



Something interesting happens on our calendars this year. Two celebrations that seem to have little, if anything, in common fall on the same day, Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day. The last time these two days fell on the same day was in 1945, over 70 years ago. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the Lenten season, a season of somber remembrance and repentance while Valentine's Day is a day of romance and love.

While it may seem that there is nothing in common about these days, I would argue that there is more in common than you would think. At the heart of both days is a single idea, love.

We all know about Valentine's Day. It is a day of love and romance and we celebrate our love in tangible ways. We show our love to those important people in our lives, our spouses or significant others especially, by giving gifts or cards.

I would suggest that Ash Wednesday is very much the same. While we may see Ash Wednesday as only a day of sorrow and contrition, a day where we remember our sins and our mortality, there is more to it. As we remember these things we repent of them, that is, we turn away from them. As we turn from them we turn to God. The ashes so often received as a sign of our sinfulness and mortality are placed on us in the shape of a cross. That cross is our Valentine from God. There, on a cross, God showed His great love for us as He died in our place, for our sins, so that we could be forgiven and have eternal life in paradise. So as we repent of our sins, turning away from them and from the things of this fallen world, we turn to the open arms of a loving God.

These two days that seem to have so little in common share the very same idea, love. As we begin this Lenten season we look to the God who loves us, who gave everything for us even though we don't deserve it. And in truth, that is what Valentine's Day is about, showing love for others, not just our spouses or significant others, but for all people in our lives. We don't love them because they deserve our love, we love them simply because, well, because they are them and are important to us. We show them our love with cards and flowers and gifts, through our words and actions. That is exactly what God did for us; He loved us because we are His creation and are important to Him, He showed that love to us as He took our sins upon himself, He tells us about that love in His Word.

Ash Wednesday is perhaps the best Valentine we will ever receive. It is God telling us that He loves us even though we are sinners. It is God telling us that He has taken care of our sins. It is God opening His arms to call us His beloved children and welcome us home. And while many single people don't celebrate Valentine's Day because it is seen as a day for couples, this Valentine from God is for everyone: young and old, singles and couples, men and women; there is no one that is left out from this Valentine, there is no one God has not given this gift to.

Blessings,
Pastor Paul



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.

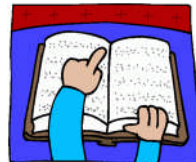


HAIL BRAILLE MAIL

We have another anniversary to celebrate besides the 38th for our congregation. It was 16 years ago in January that we joined Lutheran Braille Workers in ministering to the blind and visually handicapped of the world. A group of about 15 Shepherd members gathered to collate, staple, label and mail thousands of copies of Lutheran Hour Sermons in large print throughout the United States and around the world. Some of these original workers are still involved.

Originally our group met every Thursday, faithfully gathering at 6:00/7:00 AM until about 8:30 AM. Because of reduced funds, we are now mailing only on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays. Over the years we have lost a few members and added others until at the present time there are approximately 20 who join in the effort.

Please pray for our continued mission and join us for a piece of anniversary cake between services on the 11th.





The scenes of Lent are familiar. The Upper Room, the Garden of Gethsemane, the halls of Pontius Pilate, and the hill of Golgotha—these are the places we remember when we meditate on our Lord's Passion. Yet when Jesus enters a place, He never leaves it as He found it. The most troubling places in our lives become the most amazing places of God's grace when Jesus visits them.

For this reason, in our midweek Lenten series, we will read and contemplate Luke's account of our Lord's Passion. Each week, we will read a different section of the story; and each week, Luke will take us to a different place, the places of the Passion.

Our focus, however, will not be on these physical places. Instead, we will gaze in wonder on the spiritual work that our Lord does there. Jesus will share His strength in our times of weakness. He will fill us with His praise in the midst of our sorrow. Week after week, we will enter the places of the Passion only to discover our Lord . . . waiting for us . . . willing to share with us a love that was set in place before the foundations of the world.

Plan to come to our Lenten services this year. Prepare to enter into these places of devotion, for there, your Lord will meet you, sharing with you His wondrous love that saves a fallen world.



Ash Wednesday - February 14th at 6:30 pm

Midweek Lent Services and Soup Suppers –
Wednesday, February 21, 28, 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
8 am & 10:45 am

Breakfast served from 6 am to 10:45 am

Please join us for any or all of our
Lent and Holy Week Services!

Soup Suppers

If you can bring a crock pot of soup, bread or dessert, please sign up on the clipboard in the church lobby on Sundays or in the office during the week.

We hope that you can join us for this fun time of fellowship as we prepare for Holy Week!



Welcome back fellow quilters. We asked for help, and our prayers have been answered. We have received a baby quilt top from Suzie Langhorne's sister Nancy Herington in Louisiana, a box from Karen Palmer containing three baby quilt tops and one beautiful adult quilt top. We know the Lord works wonders, but from so far away, they are answered.

We start back for our year of quilting, always meeting on the fourth Saturday of each month, except in October for the gathering of the quilts for Lutheran World Relief and for the delivery of baby items to San Bernardino pregnancy center. A full list of these items can be found in the office, for the pregnancy center that they were delivered.

We want to thank all of you for your donations, it makes this work possible. Hope to see you at our group meeting in the fellowship hall on the fourth Saturday to share in work, prayer, and fellowship. For more information, call Linda Olson at 276-0373.





SCHOOL NEWS: January was here and gone in a flash and we are already planning and pre-enrolling for next school year. February is a busy month for the school. We get to start off the month with our St. Jude's Trike-a-thon. This is a week-long event with the children learning riding safety rules each day and ending the week with the ride. They get to collect donations to send to St. Jude's to help children and families during their time of need. Every child gets to bring their own bike and helmet to ride. So much fun! This is just one way of showing love to others.



The month ends with our Scholastic Book Fair. We will have plenty of books and fun goodies for sale. Not only do we have children's books but also Adult and Christian books. There will even be some fun cookbooks. It will be set up in our daycare room all week so please stop by and check it out. Books make great gifts. The book fair will also be available at our open house, March 3. So, if you can't make it during the week, come to the school's Open House.

The following are our Upcoming Events:

Feb 9	St Jude Trike-a-thon
Feb 16 & 19	School Closed -Lincoln's and Presidents Days
Feb 25-Mar 4	Scholastic Book Fair
Mar 3	School Open House – 11:00 – 2:00

Please continue to pray for our church & school.

Have a blessed Valentine's Day full of love

Linda Williamson

Director



Pacific Southwest District Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is sponsoring a Gifts from the Heart Ingathering for the sixth "Undie Sunday", on February 11, 2018 for needy people, with our Pacific Southwest District and through Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry and other ministries in Mexico, to help fill the needs of children and adults who are in need of items for cleanliness.

Please bring a package of new underwear and/or socks for men, women, girls and boys. We will have a collection box set out in the church lobby and in the church office until February 11th.

Cash donations are most welcome to help deliver your gifts and may be made payable to Orphan Grain Train and sent to Steve Rice, 42217 55th St W, Lancaster, CA 93536.



EXPERIENCE ISRAEL TOUR! Pastor Steven and Kim Borst of Immanuel Lutheran Church are leading a tour to the Holy Land October 29 to November 9, 2018. Pastor Steven spent a month studying in Israel in 2016. Learning from local scholars and experiencing the holy sites of Jesus, he was deeply touched by what St. Jerome called the "5th Gospel" of the Holy Land. "Read the 5th Gospel," Jerome said, "and the world of the four will open up to you." So come and Experience Israel with us! For more information, go to www.stevenborst.com, or email Pastor Steven directly at steven.borst@immanuelriverside.com.

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.





COUGHING: A Secret Danger

If you are coughing and it has lasted over two weeks, see your doctor. If you are short of breath, have a high fever, chest pain or are coughing up blood, be seen as soon as possible. Right now you can still get the flu shot. If you are at least 65 you can get the high dose vaccine. Also available is the Prev 13 pneumonia vaccine. If you have visited anyone in the hospital, when you get home shower and change your clothes. This may seem extreme, but the germs can be carried on your clothes. If you suspect you have the flu, try to be seen within 2 to 3 days and get Tamiflu. It will reduce your symptoms and may prevent serious complications.



VILLAGE CONCERTS. Trio Celeste will be performing on Sunday, February 18th. In a short span of time, the trio has become of this country's most important rising young piano trios. They have already thrilled audiences worldwide with their impeccable musicianship and virtuosity, while simultaneously including in their repertoire such major works as all of Beethoven's piano trios.

Village Concerts is proud to join with Chamber Music OC, by furthering performance opportunities for these extremely dedicated, talented young musicians. You can purchase tickets for the whole series of 4 concerts for \$70 or individually for \$25, student tickets are \$10 with school ID. The concerts are held at Doornbos Memorial Chapel located at Air Force Village West, 17050 Arnold Drive, Riverside. For more information visit www.villageconcerts.org.



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 ven some new ones. I am still trying to learn all your names. ~ Karen Rice



Puzzle!

Search in all directions to find these words from the first seven chapters of Proverbs.

WORD LIST: covenant, delight, discipline, evil, father, fool, forsake, fountain, fruit, heart, honest, humble, insight, listen, Lord, love, neighbor, path, pleasant, poverty, protect, rebuke, sleep, son, teaching, tongue, walk, wisdom, youth

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YOUTH GROUP SCOOP

In February, we are hoping some of our youth will be attending Lovefest. Pray they hear the messages put before them to help them deal with the tough things that go on in their lives every day.

We are still hoping to have enough 4th-6th graders to attend the Summit on April 14th. Please contact the church office for more information. Registration deadline is March 1st.

We will be selling See's Candy for Easter. Talk to one of our youth group members to place an order, we will also have an order form in the church lobby, in late February and early March. Orders will arrive the week before Easter.



YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE:

In February we will be meeting on the 11th, 18th and 25th. Hope to see you all there.

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



- 3 * Bernice Bennett
- 4 * John Hamann
- 5 * Pat Johnson, AJ Yearyear
- 8 * Timothy Johansen
- 16 * Luke Hamann, Rose Lockwood
- 17 * Christopher Gorman, Curtis Gorman
- 22 * Jan Schatz
- 23 * Chuck Berringer
- 25 * Gil Gasco, Madelyn Shirk
- 26 * Alec Berringer, Jordan Kerr, Jan Van Ness
- 27 * Cleve Little



- 4 * Dave & Shirley Rollins
- 6 * Tim & Lisa Shirk
- 23 * Norman & Suzy Langhorne
- 28 * Larry & Marlene Alexander



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.



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.



MORENO VALLEY YOUTH OPPORTUNITY CENTER for youth 16-24. Need help finding a job or getting your high school diploma? They can help with personal and professional development, use of office resources, getting your diploma/GED and with college preparation. Call (951) 653-1311 for more information. This is a free service and offers paid work experience. Info flyers are available in the lobby.



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.



2018 Prayer Pals are underway.

Remember nothing proves that you love someone more than mentioning them in your prayers.

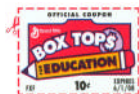


DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR FOOD DONATIONS FOR OUR LOCAL FOOD BANKS EACH SUNDAY!
Thank You!



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.

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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**SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY
LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL**

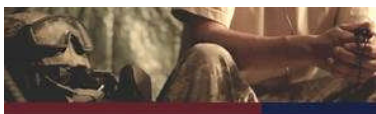
11650 Perris Blvd.
Moreno Valley, CA 92557
Church (951) 924-4688
School (951) 924-3422
www.svlcmoval.net

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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



Watch for our annual Lent Mission Project



**MILITARY
BIBLESTICK**
www.militarybiblestick.com



In observance of President's Day, the school and office will be closed on February 16th and February 19th.

February 2018

Dining Club

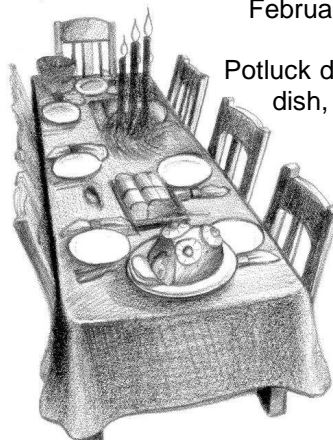
**Looking for a night of
fellowship and fun?**

Come to the Dining Club get-together in the hall on Saturday,

February 24th at 5:30 pm.

Potluck dinner, bring a main dish, salad or dessert to share. Followed by Bingo.

Call Marlene or Janean for more information.



Potluck Dinner

February 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:30 AM Tai Chi (H)	2 10:00 AM School Chapel (S) 8:00 PM A.A. Meeting (H)	3 7:00 AM -5:00 PM Private Event (H) 8:30 AM Cursillo Grouping @ Panera Bread 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry (O)
4 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class (O-H-PS) 12:30 PM Grace Korean (S-H) 5:00 PM Confirmation (O)	5 10:00 AM First Place TLC (Reese Home) 6:30 PM Women of Faith TLC (Riccardi Home) 7:00 PM MV Chorale Rehearsal (S)	6 10:00 AM Outreach Committee Meeting (O) 5:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S) 6:00 PM School Board Meeting (O)	7 9:30 AM Bible Study Fellowship (H)	8 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)	9 8:00 PM A.A. Meeting (H)	10 9:00 AM Knights of the Holy Spirit Bible Study (H) 6:00 PM Private Event (H)
11 Undie Sunday 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)	12 9:00 AM Women's Koffee Klatch @ Brandon's 6:00 PM Diamond Girls (H) 6:00 PM School Staff Meeting (O) 7:00 PM MV Chorale Rehearsal (S)	13 5:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S) 7:00 PM Elders Meeting (O)	14 9:30 AM Bible Study Fellowship (H) 6:30 PM Ash Wednesday Service (S) 6:30 PM Moreno Valley Historical Society (O)	15 9:30 AM Tai Chi (H)	16 8:00 PM A.A. Meeting (H) School & Office Closed	17
18 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)	19 10:00 AM First Place TLC (Reese Home) 6:30 PM Women of Faith TLC (Riccardi Home) 7:00 PM MV Chorale Rehearsal (S) School & Office Closed	20 5:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S) 7:00 PM M & M Board (O)	21 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)	22 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)	23 8:00 PM A.A. Meeting (H)	24 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast at Brandon's 9:00 AM Quilting for LWR (H) 5:30 PM Dining Club Potluck Dinner (H)
25 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)	26 7:00 PM MV Chorale Rehearsal (S)	27 5:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S)	28 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)			

Sunday Worship: 8 AM and 10:45 AM

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