



New Year, New You!

It gets asked every year, "So what's your New Year's resolution?" The idea is that we change something in the new year; we try to do better, to improve ourselves in the new year. It doesn't matter what the resolution in though, we claim we will try and keep it, we promise ourselves to

do better. But why do we do this? More importantly, perhaps, is how often we keep that promise.

The why is pretty simple, we make those resolutions because it is a tradition. It is just something that is done. This tradition has a long history, going all the way back to the Babylonians. Back then, people marked the beginning of a New Year by paying off debts and returning borrowed goods in order to have a clean slate. The practice carried over into Roman times with worshipers offering resolutions of good conduct to a double-faced deity named Janus, the god of beginnings and endings. Now we make those promises to ourselves or our loved ones. It is just tradition, there is nothing wrong with wanting to do better, to be better. but that brings us to the second question, how often do we keep that promise?

A study by the University of Minnesota found that 80% of the 100million adults in America who make resolutions fail to keep them, giving up on their goals within 2 months. In fact, many last less than a week. This type of self-change isn't easy, and it is even harder when we try to do it on our own without the help of others.

This is also true of our spiritual lives. We may want to be good people and resolve to stop sinning, but unlike New Year's resolutions, our failure rate is 100%. St. Paul says in Romans 7:19-20, "For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me." On our own, we can't change our sinful nature, no matter how hard we try. We can resolve to change, but without Jesus, we are doomed to fail. It is only because of the life-changing presence of Jesus Christ that we are changed. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." (2 Corinthians 5:17) As redeemed children of God, we are new in Christ! Therefore, as we say goodbye to 2017 and welcome a new year, remember that YOU are a new creation, by the work of God and not of your own resolve.

Pastor Paul



USED Book Fair. Start putting away your unwanted books, puzzles, games, CDs and movies for the used book fair in late February. Watch for more information soon.



Pacific Southwest District Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is sponsoring a Gifts from the Heart Ingathering for the sixth "Undie Sunday" on February 11, 2018 for needy people with our Pacific Southwest District

and through Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry and other ministries in Mexico, to help fill the needs of children and adults who are in need of items for cleanliness.

Please bring a package of new underwear and/or socks for men, women, girls and boys. We will be scheduling a collection soon. We hope you will consider donating to this worthy cause.

Cash donations are most welcome to help deliver your gifts and may be made payable to Orphan Grain Train and sent to Steve Rice, 42217 55th St W, Lancaster, CA 93536.

Our Church's Anniversary



We're having our 38th anniversary this month. To celebrate, there will be cake after service on January 28th. Hope to see you there to share this special milestone together.

Stewardship REPORT



Stewardship is probably the least favorite topic of any pastor. Not because stewardship is a bad thing, but because 90% of the time it means talking about money and offerings. We feel like we are begging for money or trying to shame members into giving. So, we avoid it if at all possible. But the truth is it's not always possible. The reality is that a church needs funds to operate and that every church relies upon her members to provide those funds.

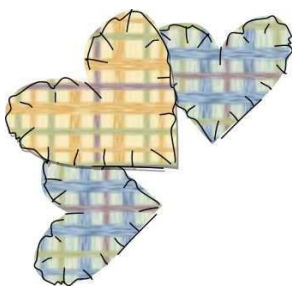
Shepherd of the Valley has been blessed to have generous members who support the church financially. However, giving has been down recently. As a result we are not meeting our budget. So, I have been asked to write an article on stewardship, primarily financial stewardship.

Finances is a part of stewardship, but only a part. We have all been blessed by God with many things, in fact everything we have is from God. This is why after collecting the offering every Sunday I give the same prayer: We give thee but thine own, whatever the gift may be, all that we have is Thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from Thee.

You see, we are stewards of the gifts God has given us; the time, talents, and treasures that we have in this life all belong to God, we simply take care of them. It is in this mindset that I ask you to look carefully at what you have been blessed with and consider how you can use those gifts for God's glory. Think about it not as what you give to God or how much of what you have that God gets, but rather as how much of what is God's already you should keep for yourself.

Remember, we are called to be stewards, care takers of the wonderful gifts that God has so graciously bestowed upon us. We are not the owners of anything but rather God is the owner of all things. It is not just financial things, but all things, our time, our talents, and our treasures are His, given to us so that we might use them for His glory and the spreading of His kingdom so that all may come to know of what He has done for us.

In Christ, Pastor Paul



Hello everyone, from the quilters. We hope all of you had the very best of holidays and that the Lord will bless you in the New Year. We will be starting up work again making beautiful quilts for Lutheran World Relief on the fourth Saturday, January 2018, in the fellowship hall. We start at 9:00 a.m., have a short prayer at about noon then share our lunch. We want to invite anyone interested to come join us and work on these beautiful quilts for Lutheran World Relief.

We have several folks to thank for their donations. Rose Loyola (Eric Tourtillott's sister-in-law) for the two boxes of material, Kathy Muckala for the roll of batting and a layer blanket and material, and Julie Reed for the sheet. Thank you for thinking about us and we will put all supplies to good use.

If you can come to work on these and many other items or can take home projects we would love to have you join us. We look forward to starting up again.

When I hear from LWR where our quilts from last fall have gone, I will print it in the newsletter. All items for the pregnancy center were delivered and a full record is in the office if you want to see what all was donated for that project. Thank you again. If you want more information please call Linda Olson at 276-0373.





Happy and Blessed New Year



Welcome to 2018! Our school is looking forward to a fantastic year. Our enrollment is growing and we will be welcoming some new students to our school.

The last week of January is National Lutheran Schools Week. We will be enjoying some fun activities each day and finish off the week by singing at church in the 8:00 am service. This will be our first time to join the early service

Our school has had the 2016/2017 fiscal year audit completed. I am pleased to report that again, we have passed with flying colors and without any discrepancies. If you wish to see the documentation from the auditor you may come in to the office and request it.

The following are our Upcoming Events:

- Jan. 15 School closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr Day
- Jan 22-26 National Lutheran Schools Week
- Jan 28 All School children sing @ 8:00am service



Please continue to pray for our church and school and that God will fill our classrooms with His little ones. Have a Blessed 2018.

Linda Williamson
Director



Happy New Year! We ended 2017 on a positive note with us being able to supply seven families with Christmas food boxes in December. We want to thank everybody who, during 2017, generously gave to our weekly food donations and our special holiday donations at Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. You were also instrumental in keeping our food pantry stocked in case families came to our church from the community or members at our church needed a little help through a rough time. We also had the opportunity to donate food to our local food pantry CAP and will be making a donation to another food pantry in our community by the name of the Joseph Project during the month of January. Without support from our members at Shepherd and our preschool families, we could not have had a more successful year. We would also like to thank our special turkey and ham angels for their donations to our food boxes. During the time we were preparing to put together the Christmas food boxes, my mom broke her wrist and was unable to help with this ministry. As a result, I had to call on some extra help and would like to thank Eunice Kang for helping me get the Christmas food boxes put together and ready for their recipients. Also, we would like to extend the opportunity to anyone who would be interested in helping out with putting together our Easter food boxes. If you are interested in helping, you can call Eva Carlson at (951) 544-5050 or send an email to eskeeter80@att.net. Again, thank you for yours prayers and donations to this ministry.

Eva Carlson and Bernice Bennett



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Lent starts with Ash Wednesday Service at 6:30 pm on February 14th.
Lenten services continue at 4:00 and 6:30 pm with soup suppers at 5:00 pm on Wednesday, February 21, 28, March 7, 14, 21

STITCHED IN PRAYER; GIVEN IN LOVE.

Please consider joining us at 10 am on the 1st Saturday of each month. We can show you how to use a very simple pattern to create a gift that provides comfort and hope. Please see Lisa Butterfield if you have any questions.



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN 2018-19 SCHOOL ENROLLMENT: Immanuel Lutheran School exists to help children Experience God's presence, Equip children with the knowledge of their gifts and the world around them and Engage children to share the love of Jesus with others.

Immanuel Lutheran School offers the best option in Riverside for a quality Christian education. Fully accredited by both the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and National Lutheran Schools (NLSA), Immanuel is staffed by experienced and committed teachers who have a proven record of academic excellence.

We are very excited about our future enrollment. This year, we will provide parents a number of opportunities to learn more about Immanuel and our academic programs. We will be hosting three (3) "Open House" events for current and new families to receive valuable information regarding our curriculum, academic and extra-curricular offerings.

1. Tuesday, January 23, we will share our first, second and third grade programs with families who have students currently in Kindergarten, first or second grade.

2. Tuesday, January 30, we will welcome families with students currently in third, fourth or fifth grade who would like to learn more about our upper elementary academic program, grades 4-6.

BRING A FRIEND AND SPEAD THE WORD! If you know a family who would benefit from being a part of the ILS family, please share this information with them or have them call the school office at 951-682-4211 or direct them to the Immanuel website at www.immanuelriverside.com.

YOUTH GROUP SCOOP

Thank you to all the youth who served our congregation on Sunday, December 24th. Our youth greeted as you entered church, served as ushers, acolyte and running

power point. It was wonderful to see your smiling faces on Christmas Eve morning.

YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE:

In January we will meet January 14th, 21st and 28th.

WANTED: YOUTH LEADER

We are looking for someone to lead our youth group. If you know anyone who might be interested in this position, please contact Pastor Paul.

SAVE THE DATE!

Lovefest 15: Transformed
Saturday, February 10, 2018



Puzzle!

Search in all directions to find these words from the first seven chapters of Proverbs.

WORD LIST: covenant, delight, discipline, evil, father, fool, forsake, fountain, fruit, heart, honest, humble, insight, listen, Lord, love, neighbor, path, pleasant, poverty, protect, rebuke, sleep, son, teaching, tongue, walk, wisdom, youth

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- 8 * Roslynn Medina
- 11 * Tim Shirk
- 13 * Debbie Candido
- 17 * Jaylee Abrego
- 18 * Ann Georg, Danielle Rockwell
- 20 * Samuel Kennedy
- 21 * Rebekah Deinert, Sian Rockwell
- 23 * Jay Kenefick
- 24 * Perry Ingram



- 10 * Mike & Lora Wheel
- 19 * Kurt & Della Stange



2018 FLOWER CHART

If you'd like to donate flowers for the altar, sign up on the board hanging in the church lobby. Indicate what the flowers are for - anniversary, birthday, in honor of or in memory. Take a slip with ordering instructions. Flowers are ordered by you from Moreno Valley Flower Box (653-3171) and they deliver them to church. Each large bouquet is \$26. Small altar bouquets are \$19 each. Questions? Call the office.



Joseph Project - Community (Citywide) Food Bank

Shepherd is working with other churches in Moreno Valley with this community food bank that provides food for the needy every Thursday from a distribution center at the Koinonia Evangelistic Center, 21866 Brill Rd., Moreno Valley (951-867-3050). Volunteers are needed to help out with distribution, sorting, clean up, etc. at the center. Contributions to the Joseph Project will be gratefully accepted through Shepherd. Please pray for this ministry and volunteer your time and talents! Contact Larry Alexander for more information.

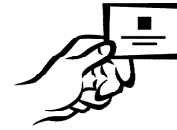


THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS:

Thrivent members are eligible to designate Choice Dollars to a church or charity of their choice. Undesignated dollars "expire" after March 31. Go to thrivent.com and click the MyThrivent button on the upper right side of the site and direct your Choice Dollars. Both the church and school are registered to receive Choice Dollars and Shepherd is grateful to those who have contributed through this



MORENO VALLEY YOUTH OPPORTUNITY CENTER for youth 16 -24. Need help finding a job or getting your high school diploma? They can help with personal and professional development, use of office resources, getting your diploma/GED and with college preparation. Call (951) 653-1311 for more information. This is a free service and offers paid work experience. Info flyers are available in the lobby.



INVITE OTHERS TO OUR CHURCH AND SCHOOL!

SVLC business cards are available (in packets of 10) in a basket in the church lobby. Take a pack and pass them out to strangers, friends and neighbors who need a church home or a preschool for their children.

**NEEDED FOR NURSING HOMES:
Magazines and greeting card fronts.
Bring to the church or office.**



2018 Prayer Pals are underway.

Remember nothing proves that you love someone more than mentioning them in your prayers.



DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR FOOD DONATIONS FOR OUR LOCAL FOOD BANKS EACH SUNDAY!
Thank You!



**Thursdays at 9:30 AM
In the Fellowship Hall
Presented by Suzy Langhorne
Certified Instructor
Please join us - it's free!**

SAVE BOX TOPS FOR OUR SCHOOL!



Specially marked box tops are worth \$.10 each when redeemed from Box Tops for Education. Encourage friends & family, near & far to help, too. Thanks for taking the time to help our school.

The sponsors appearing on the back cover of the newsletter help defray the cost of printing the Shepherd's Staff, please give them your consideration when possible.

**Ads
Go
Here**

**Calendar
Goes
Here**



The Shepherd's Staff

WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES: Sunday: 8:00 & 10:45 AM

"Preach the Gospel at all times. If necessary, use words." — Francis of Assisi

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**SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY
LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL**
11650 Perris Blvd.
Moreno Valley, CA 92557
Church (951) 924-4688
School (951) 924-3422
www.svlcmoval.net

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

**PAUL YEARYEAN, PASTOR
LINDA WILLIAMSON, PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR
MARLAYNA HAMANN, SECRETARY**

January 2018



January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 	2	3	4 9:30 AM Tai Chi (H)	5 10:00 AM School Chapel (S) 8:00 PM A.A. Meeting (H)	6 8:30 AM Cursillo Grouping @ Panera Bread 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry (O)
7 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class (O-H-PS) 12:30 PM Grace Korean (S-H)	8 9:00 AM Women's Koffee Klatch @ Brandon's 6:00 PM School Staff Meeting (O) 7:00 PM MV Chorale Rehearsal (S)	9 10:00 AM Outreach Committee (O) 5:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S) 6:00 PM School Board Meeting (O) 7:00 PM Elders Meeting (O)	10 9:30 AM Bible Study Fellowship (H) 6:30 PM MV Historical Society (O)	11 7:00 AM BrailleMail(H) 9:30 AM Tai Chi (H) 10:00 AM School Chapel (S) 7:00 PM Growing in Grace Bible Study (H)	12 8:00 PM A.A. Meeting (H)	13 9:00 AM Knights of the Holy Spirit Bible Study (H)
14 9:30 AM Blood Pressure Screening (H) 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class (O-H-PS) 12:30 PM Grace Korean (S-H) 5:00 PM Confirmation (O) 6:30 PM Youth Group (Y)	15 10:00 AM First Place TLC (Reese Home) 6:30 PM Women of Faith TLC (Riccardi Home) 7:00 PM MV Chorale Rehearsal (S)	16 5:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S) 7:00 PM M & M Board (O)	17 9:00 AM BSF Fellowship (H)	18 9:30 AM Tai Chi (H)	19 10:00 AM School Chapel (S) 8:00 PM A.A. Meeting (H)	20
21 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class (O-H-PS) 12:30 PM Grace Korean (S-H) 5:00 PM Confirmation (O) 6:30 PM Youth Group (Y)	22 7:00 PM MV Chorale Rehearsal (S)	23 5:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S)	24 9:30 AM Bible Study Fellowship (H)	25 7:00 AM BrailleMail(H) 9:30 AM Tai Chi (H) 10:00 AM School Chapel (S) 7:00 PM Growing in Grace Bible Study (H)	26 8:00 PM A.A. Meeting (H)	27 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast at Brandon's 9:00 AM Quilting for LWR (H)
28 9:30 AM Blood Pressure Screening (H) 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class (O-H-PS) 12:30 PM Grace Korean (S-H) 5:00 PM Confirmation (O) 6:30 PM Youth Group (Y) Happy 38th Anniversary SVLC!	29 7:00 PM MV Chorale Rehearsal (S)	30 5:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S)	31 9:30 AM Bible Study Fellowship (H)	 HAPPY 38TH SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY!		

Sunday Worship: 8 AM and 10:45 AM

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 8:00 am -- 4:00 pm, MONDAY - FRIDAY