



**Dear God,
why do you allow
so much violence
in our schools?**

signed,
concerned students

**Dear Concerned Students,
I am NOT allowed
in schools.**

God

In the wake of the recent tragedy in Florida this image has flooded the internet. I see it in my Facebook feed almost daily. At first, it may seem like a good thing. But truth be told, I don't like it. Sure, that may make me sound unchristian, but it is the truth, I don't like the idea in this image. In fact, the more I see it the more I hate it. Hear me out before you go and get the stake and fire ready.

The question is fine. That "why" question goes back thousands of years. It was asked in the Old Testament by Job, it was asked by writers of the Psalms, and it has been asked in our own lifetime, where we witnessed two World Wars, the Holocaust, genocides in the Soviet Union and China, devastating famines in Africa, the killing fields of Cambodia, the emergence of AIDS, Columbine, 9/11, Boston Marathon bombing, the Florida night club shooting, most recently Stoneman Douglas High School, the list goes on and on. And so we find the question being asked: Why all of this if there's a loving and all-powerful God?

ton Marathon bombing, the Florida night club shooting, most recently Stoneman Douglas High School, the list goes on and on. And so we find the question being asked: Why all of this if there's a loving and all-powerful God?

To be honest, I don't have the answer, at least fully. I know we live in a fallen world, a world where sin runs rampant. I know because of sin there is violence and tragedy, heartbreak and agony in this world. I know God wants us to love Him, freely and truly love Him. He does not want us to be mindless automations devoted to Him because we are programmed to. And that means we are free to reject Him, to live as if He didn't matter. When we do, we look to our own interests, our own wants and desires, all at the expense of everyone else. That selfish attitude leads to these kind of things happening and so much of the world's suffering results from the sinful action or inaction of ourselves and others.

No, the question is perfectly fine. It is the answer that bothers me. What kind of god does this answer give us? This god seems petty and childish. The attitude here is much like that of a child pouting and saying, "fine, if you don't like me I will take my ball and go home."

I can't stand in God's shoes and answer for Him, I don't have His mind, I don't see with His eyes. What I do know is that God does not let man dictate where or when or how or what He does. God is God, no one tells Him what to do or makes Him do anything. God is not a small, vindictive God who punishes people by removing Himself from a school and allowing them to be victims of a mass shooting just because public schools do not endorse Christianity or allow prayer in school. 2000 years ago men tried to tell God to stay out of their world by hanging Jesus on the cross and leaving Him there to die. It didn't work then and it doesn't work now. No, this is not how God would answer such a question. He is not small, petty, or vindictive. God did not leave the world 2000 years ago when He was told by sinful man to stay out, instead He continued to show His love for them, and He continues to show His love for us today.

We cannot answer for God. But we can trust Him. The question, "Why God?" is asked in scripture. It is never answered. We are told God's ways are not our ways, His thoughts are not our thoughts. Yet every time that question, "Why God?" is asked, the person asking either points back to God's faithfulness or is pointed back to God's faithfulness. I don't know why, but I do know what God has done about it. He sent His Son to die on the cross, to show us His love as He died for us, in our place, so that we might be forgiven, so that we might be restored to a right relationship with Him. So in the midst of tragedy, when the question "Why God?" looms large, turn to God, trust God, look to the cross and the empty tomb. Remember His love for you.

In Christ, Pastor Paul



*In Loving Memory of our
Friend, Bob Johansen
July 11, 1953 to
February 26, 2018*

Your presence we miss,
Your memory we treasure.
Loving you Always,
Forgetting you Never.



LET'S GET ACQUAINTED WITH THE LYLES.

Dorrie Lyle is the daughter of Linda and Mike Olson and sister to Amber Olson. She was born in East Los Angeles. She lived in Rubidoux and Moreno Valley, graduating from Canyon Springs High School in 1992. She has an Associates Degree in Early Childhood units and works as an Early Childhood Educator at MVUD.

Ed has lived in Georgia, Florida, Virginia and California. He graduated from Clarke Central High School in 1987. He graduated from the University of Georgia in 1992 with a BA in English Literature and Florida State University in 1997 in English Education Credential. He is a high school English teacher for MVUSD.

Ed and Dorrie got married in 2004. Ed has a very interesting story to tell about how they met. He said, "Dorrie and I met in what was, for the time, almost unimaginable, but has today become not only commonplace, but also a billion dollar industry. We met in a Yahoo! groups chatroom. It had something to do with being more "romantic, and REALLY sick of all the whacks of the world". Anyway, Dorrie and I met there, January 5, 2002. Pretty much from the moment we first met in cyberspace, we both just understood that we were supposed to be together. No kidding. Our first date I flew from Atlanta to LAX, and then was shuttled way the heck out to Box Springs Mountain Road. It was more than a little unnerving as we drove and drove and drove some more. I mean, I lived around WDC, but not IN it. Los Angeles is one sprawling enterprise, that to me, then just went on and on. Then to my seemingly endless succession of track houses, strip malls, convenience stores and then more track houses. Finally, we came to this winding, unmaintained, partially paved gravel road climbing up a desolate hill. At this point, I am thinking that I may have been seriously misled by my betrothed and her agents. Again, and anyway, all went well; we went to Castle Park. We maintained a transcontinental relationship, chiefly through indulgent use of 2000 minute phone cards and 2 connection Cheapo airfares, until I moved here for good in 2003. The rest, as they say, is history. We were married at SVLC on May 15, 2004. No kids, but lots of critters."

Dorrie has lived in Moreno Valley her entire adult life. Ed spent most of the rest of his life in Moreno Valley, because he met someone named Dorrie.

Dorrie is a consummate artist, especially graphic arts, folks art and canvas. They both like going to so-called pop-culture exhibits, the NASCAR race at Pomona, and San Clemente is the beach, and Big Bear is the mountains. Once a year, usually, they go back to Ed's hometown of Athens, GA. They are always glad to see family and old friends. Ed also is a fairly rabid fan of anything the University of Georgia fields for any reason. Ed is a certified PAD Rescue SCUBA diver. Ed earned the rank of Eagle in the B.S.A.

What an interesting couple! Thank you for sharing your story.
~Marlene Alexander, Biographer



If you are feeling very tired, upset and have a sudden severe pain in your chest that goes down your arm and into your jaw, you are very likely having a heart attack. You have about 10 seconds before losing consciousness. Of course if someone is with you have them call 911. But if you are alone start coughing repeatedly and vigorously. Take very deep breaths between coughs. The breaths get oxygen into your lungs and coughing squeezes the heart and keeps the blood circulating. The squeezing also helps the heart regain normal rhythm. Get help as soon as possible.

~Suzy Langhorne, Parish Health Minister



Hello Everyone from the quilters.

We are busy working on both the adult quilts for LWR and baby quilts for the pregnancy center in San Bernardino. We have a good start going and are happy to be back at work.

We want to share the news that we have two of our quilts on their way to Marcia and Steve Jackson's family, who lost everything in the bad fire last summer. We pray these quilts will bring joy and peace, knowing that we care for them in their long haul to get back to their daily activities.

Thanks to Helen Davis, a friend of Anne Neudecker at the mobile home park, for the two bags of material she sent to us. Many thanks to all of you for your donations.

If you would like to join us, come to the fellowship hall on the third Saturday of each month, we would love to have you. We have fellowship, lunch, and share news from our members and we enjoy the updates. If you want more information on our work call Linda Olson 276-0373. Come join us and get involved in our worthwhile activities. God



Bless all of you.



***** SHAWL Ministry STITCHED IN PRAYER; GIVEN IN LOVE.

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



Spring is Almost Here and We're Gearing up for Next Year



School News

We have started our pre-registration for the 2018-2019 school year. If you know of anyone looking for a wonderful educational opportunity for their child please refer them to Shepherd of the Valley. We accept children who are 2 years old and fully potty-trained through kindergarten. We use the "A Beka" curriculum along with additional teacher created activities. With the school district adding more full-day kindergarten classes and the TK classes we have experienced that many parents will opt for the "free" education but choosing to give your child a great jump start on their education in a Christian based school with small class size is worth the cost for their successful future.

We also offer a "school aged" daycare for 1st through 5th grade students. We pick up and deliver children to Northridge Elementary and provide the children with physical activity time as well as homework help. This is a safe option for parents who have to work late and don't want their children home alone or unsupervised. We are open until 6:00 pm Monday through Friday.

GREAT BIG THANK YOU to all who participated in our annual St Jude's Trike-a-thon fundraiser. It was a great success. The children raised over \$2300 for the children at St Jude's. This is a wonderful way to involve our little ones in helping others.

The Scholastic Book Fair began February 26 and will go through Sunday, March 4th. This is a wonderful opportunity for gift buying for birthdays, Easter baskets, or just because. It will be set up in the Hall on Saturday (Open House) and Sunday after both church services. Every purchase helps us buy new books for the classrooms.

Our school Open House is on Saturday, March 3rd from 11:00 to 2:00. We will be set up in front of the fellowship hall near the street. Each class will have something fun to do along with a bounce house and pony rides. This is a great opportunity to check out our curriculum and meet the teachers.

The following are our Upcoming Events:

March 3rd ~ School Open House – 11:00 – 2:00.

March 15 ~ Spring Pictures.

March 19-30th ~ Kindergarten Spring Break.

Please continue to pray for our school and that God will fill our classrooms with His little ones.



Linda Williamson, Director

LENT MISSION PROJECT

Our mission this Lent season is to supply our troops with Military BibleSticks through "Faith Comes by Hearing." \$25 will sponsor one service member and their family with BibleSticks and a Kids Bible for their children. Forms can be found in the church lobby or office. Call the office if you have any questions.

LWML SPRING RALLY

SVLC is hosting the LWML Spring Rally on May 5th from 9 am to noon, with a Cinco de Mayo meal theme. For more information, contact the office.

HYMN FESTIVAL

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Riverside is excited to invite all members and friends of Shepherd of the Valley to a special Hymn Festival featuring well-known organist David Cherwien, a mass choir and other instrumentalists. This free event is Friday, March 9, 2018 at 6:30 PM at Immanuel Lutheran Church: 5455 Alessandro Blvd., Riverside, CA 92508.



(left) Happy 38th Anniversary SVLC.
(middle) Pastor Paul with BSA Pack 210, Troop 210 and Cal Fire for the Spark of Love toy drive. (right) Undie Sunday donations.





WE ARE HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE to you that we have a new youth leader, Mindy Lowe. She has spent some time with the kids in February and has already connected with them. She has shared with us some great ideas that she has for our kids and we are so excited to see how they grow. We are looking forward to seeing the energy and excitement she adds to SVLC. Please take a minute and welcome her when you see her and if you have any thoughts for our youth pro-



gram, she would love to hear them.



Our youth are well underway into the new year and celebrated love throughout February in many ways. They made Valentine's cards for members in the congregation and began the Lenten season with their "SEE-Son" devotionals. They also discussed ideas for what to do in the upcoming year. It makes me proud to see how strong they are in their walk with the Lord and how motivated they are to be involved in events to come within the church.

In March they will be having many events including preparing for the annual Easter Breakfast. The upcoming dates to remember are:

- *** Every Wednesday- midweek Lent services at 4:00pm and 6:30pm.
- March 3: Volunteers needed to help with the pre-school open house.
- March 11: Turn in the See's Candy fundraiser.
- March 18: "Lucky or Blessed" night
- March 25: Movie night - "*The Passion of the Christ*", monthly attendance drawing and birthday celebration.

Thank you all for your prayers and support for the youth in our congregation, and please continue to pray for them daily. May their hearts grow stronger in the Lord and be a witness to all they meet.

PIANIST WANTED: The Praise Team is looking for 10 good fingers and an open heart that loves music. Do you already play piano, or know someone who does (or any other musical instrument)? Would you like to improve your music skills while contributing "joyful noise unto the Lord?" If this is you, or if have any questions or need additional details, please contact the church office at (951) 924-4688 or Gary Speck at (951) 313-4234. Feel free to join us as many Sundays as you are available. We gather for practice on Sunday at 9:30 am, prior to the 10:45 am service.



I will be outside selling on the second and fourth Sundays again. Think about your needs in advance; come see me and the following week your order will be here. Prayer Pals, this is a great way to show love to your sister. Plan early for Valentine's Day, birthdays, college student care packages and just because you are thinking about someone. Again this is a great way to help the church. The more who buy, the more percentage we get, the more money goes into the church's funds.

Thank you and God bless. Hope to see the usual faces and even some new ones. I am still trying to learn all your names.

~ Karen Rice

Eleven Actions that Build a Friendly Church

1. Pray for new people
2. Look for the unknown.
3. Be the first to reach out.
4. Do it with enthusiasm.
5. "Hi, my name is ... "
6. Listen for the name.
7. Repeat it more than twice.
8. Introduce one to another.
9. Tell people they are appreciated.
10. Tell people they are missed.



BOOK SALE - BAKE SALE - "NEW TO YOU" SALE

Saturday, March 17th in the hall from 9 am to 1 pm.



Come and shop for great bargains on used books, puzzles, games, and many other "new to you" items! Baked goods will be on sale and also a hot dog lunch will be available at 11 am.

We need help with the sale so if you are interested, fill out one of the green flyers available in the church lobby or in your announcement folder. Leave it on the counter or drop by the office and fill one out.

Bring donations of used books, puzzles, games, dvds, cds, or gently used items to the hall starting Sunday, March 11th. We will not be accepting clothing or shoes and please make sure donated items are clean and still usable - no rummage! We also need donations of baked goods that you can bring the day of the sale or the day before. Thanks in advance for any help. Funds raised will go into our Social Ministry Assistance Fund.



We're sorry if we missed your birthday or anniversary, please call the office & make sure we have the dates.



- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 4 * Hattie Green | 23 * Abby Fuller, Dominick Ross |
| 6 * Sam Fuller | 24 * Todd Shirk |
| 9 * Jason Crawford | 25 * Larry Schatz |
| 10 * Jim Wilson | 26 * Rollie Hamann |
| 11 * Andrea Seldon | 31 * Linda Kerr |
| 12 * Jim Bromar | |
| 16 * Ed Pipkin | |
| 19 * Amanda Johansen | |
| 21 * Shylee Abrego | |



- | | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| 1 * April & Garry Smith | (10 years) |
| 13 * Larry & Jan Schatz | (52 years) |
| 17 * Sam & Shirley Fuller | (11 years) |
| 23 * Eva & Edward Carlson | (33 years) |
| 31 * Don & Mitsuko Huff | (44 years) |

2018 FLOWER CHART

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



Joseph Project - Community (Citywide) Food Bank

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

NEXT LUTHERAN CURSILLO WEEKENDS

May 3-6, 2018 for Men
June 7-10, 2018 for Women



Need a spiritual boost? 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 about what you may be able to gain from attending a Cursillo weekend before applying. Cursillo retreats take place at Cursillo House in Pomona. Check their website for more information: www.lcsocal.org. Mark your attendance card or call the office if you are interested in more information.



INVITE OTHERS TO OUR CHURCH AND SCHOOL!

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

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



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



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

SAVE BOX TOPS FOR OUR SCHOOL!

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

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS:

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



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

**Ads
Go
Here**

**Calendar
Goes
Here**



The Shepherd's Staff

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

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

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Moreno Valley, CA 92557
Church (951) 924-4688
School (951) 924-3422
www.svlcmoval.net

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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

March 2018



Midweek Lent Services and
Soup Suppers

Wednesday, March 7, 14, &
21

Services at 4 pm & 6:30 pm
Soup Supper served at 5 pm

Palm Sunday – March 25 at
8 am & 10: 45 am

Maundy Thursday – March 29 at 6:30 pm

Good Friday – March 30 at 6:30 pm

Easter Sunday – April 1
Sunrise Service at 6 am
Traditional Service at 8 am
Praise Service at 10:45 am



*Time to move our
clocks ahead. The time
changes on March 11th.*

March 2018

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|--|--|--|---|
| | | | | <i>1</i> 9:30 AM Tai Chi (H) | <i>2</i> 10:00 AM School Chapel (S) 8:00 PM A.A. Meeting (H) | <i>3</i> 8:30 AM Cursillo Grouping @ Panera Bread 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry (O) 11:00 AM -2:00 PM School Open House (H) |
| <i>4</i> 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class (O-H-PS) 12:30 PM Grace Korean (S-H) 5:00 PM Confirmation (O) 6:30 PM Youth Group (Y) | <i>5</i> 10:00 AM First Place TLC (Reese Home) 6:30 PM Women of Faith TLC (Riccardi Home) 7:00 PM MV Chorale Rehearsal (S) | <i>6</i> 9:00 AM Outreach Committee (O) 5:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S) 6:00 PM School Board Meeting (O) | <i>7</i> 9:30 AM Bible Study Fellowship (H) 4:00 PM Lent Service (S) 5:00 PM Soup Supper (H) 6:30 PM Lent Service (S) 6:30 PM Moreno Valley Historical Society (O) | <i>8</i> 7:00 AM BrailleMail(H) 9:30 AM Tai Chi (H) 10:00 AM School Chapel (S) 7:00 PM Growing in Grace Bible Study (H) | <i>9</i> 8:00 PM A.A. Meeting (H) | <i>10</i> 9:00 AM Knights of the Holy Spirit Bible Study (H) |
| <i>11</i> 9:30 AM Blood Pressure Screening (H) 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class (O-H-PS) 12:30 PM Grace Korean (S-H) 5:00 PM Confirmation (O) 6:30 PM Youth Group (Y) | <i>12</i> 9:00 AM Women's Koffee Klatch @ Brandon's 6:00 PM School Staff Meeting (O) 6:30 PM Pack 210 (H) 7:00 PM MV Chorale Rehearsal (S) School Staff (O) | <i>13</i> 5:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S) 7:00 PM Elders Meeting (O) | <i>14</i> 9:30 AM Bible Study Fellowship (H) 4:00 PM Lent Service (S) 5:00 PM Soup Supper (H) 6:30 PM Lent Service (S) 6:30 PM Moreno Valley Historical Society (O) | <i>15</i> 9:30 AM Tai Chi (H) | <i>16</i> 10:00 AM School Chapel (S) | <i>17</i> 9:00 AM -1:00 PM New 2 You/Book Sale |
| <i>18</i> 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class (O-H-PS) 12:30 PM Grace Korean (S-H) 5:00 PM Confirmation (O) 6:30 PM Youth Group (Y) | <i>19</i> 10:00 AM First Place TLC (Reese Home) 6:30 PM Women of Faith TLC (Riccardi Home) 7:00 PM MV Chorale Rehearsal (S) | <i>20</i> 5:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S) 7:00 PM M & M Board (O) | <i>21</i> 9:30 AM Bible Study Fellowship (H) 4:00 PM Lent Service (S) 5:00 PM Soup Supper (H) 6:30 PM Lent Service (S) 6:30 PM Moreno Valley Historical Society (O) | <i>22</i> 7:00 AM BrailleMail(H) 9:30 AM Tai Chi (H) 10:00 AM School Chapel (S) 7:00 PM Growing in Grace Bible Study (H) | <i>23</i> 8:00 PM A.A. Meeting (H) | <i>24</i> 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast at Brandon's 9:00 AM Quilting for LWR (H) 3:00 PM Private Event (H) |
| <i>25</i> 8:00 AM Palm Sunday Traditional Service (S) 9:30 AM Blood Pressure Screening (H) 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class (O-H-PS) 10:45 AM Palm Sunday Praise Service (S) 12:30 PM Grace Korean (S-H) 5:00 PM Confirmation (O) | <i>26</i> 7:00 PM MV Chorale Rehearsal (S) | <i>27</i> 5:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S) | <i>28</i> 9:30 AM Bible Study Fellowship (H) 6:30 PM Moreno Valley Historical Society (O) | <i>29</i> 9:30 AM Tai Chi (H) 6:30 PM Maundy Thursday Service (S) | <i>30</i> 10:00 AM School Chapel (S) 6:30 PM Good Friday Service (S) 8:00 PM A.A. Meeting (H) | <i>31</i> Easter Breakfast Set-Up (S-H) |

Sunday Worship: 8 AM and 10:45 AM

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