



A DIFFERENT KIND OF TEST

A college professor announced a surprise test. He passed out papers upside down with instructions not to turn them over until so directed. They were told to write what they saw on the other side.

When they turned them over there was only a black spot in the center of the page. Again, he instructed, "Write about what you see." He called them and read what they had written. In every case they had written about the black spot. No one said anything about the 93 square inches of white paper. It wasn't really a test. It was a lesson.

Is there a lesson here for us? When you look at yourself, what do you notice? Do you see the bad or the good? How about your church? Do you focus on the good stuff or the not so good? How about other churches, unchurched, or unbelievers? What do you see in the leaders in our community, state, and nation? I regularly get emails about how bad they are that never-never have anything good to say. There is a place and time for correction, but that needs to be in the context of the other 93 square inches.

Pastor Ron Kraft

Part of an Article from The Episcopal Diocese of Vermont by Susan Ohlidal

ABOUT BAPTISMAL MINISTRY

The change to Ministry Teams both expands the leadership core of members and improve the oversight structure of the church. While these changes in and of themselves increase "baptismal ministry," there is much more work beyond just restructuring. This is the ongoing work of the church in the next few decades. Together we need to learn how to be the church in a non-Christian world, how to live faithful Christian lives, and how to do the work God has called us to do with the time, gifts and resources God has given us. Inviting every member of the church to discover and exercise his or her ministry is what baptismal ministry is about. Exercising our ministries in ways that enable all of us to be empowered by the Holy Spirit and thereby be instruments by which God calls others into relationships with God and us is what baptismal ministry is about.

This is not just a way to *organize* the church – it is a way to *be* the church. It is not just about making the organizational structure clearer and decision-making easier, nor is it about saving money or finding a way to have a priest (pastor) in a remote area. It is mostly and most importantly about being the people of faith whom the Spirit has called us to be as God's people gathered at this particular church. And it is only when we live into that reality that we will begin to know that God, acting in and through us, has the power to do much more than we can ask or imagine.

Submitted by Pastor Ron



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

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

BOOK FAIR

It is only six months until our great Book Fair and Valentine's Bake Sale. Have you been saving your books?

This year I have room to collect the books early. Let me know if you want me to come pick some up or you can drop them off at my house. Please call me at 951-924-8210.

Funds raised will go into the SVLC Assistance Fund.

Thanks,
Terry Mack
Book Fair Coordinator



HELLO EVERYONE FROM THE QUILTING GROUP!

There is a great need by Lutheran World Relief for more personal care kits and school kits. Their supply is extremely low at this time. We look forward to sending them lots of kits and we can do this with your help. There is a list of items needed each week in the announcement folder and in the weekly emailed notice. The last day we will be collecting these supplies is Sunday, Sept 27. Please help if you can.

Thanks to those who have already donated items for the kits. We still need many more kit items and material to sew up backpacks. Thanks to our secret Angel for the bags of fabric left in our closet. Thank you also to Suzy Langhorne for a bag of stuffing and thanks to the ladies from Anne's mobile home park for material.

We meet on the 4th Saturday of each month in the fellowship hall from 9:00 am to noon except for October when we meet on the 2nd Saturday to pack kits for sending and there are no meetings in November and December. All are welcome to come and help out. For more information call Linda Olson at 276-0373.



Take-Along Shopping List for Lutheran World Relief Kits

Cut out this list and keep it in your purse or wallet for easy reference when you run into seasonal sales.

SCHOOL KITS:

- (4) 70-sheet notebooks (8x10½) of wide or college-ruled paper; no loose-leaf paper
- (1) 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- (1) pencil sharpener
- (1) blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- (5) unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band
- (5) black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band
- (1) box of 16 or 24 crayons
- (1) 2½" eraser

PERSONAL CARE KITS:

- (1) light-weight bath-size towel (between 20"x40" & 52"x27"), dark color recommended
- (2 or 3) bath-size bars (equaling up to 8-9 oz) of soap, any brand, in original wrapping
- (1) adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging
- (1) sturdy comb
- (1) metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging



We're getting new flooring in the sanctuary! It will start to be replaced on Monday, Sept. 14th and there will probably be a disruption in services on Sunday, Sept. 20th so watch and listen for future announcements concerning this.

If you are willing and able to help move the pews out of the church, please note this on your attendance card or contact the church office.



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:

- Sept. 6 Josh Stange
- Sept. 13 Josh Hamann
- Sept. 20 Mike Olson
- Sept. 27 Bud Kenefick
- Oct. 4 Josh Hamann
- Oct. 11 Mike Olson
- Oct. 18 Bud Kenefick
- Oct. 25 Gerry Klepps

Second Service:

- Jim Wilson
- Abby Covert
- Amanda Johansen
- Marvin Niles
- Jim Wilson
- Drew Covert
- Abby Covert
- Marvin Niles

Same Sex Marriage Part 1

Earlier this year when the Supreme Court found a provision for same sex marriage in the Constitution, I think many Christians felt defeated. It wasn't just the loss on this one issue in court, but it signified a fundamental shift in the culture away from Christian values, and towards a more secular society. While this issue is too complex to deal with in a few short newsletters, I will touch on a few points in the upcoming letters to address this issue. And to start out with, I will discuss two key points of clarification we need in order to better address this issue.

You may have noticed that I used the term "Same sex marriage" rather than "Gay marriage". There is a reason for that. As we discuss these issues, I think terminology is critical. The reason I use the term same sex marriage follows.

First, there never was a restriction on gay marriage. That may sound strange, but hear me out. All of us who are married had to fill out a marriage license with the state we were to be married in. Was anyone asked on that form what your sexual orientation was? No, they weren't. The requirements were that you had to be a man and a woman. This may sound like splitting hairs, but in law terminology is critical. The accusation was that gays were being discriminated against, and that simply wasn't true. They had the same access, and same restrictions to marriage that straight couples had. In other words, two straight men couldn't be married either. The restriction wasn't based on sexual orientation, but on gender. Gay marriage WOULD be discriminatory, because it would exclude straight same sex couples that wanted to marry. So the law had to be changed to allow same sex unions, not just gay unions.

The second point I would like to bring out is, why the government is interested in marriage at all. I have heard several people say that government shouldn't be involved in licensing these unions, but the fact is, the government has a vested interest in promoting certain unions over others.

I have a good friend that I have been in a relationship with for many years now. He is one of my best friends. We love each other as brothers, and I can't imagine what life would be like without him to talk to and share my life with. The government has no interest in our relationship. And I think many of us would find it intrusive if the government wanted to license such relationships. If homosexual couples were being discriminated against by being excluded from marriage, so were every other pair of unmarried citizens who have deep, loving commitments to each other. Why should gays get preferential treatment just because they are sexually involved with each other?

The reason governments throughout history have promoted marriage between a man and a woman is because these unions as a rule and by nature produce the next generation of citizens. They are a stabilizing force in society, especially for young men, and provide the optimum unions for raising children. And children are the key factor here. Look at any study on early childhood development, and you will find that children do best in a nonviolent, intact home with both biological parents present. This isn't to say that children can't thrive in other types of households. But we are looking for the best option as a rule, and a traditional marriage gives children the best chance to thrive.

Next month I would like to give some of the common arguments in favor of same sex marriage, and some responses to those arguments. I am always interested in your feedback or thoughts on anything we discuss here, so please drop me a line with what you are thinking! I look forward to talking with you next month.

Yours in Christ,
Drew Covert



Jr. and Sr. High youth group will resume for the fall on September 13th. There will be a parent/student meeting in the youth room at 6:30pm directly following the confirmation meeting. Please plan to attend this meeting, as we will be filling out all the necessary paperwork for the year. Look forward to seeing you there!

On September 20th we will have a family beach day! We will leave directly after 1st service and travel to Newport Beach. If you need a ride, please contact Drew Covert and we will arrange a ride for you. Plan on bringing either a sack lunch or money to buy lunch from the many vendors along the beach. If you have any questions, please contact Drew Covert.



CONFIRMATION CLASSES will start with a parent meeting on the Sunday, September 13th at 6 pm.

SUNDAY SCHOOL starts for preschool through high school on Sunday, September 13th at 9:30 am. We need more teachers and students. If you are interested in getting involved in this wonderful ministry, please call the church office.

NEXT LUTHERAN CURSILLO WEEKENDS

November 5 - 8 for Men and November 12 -15 for Women

Cursillo is an organization serving the Lutheran churches of Southern California to develop leaders in the Lutheran church through training and spiritual renewal. There is no cost to you to attend a weekend but you must be a baptized member in good standing at a Lutheran church. You will be paired with a sponsor who has been through a Cursillo weekend and have your pastor endorse your reservation request. We recommend praying about it first, then talk to your pastor or others who have attended Cursillo (Pr. Deinert, Alexanders, Johansens, Helen Bedford, Marge Clark, Eunice Kang, Vicky McKay Cannon, Janet Riccardi and Laurie White) about what you may be able to gain from attending a Cursillo weekend before applying. Check their website for more information: www.lcsocal.org.

Self CPR - HOW TO SURVIVE A HEART ATTACK WHEN ALONE

Since many people are alone when they suffer a heart attack, without help, the person whose heart is beating improperly and who begins to feel faint, has only about ten seconds left before losing consciousness.

However, these victims can help themselves by coughing repeatedly and very vigorously. A deep breath should be taken before each cough, and the cough must be deep and prolonged, as when producing sputum from deep inside the chest.

A breath and a cough must be repeated about every two seconds without let-up until help arrives, or until the heart is felt to be beating normally again.

Deep breaths get oxygen into the lungs and coughing movements squeeze the heart and keep the blood circulating. The squeezing pressure on the heart also helps it regain normal rhythm. In this way, heart attack victims can get to a hospital.

Tell as many other people as possible about this. It could save their lives!

Parish Health Minister, Suzy Langhorne



HOLIDAY CRAFT BOUTIQUE

The date of the Boutique this year is Saturday, Nov. 21st from 8 am to 2 pm.

We'll need lots of help before, during, and after the Boutique so if you'd like to help, give Paula Winn a call at 485-4305.

Our next workshop will be canning on Sat. Sept. 18th starting at 8 am so come and help if you'd like. We would appreciate donations of half pint jars, lids, pectin, etc.

We'll have more crafting days on Fridays, Sept. 25, Oct. 16, and Nov. 6.

Hope you are working on your craft donations at home also so we have lots to sell. Start planning for baked goods too!

Funds raised will help pay for the new church flooring.



Shepherd of the Valley School is participating in Provident Bank's Community Partnership Program in order to qualify at the end of the year for a donation from Provident Bank.

By opening and linking your account(s) at Provident Bank to Shepherd of the Valley, the Bank will take the aggregate total of all members' deposits to calculate an annual donation.

The annual donation has the potential to increase each year as more members participate. We would like to remind you that your account information will be confidential and the donation will come from Provident Bank, **NOT** from your account.

Ready to help Shepherd earn a donation? Open and link your new and/or existing accounts at Provident Bank by simply visiting or calling at (951) 242-3149.



BEST OF IRELAND TOUR

11 DAYS: June 14-24, 2016

\$3649 Roundtrip from Los Angeles

(Air/land tour price is \$3059 plus \$590 govt. taxes & airline surcharges)

Hosted by Marge Clark

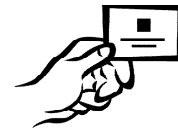
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For a brochure & more information contact Marge at:

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

All are welcome to join us!



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.

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.



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.

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.



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



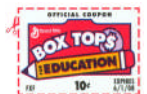
DON'T FORGET YOUR FOOD DONATIONS FOR CAP - Moreno Valley's Community Assistance Program EACH SUNDAY! Thank You!

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!



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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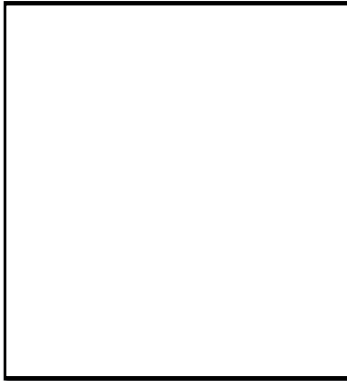
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~~Clean House~~
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Our Monthly Newsletter is printed professionally, thanks to the support of the folks whose ads can be found on this page every month. Please show your appreciation for their support by patronizing these businesses. Thank You.

September 2015

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!</p> <p>Psalm 133:1</p>		<p>1</p> <p>5:30 PM School Board (O)</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>8:00 AM BrailleMail(H)</p> <p>9:30 AM Tai Chi (H)</p> <p>7:00 PM Life of Christ Bible Study (H)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10:00 AM School Chapel (S)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8:30 AM Cursillo Grouping @ Panera Bread</p>
<p>6</p> <p>9:30 AM Adult Bible Class (H)</p> <p>12:30 PM Grace Korean (S-H)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Labor Day Holiday Observed - School & Office Closed!</p>	<p>8</p> <p>5:45 PM Chancel Choir (S)</p> <p>7:00 PM Lay Ministers (H)</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8:00 AM BrailleMail(H)</p> <p>9:30 AM Tai Chi (H)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:00 AM School Chapel (S)</p> <p>6:00 PM Pack 210 Game Night (H)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:00 AM Knights of the Holy Spirit Bible Study (H)</p> <p>10:00 AM LWML Zone (Redeemer, Nuevo)</p>
<p>13</p> <p>9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class (O-H+PS)</p> <p>12:30 PM Grace Korean (S-H)</p> <p>6:00 PM Confirmation Parent Meeting (O)</p> <p>6:30 PM Jr/Sr/Hi Youth (Y)</p> <p>BP Screening between Services</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:00 AM Women's Koffee Klatch @ Brandon's</p> <p>6:00 PM School Staff (O)</p>	<p>15</p> <p>5:45 PM Chancel Choir (S)</p> <p>7:00 PM M & M Board (O)</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>8:00 AM BrailleMail(H)</p> <p>9:30 AM Tai Chi (H)</p> <p>7:00 PM Life of Christ Bible Study (H)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:00 AM School Chapel (S)</p>	<p>19</p> <p>8:00 AM Canning Workshop (H)</p>
Sanctuary Tile Installed						
<p>20</p> <p>9:15 AM Beach Day (Newport)</p> <p>9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class (O-H-PS)</p> <p>12:30 PM Grace Korean (S-H)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>2:00 PM First Place TLC (H)</p>	<p>22</p> <p>5:45 PM Chancel Choir (S)</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>8:00 AM BrailleMail(H)</p> <p>9:30 AM Tai Chi (H)</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10:00 AM School Chapel (S)</p> <p>5:00 PM Crafting Workshop (H)</p> <p>Youth to Re-Think Conference</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7:30 AM Men's Breakfast at Brandon's</p> <p>9:00 AM Quilting for LWR (H)</p> <p>Youth to Re-Think Conference</p>
Sanctuary Tile Installed						
<p>27</p> <p>9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class (O-H+PS)</p> <p>12:30 PM Grace Korean (S-H)</p> <p>1:30 PM Congregation Pastoral Call Meeting (S)</p> <p>5:00 PM Confirmation (O)</p> <p>6:30 PM Jr/Sr/Hi Youth (Y)</p> <p>BP Screening between Services</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>5:45 PM Chancel Choir (S)</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND THE PASTORAL CALL MEETING ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH AT 1:30 PM IN THE SANCTUARY.</p>		



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**

SEPTEMBER 2015

FROM YOUR SOCIAL MINISTRY TEAM:

Mother Teresa says, "If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one." Truly the members of our church and preschool have really lived up to this saying by all the support you have shown when it comes to donating food items, whether they have been on a weekly, monthly or special occasion basis. It seems that when it is made known to the congregation and preschool that food items are needed, you step up to the plate and give from the heart. As a result of your giving from the heart, we have been able to deliver a total of 465 pounds of food within the last two months to CAP and also keep our pantry stocked. Our total food donations to CAP for 2015 have totaled 775 pounds. Please check the Sunday bulletin for items that will be needed to complete our Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for our much needed community and church families that find this time of the year especially hard. Also, as we get closer to the holidays, we will be asking for names of families that will need a Thanksgiving or Christmas basket or even both. Again, thank you for your support in this ministry.

Eva Carlson and Bernice Bennett



Sunday, September 27th at 1:30 pm
in the sanctuary
For a Congregational Call meeting for the
new pastor.

Information on the candidates will be sent to your homes
in early September.

Please direct questions to the Call Committee:
Dennis Paulsen, Kia Kerr, Eunice Kang, Janet Gasco,

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to help with the new pastor's moving
expenses is planned for Wednesday,
September 16th ALL DAY! Must present
flyer (will be in announcement folder soon)
for us to receive 25% of the bill amount.
Sorry, can't use other coupons. Thanks for
your support!