



What am I going to write about this month? As I sat staring at the computer screen trying to write a newsletter article this was the thought that I was stuck on. It may seem like a simple question, but the answer eluded me. So I sat and stared at a blank page. Sitting there I began to do what I always do when I am trying to get my thoughts in order, I grabbed a pen and started fidgeting with it, twirling it around, occasionally making a note about an idle thought as they came to me, hoping that something would spark an idea for this month's newsletter. And as I sat and spun the pen in my hand I remembered an idea my father had shared with me about something called the "parable of the pencil." Sure enough, when I went back through my old files I found it, an article he had written based on the "parable of the pencil." And so, I share his thoughts on this with you now:

As I look at the pencil in my hand it doesn't look like much, but as I carefully considered this seeming insignificant piece of wood I am reminded of something I once read entitled "the parable of the pencil". It reminded me that there are many lessons we can learn from a pencil.

A pencil that is lying idle is useless but when placed in the hand of the right person a pencil can do some amazing things. In the hand of an artist, for example, a pencil can make beautiful drawings or in the hand of a writer, a pencil can write wonderful inspiring stories. In the right hands it can solve complex mathematical equations, draw blueprints and write endearing love notes but in the wrong hands, a pencil can become useless or worse, used for the wrong things. In the hand of an infant a pencil can become a deadly lollipop or dangerous toy. In the wrong hands instead of writing inspiring stories it can write cruel messages in bathroom stalls.

In the hand of the right person a pencil can do some amazing things, you can do amazing things if you are held in the right hand. We all have the ability and the capacity to do some pretty remarkable things if you allow yourself to be held in God's hand. In the hand of God, your possibilities are endless, but you must allow yourself to be held and guided by the hand that holds you.

Still, a pencil that is not sharpened is pointless; it cannot fulfill its function. Now if a pencil could talk I'm sure it would tell you that the sharpening process can be painfully but it serves a purpose. A pencil is only useful if it is sharpened. Troubles, though not brought on by God, are used by God to help you grow and mold you into someone He can use for His purpose. We all experience a painful sharpening from time to time, but if we are honest with ourselves, we need it. It helps us to become better Christians.

On the end of my pencil is an eraser. Erasers give us a safety net, they remind us This is not an excuse for doing poor work, but having an eraser does take off some of the pressure. We have the greatest eraser of all, Jesus Christ. He died so that our sins are erased. This is not an excuse to go on sinning but does take the pressure off us knowing that we are saved by grace and not works.

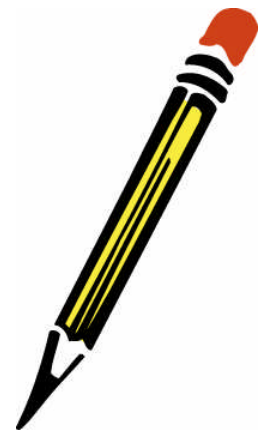
The most important part of a pencil is on the inside. No matter how pretty the outside of the pencil may seem, what really matters is what is inside. Because that's the part that is truly useful, that's the part that allows a pencil to fulfill its function. Just like a pencil's most important part is the lead that's inside, it's what's on the inside of you that's important. A lot of people look at the outside to judge someone. They only care about appearance or stature. But it's not about what's on the outside. It's not about the clothes you wear. It's not about your weight or your height. It's not about how much money you have. It's not about how popular you are. It's about what's on the inside. A pencil bears marks that tell what's inside, just by looking at this pencil you can know what's inside, the one in my hand says, "GRAPHITE No.2 HB" we know that it writes with graphite instead of lead and that graphite is soft and hard black. Christians bear the name of Christ and that tells you what is on the inside. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart. Christ living in you, your faith, your love for God, that is what is important.

A pencil's purpose is to leave a mark, whether it is words or pictures a pencil leaves behind part of itself when it is used. Like a pencil leave a mark wherever you go. No matter where you go, you can make a difference. You leave behind a legacy. You influence people and do it by just being yourself. No matter what the situation, let God's hand guide you and use you in all you do.

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Colossians 3:17)

I hope you found this as enlightening and thought provoking as I did.

In Christ,
Pastor Paul





QUILTING FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Shepherd's Staff - Vol. 24, No. 06 Published Monthly
by Shepherd of the Valley;
11650 Perris Blvd.; Moreno Valley, CA 92557-6563

Hello Everyone from the Quilting Group!

We have been busy as always but still need more folks to help sew quilt tops and assemble quilt tops. We love to have folks sew at home and then drop off tops at church for finish work. Thanks so much to all those who help.

We want to thank Shirley Fuller for the material and thank you to Helen Miller and family for their donation to our quilting group. Now we have funds for our baby necessities to help the Pregnancy and Family Care Center of San Bernardino with their needs. We sure do appreciate all your help and efforts to help us achieve our goals.

Here is a good idea for those who want to help but have trouble getting out. Stop by the scrip table and see Karen Rice for help and details. You can purchase a gift card to Walmart or Jo Ann's for items we use all the time. Then put it in the mail stop in the O box for us to pick up and use. We always need materials, batting, sheets for backing, threads and so much more.

If you would like to see the work we do or would like to join us, come to the Fellowship hall on the fourth Saturday of each month (except October thru December). Please feel free to come join us any or all months. Thank you again and hope to see you there. If you want more information please call Linda Olson at 276-0373 .

Congratulate the Graduates in Your Life!

Celebrate this milestone with these excited graduates and help them prepare for the next step with gift cards for all of their needs. From grocery cards, and school books, to outfitting their dorms, get them a gift that shows how proud you are!

Order scrip before services each Sunday! Here's a sample of what's available:



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Office Depot

Subway

Bed Bath & Beyond

iTunes

Panera Bread

Target

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Kohls

Shell

Under Armor

Buffalo Wild Wings

Staples

Congratulations and God's blessings to our members and friends graduating this Spring & Summer 2017:

From College/University:

Stephanie Brabson

Amanda Johansen from Concordia University with BA in Communications

David Johansen with AA from Moreno Valley College

Stephanie Lesselyong with BA in Business Administration

from Texas A&M University

Michelle Schatz with a BA from Northern Arizona University

From High School:

Omar Barron Jr.

Josh Hamann from Canyon Springs

Johnathan McFarland from Valley View

From Middle School:

Shaylini Seabrooks from Palm

From Elementary School:

Samora Seabrooks from North Ridge





THE END OF 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR

It is hard to believe that this school year has flown by so quickly. We have had so much fun making friends and learning about God's word.

I would like to start off by saying a BIG THANK YOU to all of those who recognized our school staff during "Teacher Appreciation" week. We were very blessed to receive so many wonderful gifts, cards, and prayers. The church support means a lot to all of us.

I would also like to thank the church Youth Group who donated the proceeds from the Easter breakfast to us, \$300! This money will go a long way in helping us make improvements in our school grounds ☺

We have a fun summer program coming up beginning June 12th and going through August 4th. This year's theme is "Get Up & Move." We will be doing a lot of fun activities and concentrating on healthy choices for both food and physical activities.

We still have space for both summer and fall so if you know of anyone interested in quality education and care for their child, please refer them to Shepherd of the Valley. We have our preschool, 2's (fully potty trained) thru Kindergarten and our Before and After school care of 1st thru 5th grade.

The following are our Upcoming Events:

| | |
|------------|-----------------------------|
| June 9 | Promotion/Graduation Day |
| June 12 | First day of Summer Program |
| July 3 & 4 | Closed - Holiday |

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

Linda Williamson, Director

STUFF

Our lives are filled with stuff; Good Stuff, Bad Stuff, Little Stuff, Big Stuff, Useful Stuff, Junk Stuff and Everyone's Stuff.

You may not have this problem, but I seem to spend a lot of time with stuff: Food Stuff, Cleaning Stuff, Medicine Stuff, Clothes Stuff, Outside Stuff. Whatever would life be if we didn't have all this stuff?

Every spring I start stirring my stuff. There is Closet Stuff. Drawer Stuff, Attic Stuff and Basement Stuff. I separate the Good Stuff from the Bad Stuff, then I stuff the Bad Stuff anywhere the stuff is not too crowded until I decide if I will need the Bad Stuff sometime in my lifetime. This spring I had an extra closet built so I would have a place for all the stuff too good to throw away and too bad to keep with my Good Stuff.

Now there is all that stuff we use to make us smell better than we do. There is stuff to make what hair we have look good, stuff to make us look younger, stuff to make us look healthier, stuff to hold us in and stuff to fill us out. There is stuff to read, stuff to play with, stuff to entertain us and stuff to eat. We stuff ourselves with Food Stuff.

Whenever we have company, they always bring bags of stuff. When I visit my son, he always moves his stuff, my daughter-in-law clears a drawer of her stuff so I will have room for my stuff. Their stuff and my stuff... It would be so much easier to use their stuff and leave my stuff at home with the rest of my stuff.

When the Lord calls me home, my children will want the Good Stuff, but the Bad Stuff, stuffed wherever there is room among the other stuff will be stuffed in bags and taken to the dump where all the other people's stuff has been taken.

When we leave all this stuff and go to Heaven, whatever happens to our stuff won't matter. We will have the "GOOD STUFF" God has prepared for us there.

What STUFF matters most to you???



LABOR DAY CAMPING Friday, Sept. 1 to Monday, Sept. 4

Thanks to all who have expressed interest in camping over Labor Day weekend. We will be asking everyone to make their own reservations.

Go to www.reserveamerica.com and enter Heart Bar Campground in Barton Flats.

Select the Grinnell Loop and make your reservation for the weekend which starts Friday, September 1. At last check sites were still available but don't wait too long!

If you have questions, call John or Marlayna Hamann at 951-924-2920.



THIS MAY SOUND STRANGE!

Eat like you are sick to stay well.

Do not eat after 7pm. If you do get hungry have fruit or some nuts.

Keep nuts in your car to snack on instead of stopping for fast food.

When having a sandwich make it low carb by having it open face {using only one piece of bread}

When making soup use barley, quinoa, or other grains instead of noodles.

Use avocado, mashed, instead of mayonnaise.

Suzy Langhorne, Parish Health Minister



NEIGHBORHOOD COTTAGE MEETINGS



Neighborhood cottage meetings are being set up. These are a chance for you to get to meet me outside of the church, a chance for you to get to know me and my family as well as a chance for us to get to know you better. These will also be a chance for you to share your thoughts with me about how we can move forward together as a church family and reach out not only to our members but also to our community. I look forward to this chance to get to know you all better.

Be on the lookout for more information about these great opportunities for us to grow together as a church family.

In Christ,
Pastor Paul Yearyeon

Recently the youth group has discussed sowing and reaping. We played a game involving questions around the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Prizes were chocolates. Currently we are singing songs and preparing one or two for a performance at church one Sunday, which could be quite far away for now. Attendance has ranged from 5 to 16 children.

Robbie McNamara, Youth Leader



ITEMS FROM THE JUNE 2017 CHURCH PRESS NEWSLETTER:



Learning to Listen - "A wise old owl sat upon an oak. The more he saw, the less he spoke. The less he spoke, the more he heard. Why aren't we like that wise old bird?"

We Like What He Said - A few years ago Dr. David Buelmann spoke to the graduating class at Concordia Seminary: "Gentlemen, don't spend a lot of time in your office and in front of your computer. Ring doorbells every week. Go out of your way to meet people . . . and talk, talk about Jesus." - This is good advice for all of us!

A keynote speaker - at a convention of priests came to the dais, shuffled his notes, scanned his audience, and said thoughtfully, "Where to begin? Where to begin?" A voice from the crowd yelled: "As close to the end as possible!"

Your people will be traveling this summer - Pastor, consider encouraging them to attend church wherever they go, bring back the worship bulletin, jot their name on the top, and hand it to you on the Sunday they return. Thank them for the bulletin. Remind them on consecutive Sundays so they won't forget.

**Sign up to receive Church Press newsletters or view past editions at: www.churchpress.com.
You won't be disappointed!**



NEXT LUTHERAN CURSILLO WEEKENDS

Aug. 17-20, 2017 for Men / Aug. 24-27, 2017 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. Pray 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.

2017 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?



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:

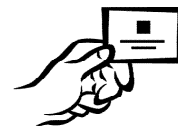
Thrivent members are eligible to designate Choice Dollars to a church or charity of their choice. Undesignated dollars "expire" after March 31. Go to thrivent.com and click the MyThrivent button on the upper right side of the site and direct your Choice Dollars. Both the church and school are registered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



CELEBRATE THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION IN GERMANY

August 12-20, 2017 on a Trafalgar Tour
with Pr. Paul & Kedma Wenz
from Faith, Riverside.

The 16th century split from the Roman Catholic Church, resulting in the Protestant religious movement, is explored on this nine-day trip following the story of the main protagonist, Martin Luther. Guests will explore Erfurt, the town where Luther lived as a young man when he was a student and a monk, Wartburg where he lived in exile and incognito devoting himself to translating the New Testament into German, and Wittenburg where he nailed 95 Theses to the church door, among other Luther heritage attractions. \$3,200 (approx.). Contact the church office for 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
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**Thursdays at 9:30 AM
In the Fellowship Hall
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SAVE BOX TOPS FOR OUR SCHOOL!



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

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

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June 2017

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|--|
|  | | | | 1 9:30 AM Tai Chi (H) 7:00 PM Growing in Grace Bible Study (H) | 2 10:00 AM School Chapel (S) | 3 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) 4:00 PM MV Master Chorale Spring Concert (S) | 5 10:00 AM First Place TLC (Reese Home) | 6 5:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S) 6:00 PM School Board Meeting (O) | 7 | 8 7:00 AM BrailleMail(H) 9:30 AM Tai Chi (H) | 9 10:00 AM Preschool Graduation & Promotion (S-PS) | 10 9:00 AM Knights of the Holy Spirit Bible Study (H) |
| 11 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study (H) 9:30 AM Blood Pressure Screening (H) 12:30 PM Grace Korean (S-H) | 12 9:00 AM Women's Koffee Klatch @ Brandon's 6:00 PM School Staff Meeting (O) | 13 7:00 PM Lay Minister Meeting (H) | 14 6:00 PM Vacation Bible School Staff & Helper Meeting (H) | 15 9:30 AM Tai Chi (H) 7:00 PM Growing in Grace Bible Study (H) | 16 4:00 PM Marcy's Preschool Graduation (H) | 17 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry (O) |
| 18 Father's Day 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study (H) 12:30 PM Grace Korean (S-H) | 19 10:00 AM First Place TLC (Reese Home) | 20 7:00 PM M & M Board (O) | 21 | 22 7:00 AM BrailleMail(H) 9:30 AM Tai Chi (H) | 23 | 24 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast at Brandon's 9:00 AM Quilting for LWR (H) |
| 25 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study (H) 9:30 AM Blood Pressure Screening (H) 12:30 PM Grace Korean (S-H) | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 9:30 AM Tai Chi (H) | 30 | |
| | 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM - VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL | | | | | |

Sunday Worship: 8 AM and 10:45 AM

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 am -- 5:00 pm, MONDAY - FRIDAY



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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LINDA WILLIAMSON, SCHOOL DIRECTOR
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June 2017

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YOU CAN ALSO HELP VBS with a monetary donation to the VBS fund or by selecting supplies needed from the display board in the church lobby, or with gift cards for Costco, Sam's, Smart & Final, Walmart or Stater Bros. If you order scrip from our Scrip Table, we get an extra bonus!

We especially need your prayers for a successful and God-pleasing VBS. Pray for our VBS staff and for children to come and hear the Good News of Jesus and the Victory He's won for us!

