



From the Pastor

"TURNING SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY - 'INSIDE - OUT!' "



Two remarkable things have truly impressed me the last couple of months through Ruth Ann's hospitalization and her treatment of her cancer. The first I did not witness, but Ruth Ann shared with me. When she was in a lot of pain and discomfort, one of her doctors at the hospital spent time with her and he even prayed with her! I have never experienced that personally and was so impressed with that doctor's care and ministering to my wife! The other was when we went to the cancer clinic in Riverside and met the nurse who would be working with Ruth Ann. She entered the examination room and looked at her file, then looked up and asked, "Are you Ruth Ann Krueger?" Naturally, we said, "yes." She then responded, "I have been praying for you for the past month or so. Your name is on the prayer list of our church." (Riverside Presbyterian). Wow! Both of these medical professionals were living their faith and not just treating a patient, they were ministering to a person! They were letting their light shine!

Most of us have heard the phrase, "Thinking outside of the box." It means that often times, in order to succeed, one needs to go beyond thinking and doing things the way we always have, or in the traditional kinds of ways. For churches today this is absolutely vital. But it is a very hard thing to do. We all get quite comfortable with our routines and traditions. This seems especially true in the church. But, if we are going to truly be effective twenty-first disciples we're called to be, not only are we going to have to be turned inside out and we're going to have to minister way outside the sanctuary (box). We are going to have to push out the walls of the church into the Moreno Valley community! This won't be easy. It means we might have to give up some of our own preferences and likes in order to serve those around us. Of course, I'm not talking about doctrine or theology. I am talking about other things that have become just as near and dear to us (unfortunately) like our buildings and properties, worship formats, etc. This is challenging! Look at what happened to Jesus when He taught that the church needed to minister outside of the temple, or the Sabbath laws, or the many of other laws, customs and traditions of established Judaism.

" TURNING SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY - 'INSIDE-OUT' WORKSHOP "
Saturday, September 20, 2014, 8:30am - 1:30pm in the Fellowship Hall

At our last all staff and volunteer collaborative meeting the one thing we said HAS TO HAPPEN at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church as soon as possible, is a training and equipping workshop on how to share one's faith and the hope of Jesus in the Gospel. We need to help our members learn and grow in living their faith and sharing Jesus with others! Our Thursday "Outreach" prayer group, "Let Us Pray" has also concluded that this is something our church really needs to do in order to equip members in ministering outside the box (church). So, that is what we are going to do on Saturday, September 20th, from 8:30am to about 1:30pm. The workshop is called: **"Turning Shepherd of the Valley - 'Inside-Out'"** All members of Shepherd of the Valley are URGED to participate. Obviously in one workshop of merely five hours or so, we can't hope to turn everyone into evangelists. But we can get started at helping participants see the urgency of reaching out and feeling more comfortable in inviting people to church and talking about their faith. Like the doctor and nurse I mentioned above, we want people to see how they can turn their faith on the inside - out, as they serve the Lord and others. This is what the Lord has called us for, gifted us to accomplish and empowered us to do by the power of the Holy Spirit! Plan now to come to this workshop on September 20th.

Pastor Dennis J. Krueger



	<u>First Service:</u>	<u>Second Service:</u>
August 3rd:	Joshua Stange	Bob Maurer
August 10th:	Luke Hamann	Amanda Johansen
August 17th:	Gerry Klepps	Marvin Niles
August 24th:	Bud Kenefick	Abby Covert
August 31st:	Luke Hamann	Drew Covert
Sept 7th:	Joshua Stange	Bob Maurer
Sept 14th:	Josh Hamann	Abby Covert
Sept 21st:	Gerry Klepps	Marvin Niles
Sept 28th:	Bud Kenefick	Amanda Johansen

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



Hello everyone from the busy quilters! We have lots of work ahead of us to complete and now is the time to start bringing in items for the health and school kits. Watch the sales and drop off any donations in the church lobby or in the church office. We need all items listed in the monthly and weekly newsletter and thank you in advance for any help you can provide.

We want to thank Jay Kenefick for material, buttons and lace; Anne Neudecker and friends from the park for threads and material scraps; Ruth Hill for batting pieces; and Dorothy G. for material. These donated items are a huge blessing and we thank each of you from the bottom of our hearts.

Come join us on the 4th Saturday of each month except in October when we meet early to pack kits and quilts for sending and then we have no meetings in November and December. Don't hesitate to call me if you have any questions - Linda Olson 951-276-0373.



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 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) bath-size bars (4 to 5 oz.) of soap, any brand, in original wrapping
- (1) adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging
- (1) sturdy comb, remove packaging
- (1) metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging

All items should be new and in good condition. Any donations will be greatly appreciated - doesn't have to be a complete kit. Bring items to the church or office. Thanks for your help!

* School kits also need a drawstring bag (finished size 14" wide x 17" high) to hold the supplies. There is a pattern if you are able to make one that are available in the rack in the church lobby or in the office. If not, one will be supplied. Thanks!

**AMERICAN RED CROSS
BLOOD DRIVE**

**at Shepherd of the Valley
Friday, August 22nd
1:00 pm to 7:00 pm**

**Sign up at redcrossblood.org
Use Code: SVLC
or call Marge at 951-924-4688**



I Am A Church Member - Discovering the Attitude that Makes the Difference
by Thom S. Rainer

Thom Rainer is president and CEO of Lifeway Christian Resources. He is a respected pastor, teacher, author and researcher. He has written more than twenty books and coauthored the No. 1 best seller, *Simple Church*.

In *I Am A Church Member*, Thom reminds us that it is possible to have an effective, unified church body – even if the people in the pews have different opinions. Rick Warren, Sr. Pastor of Saddleback Church writes: *It is impossible to grow to spiritual maturity by yourself. You must be connected to the other parts of the Body. This little book explains the power of belonging to a church family.*”

A Summary Outline:

CH. I I Will Be a Functioning Church Member

- Membership means we are all necessary parts of the whole.
- Membership means we are different but we still work together.
- Membership means everything we say and do is based on a Biblical Foundation of Love.
- Membership is functioning – giving abundantly and serving without hesitation.

CH. II I Will Be a Unifying Church Member

- God desires that Christians to get along! Unity is important! Unity is critical!
- Gossip and negative talk cannot be tolerated because they destroy the church!
- Membership means that we are forgiving and loving. It is essential to church unity!

CH. III I Will Not Let My Church Be About MY Preferences and Desires

- Membership means we are servants like Christ.
- Membership desires “Thy will be done,” not my will be done.
- Membership is not about MY needs and MY preferences... (i.e. Worship; Programs...)
- Members strive to have the attitude of Christ Jesus! (Philippians 2:5-11)

CH IV I Will Pray for My Pastor and Church Leaders

- I will pray for our pastors and other church leaders in their service in God’s church.
- I will pray for our pastors and church leaders’ families.
- I will pray for the protection of our pastors and leaders.
- I will pray for the health and well being of our pastor and leaders.

CH V I Will Lead My Family to Be Healthy Church Members

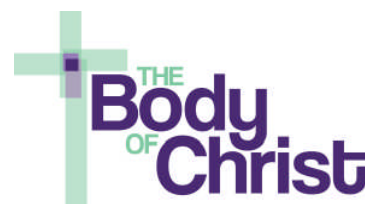
- I will pray together as a family for the church.
- I will worship together as a family.
- I will teach and lead my family to be committed to the church, the Bride of Christ.

CH VI I Will Treasure Church Membership as a Gift

- Church membership is not a burdensome responsibility. It is a privilege and a gift!
- Biblical church membership means being a part of the Body of Christ!
- I am a member of the universal and invisible Holy Christian Church!
- Church membership is a gift of the Holy Spirit that calls me to faith and gathers me into the fellowship of believers.

Every church member of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church is encouraged to obtain and read this very small, but very powerful book on what it means to be a church member according to the Bible. It is inexpensive and available at most Christian book stores and on *Amazon.com*

“I am a Church Member. And I thank God that I am!” Thom S. Rainer



The annual Holiday Craft Boutique will be here before we know it! It is being held on the second Saturday in November on the 8th from 8 am to 2 pm. As in the past we need donations of hand-made craft items and baked goods for the sale. We have scheduled some workshops to help get in the spirit of things if you would like to come and help work on making crafts for the sale.

Saturday, August 9th at 9 am - Canning Workshop

Friday, September 5th and October 3rd at 6 pm - Craft Workshops (note date were changed)

Please sign the sheet in the church lobby if you can come and help any of those days - thanks!

Co-exist or Contradict?



I often wonder what people must think of me when they look at the back of our car. We are a one car family, so a great deal of compromise goes into what is displayed on our vehicle. I was allowed to have my Denver Bronco's license plate covers in exchange for the Tinker Bell sticker on our back window. Strategically placed below Tinker Bell is my Stand to Reason sticker stating "Christianity Worth Thinking About." This is next to the stick figure representation of our family (minus one cat, we ran out of stickers for them). Rounding out this odd ball compromise is the Mickey Mouse antenna ball with Pirates of the Caribbean hat. In a world used to everyone having their own car, I can just imagine the mental picture people must derive of the driver of this odd vehicle!

There are some purists out there who would not dream of putting anything foreign on their car, but most of us have something on our vehicles to show the world what we are passionate about. This can be something as simple as a Jesus fish on the back, all the way up to having so many stickers you can't tell what color the car is.

I'm sure most of you have seen the "Coexist" sticker that is popular now days. If you're not familiar with it, it spells out the word coexist using different religious symbols for the letters. At first glance, this sticker seems to be calling for peace among the world's religions. This is a worthy goal that I applaud. But a bit deeper thought betrays a mindset that exists today about religion. The message is subtle, but it is there. That message is "stop acting like your religion is the right one." In other words, all religions are equally true and valid. Picking one is like choosing what flavor ice cream you like. Why would you get mad or argue about who likes what flavor ice cream? In the same sense, why are you trying to promote your religion over others? Why can't you just let people do what works for them and stop making trouble?

To point out the faulty thinking promoted on this sticker, one clever individual has begun producing his own sticker. It states "Contradict (using the same religious symbols as the other sticker), they can't all be true." This exposes the faulty claim of the first sticker, namely that religions make different claims about God, reality and truth that contradict one another. Take Christianity and Judaism as an example. Christians claim that Jesus was the Messiah, the Jews claim he was not the Messiah. One of us is right. There is no way Jesus can be the Messiah and not the Messiah at the same time. Buddhists claim that the world as we know it is an illusion, Islam claims it isn't. Christians say the Trinity exists, Jehovah's Witnesses claim it does not.

While religions have similarities, it is the differences that are important.

This is what makes evangelism in our current culture so difficult. People won't argue with you that Jesus is the only way to heaven, they will agree. They will say Jesus is the only way...for you. But for others they will argue, any way is ok as long as it works for the person. And anyway, isn't it arrogant to believe that only you have the truth and everyone else is wrong?

Let me clue you in on something here. Everyone thinks their view is the correct one, even the person chastising you for thinking your way is right. We all think our view is correct, or we wouldn't hold it. The view that no one has the truth about religion is still a truth claim. The person making the statement thinks that this is the way everyone ought to think about religion. If they try and wiggle out of this by saying they aren't sure their view is true, then they are on even shakier ground. Why should I believe a view that even the person holding it isn't sure of?

In keeping with our new focus on evangelism, I will start a new series next month on using apologetics in evangelism. Until then, I encourage you to use bumper stickers as conversation starters. Ask questions about what you see, and try to plant a seed or two with someone.

Your Servant,
Drew Covert

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS



August 29th- September 1st – LABOR DAY CAMPING TRIP

We will be joining the church for our annual Labor Day camping trip. We will leave from the Church parking lot Friday evening, and return Monday afternoon. Food and tents will be provided. If you would like to go or have questions, contact Drew Covert at 951-525-8111 or lcmsdrew@outlook.com

September 26th- 27th – RE-THINK YOUTH CONFERENCE

We will be traveling to Crossline Community Church in Laguna Hills for this years two day conference. We will leave Church at 3:30 PM on Friday, and return Saturday evening around 7:30 PM. We will stay overnight Friday in Laguna Hills. Students will need money for dinner Friday night, and breakfast, lunch and dinner on Saturday. **Registration must be received by August 10th to reserve your spot!** Contact Drew Covert at 951-525-8111 or lcmsdrew@outlook.com to register.

NEXT LUTHERAN CURSILLO WEEKENDS
 October 16-19 for Men and October 23-26 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, Janet Riccardi 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



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LABOR DAY CAMPING at Heart Bar in Big Bear

No more sites are available online but you're welcome to come up and spend some time Saturday or Sunday during the day with the campers - Alexanders, Berringers, Hamanns x2, Maurers, Whites and the youth.

OFFICE BUILDING ROOFING PROJECT



The roof on the office building needs to be re-shingled. It is the original roof and is showing signs of wear. The permits to re-roof have been obtained and the project will cost approximately \$12,000+ to complete. We have established a "Roofing Fund" and have already received \$3,405 in donations - praise the Lord! If you would like to contribute, over and above your regular offering, put your donation in an envelope marked "Roofing Fund" in the offering plate. Thanks!

Joseph Project - Community (Citywide) food Bank

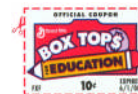


Shepherd is working with other churches in Moreno Valley with this community food bank that provides food for the needy every Thursday from a distribution center at the Koinonia Evangelistic Center, 21866 Brill Rd., Moreno Valley (951-867-3050). Volunteers are needed to help out with distribution, sorting,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

JOIN US FOR PRAYER:

“LET US PRAY”



For the past couple of months about a dozen or so of the members of Shepherd of the Valley have been gathering on Thursdays to pray for the health and well-being of our church, especially in reaching out to our community. Surely there are more members than only twelve who care and are able to attend on at least some of the Thursdays. All are invited to take our cares, prayers and petitions to the Lord regarding our church. If you are unable to attend, please join us from where you are (or whenever you can) in praying for the health and growth of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church.

Consider the following prayer.

Lord, open my eyes to see my church and myself with honesty and clear vision - as You see it and me. Let me be a part of the solution and not the problem. Give me faith and courage to move forward in the direction You desire. Teach me not to hold onto those things in the church that are my personal preference and reflect my style. Show me not only how to let go, but where to let go. Help me to grasp where we may have gotten out of balance with inward and outward ministries. Give our church a heart for our community and a vision to make a difference in our context. Even more, God, use me to be an instrument for positive change that must take place in our church. Remind me that I am to be a Great Commission Christian in a Great Commission church.

We believe all things are possible through You, O Lord. Show us what we need to do to lead our church from hopelessness to HOPE, from illness to HEALTH! Give us the courage and strength to make necessary changes, even those that we don't like. Give our pastor and leaders hearts to serve You as they minister to people within and beyond our own walls. Help us to encourage them and one another as we minister together. Re-ignite our hearts to have a true passion for the lost and a desire to proclaim the Good News.

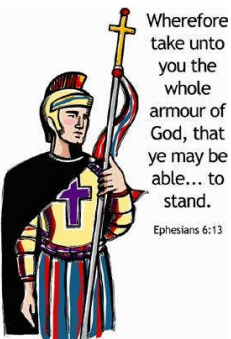
Thank you, Lord, for the ministry of Shepherd of the Valley in the past. Bless us with Your Spirit for bold ministry in the future. This we pray with all confidence in Your promise to hear and answer prayer - not as a last resort - but as a first response!. In the name of Jesus Christ, the head of the church. Amen.

FROM PASTOR and RUTH ANN

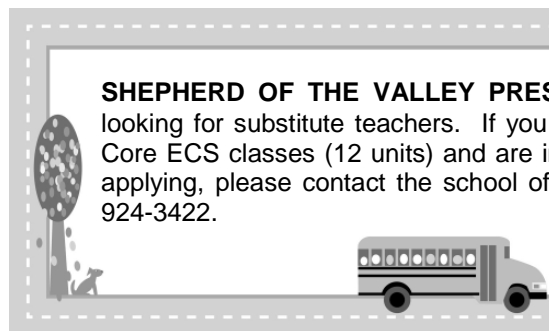
The Lord is truly sustaining us through these challenging days. I do not know how people face these kinds of trials apart from faith and the support of the church. Once again, thanks for all of your prayers, cards, and acts of love and support! They have carried us through the hardest times in our lives. And I truly believe God will use all of this for good. I don't exactly know how, or what He has in store, but I know His love is genuine and true.

As Ruth Ann goes through her chemotherapy treatments her immune system may become very weak, we're told, and has been advised to refrain from physical contact with other people. We don't want to hurt anyone's feelings, but would ask that people offer a warm hello and not a hug, a sharing of the peace but no handshake, on the Sundays when she is feeling well enough to attend worship. Thanks for your understanding!

Lastly, I was reading in a *Cancer Today* magazine how important one's faith and spiritual health is in successfully treating cancer. Sadly our TLC-Cancer Group is (has) folded for lack of anyone to be the leader of the group. We cannot let this happen! In the clinic where Ruth Ann is being treated there are pens and pill containers from our SVLC Cancer Group! We need to keep praying for the many many people going through cancer treatment, and providing these little, yet powerful, resources. Please join me in praying for a new leader and that this small group does not disband! "Faith and spirituality can be a key component of caring for a patient . . . and we can help provide that care." (*Cancer Today*, Summer 2014, Vol. 04, Issue 02)



The Knights of the Holy Spirit TLC will not be meeting in August, The next meeting will be September 13th at 9 am. Any questions contact Ric Riccardi at 247-9351.



SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY PRESCHOOL is looking for substitute teachers. If you have the 4 Core ECS classes (12 units) and are interested in applying, please contact the school office at 951-924-3422.



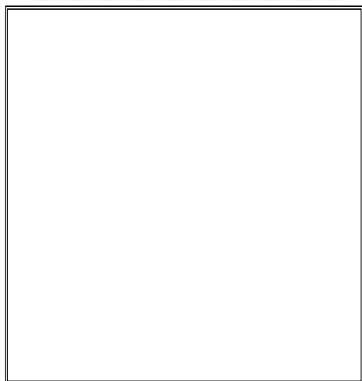
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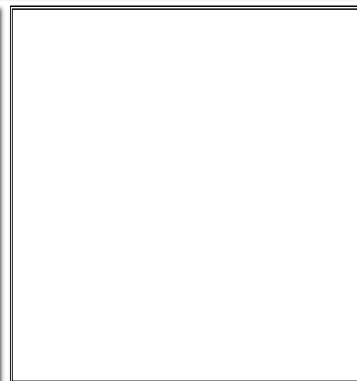
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The Shepherd's Staff

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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August 2014

Congregational Meeting

THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 17th,
following the 10:45 a.m. Praise Service.**



Our constitution stipulates that the congregation must have an annual meeting each year. The primary business of this annual voters' assembly is the election of various board positions and the discussion and ratification of the church (church & school) budget for the next fiscal year. The Nomination Committee will post a slate of candidates in the church two weeks before the meeting. All voting members are eligible to submit names to the Nominating Committee no later than three weeks before the meeting (by August 3rd), however nomination cannot come from the floor at the annual meeting. A slate of nominees and a copy of the budget will also be mailed out to the membership prior to the 8/17 meeting. **Submit nominees to Congregational President Phil Sandstrom.**

The By - Laws state that congregational meetings must follow the latest edition (11th) of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*. It wouldn't be a bad idea to consult this meeting guideline so that you are familiar with how the meeting is to be run. They can be found for free on the internet. Note especially, if a voting member makes a motion to call the previous question (or a motion to end debate) and it is seconded and passed by the assembly with a 2/3 majority vote - then all discussion on that main motion immediately ends and a vote is taken. In the past this has frustrated some members who still wanted to speak to the motion, but were unable to because a 2/3 majority voted that they were ready to vote. *Robert's Rules* can seem rather complicated, but they do provide a very fair guideline for running a meeting.

Pray for God's wisdom and blessing on our upcoming Annual Meeting.