

Shepherd's

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2008

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

SHEPHERD NEWS

Discovering My Design

A common question among Christians is "How has God gifted me for service?" There will be a five week course beginning Tuesday, October 7, that will help you understand your special giftedness. The name of the course is "Discovering My Design." The content for the course is based on materials developed by People Management International. God has designed you to



love to do certain things well. You will start to discover your special design as you examine the patterns that exist in the stories of satisfaction in your life. Come and join us for an exciting adventure as we uncover our "sweet spots!"

Come Ignite!

With school back in full swing and calendars filled with weekend sports and fall outings, we know that getting to church can be a challenge. At Shepherd we offer a Saturday evening service that provides an alternative to the traditional Sunday

worship, called "Ignite!" This is a casual and contemporary worship experience that offers something for everyone. Each week we feature a children's sermon from the pastor, crafts for kids, prayer ministry, current music by Hillsong, Chris Tomlin, Mercy Me, Third Day and more... and, YES, great food and fellowship afterwards! We invite you to bring your friends and come to connect with others! If you would like to get involved, or have questions, please contact Donna Bennett at dbennett@shepherd-lutheran.org.

New Connections

The next series of classes for prospective members will be held on Monday evenings beginning September 8. If you would like to register please call the office or sign up at the Information Kiosk.

Join us at SOV this Fall for: **"A Spiritual Check-Up"**

A Four Week Sermon Series beginning September 6 and 7, 2008

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|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Connecting People to Christ | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building Friendships |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nurturing | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Serving |

No Appointment Necessary.



FROM THE STAFF

Make the Connection

Make a Difference!

If you've ever been a guest at a party where you didn't know anyone, then you can empathize with the discomfort of many people who enter the doors of Shepherd to attend their first worship service.

Congregations can oftentimes become blind to guests who come to visit. At Shepherd we have many people each weekend who come looking for a church home. As they come through the doors of this place they wonder, "Is this a place where I will feel welcome?" Each person has a story as to why they have come to this place. Each is valued by Jesus. Therefore, it is vital that we make them feel at home. Christ has told us to "welcome the stranger." This is not just the greeter's job, or the usher's job. This is OUR job. And it is an important one.

"But we're a friendly congregation!"

I've never been in a congregation yet that hasn't said that about themselves. Perhaps we are friendly with one another in our own particular groups. Not everyone has that connection. Let me assure you, there are some very uncomfortable people in our midst waiting for someone to notice them.

This fall, we will have many guests. Join me in making their visit a warm, positive homecoming experience. You could make the difference.

A Note from Christie

As we enter into another school year, I continue to be amazed by what God is doing here at Shepherd! Did you know that we ended the last Sunday School year with **630 students** enrolled? At the end of the year someone made the comment to me that this is more students than a lot of our elementary schools have... yikes! This is God at work!

Then we looked at our volunteers. Do you know that we had over 230 adults/youth volunteering just in Sunday School ministry? That's a 1-3 ratio... yikes! Again, this is God at work!

Jesus said to Peter in *John 21*, "Simon, son of John, do you truly love me more than these?"

"Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

God has given Shepherd a huge responsibility and privilege to "feed His lambs." Do you love Jesus? Is God calling you be a part of Sunday School ministry to *feed His lambs*?

Please talk to me or one of the Children's Ministry team, and we will help you find the place that best fits the gifts God has given you to *affect a child's life for eternity*.

In His Grip ~



FAITH IN ACTION

The Dwelling Place

A Christian Women's Shelter and Ministry to Families Affected by Abuse

The Dwelling Place Shelter operates two homes that offer safe and loving transformational care to women and their children fleeing domestic abuse: a Crisis Shelter and a Transitional House. The services offered equip those leaving abusive relationships with scripturally-based life principles that offer healing, hope and recovery.

As a means of sustenance and support, partnerships are made with local churches to heighten awareness of domestic abuse through the training ministry.

The Dwelling Place ministry continues to care for families after they have transitioned back into society by:

- Helping them gain access to career, legal and financial counseling.
- Meeting personal and household needs.

- Supporting them with prayer.

Important facts about domestic abuse:

- 1 out of 3 women experience domestic abuse in their lifetime.
- Abuse transgresses all socioeconomic boundaries. **No one** is exempt.
- Abusers come from all socioeconomic backgrounds, races, religions and walks of life.
- Calls for services currently exceed places of safety.

Current support opportunities:

- Cell Phone Recycling/Collection
- Silent Auction/Celebration of 10 years of Ministry, October 10, 2008 at North Heights Lutheran Church.

To donate a cell phone, attend the auction/celebration, or support the ministry, please contact Micki St. Sauver at 615.735.2367.

Simply Irresistible!

Most Christians want to see the people around them make faith commitments to Jesus Christ. Some are looking for ways to be effective at the task, and many more have just given up. Help is here! Come and spend eight Thursday evenings, beginning September 25, learning how to represent the One who is ***“Simply Irresistible,”*** - Jesus! Listen to this quote from one of the writers of this course book:

“You’re the most effective witness when you’re real and non-threatening. This course is for anyone who wants to learn how to genuinely love friends, family members, and even strangers into a more intimate and life-transforming relationship with Jesus Christ without being pushy, manipulative, or obnoxious.”

So release your fear about reaching out to others. Come and learn some great, do-able ideas on how to naturally open others to Jesus.



FOR KIDS ONLY

Sunday School News



Sunday School Begins September 21

All children registered for the 2008-09 Sunday School year will receive a letter in the mail the second week of September with the details you will need to know as we begin a new year together. Parents, please read the policies that are included in the letter carefully.

Adults and Youth Leaders Needed

Is God calling YOU to become involved in Children's Ministry? Below are opportunities for you to be part of this fun and exciting ministry.

At the 9:00 Hour

- **13 Shepherds:** Guide your class through the morning

and help students apply God's Word to their lives.

- **Treat Team:** Pick up and set up treats for the volunteer team. You will rotate turns and will be reimbursed.

At the 10:30 Hour

- **17 Shepherds:** Guide your class through the morning and help students apply God's Word to their lives.

At Both Hours

- **Helpers** are needed for each class.
- **Special Friends:** Assist a child with special needs through their morning.
- **Join the Drama Team** for preschool-kindergarten or 1-5 grades and bring the Word of God to life.
- **Substitutes** for Shepherds (teachers) are needed at both hours.
- **Security Team:** Man a Sunday School hallway entrance

at the beginning and end of a Sunday school hour. A rotation of volunteers will be scheduled.

- **Shepherd Floater:** Check in on Sunday to see if there are any last minute needs for a volunteer.
- **Lead preschool opening music time.**
- **Lead Kids Connection Worship Team:** This includes a bi-weekly Wednesday practice and Sunday's worship time.

Last year over 230 adults and youth served on this exciting team. Please **prayerfully** consider your involvement in this fun ministry and **affect a child's life for eternity!** We look forward to seeing the team that God is preparing to serve this year. If you have questions, talk to Christie or one of the Children's Ministry staff.

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

Casting Call...

For anyone interested in the SOV Drama Team!



Come to an information meeting on Wednesday, September 10 at 6:30 p.m. We'll talk schedules, scripts and skits! Come to share your talents with kids and your love for the Lord.

Sunday School Registration

I haven't registered my child for Sunday School yet, what should I do?

Blank registration forms can be found at the Kiosks or online. You may also email Dana at dlochner@shepherd-lutheran.org to have a form mailed to you.

Please register as soon as possible, as classes are currently being formed.

Welcome to Sunday School, 3 Year Olds!

Will you be 3 years old by September 1, 2008? Then you are old enough to go to Sunday

School! Did your mom or dad register you yet? If not, the forms are located at the Information Kiosks or online. To help you get ready for your first day of Sunday School, we invite you to a welcome hour on **Saturday, September 20 from 10:00—11:00 a.m.** An invitation will be sent to all of you who are registered. When you come you will receive your Beginner Bible and get a feel for what Sunday School will be like. We can't wait to meet you! See you on September 20.

New Bibles for First Graders

If you are in 1st grade this year, you will be receiving a new Bible from the church! Pastor Zach and Christie will lead a Bible class on Tuesday, September 23 from 6:30—8:00 p.m. Students will receive their Bibles during worship the weekend of September 27-28. A letter about the class will be sent to you and your parents in September. It's awesome to be in God's Word!

A Huge Thanks!

Thank you to all who volunteered with Children's Ministry summer programs! What a blast we had *connecting kids to Christ*. Glory to God!

3rd Base... The Stop Before Home



Back in swing in October

3rd Base is an after-school program for 4—6 graders that offers faith, fun, food, and friends. It meets on Thursdays from 3:30—5:00 p.m. on the days that Stillwater school district is in session (unless otherwise stated). Watch for more information to come. You can pick up a permission slip at the Children's Ministry Kiosk in mid-September. Please fill out the front of the form, check out the expectations on the back of the form and sign it, and bring the permission slip with you to 3rd Base in October. Invite a friend! You will need to pick up an extra permission slip for them. *Don't sit on the sidelines... join the team!*



GROWING IN CHRIST

Get Connected!

Small Groups Start October 5

Shepherd of the Valley's mission to "connect all people to Christ through nurturing, building friendships, and serving" is what small group ministry is all about. God created us for community with others and with Himself. In groups, people make new friends, and get to know Jesus better. People are supported and encouraged. People serve one another and often reach outside the group to help others too. Does this sound like something worth your time?

Fall session begins October 5, with registration happening throughout September. Stop at the Information Kiosk, or check online, for a list of groups and registration cards. Groups meet all over, different times and days of the week. There are groups for anyone. Some have a specified focus (men, women, parents, newcomers, Serendipity Bible, Beth Moore, etc.) while others do not.

Not yet convinced? If you'd like to try a group to see what it's like before making a commitment, there is a "drop in and try it out" opportunity for you. No experience required! You can visit either of the following two groups the first week, and then decide if it's a good fit for you:

- **Newcomer Group** is a mixed group, meant for anyone, but especially for those new to Shepherd or to small groups. Come on Monday, October 6 @ 7:00 p.m. Childcare is offered.
- **Men's Gathering:** Various men's groups will meet at church on October 10 @ 6:00 a.m. After that, the groups will meet in their different locations.

I can't say enough about how I have personally been impacted through small groups. As a newlywed, I saw God-centered marriages modeled by my small group members. I'm convinced this impacted my own marriage. I experienced friendship and support as a young mother.

I was cared for in times of crisis. I learned the joy of serving others. I have made deep and lasting friendships. My faith has grown, and I am closer to Jesus. I've gotten to share my friend, Jesus, with others. If you have questions or need help getting connected to a small group, please visit me at the Information Kiosk, or call or e-mail me at church. I would love to help you get connected this Fall.

Blessings,

Kristin Lagus

Share Your Gift of Music!

Are you looking for a way to serve God? Do you love to sing? Do you want to grow as a musician? Please consider joining the SOV Choir!

Rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. beginning September 3. The choir sings weekly at the 9:00 a.m. worship service. For more information please contact Dr. Kristin Tjornehoj at 715.386.7067 or at Kristin.tjornehoj@uwrf.edu.



YOUTH IGNITED

Junior High Quake

November 21-23 at the Hilton Airport Hotel! This is a 3 day retreat sponsored by Youth Encounter with great speakers, music and super fun times. Cost is \$75.00 plus some food money. Registrations are due by September 14 and you can pick them up at the Information Kiosk or on our website.

The Band

If you play an instrument or sing or would like to learn about tech, please see Kim Schmidt. We will be getting the band together for the coming year!

Confirmation:

Grades 7 & 8

- Begins September 10 with a parent and student night from 6:00 – 8:00pm.
- Fall Retreat at Camp St. Croix, October 4–5.

Grade 9

- Begins September 3 with a parent and student night from 6:30 – 7:00pm.

- Fall Retreat at Camp St. Croix, October 4–5.

Senior High Ministry

Moving...to Sunday Night!

Small Groups will meet the first 3 Sundays of the month, and on the 4th Sunday of every month, we'll have a HUGE event that you can bring all your friends to! On September 28 we'll "kick off" the year with a huge tailgating party, some crazy wild games, awesome prizes, and much more! Come dressed in your favorite team jersey, meet the new Adult Leaders, and bring \$5.00 Sign up at the Youth Kiosk!

Senior High Small Groups

In a Small Group at SOV, you will get the chance to get to know other teenagers who are dealing with a lot of the same things you are, and you'll be encouraged by other teenagers and adults who genuinely care. It's a safe place for you and your friends to ask questions and learn about who God is and just how much He loves you. Small Groups will meet

every Sunday night from 6:30–8:00 p.m. in various homes throughout the St. Croix Valley. Plug in to one this Fall by filling out a registration form found online and at the Kiosk. Small groups begin Sunday, October 5.

Fall Retreat October 4 & 5

Join all your friends at Camp St. Croix in Hudson for some campfires, night games, worship, new friends, hilarious stories, and more! The cost is \$52.00. Register online or at the Kiosk today!

Jr. High and Sr. High Adult Leaders

Join Kim Schmidt and Maria Paulsen on Sunday, September 7 from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at SOV for a Leader Training that will knock your socks off... or at least prepare you for an awesome year of service in Youth Ministry! If you'd like to learn more about becoming a Youth Ministry Leader, please contact either Kim or Maria. See you there!



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September 3	Gr. 9 Confirmation & Parent Meeting
September 6	Prayer Shawl Meeting
September 7	Youth Leader Training
September 8	New Connections Begins
September 10	Gr. 7 & 8 Confirmation & Parent Meeting
September 13, 27	ServeFest
September 17, 24	Confirmation
September 20	3 year old Welcome to Sunday School
September 20	SOV Book Club
September 21	Sunday School Begins
September 23	1st Grade Bible Class
September 28	Sr. High Fall Kick Off

Saturday "Ignite!" 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

Youth Ministry: Kim Schmidt;
Maria Paulsen

Adult Ministry: Dick Wagenknecht,
Kristin Lagus; Jill Wurm

Support Ministry: Kim Hanson

Ignite! Coordinator: Donna Bennett

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