



A HEALTHY MINDED CONGREGATION

About two weeks ago Ruby, myself and one of our members spent two whole days in Orange County (Saddleback Church) at a workshop about mental health challenges in church ministry. The very next week another member and I went to a collaborative meeting of community helpers here in Moreno Valley where I was surprised that the excellent presentation on mental health taught many of the insights we had studied at Saddleback. Diagnosing and treating mental health issues and needs is changing for the better and is becoming very important in church ministry.

It occurs to me that not only individuals but also congregations have a mentality. This shared mentality or mind-set that develops during years of shared experiences can be healthy or unhealthy. Many churches develop DEPRESSION and a few even become suicidal. Congregations can become PARANOID -- suspicious, fearful or hostile toward anything different "out there." Churches can suffer SCHIZOPHRENIA developing conflicting personalities that fight and compete for control. Or how about BI-POLAR--unrealistic excitement followed by deep discouragement.

THE GOOD NEWS is that church mentality is treatable. The Gospel message that God really loves us unconditionally develops healthy thinking and healthy relationships. Loving listening and Christ-like sharing can heal hurts and fears and change actions. Individual mental illness is very treatable with the right diagnosis and medicine and therapy. Congregation mentality can also be treated by honesty, forgiveness, listening, understanding and supporting and caring based on the healing love of Jesus.

I ask each of you to join me in working together for a really healthy congregation. Jesus spent much of His ministry healing mental illness. His love has healing for our individual minds and our congregation mentality.


I invite you to think about this, pray about it, and the speak and work with each other.

Yours in His Service,
Pastor Ron



LEARN ABOUT MENTAL ILLNESS FROM PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN THERE.

Come to a presentation of *In Our Own Voice*. This is an interactive presentation given by trained presenters who are living with mental illness. It is produced by NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness. It expands people's knowledge of mental illness. Misunderstanding, fear, and judgment are replaced with insight, awareness, and acceptance. Being held at Shepherd of the Valley between services on Sunday, November 15th starting at 9:30 am.



PASTOR RON: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday – 9am to 12:30pm and Saturdays by appointment.

PASTOR ALLEN: Monday & Friday - 9 am to 12:30

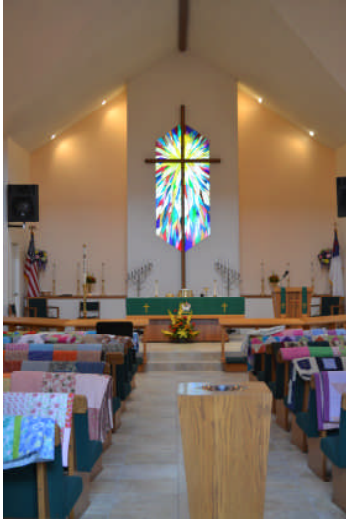
Pastor's Office Hours

LIFE LINE SCREENING OPPORTUNITY

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran is pleased to offer a preventive health event. Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will host their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings on 11/17/2015. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners.

THANK YOU LWR QUILTERS - JOB WELL DONE!

Shepherd's Staff - Vol. 22, No. 11 Published Monthly
by Shepherd of the Valley;
11650 Perris Blvd.; Moreno Valley, CA 92557-6563



This October the display of quilts being sent to Lutheran World Relief was spectacular. Thank you to the faithful ladies who gather on the fourth Saturday of the month to make the beautiful quilts that will truly bless those folks that receive them.



This year they made 59 adult quilts, 39 baby quilts, 2 hand knitted baby blankets, 111 school kits and 71 personal care kits.

They will take a well-deserved break in November and December and will return on the fourth Saturday in January. Please consider joining the group.

HOLIDAY CRAFT BOUTIQUE SATURDAY, NOV. 21ST FROM 8 AM TO 2 PM



The Annual Holiday Boutique is just around the corner on Saturday, November 21st from 8am to 2pm. Come and do some early Christmas shopping. We are just bursting to show off our new crafts this year and a special family recipe from Lee for apple butter and several new vendors! But most of all we are anxiously waiting to see what our Shepherd bakers and crafters have been making at home. Start bringing your items any time to the office the week before the Boutique or to the hall on Friday, November 20th at set up between 1 and 6 pm.

There will be plenty of outstanding bargains at the gently used table - this year it will be over the top and Marge, Jan and Chris will be happy to help you find that special bargain.

Our Shepherd groups will have an array of beautiful baskets and items in the Silent Auction. The lucky recipients will be revealed on Sunday, November 22nd after the 10:45 service.

Remember you can stop by for lunch on Saturday and grab a hot dog or one of Betty's polish dogs with 'kraut.

Proceeds will be applied to the church flooring. Thanks to Thrivent Financial for their help with this Action Team Project. Hope to see you there!

The Boutique Group
Paula, Marge, Laurie

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Shoe boxes and information sheets are available in the church lobby and hall.

Start collecting items to put in them - small toys, school supplies, hygiene items, accessories, etc - a list of suggested items is included on the instruction sheet.

Remember to enclose a check for \$7.00 to "Samaritan's Purse" with OCC marked in the memo line.

Return boxes to church by Sunday, Nov. 15th. Thanks!



If you need to change your schedule, or have any questions on how to run the system, please contact Drew Covert at 951-525-8111 or lcms-drew@roadrunner.com. Thank you all for your service to our Church and our Lord!

First Service:

| | |
|---------|--------------|
| Nov. 1 | Gerry Klepps |
| Nov. 8 | Josh Hamann |
| Nov. 15 | Mike Olson |
| Nov. 22 | Bud Kenefick |
| Nov. 29 | Gerry Klepps |
| Dec. 6 | Gerry Klepps |
| Dec. 13 | Josh Hamann |
| Dec. 20 | Mike Olson |
| Dec. 27 | Bud Kenefick |

Second Service:

| |
|--------------|
| Jim Wilson |
| Abby Covert |
| Marvin Niles |
| Drew Covert |
| Drew Covert |
| Jim Wilson |
| Abby Covert |
| Marvin Niles |
| Drew Covert |

The New Reformation

In a little less than two years, we will be celebrating the 500th anniversary of the reformation. It's the anniversary of Martin Luther nailing the Ninety-Five Theses to the door of All Saints Church in Wittenberg. This was Martin Luther's bold, brash message to the church that its teachings had gone astray from the central message of forgiveness through placing ones trust in Christ.

As we approach this historic milestone, there is another reformation movement afoot in our own time. The movement is being led by a young man named Matthew Vines, and as Greg Koukle so aptly points out, it's a reformation the church doesn't need.

You may have never heard of Matthew Vines. He released a YouTube video a few years ago stating that he was an openly gay Christian, and believed the Bible and God affirmed rather than condoned his sexual orientation. Unlike other gay activists, Matthew attempts to show that the Bible is actually gay affirming, and assembled a team of scholars to argue for his position. He has started the reformation project, and is training other gay and straight allies to take their message into churches to try and change the stance of those who are still following Biblical teaching on the issue of homosexuality. I give him credit for his approach. Rather than simply dismissing the Bible, he attempts to engage the arguments and offer a refutation of the relevant passages. I'd like to take a look at some of his arguments and offer some rebuttals to them. Space prevents me from answering all his challenges, so I will deal with the ones I think you are most likely to encounter. For a more in depth response to his challenges, I recommend Stand to Reason's "Answering Matthew Vines's 40 Questions" and "Solid Ground; A Reformation the Church Doesn't Need," which can be found on the Stand to Reason web site at STR.org.

Sodom and Gomorrah:

The Reformation project claims that the sin for which Sodom and Gomorrah was judged was not homosexuality, but the attempted gang rape of angelic beings. They also claim that "The Bible explicitly condemns Sodom for its arrogance, inhospitality, and apathy toward the poor, but never for same-sex behavior." I think there are several problems with this line of thinking. First, there was no rape of the angels, only an attempt to do so. This new view would mean that God destroyed two entire cities for an attempted rape that never occurred. Secondly, God had already judged Sodom and Gomorrah (reference Genesis 19:13) prior to the angels visit, so it seems improbable that any event that happened that night was the cause of God's judgement. Lastly, New Testament passages in 2 Peter (2:6) and Jude (1:7) tell us that the sin was ongoing and sensual in nature. The only characteristic of the actions of the mob that night that fits this description is their homosexuality.

Romans 1:20-28

The Reformation project claims that this passage written by Paul is talking about abusive same sex relationships, not the loving, committed same sex unions we see today. The thing I find interesting about this passage is that Paul is making an appeal to the natural order of things. He's talking about the design of the human body, and how men and women are naturally designed for sex with one another. This is something that should be obvious to even those who do not believe in the truth of scripture. Even on a Darwinian evolutionary world view, it is an obvious fact how male and female bodies are designed for procreation. The point of the passage is the giving up of the function of sex. To quote Greg Koukle "Paul is not talking about natural desires here; he is talking about natural functions. He's talking about plumbing. He is not talking about what one wants sexually or the nature of the sexual relationship (abusive, exploitive, unloving, etc.), but how human beings are built to operate."

I hope this helps you in your discussions on this issue. Again, these are sensitive subjects to debate. I think we need to be prepared for the fact that no matter how graciously we may present our case, we will still be called names and dismissed out of hand by many in the culture today. We are called to be salt and light, and we need to present the truth with as much love and respect as we can. But we can't back away from the truth simply to gain acceptance from a hostile culture. I will be taking a break from this series on sex and culture for the December newsletter, and will resume again in January discussing transgenderism. Thanks so much for reading this, and I'll see you next month!

Yours in Christ,
Drew Covert



There will be a lock in for Jr. and Sr. High students Friday November 20th starting at 7:30 P.M. Students should bring a sleeping bag and appropriate sleepwear. More details will be posted on the youth group Facebook page. If you need further information, please contact Drew Covert at 951-525-8111.



Give Thanks Unto the Lord

We are so blessed this year with a wonderful staff and great families. We are also blessed to have a wonderful church family who prays for and supports our school. Thank you all so much.

This is such a busy time of year for everyone and the school sponsors several outreach missions. In November we collect foods for Thanksgiving/Christmas baskets, we collect toys for foster children, participate in the "Shoe Box" program along with are continual support for a boy in India through "Child Fund." We strive to teach our children that even the smallest child can help others. They love hearing their coins hit the offering can each week.

We got to meet Pastor Mike Giddings during his brief visit to our facility. I gave him a tour of the school and the children performed two songs for him and recited the Lord's Prayer. It was a wonderful visit and we are praying for him and his decisions for his and our futures.

We have finally received the final OK from State Licensing and our City to begin using Room #5. This means that we finally have use of the entire school building. We have licensed it as a multipurpose room to be used for opening, closing, napping, and everything in between. It is a beautiful space and we are very delighted to be able to use it for the school. Now that this is complete I will be focusing my efforts on our after-school program that will be in the room and playground near the offices. Much of the paperwork has been completed but we have several projects on the playground that need to be done. Please continue to pray that this process goes smoothly and quickly.

Upcoming events:

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Nov 11 | Veteran's Day (School Closed) |
| Nov 16 | Turn in Shoe Boxes for Operation Christmas Child |
| Nov 17-18 | Turn in food for Charity Baskets |
| Nov 19 | Preschool Thanksgiving Feast (11:30 in the Hall) |
| Nov 26-27 | Happy Thanksgiving (School Closed) |

Have a Blessed Thanksgiving and please continue to keep our church and school in your prayers.

In His Service,
Linda Williamson, Director



Pastor Allen and I want to thank you all for your cards, messages, and gifts during Pastor appreciation month. We are blessed to be a part of this wonderful, warm congregation in serving our Lord. Your kind thoughtfulness will always be very special to us!

Love in Christ,
Pastor Allen and Chris



Dental Benefits of Chewing Gum

Inflammation from the body could be a factor associated with heart disease and diabetes. Research is showing that chewing gum may contribute to reducing the bacteria in the mouth therefore increasing the overall health of the body. You will want to chew gum that is sugar free and on the box says it contains natural germ-killing qualities such as ECLIPSE. Other gums recommended are ORBIT and TRIDENT WHITE. The bottom line is chewing gum after meals will increase the flow of saliva in the mouth which aids in the reduction of acid concentration helping to reduce cavity development and periodontal disease.

Suzy Langhorne - Health Minister



EMPOWERING LIVES INTERNATIONAL

September 29, 2015

Hello Kids of Shepherd of the Valley,

Wow! We are so thankful for you! Did you know that you gave \$100.72 to impact the lives of kids in Africa? That covers 6 full days of training! Your gift will help families raise healthy food, earn money for their family, and protect the crops that they grow. You are making it possible for kids in East Africa to grow up with love, education, and health to be empowered to do amazing things in our world!

We here at ELI believe in sharing the message of the Gospel and teaching people to be leaders. That way, they can help their own families, communities, and even countries, changing both hearts and lives. We see that you all are growing up to do the same. You bring God's love to your schools, friends, and families. And you also give so generously to care for people all over the world. We are so glad that we get to do this together, and we are blessed by you!

So thank you! We hope that we can continue to share stories with you about what God is doing in East Africa. Together we can empower lives, here and around the world!

With love,
The ELI Team



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For a brochure & more information contact Marge at:

Tel: (951) 924-4688 Email: svlc@juno.com

All are welcome to join us!

2015 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 Bradley's Florist (242-1519) and they deliver them to church. Each large bouquet is \$26. Small bouquets for the altar are \$19 each. Questions? Call the office.



Joseph Project - Community (Citywide) Food Bank

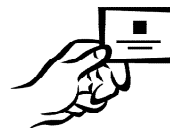
Shepherd is working with other churches in Moreno Valley with this community food bank that provides food for the needy every Thursday from a distribution center at the Koinonia Evangelistic Center, 21866 Brill Rd., Moreno Valley (951-867-3050). Volunteers are needed to help out with distribution, sorting, 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.



DON'T FORGET YOUR FOOD DONATIONS FOR CAP - Moreno Valley's Community Assistance Program EACH SUNDAY! Thank You!

JOIN IN THE CHALLENGE

Join us in choosing a time (maybe even 10 or 15 minutes) of any day of the week that is best for you individually and lift your silent (or loud) voices to the Lord. Ask for His touch on Shepherd, our Pastors, the members of our congregation, our school, and our community. His promise is clear - if His people gather together in prayer, He will hear our prayers. Let's do it!



INVITE OTHERS TO OUR CHURCH AND SCHOOL!

Business cards are available in packets of 10 in a basket in the church lobby. Take a pack and pass them out to 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.

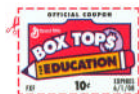
SPECIAL NOTICE

Your pastors, your lay ministers and the church office want to know when someone is hospitalized or home bound. There have been instances of not finding out for several days. We would rather hear from several sources than none at all so, PLEASE - PLEASE pick up the phone or e-mail us whenever there is an opportunity for ministry to members or to family or friends.



**Thursdays at 9:30 AM
In the Fellowship Hall
Presented by Suzy Langhorne
Certified Instructor
FREE! Please join us.**

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.

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Thank You.

November 2015

Sunday Worship: 8 AM and 10:45 AM - Communion: 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|--|---|---|--|
| <div>1</div> <div>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 Jr/Sr Hi Youth (Y)</div> | <div>2</div> <div>10:00 AM First Place TLC (H)</div> | <div>3</div> <div>5:45 PM Chancel Choir (S) 6:00 PM School Board (O)</div> | <div>4</div> | <div>5</div> <div>8:00 AM BrailleMail(H) 11:30 AM School Feast (H) 7:00 PM Life of Christ Bible</div> | <div>6</div> <div>10:00 AM School Chapel (S) Craft Boutique Meeting (H)</div> | <div>7</div> <div>8:30 AM Cursillo Grouping @ Panera Bread</div> |
| | | | | Men's Cursillo Weekend | | |
| <div>8</div> <div>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 Jr/Sr Hi Youth (Y) BP Screening between Services</div> <div>Men's Cursillo</div> | <div>9</div> <div>9:00 AM Women's Koffee Klatch @ Brandon's 6:00 PM School Staff (O)</div> | <div>10</div> <div>5:45 PM Chancel Choir (S) 7:00 PM Lay Ministers (H)</div> | <div>11</div> | <div>12</div> <div>8:00 AM BrailleMail(H) 11:30 AM School Feast (H)</div> | <div>13</div> <div>10:00 AM School Chapel (S)</div> | <div>14</div> <div>9:00 AM Knights of the Holy Spirit Bible Study (H) 11:00 AM Alan Savell Funeral (S-H)</div> |
| | | | | Women's Cursillo Weekend | | |
| <div>15</div> <div>9:30 AM Mental Health Seminar (H) 12:30 PM Grace Korean (S-H) 5:00 PM Confirmation (O) 6:30 PM Jr/Sr Hi Youth (Y)</div> <div>Women's Cursillo</div> | <div>16</div> <div>10:00 AM First Place TLC (H)</div> | <div>17</div> <div>8:00 AM Life Line Screening (H) 9:00 AM Circuit Pastors Meeting (O) 5:45 PM Chancel Choir (S) 7:00 PM M & M Board (O)</div> | <div>18</div> | <div>19</div> <div>8:00 AM BrailleMail(H) 11:30 AM School Feast (H) 1:00 PM Boutique Tables Up (H) 7:00 PM Life of Christ Bible Study (H)</div> | <div>20</div> <div>10:00 AM School Chapel (S) 1:00 PM Boutique Set Up (H)</div> | <div>21</div> <div>8:00 AM - 2 PM Holiday Craft Boutique (H)</div> |
| <div>22</div> <div>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 Jr/Sr Hi Youth (Y) BP Screening between Services</div> | <div>23</div> <div>7:00 PM MV Chorale Rehearsal (S)</div> | <div>24</div> <div>5:45 PM Chancel Choir (S)</div> | <div>25</div> <div>8:00 AM BrailleMail(H) 7:00 PM Thanksgiving Eve Service (S)</div> | <div>26</div> | <div>27</div> | <div>28</div> <div>7:30 AM Men's Breakfast at Brandon's</div> |
| | | | | Happy Thanksgiving! School & Office | | |
| <div>29</div> <div>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 Jr/Sr Hi Youth (Y)</div> | <div>30</div> | | | | | |



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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**RON KRAFT & ALLEN DEINERT, INTERIM PASTORS
LINDA WILLIAMSON, SCHOOL DIRECTOR**

NOVEMBER 2015



**THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE
WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 25TH AT 7 PM**

Come and invite your friends,
neighbors, and relatives.

*Let us come
before him with
thanksgiving.*

Psalm 95:2, NIV



PROGRESSIVE PARTY

**ALL
ADULTS!**

Mark your calendar to attend the Christmas Progressive Party on Saturday, December 5th starting at 5 pm.

Start at 5 pm at the Riccardi Home - 26151 Coronada Drive, Moreno Valley - for appetizers then progress to the Winn Home for dessert and coffee at 23023 Via Moraga, Moreno Valley. On November 15th after services see Marlene or Janean to sign up for food items.

Join in the festivities and bring a Christmas bag for exchange (one per person) filled with a goodie, could be cookies, nuts, candy - be creative!

Plan to attend and enjoy a fun night of fellowship to start the Christmas season!