



From the Pastor

“BACK TO THE BASICS . . . THE PREAMBLE & OBJECT / MISSION”



I have been taking an online course to prepare for the National Association of Parliamentarians Certification/Membership exam. This is the first step toward becoming a professional parliamentarian, if I choose to go that far with it. In doing so I have been reviewing the Constitution and By-Laws of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in a new light. The “Preamble” is an introductory statement setting forth the general principles of an organization and why it exists. The “Object,” (or Mission) is a general and concisely expressed statement (usually a single sentence) expressing the purpose and range of activities of an organization. The Preamble in Shepherd of the Valley’s Constitution outlines a number of general parameters and pursuits of the church:

1. Preach the Gospel to the whole world.
2. Submit to and follow God’s will:
 - a. Unite in worship;
 - b. Grow in God’s Word;
 - c. Fellowship with one another;
 - d. Witness to all men;
 - e. Help others and serve the needs of others;
 - f. Administer the Office of the Keys;
 - g. Maintain decency and order in the Church.



And the Object, or Mission, is stated as follows: **“To glorify God by practicing Christ’s love in our community.”** By the way, this mission is stated at the top of our weekly news bulletin.

These are fine statements that outline the general reasons and purposes that Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church exists. Are they “our” statements though? They are the crafted statements of our founding leadership some 34 years ago. Furthermore they still outline a scripturally accurate mission and activity of Christ’s church. However, again I ask, do we own these articles as our own... as if we wrote them? Do they drive the budget, programs and activities of our church?

It is my opinion that as a church these are still very valid statements that we continue to hold to as a congregation. I’m not sure just how forcefully they drive the mission and ministry of Shepherd. We want them to, but somehow the statements in the constitution, or at the top of our bulletins, have not leapt off the page and into our hearts. I suspect that the charter members and leaders of Shepherd truly espoused these general statements when they went out into the Moreno Valley community inviting children to Sunday School and families to the Church. It’s time we get back to the basics, not just agreeing with them, or writing them into some sort of strategic plan for the future. We need to own them, pursue them and live them! We must reach out to others with the Good News of the Gospel and be the winsome witnesses we are called to be! We must unite weekly in prayer and worship with one another (not occasionally)! As the body of Christ it is imperative that we pursue unity and harmony in fellowship with one another. We must be compelled to love one another as Christ loved us and celebrate the forgiveness of sins with each other. We must glorify God by practicing Christ’s love in our community – the faith community and the Moreno Valley community!

WHERE DO WE START? A good place to start is always in prayer! I invite all of Shepherd of the Valley to join me in praying for the mission and ministry of our church on Thursday evenings at 6:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary. We will start on June 5th. Each evening we’ll re-read the Preamble and the Object of our church, and pray for God’s Spirit to work in our hearts the will and desire to follow Christ’s example and be His faithful disciples. We’ll meet and pray for about 15-30 minutes with one, ten or a hundred people - whoever comes! If you cannot come because of work or other obligations, please take a moment to pray in your heart for our work as the church of God. If you can’t come every week, that’s expected and understandable. If you can come, please join us for this intentional and dedicated time of prayer. If you can come, but just choose not to, we’ll pray for you! **THURSDAYS at 6:00 p.m. in the Church..... “Let Us Pray!”**

Pastor Dennis J. Krueger

Did You Know?

A Norwegian study, published in the *International Journal of Psychiatry in Medicine*, showed that the more time a person spent time praying, the lower his or her blood pressure. Participants in the study who were religiously active were also healthier than those who were not religiously active.

Source: PsychCentral

QUILTING FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF



Shepherd's Staff - Vol. 21, No. 6 Published Monthly
by Shepherd of the Valley;
11650 Perris Blvd.; Moreno Valley, CA 92557-6563

Hello from the busy quilting group! We are working up a storm with our quilts and the baby quilts for the NICU at Parkview Hospital. We have also had helping hands join us from another church who have members with us. It is nice to see our group growing and working hard for The Lord.

Here is an update on our items sent out last October: the health kits were sent to the Philippines, all the school kits went to Nicaragua, and the quilts went to Armenia. Praise God for the opportunity to be able to send these much needed items to His people.

Special thank you to Janean Hamann, Eunice Kang, Marcia Jackson for all the items they have donated. We have been busy working with all these new items. We thank you so much for your thoughtfulness and give glory to God for your items.

Just a reminder we meet every 4th Saturday of the month (except in October, November and December) in the fellowship hall from 9:00 am until noon. If you have any questions or for more information call Linda Olson at 276-0373. Come by anytime and see our works in progress.



COMING SOON! The Women's Retreat will be held on August 1-3rd at Nagels Nite Away in Big Bear. Our theme this year will be "Created and Called: Christ Has No Body but Yours," based on 1 Cor. 12:4-7 and 1 Cor 12:14-20.

The cost will be \$50.00 plus working with 2 or 3 other ladies to provide and prepare one meal. Registration will begin in July and we are limited to the first 20 ladies. If you have any questions, please call Ruby Kraft at 684-3549.

ALSO FAST APPROACHING - the annual Holiday Craft Boutique! It is scheduled for Saturday, November 8th from 8 am - 2 pm. There will be some crafting workshops planned to get together and make items to sell at the boutique and we will again have a canning workshop where all the delicious jams we sell will be prepared. Dates for the crafting workshops are Fridays at 6 pm in the hall: July 25, August 29 and September 26. The Saturday of the canning workshop will be announced but in anticipation of the canning, we would appreciate donations of half-pint mason jars, pectin, sugar and fruit. We'll also take the used jars from last year and recycle them. If you get fruit, contact any of the committee members (Marge Clark, Jan Schatz, Laurie White, and Paula Winn) and we'll arrange for getting it frozen and stored until needed. Thanks!

YEAR-LONG VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Habitat for Humanity Riverside has been contingently awarded 5 positions for AmeriCorps members for 2014-2015. It's a year-long volunteer commitment to serve with Habitat for Humanity Riverside. We are looking for the following member positions:

AmeriCorps VISTA, Project Development-Research and data analysis position.

AmeriCorps VISTA, Veteran Family Services-Work with veterans and their families with our new build project, the Veteran Enriched Neighborhood.

AmeriCorps National, Construction Crew Leadership-Assist in building homes for our Veteran Enriched Neighborhood.

AmeriCorps VISTA, ReStore Development-Research and marketing position

AmeriCorps National, Community Outreach Coordination-Resident engagement in our NRI focus area.

More information about current and past positions can be found at our website.

There are benefits to serving with us!

Full time volunteer position from 8/2014-8/2015

Living stipend of approximately \$1,000 per month

Limited medical plan if you choose to enroll in it

Member Development, gain experience with hands-on training

Build-A-Thon: a sponsored week of travel to build at a Habitat affiliate.

Educational grant award available at the end of your service.



If you are interested in any of these positions, please send your resume to Christine Morgando at cmorgan-do@habitatriverside.org

NOAH, The Man, The Ark, The Flood

The Knights of the Holy Spirit will gather on June 14 at 9:00 in the Fellowship Hall as we join Captain "Noah: The Man, The Ark, The Flood." This month we will take close look at The Ark. What was the technology? How could it be built? Could it really hold all those animals? Join us for on this sea worthy adventure! There will be lots of food for the soul and the stomach, led by Friar Allen, ship's chaplain.



CAMP PONDO INFORMATION MEETING



There will be an informational meeting for parents of students going to camp Pondo on June 15th at 6 pm in the youth room. We will be filling out registration forms, covering packing lists and various other items at this meeting. Please make every effort to be at this meeting to have all of your questions answered regarding the camp. If you have questions, or cannot make the meeting, please contact Drew Covert at 951-525-8111 or at lcms-drew@outlook.com. See you there!

Un-apologetic column 15

Peter Boghossian, the Church Whisperer

Many of my columns have to do with objections raised by the New Atheists. This group is headlined by the "Four Horseman", consisting of Richard Dawkins, Daniel Dennett, Sam Harris and (prior to his death in 2011) Christopher Hitchens. What's new about the new atheists is not their arguments against Christianity. The ideas they put forth have been in play for hundreds of years, and have been answered by Christian thinkers long ago. What this group banks on is that Christians are largely ignorant of these answers, or will not take the time to research the objection. While some of these men are brilliant scientists and writers, they make fundamental mistakes when thinking about religion. Sadly, many Christians fall prey to the poor thinking and reasoning that's found in their books.

What's different about the New Atheists is their attitude. They are loud, brash and in your face. They are not afraid to name call, and openly mock and deride Christians and their beliefs. This approach is very popular with younger generations raised on shock jocks and unaccustomed to having to argue persuasively for a position. Mind you, this group prides themselves as being the ones who have science and reason on their side. Some of you may see the irony here of claiming to be on the reasonable end of an argument that they try to win by name calling. While their arguments may not be as strong as a person they are engaged in conversation with, their one liners or zingers can often make them look like they are winning a debate they are not.

The newest member of the New Atheists is a gentleman named Dr. Peter Boghossian. Peter Boghossian is a full time faculty member in the philosophy department at Portland State University and an affiliated faculty member at Oregon Health Science University in the Division of General Internal Medicine. He's a national speaker for the Center of Inquiry and the Secular Student Alliance, and an international speaker for the Richard Dawkins Foundation for Reason and Science. He has written a book titled "A Manual for Creating Atheists," and will soon have a T.V. show titled "The Church Whisperer." In his T.V. show, he will tape himself going into churches to talk people out of their faith in Christ.

Dr. Boghossian's tactics are shrewd, and he is very good at making you look foolish if you are not prepared to encounter him. He creates some interesting new definitions for words that make it hard for a person of faith to make their case. This is where he differs from the other New Atheists. While the others simply make fun of Christians, He offers a plan to de-convert the believer. With the popularity of his book on the rise, I'm sure his method will begin being copied by others.

Next month, I will acquaint you with some of his arguments and definitions that give Christians trouble, and show you how you can avoid some traps he and others will lay for you. While you are waiting, get your hearing checked. That whisper you hear in the back of the church could mean trouble!

Your Servant,
Drew Covert

From: Simon, called Peter; Fisher of Men; Disciple and Apostle of Christ
 To: Members of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church of Moreno Valley, CA.
 Date: 60/65 A.D. ... Received 2014
 Re.: Your Calling and following of Jesus Christ (A summary of Peter's message in his First Letter to God's people.)



"Grace and peace be yours in abundance!" You have been ransomed and redeemed by the precious blood of Christ.

1. God raised Jesus from the dead revealing His victory over sin, death and eternal condemnation.
2. You are not your own, you are God's! In your baptism you have been united with Christ and His victory. You are saved!
3. You are the children of God, members of His family. Yearn for the pure spiritual milk of His Holy Word. Be nurtured in it and grow as His followers.
4. As living stones, be built up into the spiritual House of God. Serve Him as His holy priests and offer the spiritual sacrifices of love, service and obedience – acceptable to Him.
5. Stand firm in your faith and live your faith so exemplary that people will notice and ask why and how. Then give an answer concerning the hope within you!
6. If you should suffer or are persecuted because of your faith in Christ, do not be surprised or ashamed. Rather, view it as an honor to suffer as did your Lord, Jesus.
7. Be vigilant and watchful for the end (of the world -or- your time in it) is near. The judgment has already begun. Stand firm in your faith, resist the devil and follow Christ's example.
8. Submit to your elders and shepherd those entrusted to your care – the flock of God.
9. Trust in the Lord and do not be anxious. He who truly cares about you will lift you up and restore you in His due time.
10. Humble yourselves before the Lord, stand firm in His grace and love as you serve Him and serve one another.

Your Humble Servant, Simon Peter

**July
Power
Point
Schedule**

July 5th:
July 13th:
July 22nd:
July 27th:

First Service:
Joshua Stange
Luke Hamann
Gerry Klepps
Bud Kenefick

Second Service:
Bob Maurer
Amanda Johansen
Marvin Niles
Abby Covert

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 lcmsdrew@roadrunner.com. Thank you all for your service to our Church and our Lord!



Lord of Life Lutheran Church presents
Weird Animals VBS
 June 23-27, 2014
 from 6-8 PM

God filled the world with a lot of crazy creatures...including you! When kids feel weird, different, or even lost in a crowd nothing compares to the extraordinary love of Jesus.

Weird Animals VBS connects with children when they feel different by introducing them to wonderful animals around the world. When "weird" means special, unique, and one-of-a-kind, kids are reminded of Jesus' special love for them - even when they feel different! Jesus loves you even when...you're left out, you're different, you don't understand, you do wrong, and when you're afraid.

Invite your friends and neighbors to join in the fun. A \$10 donation is requested. Dinner and a snack will be provided each evening. Registration sheets are available from Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 13600 Nason St., Moreno Valley, 951-924-4887.

The Lutheran Hour Gospel Outreach Booth at the San Diego County Fair in Del Mar

The booth is sponsored by the Southern California District and the Sunshine Zone of the International Lutheran Laymen's League. Volunteers are needed to be ambassadors for Jesus Christ while staffing the fair booth. We ask for two volunteers per shift, so this is an opportune time for people to partner together. *It is a very easy evangelism effort. All it requires is a four hour commitment to share what the Lutheran Hour does, who is Jesus Christ, and hand out free material. Most of the time however, all one has to do is smile and say hello to passer bys and pray. All of our material at the booth is free. We have Bibles, many LHM tracts, trinkets for the children and other things.* Sometimes it is no more than saying hello as people pass by. They realize that Christians can be nice people also. We do not get into people's faces or confront them. They are there to enjoy the fair and we want to leave them with a pleasant experience after seeing or visiting the booth.

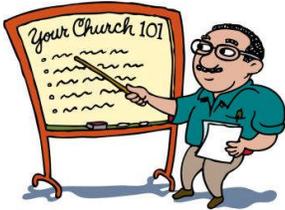
The rest of the time is free for the volunteers to enjoy the fair. In fact, we'll give them an admission ticket to the fair (needed to staff the booth) to enjoy the fair before or after their shift. The dates of the Fair are Saturday June 7 - Sunday July 6 (closed Mondays and first two Tuesdays). Specific shift times will be determined later. If you are interested, please call us at: 858-205-2974 – Mike Kler 858-693-8717 – Ted Davis Or email us at: lhm.sdfair@gmail.com

THE MORENO VALLEY MASTER CHORALE
presents, **"Anything Goes,"**
June 1st at 4 pm here at Shepherd of the Valley.



It will feature a fun mix of show tunes, rock & roll, and other genres sung by the chorale and soloists.
Tickets are available at the door - \$15 / \$10 students/seniors.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP



What is the "Holy Christian Church"? And, who is a member of the "Church?" – The simple straight forward answer to this is, all who believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior! Notice, it is not restricted to only those who are baptized. However those who are believers in Jesus Christ desire to be baptized, when/if there is the opportunity. Notice also, it is not restricted to only those who are members of some specific (visible and earthly) church. Yet, true believers in Jesus Christ will want to be members of some visible church in order to gather with other believers around the means of grace, that is God's Word and Sacraments. Most of the time, I suspect, when we talk about or try to define "church membership" are not thinking about it in these terms. We are probably focusing on membership in a church organization, such as Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church. Who is a member of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church? In order to answer that we need to consult the By-Laws of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church. Certainly the Bible, our Lutheran Confessions and the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (denomination) also have something to say about membership in Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, but these are generally incorporated into the Constitution and By-Laws. But, before going further, let it be clearly stated and understood that membership in God's church is a matter of faith alone! He knows those who are His and truly confess Him as their Savior and Lord.

All that being said, let's discuss membership from a congregational viewpoint. Membership in the local congregational organization varies from church to church. For some churches one is a member of the church by simply attending. In other churches, like Shepherd of the Valley, there are various ways of becoming a member. There are also a number of categories of church membership. One may join Shepherd of the Valley by being baptized or confirmed, or by transferring in from another Lutheran congregation. One may also join by a Profession of Faith. These are listed and defined in the By-Laws, Article I, part A. The Categories of Membership listed in Article I, part B include:

1. Baptized Membership - Children and Adults who have received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism in the name of the Triune God.
2. Communing Membership - Those who have been admitted to the Lord's Table.
3. Confirmed Membership - Those who have made a public profession of faith (*Youth or Adult Confirmation*).
4. Voting Membership - Those who participate in the governing process of the Congregation, who are Confirmed members at least 18 years old.

In an effort to operate more faithfully under the By-Laws of the congregation, I am contacting 'members' who are not, officially speaking, in one of the above categories of membership, but may have been attending and participating for months, even years, as a very faithful part of Shepherd of the Valley. We also have some "Communing Members" who are not "Voting Members," (but could / should be) that I want to meet with. Conversely we have some members who are officially "Baptized-Communing-Confirmed-Voting Members," yet rarely worship and commune with us or participate in any way, that the Board of Lay Ministry and I want to reach out to. It is my goal to address a majority of these concerns before our Annual Meeting in August.

I suppose one might think that all of this is rather "nit-picky" and unnecessary. Quite frankly, I'm one of them sometimes! But it is very important that we conduct the matters of the church decently and in good order. Where matters of faith are concerned it is also a part of my calling as your Pastor. So, please don't be upset if I contact you about membership issues, or read any more into it. Should you have any concerns or questions about your membership status, please contact me. Thank you!

Pastor Dennis J. Krueger



Members and friends graduating from all levels of school, mark your attendance card with this information or contact the church office so that we can include it in our next newsletter and upcoming announcements. Please let us know of any special awards or recognitions and we'll include that information also.

THE NEXT LUTHERAN CURSILLO WEEKENDS

Are July 10-13 for Men and July 17-20 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 or Pr. Krueger, Larry & Marlene Alexander, Bob & Carole Johansen, Jerry & Sue Anna Schatz, Helen Bedford, Marge Clark, and Laurie White) about what you may be able to gain from attending a Cursillo weekend before applying.

You can also check out their website for more information at www.lcsocal.org



**DON'T FORGET
YOUR FOOD
DONATIONS FOR
CAP
EACH SUNDAY!
Thank You!**

NEEDED FOR NURSING HOMES:

**Magazines and greeting card fronts.
Bring to the church or office.**

Spring Into Savings with LCEF's Young Investors (Y.I.) Club

Help the children in your life spring into healthy savings and sharing habits.



There is nothing more reassuring than knowing that your child is God's child, saved for eternity by His grace and love. Now your child's savings can help others experience God's love and grace through the sharing of the Gospel. Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) offers the Young Investors (Y.I.) Club StewardAccount® with features such as: Minimum of \$25 to open account; Premium interest rate on balances up to \$1,000; Savings grow with the child, and are accessible; Interest compounded and paid monthly; Extra credit for good grades and community service for school-age students. Learn more at lcef.org or call 800-843-5233.



A Biblical Tour of Israel & Jordan: (November 18-28, 2014) An Experience of a Lifetime! A complete tour of Israel & Jordan plus many extras such as visiting Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, a cruise on the Sea of Galilee, going up to Mt Nebo where Moses died, Petra and much more! Arrangements can be made for departure from any airport. Rev Darold Reiner (LCMS) (Former LWML International Counselor) is leading this tour from Kalispell, MT. Contact him at 406-890-1149 or reiner@centurytel.net for a brochure.

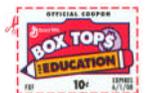
Joseph Project - Community (Citywide) food Bank

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



**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.

JOIN IN THE CHALLENGE



This is a plea that you help build the Prayer Army we need so badly. 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 Pastor, 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!

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**



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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Church (951) 924-4688
School (951) 924-3422
www.shepherdofthevalley.net

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**DENNIS KRUEGER, SENIOR PASTOR
RON KRAFT, EMERITUS PASTOR
LINDA WILLIAMSON, SCHOOL DIRECTOR**

June 2014

**Arrow Island: Choosing God's Way!
Vacation Bible School
July 7-11, 2014 from 3 to 6 pm
for children age three and up**



Today's world is full of choices! Too often Biblical principles are separated from the choices we make. This VBS will help equip kids to choose God's way in every detail of their lives—all while exploring an island full of exciting tropical habitats. Young explorers will enjoy the sites, sounds, and food of a verdant tropical island where they learn the importance of choosing obedience, godly friends, kindness, courage and an active faith.

Bible Theme Verse: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. (Psalm 119:105)

Daily Theme Points: Love God Most of All (Adam & Eve)
Choose Good Friends (Jonathan & David)
Be Kind and Forgiving (David Spares King Saul)
Stand for God (Elijah & Mr. Carmel)
Take Action (Nehemiah).

Registration and volunteer forms are available in the church lobby or office or you may register your kids to attend or volunteer to help online at shepherdofthevalley.net. More help is needed so be sure to sign up. Watch for lists of material and supplies that can be donated.

A free-will offering will be taken that week to help defray the cost of VBS. Contact Carol Maurer or the church office at 951-924-4688 for more information.