought to us so we could provide a meal and some clothing, our prayers and love to them. For one of those families, we walked several miles just to get to them.

We ministered in the local hospital to the sick and those affected by AIDS, sharing our prayers, testimonies of Jesus, songs and love with them – some of them in their last few days of life. And we were even interviewed by a TV station! But one of the most amazing opportunities was when we got to visit the locals in their homes. During one of these visits we had an opportunity to spend time at the local traditional healer center, where students learn to make natural medicines and consult spirits. We were able to sit with these young ladies and talk and laugh and share with them. There were many opportunities to talk about Jesus! They were very curious, and very open to us and SO friendly. We KNOW God is working in them in a mighty way. And

what a great reminder that our battle is not against flesh and blood but against the spiritual realm. These traditional healers are not enemies, but they are people who need to be rescued FROM the enemy.

Blessings and thanks for your prayers! We have been healthy and safe! Love, the Swazi Team!

*Lisa, Caro, Erika, Vane and Alicia*

#### Swazigirls

We are a group of girls from four countries: Ecuador, Colombia, Mexico, and the United States. The Lord has put a call on each of our hearts to go to the little nation of Swaziland together, to bring hope in body and spirit to the orphaned and AIDS victims; to model *James 1:27* in the way we live among the Africans.

**Editor’s Note:** *Lisa* is from Shepherd of the Valley. For more information on their mission work visit their blog at: [swaziteam.blogspot.com](http://swaziteam.blogspot.com).



# FOR KIDS ONLY



No Sunday School on  
Sunday, November 30.  
Happy Thanksgiving!

## Sunday School Lessons:

### Preschool-Kindergarten:

November 2 - A New Home  
November 9 - The Visitors  
November 16 - A Bride for  
Isaac  
November 23 - Isaac's Blessing

### 1-5<sup>th</sup> Graders:

November 2 - Be Bold! Moses,  
Pharaoh, and the  
10 Plagues

November 9 - Passover: God  
Delivers!  
November 16 - The 10  
Commandments  
November 23— Review / Chal-  
lenge Day

### 6<sup>th</sup> Graders- Youth Alpha:

November 2 - How can I be  
sure of my faith? (part 1)  
November 9 - How can I be  
sure of my faith? (part 2)  
November 16 - How & why  
should I pray? (part 1)  
November 23 - How & why  
should I pray? (part 2)

## A Call to Serve

Do you have a desire to help a  
child who has special needs?  
There are three students at the  
10:30 Sunday School hour wait-  
ing to see who God calls to be  
their Special Friends. If you are  
interested in helping contact  
Tammie Proue at [tproue@  
shepherd-lutheran.org](mailto:tproue@shepherd-lutheran.org) or  
651.436.8248 ext.18.

## November Offering

During the month of Novem-  
ber the Sunday School offering  
will go toward *Samaritan's  
Purse* "Operation Christmas  
Child - Shoebox Ministry."  
More information on this min-  
istry is located on Page 1.

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

3<sup>rd</sup> Base is an after-school pro-  
gram for 4-6 graders that offers  
faith, fun, food, and friends.  
November's theme is *Faith in  
Action*. 3<sup>rd</sup> Base will meet on  
November 13 and 20 from 3:30-  
5:00 p.m. **There is no 3<sup>rd</sup> Base  
on November 6 or 27.** Stu-  
dents attending Afton-Lakeland  
can hop on the *Ring* bus. Make  
sure you send a note giving  
your child permission to ride  
the bus. Pick up a permission  
slip, fill it out and bring it with  
you to 3<sup>rd</sup> Base. Friends are  
welcome!

### 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

### A Note from Christie

It's almost Thanksgiving, the time of the year we give thanks for God's many blessings. What are you thankful for?

- ◆ In Children's Ministry, we thank God for the opportunity He has given us to connect the children that He has brought into our church to Him!
- ◆ We are thankful for the many who serve in the various Children's Ministry opportunities... affecting a child's life for eternity!
- ◆ We are thankful for the privilege to serve in a church that embraces God's invitation to "Let the children come."

Now it's your turn... Spend time with your children and take turns sharing things that you are thankful for, and then thank God together in prayer. What a blessing that time will be!

Happy Thanksgiving!

*Christie*

### The Mystery of the Manger



Hey 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> graders...  
It's time to get ready for this year's Christmas Musical!

December 13 @ 4:00 p.m.

Join us in helping *Jane Blond* unfold the facts about the Mystery at the Manger.

The rehearsal schedule is as follows:

- ◆ Sundays from 12:00-2:00 p.m. on November 2, 9, 16, and 23 and December 7. **No practice on November 30.**
- ◆ Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00 p.m. on November 5, 12 and 19 and December 3 and 10. **No practice on November 26.**
- ◆ The cast party and full rehearsal will be on December 12 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

- ◆ The dress rehearsal will be on December 13 from 9:30-11:30 a.m.
- ◆ The performance will be at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 13.
- ◆ Those with speaking parts, solos, or dancing parts will stay to rehearse from 6:00 - 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays and 2:00-2:30 p.m. on Sundays.
- ◆ On the Sundays that we practice, you may send a lunch with your child and they will eat together from 11:30-12:00 p.m.

**Adult help is needed** for the reception following the musical, props, costuming, working lines, putting together the program, and set up and take down the day of the musical.

Any questions? Please talk to Christie, Keri, or Darla.



# GROWING IN CHRIST

## Ignite! Worship

### One Family's Story

Can you imagine the surprise of opening your door on a Sunday morning to a child dressed in a Darth Vader costume? And what if this child then offered you the Gospel in a Nutshell?

Our family really enjoys the Saturday Ignite Worship service at Shepherd. The music, fellowship and overall experience are often one of the highlights of our week. However, we didn't want our kids to miss out on the Christian education offered at a traditional Sunday school. We found that life with our two children – Spencer, who has special needs and Madison – was simply too hectic to get everyone to church for worship on Saturdays and back for Sunday school on Sundays. We have found a perfect fit for our family at the Ignite Worship Service at Shepherd.

The message and materials provided to our children at this service are remarkable! During the Ignite children's message, the children are given an activ-

ity sheet relating to the sermon topic. After the service they work on a craft and receive their lesson for the week. We have been using these materials for a Sunday morning family lesson.

The moment we get out of bed on Sunday mornings, Madison is there asking, "Is it time for Sunday school yet?" We gather around the table with our Bibles, in our pajamas, Chris and me sipping our coffee, and we begin our lesson. Our children are getting the opportunity to hear their Dad talk about his faith; something he normally doesn't do. This is forcing him to speak more openly about it. At the end of the lesson, Spencer says "We're done already? I don't want to be done." He stays at the table after we are finished and continues to look at his Bible and write notes about the lesson.

Recently the lesson included the 'Gospel in a Nutshell.' We brought home peanuts, strips of paper with the Gospel message on them, and candy. Our task was to crack open the peanuts, put the Gospel message inside,

tape it back up, then share the candy and Gospel in a Nutshell with others.

Spencer and Madison couldn't wait to go out in the neighborhood to share the message. You can imagine our surprise when Spencer showed up – ready to go into the world armed with the Good News – dressed in his Darth Vader costume!

*Laura Lee*

**Ignite! Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.**

**Great worship,  
Great food,  
Great fellowship.**

## Men's Ministry

### Vikings / Packers Game!

Come join a bunch of guys watch the Vikings/Packers game on big HD screens with pumping sound—along with lots of food, fellowship, and fun. Kickoff is at **noon on Sunday, November 9** in the Community Center at SOV. Pizza and soda will be available for a small fee. Bring your friends! Sign up at the Information Kiosk.



# YOUTH IGNITED

## David Crowder Band Concert

Thursday, November 6 at Grace Church in Eden Prairie. Tickets are still available at a cost of \$28.00. The concert begins at 7:00 p.m. See Kim S. for ticket information.

## Spirit Mountain Winter Ski Retreat

January 23-25, 2009 for students in grades 7—9. The cost of \$125.00 includes two nights lodging on the slopes and two days of lift tickets. Deposits and registrations are due on Sunday, December 26. Friends are welcome.

## Jr. High Mission Trip Thunder Bay Canada

### Summer 2009

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 online or at the Youth Kiosk.

## Senior High Small Groups

We're in full swing as we enter the second month of Small Groups! Students are plugging in, meeting new people, hanging out with old friends, and learning more about God all in one night! Small Groups will meet Sundays; November 2, 9, and 16. If you haven't joined a Small Group yet, there's one waiting just for you! Fill out a blue registration card found at the Kiosk, or register on our website. It's never too late to join a Small Group!

## Senior High Sundays

It's "Dinner & A Movie Night" on Sunday, November 23. We'll eat pizza starting at 5:30 p.m. and watch a movie on the big screen in the gym starting at 6:00 p.m. Only \$5.00 for the entire night! Bring all your friends, and come hang out with us!



## The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Black & White Dinner

Join all your friends on Sunday, December 7 from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. at SOV for this incredible night! The evening includes a meal of several courses, decadent desserts, singing, dancing, and outrageous fun! Come dressed in your favorite black or white apparel, and be prepared to win the prize for the most fly tie or the most kickin' shoes! The cost is only \$15.00 for the entire night. Register online or at the Kiosk today!

## Youth Kiosk and 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 new website [www.shepherd-lutheran.org](http://www.shepherd-lutheran.org). Registration forms and information are also available online.



14107 Hudson Road South  
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[www.shepherd-lutheran.org](http://www.shepherd-lutheran.org)

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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

November 2, 9, 16, 23,	Sunday School
November 2, 9, 16,	Senior High Small Groups
November 5, 12, 19	Grade 7 & 8 Confirmation
November 6	David Crowder Band Concert
November 12, 22	Kid's Connection Worship Team Practice
November 13, 20	3rd Base... the Stop Before Home
November 1	Prayer Shawl Meeting
November 6, 13, 20	New Connections
November 8, 22	ServeFest
November 15	SOV Book Club
November 23	Senior High Night @ SOV

**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,  
Darla Ostrand, Dana Lochner

Special Needs Ministry: Tammie  
Proue

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

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