




FROM THE PASTOR



It's summer, and during the summer it seems there is always a lot going on. On top of the usual work schedule we add things like graduations and vacations into the mix. Spring and summer are also popular times for weddings, so there are those thrown in as well. But it's not just summer that's busy, our schedules fill up with all kinds of things all year round. In truth, it seems to me we rush from event to event at a ragged pace. But why do we do this? And at what cost? Is it really worth it? These questions have been tinkering around my mind for some time now as I look around me and see the crazy pace of life as I watch people, myself included, try to juggle work, commitments, family life, the things we want to do and all the other things that make up life. Please don't take this as me judging you, or anyone for that matter; this is really just my pondering the issue of our busy schedules and extracurricular activities as it relates to our relationship with God. I'm not being legalistic or trying to lay a guilt trip on anyone, I'm simply wrestling through questions and concerns that I have. As a pastor, if I'm not using both law and gospel where needed to encourage God's people to be in God's Word with fellow Christian (the occasion we call "church") then frankly I'm probably not much of a pastor. Jesus established "The Christian Church" with the intention of keeping us spiritually on track throughout our lives. So if "church" isn't part of my life at all or much of a priority in my life, spiritually speaking, I'm off track, heading to a dangerous destination. "If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the Lord, chose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods of which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods to the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Josh. 24:15). This verse really struck me as it related to the craziness of our schedules today. I can't help but think that the mad dash of life leads us away from God and towards the things of this world. I really want to give God priority in my life but I fear that small pulls will lead me astray.

I'm a Christian and church is important to me. It is a priority for me. Yes, I am a pastor, but that's not why I go to church, if I ever reach the point where I'm going to church simply because I'm a pastor, I've got some big problems. I love church. I'm committed to worshiping, serving, and being a part of my church because I'm a Christian. I doubt it's exclusive to this church, but with the nice weather there seems to be a great pulling of people toward all sorts of events, it seems to me there are many Christians absent from church on Sundays regularly because of other commitments.

Don't get me wrong, I understand that you have to take advantage of nice weather when it's available. Family time, vacation, camping, sports, it's all great. It's all fun. It's all a blessing. We should take time to smell the roses, we should leave a place in our hectic schedules for our family and friends, and we should enjoy the beauties of nature and thank God for them. But when we make an exodus from the pews to the sun during the summer weekends, let's be honest here, a statement of priority is being made. I'm not talking about taking a weekend off for a family trip. I'm talking about treating worship from June-August as you would a summer vacation from school. What does this do to person's faith? What does this mean about a person's priorities? If I regularly miss church on Sundays, am I demonstrating that these other things are more important than God?

There are a lot of great reasons for worship. But finally, it boils down to one essential reason why public worship should be part of our lives, the Gospel proclamation as found in the worship service is the single most important thing in the world. We desperately need to be re-centered and refocused on the essentials of the Christian faith – I am a sinner, I need a Savior. I have a Savior.

In 1988, three whales became trapped under a sheet of ice near the city of Point Barrow, Alaska. In an attempt to save the whales, rescuers dug a series of breathing holes in the ice leading back to the ocean. Two of the three whales were rescued because they were able to get the oxygen they needed and were guided in the correct direction. Similarly, Sunday morning worship is a like string of breathing holes the Lord provides for his people, guiding and sustaining them through this life. Wherever you may be going, God has been there before you and has established His presence there. God's people are everywhere, so where ever you go there will likely be a church nearby, so take advantage of the opportunity to worship with your brothers and sisters in Christ, where ever they may be found.



In Christ,
Pastor Paul

NEIGHBORHOOD COTTAGE MEETINGS are being set up. They are a chance for you to meet the pastor and his family outside the Sunday church setting. They will also be a chance for you to share your thoughts about how we can move forward together as a church family and reach out not only to our members but also to our community. You will be called by your host as to the location and time of your cottage meeting. Bring the completed survey that was included in your June newsletter or pick up copies in the church, hall , office or download online at our website: www.svlcmoval.net. A list of meeting times and host homes is posted in the church lobby. If you haven't been contacted, let Benita Crawford know (247-2064).



QUILTING FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Shepherd's Staff - Vol. 24, No. 07 Published Monthly
by Shepherd of the Valley;
11650 Perris Blvd.; Moreno Valley, CA 92557-6563

Hello Everyone from the Quilters,

Even if it is hot out our work goes on. The need is great and more help is being asked of us.

We have been on a stand-still with items for the pregnancy center. Right now we have not received any items for the collection to be delivered for the fall gathering. We pray this will pick up soon. Those who wish to help with this effort we thank you in advance.

We have some new and beautiful quilts to share with you come October. No news has come yet as to where our quilts are at present. We know the Lord will send them where needed.

If you want to see our work first-hand drop by the fellowship hall and join us on the 4th Saturday of the month. If you want more information call Linda Olson 276-0373 and we will help you. Hope to see you there soon.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

By the time you receive this, our "Mighty Fortress" Vacation Bible will have concluded. We had 24 children from the preschool and 43 children from the church and community registered so we were able to share the great news that in Jesus the victory is won with 67 kids! What a blessing and privilege.

We had a great staff from every age bracket that worked very hard that week and a whole lot of support from a lot of members and friends who graciously donated items for our games, crafts, snacks, and dinners, etc. After a hard day of VBS, the staff and families enjoyed some wonderful home-cooked meals and delicious home-made desserts! Special thanks again this year to Elizabeth Hansen for decorating our sanctuary with her artistic talents. She is thankful for her set-up helpers, Larry Alexander, Phil Sandstrom, Eric Tourtillott and his super-helper grandson, Xander.

I am so thankful for all who helped in any and every way to make our Vacation Bible School pleasing to God and a blessing to the children we served. There are so many of you, I would hate to make a list and leave anyone out but you know who you are and more importantly, so does our loving Savior. Thanks again!



Love In Christ, Marge Clark, 2017 VBS Director

SCRIP ANNOUNCEMENT

Beginning in July, Scrip will be ordered on the 2nd and 4th Sundays only, until further notice. The change is due to the lack of orders throughout the month to pay for the shipping charges. The turn around will be the same and I will still be available all Sundays in June. Scrip is a wonderful way to plan a budget, help the church and plan for holidays and special days in your family's future. You can buy scrip to help the 'Apple Tree' when they return to school. Thank you to all who have been ordering and for your support.



~~Karen Rice,
Scrip Coordinator



The parking lot repaving has been scheduled for July 17 & 18. The lot to the south of the church will be pulverized and resurfaced. If you visit the church those days you will need to use the hall-side parking lot. Our thanks to LCEF for their help in refinancing our mortgage so we have funds to pay for the project!

PLEASE MAKE A NOTE

The First Place Bible Study will be on summer break during July and August, reconvening the first Monday in September. Contact Anne Neudecker (951-242-2708) for more information about the group.



HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

Wow! This summer has come in with a BANG! We have over 40 students enrolled in the summer program which is the most in years. It is such a blessing to meet so many new families. This is the first year that we were able to take the older children and it is proving to be a lot of fun.

Our summer program started with tumbling the first week and dance for the next two weeks. The children are having a great time and picking up some fun dance skills. In July, we will have two people here to teach the children soccer skills.

Our school has hired two new teachers, Ms. Charity to teach the 2's and Ms. Yvette will have the 4's. We still need a couple more afternoon teachers if you know anyone qualified and interested. For more information, please call the school (951) 924-3422.

We still have space for 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:

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



The Youth Group will be taking the summer off from regular weekly meetings and will resume in September. In June, a couple of our youth graduated high school, congratulations to Johnathan McFarland and Josh Hamann. We also had several of our youth help with VBS, we are so proud of them for stepping up to help with the younger people in our church and community. We will be planning a few summer gatherings, so watch for information.



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



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SAVE THE DATE: American Red Cross Blood Drive on
Friday, July 28th from 1 to 7 pm at Shepherd.
Watch for sign up sheets or information to register online.
PLEASE sign up to donate if you can, the need is great!

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.



EXERCISE FOR PEOPLE OVER 60



Begin by standing on a comfortable surface where you have plenty of room on each side.

With a 5lb. potato bag in each hand extend your arms straight out from your sides and hold them there as long as you can. Try to reach a full minute, and then relax.

After a couple of weeks move up to 10 lb potato bags. Then try a 50 lb potato bag and eventually try to get to where you can lift a 100 lb potato bag in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute. {I am at that level}

After you feel confident at that level, put a potato in each bag.

OR TAKE TAI CHI!!!

Suzy Langhorne, Parish Health Minister & Certified Tai Chi Instructor



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THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE is busy selecting candidates for officers and boards of the congregation. Serving on the committee are: Dennis Paulsen (567-1826), Janet Gasco (924-4588), Fabiana Niles (924-9495), Marlayna Hamann (924-2920), and Betty McFarland (243-6991). If they contact you to serve, please prayerfully consider this as a call from the Lord. If you have any suggestions for nominations, please contact any member of the committee. Positions expiring in 2017: Mission & Ministry Board 4 positions, Lay Ministry 5 positions, and School Board 2 positions. Mark your calendars for the Annual Congregational Assembly scheduled for Sunday, August 6th, following the 10:45 service.

HOLDING A HAND

By Pastor Bob Tasler (LCMS)

The nurse escorted the anxious old man to the bedside of the young man. "Your father is here," she whispered to the patient. She had to repeat the words several times before the patient's eyes opened. He was heavily sedated from the pain of a terrible auto accident. Barely able to see, he read out his hand and squeezed the old man's hand. The nurse brought in a chair and placed it next to the bed. All through the night the old man sat holding the young man's hand, offering gentle words of hope. The dying man said nothing, just held tightly to the man's hand.

As dawn approached, the young man died. The old man wept as he placed the lifeless hand back on the bed and went to call the nurse. "Who was he?" he asked. Startled, the nurse replied, "I thought he was your son." "No, he wasn't my son. I've never seen him before. I was looking for someone who was supposed to be on this floor and you brought me to this room." "Then why didn't you say something when you realized the mistake?" the nurse asked. He replied, "He was injured so badly. I was here ten minutes before I realized this wasn't the young man I was looking for. But he seemed too sick to tell the difference, so I just stayed. I think he needed a father by his side."

And so do we. Our most basic need is to be loved, to be approved, to be valued. We can tolerate a mountain of trouble if we know someone loves us. Our heavenly Father does, so He is by our side, and He will never leave us. He holds our hand when we're sick and quiets our heart when we're troubled. Then He asks us to be His hands to hold the hands of others and to be His voices and feet to do His errands of mercy. Join me in doing this, won't you?



A Prayer shawl is designed to provide care and comfort. It serves as a cozy reminder to those in need that they are supported in prayer and always wrapped in God's love. Our small group at Shepherd is off to a great start – we have already made 10 shawls which have been given to members of our church family.

If you knit, crochet or you would like to learn, please join us. We meet at 10:00 A.M. on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month, in the church office. Please see Lisa Butterfield or Kathy Muckala if you have any questions.



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.



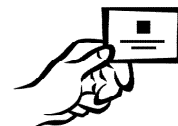
THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS:

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.

Think Carefully About This

Is there some activity in your personal life that has outlived its usefulness? If so, then get rid of it. Is there some activity that you should begin in your personal life, if so, start now. Is there some activity in your church that has outlived its usefulness? If so, then get rid of it. Is there some activity in your church that you should begin, if so, now is the time to start. Ephesians 5:15-17, *"Be very careful, then, how you live - not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is."*

From the July 2017 Church Press Newsletter



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.

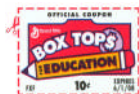


DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR FOOD DONATIONS FOR OUR LOCAL FOOD BANKS EACH SUNDAY!
Thank You!



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.

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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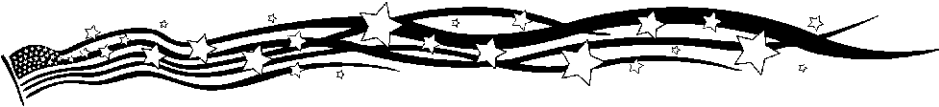

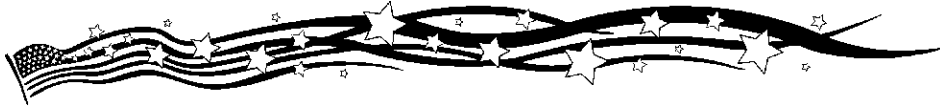
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the local businesses found on this page.

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951-776-0601

July 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 8:30 AM Cursillo Grouping @ Panera Bread 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry (O)
2 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study (H) 12:30 PM Grace Korean (S-H)	3 School Closed	4 School & Office Closed 	5 10:00 AM Outreach Committee (O) 6:00 PM Nominating Committee (O)	6 9:30 AM Tai Chi (H) 7:00 PM Growing in Grace Bible Study (H)	7	8
9 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study (H) 9:30 AM Blood Pressure Screening (H) 12:30 PM Grace Korean (S-H)	10 9:00 AM Women's Koffee Klatch @ Brandon's 6:00 PM School Staff Meeting (O)	11 6:00 PM School Board Meeting (PS) 7:00 PM Lay Minister Meeting (O) 7:00 PM Troop 210 (H)	12	13 7:00 AM BrailleMail(H) 9:30 AM Tai Chi (H)	14	15 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry (O)
16 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study (H) 12:30 PM Grace Korean (S-H)	17 <div>Parking Lot Resurface - South Lot</div>	18 7:00 PM M & M Board (O) 7:00 PM Troop 210 (H)	19	20 9:30 AM Tai Chi (H) 7:00 PM Growing in Grace Bible Study (H)	21	22 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast at Brandon's 9:00 AM Quilting for LWR (H) 1:00 PM Hall Event (H)
23 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study (H) 9:30 AM Blood Pressure Screening (H) 12:30 PM Grace Korean (S-H)	24	25 7:00 PM Troop 210 (H)	26	27 7:00 AM BrailleMail(H) 9:30 AM Tai Chi (H)	28 8:00 AM Grace Korean Pastors Circuit Meeting (S-H) 1:00 PM - 7 PM American Red Cross Blood Drive (H)	29 8:00 AM Grace Korean Pastors Circuit (S-H)
30 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study (H) 12:30 PM Grace Korean (S-H)	31					

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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**PAUL YEARYEAN, PASTOR
LINDA WILLIAMSON, SCHOOL DIRECTOR
MARGE CLARK, OFFICE MANAGER**

July 2017

Annual Congregational Meeting

Save the Date:

Sunday, August 6th

At 12 noon

For the Annual

Congregational

Assembly.

