The Shepherd's Staff



October 2016

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As I thought about what to write this month I kept drawing a blank. Now my father often sends me his newsletter articles asking for advice and to make sure they are clear and understandable. So I decided to go look through some he had sent me, hoping to find inspiration. Well, I found more than simply inspiration. As I read this particular article I recalled some of the recent sermons I have preached, seeing that many had the idea of how we are called to live out our faith. So, instead of "re-inventing the wheel," so to speak, I am taking his work and presenting it to you. May you find it as beneficial a read as I have.

In Christ, Pastor Paul Yearyean



"Its from our church... we've been called up for active duty."

A recent survey by LifeWay Research reveals that 61% of church members are not sharing their faith. Not sharing as in never, ever, ever. Many church leaders believe that the number of people who do not share their faith is higher than the research states. Whatever the percentage is, the undeniable truth is that an overwhelming number of church members are not engaged in the church's mission. The church is often compared to an army. In the well known hymn "*Onward Christian Soldiers*", we sing "like a mighty army moves the church of God" but is the church today, is our congregation moving like an army actively involved in spreading the Gospel of Christ with others? All too often I think we view our part as being in the reserves, serving part time and the rest of our time is our own rather than being on active duty serving God full time. Every believer is on active duty, called to energetically take part in fulfilling the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19, 20).

What would the state of our military be if most of our military men and women were not actively engaged in the mission of protecting our country? Can you even imag-

ine a soldier, marine, sailor, or airman on active duty deciding not to perform their assigned duties and instead be content to sit in the mess hall all day feeding themselves? The answer is simple, the enemy would have a field day and overrun our country. Likewise we cannot be content with only coming to church and feeding ourselves spiritually, we need to be actively sharing the Gospel message with others or we risk our enemies, the devil, the world, and our own sinful flesh advancing their cause and claiming souls.

Too often we are intimidated by the idea of sharing our faith. We consider The Great Commission to be an impossible burden. God meant for us to be witnesses of Jesus Christ through the natural outcome of living for him. We make it complicated. We think we must complete a 10-week course on evangelism and apologetics before getting started. But that's not what it's all about.

It's about praying for the salvation of our friends. We habitually pray for all sorts of things for the believers, why not pray for the one thing that every person desperately needs – a relationship with Jesus Christ! As we pray regularly for our friends and neighbors, we will become more aware of opportunities to share our faith.

It's about living a life that reflects our faith. Living out our faith is a powerful witness to God's love for us. When everything we do and say is motivated by the Holy Spirit living in us people take notice and opportunities to share our faith present themselves. One of the best ways to share your faith is to demonstrate the very things you believe by staying positive and having a good attitude, even in the middle of a crisis in your own life. People will want to know how you can be peaceful in the storm and when they ask, you'll have all kinds of great stuff to share.

It's about sharing what God has done for you. It is not about having all the answers but simply telling people that God loves them and died for them. It's about sharing what Christ means to you. Stories are powerful. We all love stories, especially ones that give us an "inside look" into someone else's life. As a child of God, you have a powerful story to tell. Sharing your story about Jesus and the difference He's made in your life can help others discover how they, too, can know God's love and forgiveness in Christ. As you communicate your faith in Christ to others, don't be surprised at how God is able to use you. Don't get confused about whose job it is to save people! Saving people is God's responsibility; your responsibility is to present the gospel. The results are up to God.

Pastor Tim Yearyean Reprinted with permission

QUILTING FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Hello Everyone,



We have great news - we only have a month before we send off our guilts for this year. Then on to make things for the Holiday Boutique. The large quilt we are completing is already sold but we will have others.

This past week we took the baby quilts made last year to the new center that we are working with now. The center is the Pregnancy & Family Resource Center in San Bernardino. They are a fantastic group to work with and are in need of many items. They run on donations only and are looking for items for the center. o any items you may have please send them our way. Just be sure they are

clean and stain free. This center believes that once pregnant you should keep the baby or put it up for adoption not abort this precious gift from God. Check their website for more information for this worth-while center to reach the Lord's children.

We want to thank Anne Neudecker for the bags of material brought to us from the mobile home park. Thanks also to all of you who support our group. We love finding new items in our closet. Please drop by and see us at work or plan to join us and help out. If you need more information call Linda Olson at 276-0373.

Oh, by the way, upon clearing out our closet we took items left over and purchased more needed items to complete 32 hygiene kits that were sent to Lutheran Social Services in Santa Ana, CA. This is another area that is overwhelmed with folks that need help. Please keep all the less fortunate people in our area in your prayers. Thank you all again.

The L.W.M.L. of First Lutheran Church in Lake Elsinore is having their annual Cranberry Tea with Craft & Bake Sale on Saturday, November 5th from 11 am to 1 pm.

Tickets are \$10 and include lunch. For reservations, contact Betty Van Patten at 951-235-0550.

Their theme this year is "Sing Praises to God" from Psalm 95.

Several ladies from Shepherd plan to attend so contact the office if you'd like to car pool.





Our Shepherd of the Valley Holiday Boutique is just around the corner - Saturday, Nov. 19th. We are truly blessed to have so many participants. This year our team decided to purchase new wood doors for the front of the church, they will look beautiful once installed.

Our last craft workshop is Oct. 14th starting at 5 pm in the hall. All crafty folks are welcome to join us!

Craft Boutique

We are also asking for "white elephants" (a possession no longer wanted by the owner but could be useful to another) and "gently used" items, especially Christmas decorations to sell at the Bou-

tique (not rummage or clothing). Start bringing items in November. Donations of gift baskets that can be auctioned off at the boutique would be appreciated. A list of gift basket ideas is available in the church lobby or request one from the office.

We hear our Shepherd Bakers are hard at work with some yummy recipes...can't wait! Until next month....

Yours in Christ - The Boutique Team Paula Winn, Marge Clark and Laurie White.

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS:

Members of Thrivent Financial are eligible to designate Thrivent Choice Dollars to a church or charity of their choice. Have you remembered to designate your Choice Dollars for 2016? 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.





IT'S BACK!

Shepherd will once again be doing "Trunk or Treat" for the children in the parking lot on Monday, October 31st. Plan on coming with your trunks decorated or not, you in costume or not, but for sure, your trunks loaded with treats to give out to the kids. Invite your friends, neighbors, etc. We'll have some flyers ready for you to distribute starting next month.

When the trunks are all empty we'll gather in the hall for Shepherd's first Lutheran MARTY PARTY! We'll have some food, some games, some surprises, and who knows what else. Watch for a sign up for bringing your trunk and to find out if you'll be staying for the "after party."

We will also accept donations of treats if you don't want to come and stay with your trunk. Contact the office if you'd like to help with the planning. Thanks!

Happy Fall

School is in full swing and the children are doing great! This is the time of year I love the most. We have so much going on with holidays quickly approaching.

First, we having our singing in the second service at church on October 9 followed by our church/ school potluck picnic. This is such a fun time and a wonderful opportunity for our school and church families to get to know each other.

On Friday, October 28th, we are having our classroom Harvest parties and Trunk or Treat. We plan to run from 10 am until about 11:30. We will be setting up in the top parking lot at about 9 am. We would love to fill the whole parking lot for our children so please plan on coming up and sharing this fun time with our little ones. If you can't make it up, we will gladly accept all donations of treats and novelties to hand out.



Next, we have our first fundraiser of the year, October 7 - 18. Again we will be going with the

"Midland" catalog sales. The catalog has a large variety of gift ideas so take advantage of this perfect opportunity for you to purchase some Christmas gifts and support the school at the same time.

Finally, it's "Apple Tree" time. The Apple Tree poster will be in the church entrance from September 25 through October 16. All the school staff has placed apples on the tree with items they would like for their classes. There are a large variety of items so please check it out and "pick" an apple with an item to donate. Please bring in all apple gifts to the church or office by October 23rd and include the apple with your name with the gift. Thank you so much for your participation and much needed support for your school.

Please continue to pray for our school and church as we strive to bring more into God's kingdom of believers.

In His Service, Linda Williamson, Director

Upcoming Events:

Oct 7-18	Midland fundraiser
Oct 9	Children sing @ 10:45 service and potluck picnic
Oct 19	"Whatever Little Pony" pictures and rides
Oct 20	Great California Shakeout @ 10:20 am
Oct 28	Pumpkin Patch, Harvest parties & Trunk or Treat
Nov 11	Veteran's Day – School closed

OCTOBER IS Pastor Appreciation Month: If you haven't taken the opportunity lately to say "thank you" to our pastors, this is a good time to do so, with a card or whatever, expressing your appreciation for all that they do.

Eight Ways to Encourage Your Pastor -

Cut the criticism. Express appreciation in writing. Squelch gossip. Be openly responsive. Pray for him regularly. Use your skills to bless his ministry. Offer to meet a need. Throw away the measuring stick.





I feel it is so important that I am writing it again. Please cut this out and put it somewhere, like the refrigerator.

SELF CPR

1. You are feeling really tired, upset, frustrated.

2. You have a sudden severe pain in the chest that goes down into your arm and into your jaw. 3. You have 10 seconds before losing consciousness.

4. Start coughing repeatedly and vigorously. Take deep breaths before each cough.

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

And a base of the concert features Tom Mueller, organ and piano and Matthew Busch, trumpet. The concert features Tom Mueller, organ and piano and Matthew Busch, trumpet. The concert instrument is a Kraft 16-rank, 959 pipe organ.
Dr. Mueller is Professor of Church Music and University Organist, Concordia University, Irvine. Proceeds benefit H.E.L.P., Inc., a local food bank and social services provider. Tickets are \$10 in advance, or \$15 at the door. For directions, advance ticket purchase, and more information go to www.glcbanning.org or call 951-849-3232.

My Dear Friends at Shepherd,

Thank you all so much for your loving thoughts and prayers. I appreciate all the beautiful cards, flowers and gifts. I'm overwhelmed with the love you have shown me. You have truly helped me get through this hard time. I'm feeling better now and will probably start chemo next week. I'd appreciate your continued prayers for a good doctor, good chemo results and strength for me and my loving family. Thank you so much.



We would like to say farewell to all the members of Shepherd who have called, sent cards and visited over the past several years. We will miss everyone but it is time to start a new chapter in our lives.

Our new address will be 3503 Lantern Lane, Murfreesboro, TN, 37128. If you visit the Nashville area give us a call. Phone will be the same 951-385-1916.

May God Bless You All! Roy and Betty Rowzee

Love, Phyllis Davidson

It's time to start packing up! Packing up your shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child that is. Operation Christmas Child is a fantastic way to get involved in the evangelism and discipleship of children around the world! Every gift is an opportunity to share the Gospel.

A limited amount of printed shoe boxes are available. You may use a regular shoe box and cover it or use a plastic shoebox-size container available at the discount stores (Dollar Tree; Big Lots - 94ϕ). Information on how to pack your shoe boxes is available in the church lobby. Please don't forget your donation of \$7 for each shoe box payable to Samaritan's Purse with Operation Christmas Child in the memo line and return to church by Sunday, November 13th. Any questions contact the church office.





HEALING WITH HOPE, Grief Survival Series

All sessions are from 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM, held on Tuesday nights at Riverside Community Hospital. This requires an eight week commitment. Results are best when there is at least six months from time of loss to entering the sessions. New Sessions begins October 18, 2016. All sessions are FREE. To R.S.V.P. or for more information call: (951) 779-3915

NEXT LUTHERAN CURSILLO WEEKENDS



LC#166 - February 16-19, 2017 for Men LC#167 - February 23-26, 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. 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 will be held at a new venue - Cursillo House in Pomona - in 2017. Check their website for more information: www.lcsocal.org.

2016 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 <u>by you</u> from Moreno Valley Flower Box (653-3171) and <u>they deliver</u> them to church. Each large bouquet is \$26. Small bouquets for the altar 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.



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

JOIN IN THE CHALLENGE

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) voic es to the Lord. Ask for His touch on Shepherd,
our Pastors, the members of our congregation,
our school, and our community. His promise is



- 5

clear - if His people gather together in prayer, He will hear our prayers. Let's do it!



INVITE OTHERS TO OUR CHURCH AND SCHOOL!

Business cards are available in packets of 10 in a basket in the church lobby. Take a pack and pass them out to 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.

SPECIAL NOTICE

Your pastors, your lay ministers and the church office want to know when someone is hospitalized or home bound. There have been instances of not finding out for several days. We would rather hear from several sources than none at all so, PLEASE – PLEASE pick up the phone or e-mail us whenever there is an opportunity for ministry to members or to family or friends.



Thursdays at 9:30 AM In the Fellowship Hall Presented by Suzy Langhorne Certified Instructor FREE! Please join us.

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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SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY WOULD LIKE TO THANK THESE BUSINESSES FOR MAKING OUR NEWSLETTER POSSIBLE



October 2016



Sunday Worship: 8 AM and 10:45 AM - Communion: 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays

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

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL 11650 Perris Blvd. Moreno Valley, CA 92557 Church (951) 924-4688 School (951) 924-3422 www.svlcmoval.net

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

October 2016

NON-PROFIT ORG.

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Church & School Picnic

SUNDAY, October 9th, after the 10:45 am Service at Shepherd of the Valley!

Please sign the clip board in the church or office if you plan to attend the Annual Picnic - list how many will be attending and what type of dish you will be bringing to share either a salad, side dish or dessert! Hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks will be provided.