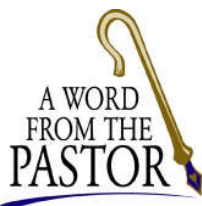




## PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH



I recently read an article online that asked a simple question: Can the modern church, in its present form, afford to spread the love of Christ even if it gets nothing in return? It's an interesting question. And really, the question behind this question is even simpler: What is the purpose of the church? Why are we here, what is our purpose? Is our purpose to fill the pews, to have a full house? Or is there something more to being church? I'm afraid that more often than we would care to admit, we judge an event or ministry by how many people come. The idea being that the more people who come, the more chances we have of gaining new members, new bodies to fill the pews. Even worse, we see those bodies in the pew as being important because they then give to the church.

I can assure you, the church doesn't exist to see how many warm bodies can be gathered together on any given Sunday. Yes, it is nice to have people in the pews, yes we need to care for those in the pews, but they aren't the reason the church exists, they are there to *be* the Church. To be the Church they need to be fed spiritually, they need to be taught, to learn, to grow, and be equipped. Then, being the Church, they go out and they share the Gospel, they spread the love of Christ.

The local church then is a place for those who are the Church to receive the gifts of God and be disciplined, so that they may be equipped to be the Church. Being the Church they take what they have received and give it to others. And what they receive as they gather together are those things that only God can give; grace, mercy, peace, forgiveness, love, and hope. The Church takes these into the world and share them with those they meet. They share the love of Christ with a world desperately in need of that love.

Do they get anything in return? Probably not. But that's not why the Church does what it does. The Church exists so that all may come to know the love of God that is in Christ Jesus. We spread that love, not to fill the pews, but so that others might be saved. If they come to our local gathering of Church, that's great, it's an added bonus. What matters is that they hear God's love for them, they learn that yes, they are sinners, but that Christ died for sinners, even them...even us.

So, can the modern church, in its present form, afford to spread the love of Christ even if it gets nothing in return? Perhaps the wording of this question is wrong, perhaps we should be asking is can the Church afford not to carry out the mission God has given her? The answer to that is a resounding no. We cannot afford to be anything other than what we are, sinners forgiven by God called to proclaim that same love to others.

Pastor Paul Yearyeon



## MY CHURCH

My church is composed of people like me.  
We make it what it is.

It will be friendly, if I am.  
Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.  
It will do great work, if I work.  
It will make generous gifts to many causes, if I am a generous giver.  
It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship, if I bring them.

My church will be a church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, and a church with a noble spirit, if I, who make it what it is, am filled with those things. Therefore, with the help of God, I shall dedicate myself to the task of being all the things that I want my church to be!

Submitted by Janet Gasco, from her sister, Doris Diaz

## ORGAN CONCERT

Grace Lutheran Church, Banning  
is holding a Benefit Concert on  
Saturday, November 5, at 4:00 PM.

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.glcbaning.org](http://www.glcbaning.org) or call 951-849-3232.



## QUILTING FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

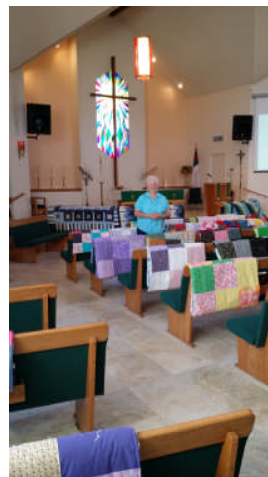
Shepherd's Staff - Vol. 23, No. 11 Published Monthly  
by Shepherd of the Valley;  
11650 Perris Blvd.; Moreno Valley, CA 92557-6563

Hello everyone from the quilters!

We are busy getting things ready for the boutique that is coming soon. I am happy to say we'll have some beautiful quilts available for sale at the boutique. I hope that all of you got to see the 74 adult quilts and 28 baby quilts in beautiful colors at the blessing of the quilts last month. Several folks found quilts that they loved and were eye-catching to them. Thank you so much for all the fantastic comments given to our hard working ladies.



We want to thank Nancy and Carol Anne from the Il Sorrento mobile home park for the materials and sheets given to us and thank you to Julie Reed for the sheet given for our group. We have been so delighted with all the gifts you have donated to our group. Thank God we have such wonderful helpers in our church to make this a success.



Right now we are off from our monthly get-together until January 2017. We will continue to make baby quilts at home and deliver them to the Pregnancy & Family Resource Center in San Bernardino in January. When we start up quilting the adult quilts again if you would like to ask any questions or want to know more about our group give Linda Olson a call at 276-0373. Watch the bulletin for date and time of start up again after the holidays.

May God bless each and everyone and especially my hard working ladies who have given me more support when needed this past year. I love you all. Thank you Lord, for all these blessings.



## Craft Boutique

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH FROM 8 AM TO 2 PM**

Our Holiday Boutique is finally here, we are putting the final touches on our crafts and time is flying by. For another year we are truly blessed to have so many vendors and participants, it will be a packed hall. The new doors for the sanctuary have been installed and look amazing. I must say we have a gifted group in our congregation and giving group too, we are truly grateful; gift basket are pouring in, the gently used and white elephant project – overflowing! And we have a new jam to share but very limited – persimmon (straight from Bud and Jay's tree). I hear our Shepherd Bakers have been busy too. Don't forget to be making your awesome handmade craft items. Looking forward to seeing all of you on the 19th!

Don't forget to invite your friends and neighbors.

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

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 5<sup>th</sup> 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.



## 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](http://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.



Dear Congregation of Shepherd of the Valley,

The Social Ministry Committee would like to take this time to thank everybody for the food donations that we have received in the past several months. Because of your generosity, we have pretty much received most of the nonperishable items that will be needed to fill our Thanksgiving and Christmas boxes. There are still a few items that are needed and these will be listed in the Sunday announcements. Also, we have been able to donate food items to the local food banks here in Moreno Valley as a result of your generosity. Last week, we dropped off 76 pounds of food to CAP and it was greatly appreciated. If anybody is aware of a family that could use a Thanksgiving box, please let Pastor or the office know by November 13th so that we know how many boxes will be needed for Thanksgiving. The main item that is still needed for our Thanksgiving boxes are turkeys (any size). If you are able to donate a turkey or any monetary funds towards the purchase of turkeys and/or perishable items that still need to be purchased, please call the office and let them know. The turkeys will need to be at the church on November 16, 2016 (Wednesday). This ministry could not survive without the faithful giving of your food donations. Our goal is to also be able to make another donation to our local food banks before Thanksgiving. We know that with all of your help, this will be possible.

Bernice Bennett and Eva Carlson

## GIVE THANKS UNTO THE LORD

This is the official season when we remember to give thanks for all the blessings we have received and we have truly been blessed abundantly this year. Here are just a few of the many blessings I am thankful for:

Our school has a wonderful staff of loving, dedicated people sharing God's love to His little ones. Our classrooms are full of excitement for learning academics and God's Word.

Our school families are growing in numbers and hopefully we will continue to grow!

Our church has been so supportive this year not just with gifts, which have been plentiful, but with kind words and prayers.

I'm sure I could go on and on with the blessings we have received and I am very thankful for this wonderful opportunity to be part of this ministry at Shepherd of the Valley and look forward to many years to come.



This month we will be having a food drive to help fill the food baskets given out by the church. We will be collecting non-perishable items to be turned in by November 15. When you are doing your holiday shopping please remember to throw in a couple extra items for this worthy cause.

The school is also participating in the "Operation Christmas Child" boxes. Each class will be responsible for one and hopefully the parents will also participate. These are due Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> so they can be sent around the world. According to the directions you can use any shoebox to pack your gifts, just label it with boy or girl and age group. Remember to put in \$7 to cover the handling costs. There are forms in the office if you need more info.

Our school will be celebrating our Thanksgiving Feast on November 16 this year. This is always a fun time for all the children to sit down together for a yummy turkey feast. I especially enjoy this because I get to do a lot of cooking on that day with the help of a teacher.

The following are our Upcoming Events:

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Nov 11    | Veteran's Day – school and office closed       |
| Nov 14    | "Operation Christmas Child" shoe boxes are due |
| Nov 14-15 | Collecting Food for food drive                 |
| Nov 16    | School Thanksgiving Feast                      |
| Nov 21-25 | Kindergarten Closed                            |
| Nov 24-25 | Happy Thanksgiving – school and office closed  |

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

Linda Williamson, Director





## WHAT IS AWE?

"Awe is the feeling of being in the presence of something vast or beyond human scale that transcends our current understanding of things" says psychologist Dacher Keltner.

"Awe maybe the secret to health and happiness". We spend so much time with our heads down looking at our "devices." This can aggravate our feeling of depression, increase blood pressure and cause weight gain. Getting out of the house and walking in our neighborhood we can notice amazing things. A beautiful yard, two darling kittys looking out a window (which I see every morning). We can get up early to see a sunrise. Listen to magnificent music. Look up to the sky to see the stars and clouds. 75% of awe is inspired by the natural world. GOD has blessed us with so much beauty around us and we need to keep our minds open to receive these incredible images.

Suzy Langhorne, Parish Health Minister



**HANDLING THE HOLIDAYS:** A holiday seminar for those grieving the loss of a loved one, with "Healing with Hope" facilitator Chris Breyer. It will be held Saturday, November 19, at 10:00 AM-2:00 PM, at Riverside Community Hospital's Health Education Center, 4445 Magnolia Ave. Riverside, CA 92501. A light lunch will be served. Please RSVP by November 13, at (951) 779-3915.



Hope everyone is having fun gathering articles for the shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. This 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.

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 - 94¢). Information on how to pack your shoe boxes is available in the church lobby or office. 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 13<sup>th</sup>. Any questions contact the church office.

## DON'T FORGET TO VOTE on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

Educate yourself on the issues and candidates.

Check the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod's position on issues on their web at [www.lcms.org](http://www.lcms.org).

The following is an article from the November 2016 Church Press Newsletter

by Pastor Don Ginkel :

Anger and Frustration and, Yet, HOPE

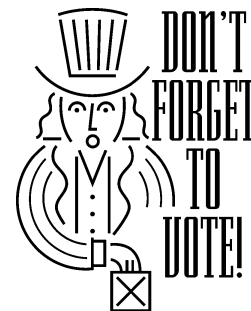
There is a lot of anger and frustration over today's politics. We do not like the direction our country is taking. It seems as though the U.S. is out of control, things are getting worse each year, and we are sliding down a slippery slope. Both Clinton and Trump bring a lot of anger to the American voter. Some people can even see the possibility of civil war in the future.

As Christians we have the comfort that God is ALWAYS in control. Man may propose but God will dispose. God knows all about our political problems. Think about how Joseph felt when he ended up in Egypt and how God made good come out of bad. Think of Moses facing Pharaoh and how God decided how things would finally turn out. Think about David hiding from King Saul, or about Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego facing the orders of their king. Think about Paul in prison as he awaited trial from the Romans. These were men who firmly believed that God had the final say so. Always. And their hope was in the Lord.

I like two points that R. T. Kendall makes in the October Decision Magazine:

1. "There are the Supreme Court verdicts. The Biblical view of marriage is on the way out. Terrorism is at our doors. Church attendance is declining. We are losing our young people. If someone calls this to our attention we say, 'Oh yes. It's pretty awful.' Then we roll over, zzzzzzzzz, and essentially say, 'Let me sleep on.'"
2. "But who fears God today? Not many, I suspect. An awakened church will help restore a fear of the Lord in our nation. No election will do it. But God can do it. For this we pray."

Joy Allmon writes two sentences in the same Magazine: "Americans have the most consequential choice ahead of them. Hint: it's not the presidential election." Friend, trust in the LORD. Spread the saving Gospel. Remember that you are just passing through this land, but heaven is your Home. PAX DOMINI.





## 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 web-site for more information: [www.lcsocal.org](http://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 by you from Moreno Valley Flower Box (653-3171) and they deliver 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.

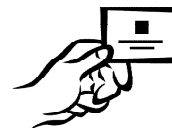


**DON'T FORGET YOUR FOOD DONATIONS FOR OUR LOCAL FOOD BANKS EACH SUNDAY!**

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

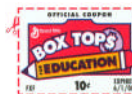
## SPECIAL NOTICE

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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# November 2016

| Sunday   | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday  | Saturday  |
|--|---|--|---|---|---|---|
|  <p><b>Set Your Clocks Back!</b></p> <p>Sunday, November 6th!</p>   |   | <p><b>1</b></p> <p>12:00 PM BSF (H)</p> <p>5:45 PM Chancel Choir (S)</p> <p>6:00 PM School Board (O)</p>     | <p><b>2</b></p>   | <p><b>3</b></p> <p>7:00 AM BrailleMail(H)</p> <p>9:30 AM Tai Chi (H)</p> <p>7:00 PM Life of Christ Bible Study (H)</p>  | <p><b>4</b></p> <p>10:00 AM School Chapel (S)</p>                             | <p><b>5</b></p> <p>8:30 AM Cursillo Grouping @ Panera Bread</p> <p>10:00 AM Eagle Court of Honor - Sam Amaya Troop 210</p> <p>11:00 AM Tea &amp; Craft Fair - First, Elsinore</p> <p>4:00 PM Organ Concert - Grace, Banning</p> |
| <p><b>6</b></p> <p>9:30 AM Sunday School &amp; Bible Class (O-H-PS)</p> <p>12:30 PM Grace Korean (S-H)</p> <p>5:00 PM Confirmation (O)</p>   | <p><b>7</b></p> <p>10:00 AM First Place TLC (Reese Home)</p> <p>11:00 AM Staff Meeting (O)</p> <p>7:00 PM MV Chorale Rehearsal (S)</p>    | <p><b>8</b></p> <p>12:00 PM BSF (H)</p> <p>5:45 PM Chancel Choir (S)</p> <p>7:00 PM Lay Ministers (H)</p>    | <p><b>9</b></p>   | <p><b>10</b></p> <p>7:00 AM BrailleMail(H)</p> <p>9:30 AM Tai Chi (H)</p> <p>10:00 AM School Chapel (S)</p>             | <p><b>11</b></p> <p>School &amp; Office Closed - Veterans Day</p>             | <p><b>12</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Knights of the Holy Spirit Bible Study (H)</p> <p>11:30 AM Hall in Use (H)</p>  |
| <p><b>13</b></p> <p>9:30 AM Sunday School &amp; Bible Class (O-H-PS)</p> <p>12:30 PM Grace Korean (S-H)</p> <p>5:00 PM Confirmation (O)</p> <p>6:30 PM Youth Group (Y)</p> <p>BP Screening between Services</p>                      | <p><b>14</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Women's Koffee Klatch @ Brandon's</p> <p>6:00 PM School Staff (O)</p> <p>7:00 PM MV Chorale Rehearsal (S)</p> | <p><b>15</b></p> <p>12:00 PM BSF (H)</p> <p>5:45 PM Chancel Choir (S)</p> <p>7:00 PM M &amp; M Board (O)</p> | <p><b>16</b></p> <p>11:00 AM School Feast Day (H)</p>   | <p><b>17</b></p> <p>7:00 AM BrailleMail(H)</p> <p>9:30 AM Tai Chi (H)</p> <p>7:00 PM Life of Christ Bible Study (H)</p> | <p><b>18</b></p> <p>10:00 AM School Chapel (S)</p> <p>Boutique Set-Up (H)</p> | <p><b>19</b></p> <p>8:00 AM - 2:00 PM Annual Holiday Boutique (H)</p>   |
| <p><b>20</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Holiday Boutique - After Services (H)</p> <p>9:30 AM Sunday School &amp; Bible Class (O-H-PS)</p> <p>12:30 PM Grace Korean (S-H)</p> <p>5:00 PM Confirmation (O)</p>                                     | <p><b>21</b></p> <p>10:00 AM First Place TLC (Reese Home)</p> <p>11:00 AM Staff Meeting (O)</p> <p>7:00 PM MV Chorale Rehearsal (S)</p>   | <p><b>22</b></p> <p>12:00 PM BSF (H)</p> <p>5:45 PM Chancel Choir (S)</p>                                    | <p><b>23</b></p> <p>7:00 AM BrailleMail(H)</p> <p>7:00 PM Thanksgiving Eve Service (S)</p>  | <p><b>24</b></p> <p>Happy Thanksgiving! School &amp; Office Closed</p>  | <p><b>25</b></p> <p>Happy Thanksgiving! School &amp; Office Closed</p>        | <p><b>26</b></p> <p>7:30 AM Men's Breakfast at Brandon's</p>  |
| <p><b>27</b> 1st Sunday of Advent</p> <p>9:30 AM Sunday School &amp; Bible Class (O-H-PS)</p> <p>12:30 PM Grace Korean (S-H)</p> <p>5:00 PM Confirmation (O)</p> <p>6:30 PM Youth Group (Y)</p> <p>BP Screening between Services</p> | <p><b>28</b></p> <p>7:00 PM MV Chorale Rehearsal (S)</p>  | <p><b>29</b></p> <p>12:00 PM BSF (H)</p> <p>5:45 PM Chancel Choir (S)</p>                                    | <p><b>30</b></p> <p>4:00 PM Midweek Advent Service (S)</p> <p>5:00 PM Soup Supper (H)</p> <p>7:00 PM Midweek Advent Service (S)</p> |  <p>SO MANY BLESSINGS</p>           |   |   |

**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*

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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

## **November 2016**



*Wednesday, November 23rd  
At 7 pm*

*Please come and invite family, friends  
& neighbors!*

**Join Us at  
Advent Worship**



**Advent begins on Sunday, November 27th.**

**There will be Midweek Advent Services on  
Wednesdays, November 30, December 7, 14 & 21  
At 4 pm and 7 pm with Soup Suppers at 5 pm**

**Watch for sign ups to bring crock pots of your favorite soups,  
breads, and desserts to share at the suppers.**

**And as always, please join us and bring your  
friends and family!**