



From the Pastor



"CHURCH MEMBERSHIP" **WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A CHURCH MEMBER?**

There are a number of ways to answer this question, depending on your perspective. ***From a church organizational-records perspective*** it means that one has joined the church, say Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in one or more of the following ways:

1. Those children who have been baptized at Shepherd of the Valley are considered to be members of the Holy Christian Church and baptized members of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church.
2. Those who have completed the Communion Instruction Class are considered as baptized and "communicant" members of Shepherd of the Valley.
3. Those who continue on to complete the program of Confirmation Instruction and present a public profession of faith before the congregation are considered as full baptized and communicant Adult members of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church.
4. Members who join Shepherd of the Valley and transfer their membership from another Lutheran Church (LCMS) are also received as Adult, baptized and communicant members of the church.
5. Those who come to Shepherd of the Valley from other Lutheran Church bodies (ie. ELCA) may become members either by taking a brief course of instruction that teaches what we as LCMS Lutherans believe and make an Affirmation of Faith before the congregation. Or, in some cases, they may not need the brief course, but join by only making an Affirmation of Faith.
6. For those who have no Lutheran background, perhaps no previous church membership at all, or may not be baptized into the Christian faith, they would take a course in the Christian faith and the Lutheran church, be baptized and present a public confession of faith before the congregation, and be confirmed as an Adult.

Note: If you have been worshipping with Shepherd of the Valley for a while, perhaps even years, and are not sure if you have been officially received into church membership, please contact Pastor Krueger. We are not trying to be difficult or put an undue burden on anyone, but are striving to handle the matters of God's church decently and put things in good order. Pastor Krueger may also be contacting some of our people to address and complete 'official membership' procedures. (FYI... Not all churches follow these procedures for official church membership. For some, whomever is there on any given Sunday morning - that's their membership).

Perhaps more importantly, however, this question may be viewed and answered from a ***spiritual-discipleship perspective*** as follows:

1. Those who have been baptized into Christ are now a part of the communion of saints, the Holy Christian church, one spiritual body whose one and only Head is Jesus Christ! Church membership from this perspective is based on **FAITH!** This faith comes to infants and little children via the Holy Spirit in the waters of Baptism. For those who are older and can reason and understand, this faith comes by the Holy Spirit working in and through the inspired Word of God as it is read and taught. That is why the: profession...affirmation...confession... of faith is included above, as a vital part of church membership.
2. Closely related to number one, just stated, are the good works and spiritual sacrifices offered to God as a fruit of faith (1 Peter 2:5) As Paul declares in his letters to the Corinthians, Ephesians and Romans, God has gifted His church (body) with many different gifts that are to be used to serve others and worship Him! Church membership is not just about "joining" a certain church or denomination. It is not just about "understanding" the doctrines and confessions of a certain church organization. It is actively living that faith and producing the good works of faith that identify one as a church member. Church membership is a verb of "action" as much as "being!"
3. Furthermore, church membership insists on reaching out and inviting others to be a member of the church too, so that they may enjoy the blessings of the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation in Jesus Christ! Jesus commands His church members to "Go! Teach and baptize!" (Matt. 28:19)

While we always want to conduct the matters of God's church decently and maintain good order, let us truly be the "servant-church members" He has gifted and called us to be! By His Spirit may we function as the members of His Body, the church, edifying and building one another up in a spirit of unity and peace, loving as He has loved us and serving as He showed us! Let us joyfully confess together, *"I believe in the Holy Christian Church and the communion of Saints!"* To God be the glory! Amen!

Pastor Dennis J. Krueger

DIPLOMACY, NOT D-DAY!

Last month I left you all hanging out on my doorstep waiting for advice on how to engage and evangelize to different groups that come to your door. Before we get into the theology of different groups you might have interactions with, I would like to go over some basic guidelines and tips that will help make these conversations less intimidating, and hopefully more fruitful.

First and foremost, be nice. I know that should go without saying, but I would like to stress it again anyway. BE NICE! The apologetic ministry Stand to Reason's motto is "We want our encounters to look more like diplomacy than D-day." Always remember that we are ambassadors for Christ. How we act and behave reflects on our sovereign. Part of good case making is having an attractive manner. Think of it this way, when was the last time you changed your position on a particular issue because someone screamed at you and called you names? Being nice doesn't make your point correct, but people will be more inclined to consider your position if presented in a courteous way.

Don't take lightly the fact that the people on your doorstep are prepared to have a conversation about religion. They have a game plan, and know where they want to lead you in the conversation. Even if preparing for encounters such as this is something you enjoy and put effort into, it's easy to be caught off guard and a little flatfooted with the sudden appearance of people on your front porch. I recommend asking the people if you can make an appointment and have them return at a later date. Most are more than willing to accommodate your request. This will give you time to mentally and spiritually prepare for the encounter. Use the time wisely. Do some research on the group whose members you will be talking to. Think ahead of time of questions to ask and write them down. Pray. I don't say that flippantly. Pray for protection, wisdom and guidance as you engage in these conversations.

Ask good questions. I will focus on specific question to ask each group as we progress through this topic, but some good general questions are:

- "Why should I believe that your organization (The Mormon Church, The Watchtower Society) actually speaks for God?" Both of these groups believe that salvation does not exist if you do not belong to their organization (no, not even for Lutherans!). They can't both be right about that. It's fair to ask them why they believe you must be a member of their group, rather than believe that Jesus has covered all who put their trust in Him.
- "If I were to join your group, then die tomorrow, would I be saved?" Most will not want to give you a direct "yes" or "no" answer to this. That is because there are works involved in the salvation formula on their view. Christ's sacrifice only opens the door to being saved, but it is not sufficient to save. You have to earn your way in. I don't know about you, but that doesn't sound like very good news to me. That might be worth pointing out to your new friends.
- Then the mother lode of all questions: "Who was Jesus?" Our understanding of who Jesus was is critical to our understanding of how salvation works. You will find that while certain groups use familiar language about Jesus, they mean something entirely different than the classical Christian definitions of the same words. Ask them to be more specific about what they believe about Jesus and his divinity and humanity. If something doesn't sound right to you, ask more questions until you are comfortable you understand their view. This will help you to identify problems with the view that can be addressed later in the conversation.

Alright, we have laid some groundwork for you to get your feet wet in conversations. Next month I will begin to explain some of the Mormon beliefs, and how they differ from our own. Following that I will offer a game plan for discussions with Mormon missionaries that might appear on your doorstep. Until then, just keep the conversations going!

Your Servant,
Drew Covert



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We asked for it and we got it! **THANK YOU** to all who responded to the need and call to help with Vacation Bible School this past month! We had more volunteers and donations than ever (or at least in recent years)! Shepherd of the Valley, you really came through! At one point I heard that our student registration was up to about 55 children. Just think, had we cancelled VBS this summer, we would not have had the opportunity to serve those 55 children! Special thanks to the Preschool and their staff who worked with our VBS volunteers. Also, a big THANK YOU to Carol Maurer who jumped in after some family difficulties to help lead VBS. And, thank you to the "VBS-Chopped" Volunteers and the wonderful meals they provided for our staff each day. Of course thank you to everyone who helped, donated and prayed on behalf of our VBS this year. We are planning to have a VBS Follow-Up meeting to evaluate this year's program and start planning for next year's. It will be held on Wednesday, August 7th at 6:00 pm in the hall. All are welcome to attend.



Time for the New School Year to Begin

Our summer is flying by too quickly! August 14th is the first day of our 2013-2014 school year.

The classrooms are looking great. It's amazing what a good cleaning and a little paint can do. The teachers are getting their curriculum and setting things up. We are looking forward to a fantastic year with several changes in our school. Our Kindergarten room is the most changed. Thanks to donations from the women of Shepherd and our many blessings from God, we were able to purchase an Elmo document reader, projector with cart, new desks, chairs, and table. Also, listening centers are now in all rooms.

Our teachers this year are:

Mrs. Katie Malana	3 yr olds	Exploring Zebras
Mrs. Breanna Stark	4 yr olds	Awesome Owls
Ms. Melanie Stark	4 yr olds	Cheerful Cheetahs
Mrs. Janelle Stone	Kindergarten	Lions
Mrs. Carol Mittman		

Unfortunately, we have not gotten any more space and are not able to have a 2 year olds class. Keep praying about this so our school can continue to grow. We don't want to keep turning children away from God's school.

Upcoming Events:

August 12 – Parent Orientation 7:00 pm in the church

August 14 – First Day of School

Please pray that God will bless us with a successful year and provide all that we need.

In His Service,
Linda Williamson, Director

QUILTING FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF



Hello everyone from the busy quilting group. Right now we are busy working on the quilts for LWR and the baby quilts for the NICU at Parkview Hospital. Since we received all the baby material we have been very busy. We hope to have more quilts to send to the disaster areas soon. We want to let you know that we are also working on getting tracking labels for each package we send so that you can track the items as to where and when they arrive at their destination. It takes several months to travel, so you can check on them after the first of the year. We will be sending off our items in October and it will be exciting to see where our items are.

We want to say a very big thank you to Anne Neudecker for delivery of the big bag of material gathered from the mobile home park where she lives. These ladies are a blessing to our group. Thanks so much for all your support and prayers.

Now is the time to shop for items for our school and health kits. They are on sale and a large selection is available. All donations will be most welcomed. A box is in the church entry ready to receive the items or bring them to the church office during the week. Items needed are listed on the back of the church announcement folder each week. Take it along when you shop so you get the correct items.

We meet every 4th Saturday of each month except in November and December in the hall from 9:00 a.m to noon. If you have any questions call Linda Olson at 276-0373.

Power Point Schedule for August & September

8:00 am	10:45 am
8/4 Joshua Stange	Bob Maurer
8/11 Luke Hamann	Amanda Johansen
8/19	Abby Covert
8/25 Bud Kenefick	Marvin Niles
9/1 Joshua Stange	Amanda Johansen
9/8 Bud Kenefick	Jim Wilson
9/15 Luke Hamann	Abby Covert
9/22 Gerry Klepps	Bob Maurer
9/29 One Service Only	Drew Covert

If you need to change your schedule, or have any questions on how to run the system, contact Drew Covert at 951-525-8111 or lcmsdrew@roadrunner.com. Thank you all for your service to our Church and our Lord!



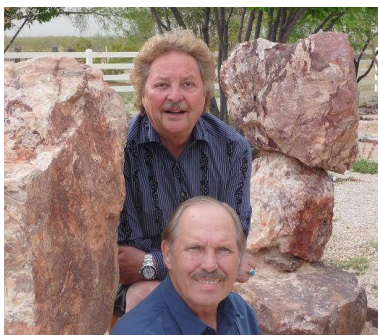
We need YOU!!!!
Yes... YOU, YOU, and YOU!

As we prepare our hearts and minds for the upcoming year, we pray that you would become a part of our Sunday School TEAM here at SVLC. Please consider serving at least one time a month. We are in need of Sunday School teachers, of all ages, for each grade and a Sunday School Secretary. For more information, we will have a meeting in the Youth Room on Sunday, August 25th at 9:30 a.m. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please call Sue Anna at 951-204-2148 or Marlene Alexander 951-242-6571.

In His Service,
Sue Anna Schatz



THERE WILL BE A YOUTH MOVIE NIGHT on Saturday, August 3rd at 8pm for all Jr. High and Sr. High students. It will be on the lawn on the east side of the youth room. Bring a blanket or something to sit on. We will be voting for the movie on the Facebook pages, so check the page and vote for your choice. Popcorn and drinks will be provided. Guests are welcome, so bring a friend to join in the fun! Any questions - contact Drew Covert at 951-525-8111 or by email at lcmsdrew@outlook.com.



COMING TO SHEPHERD!

Sunday, August 4th at both Sunday services. Join us for a morning of praise and worship with Dave Anderson (AZ) and Roger Walck (CA). The concerts these men present includes gospel music, old-time Sunday School songs, contemporary Christian music, and stories of God's grace and mercy including "The Rescue Story" which has been heard by millions of people around the world! Come and bring friends for a great time of music and fellowship. A free-will offering will be received to benefit the Shepherd's Canyon Retreat. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is providing matching funds for this event.

HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE NEWS

We just had our first workshop in July and had an excellent time. We made Angel decorations that are sooo cute. Also a must have for all of us.... a "Hide 'n' Seek bottle that will do wonders for stress relief. We all had fun playing with them. Lots of good snacks and fellowship. Our next work shop will be on Saturday, August 17 from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m.

Plan to stop by even if it's for a cup of coffee. If you have your own projects you are working on please bring them. We are looking forward to seeing the special crafts that you all so graciously donate each year. The Boutique is truly a congregational event. Without your support with crafting, baking and all the other many ways that you contribute we wouldn't be able to do this each year. Thank you for all of your help with our Fall Fund Raiser.

A reminder our canning workshop will be in September. If anyone has fruit trees and would like to donate any extra you have please contact Marina Bromar or Marge Clark. We are looking for peaches, apricots, plums, pomegranates, strawberries etc. Anything that can be frozen ahead of time will work for us. Also any one who would like to help us is invited. We will have a sign up sheet in early Sept. Thank you again for your contributions and support.



Love In Christ, Marina Bromar

There will be **NO Knights of the Holy Spirit Bible Study** in the month on August but it resume on Saturday, September 14th at 9:00am. The lessons will be NASCAR related and very appropriately held in the Riccardi garage.



LIFEHOUSE THEATER PRESENTS A DRAMATIC NEW BIBLICAL MUSICAL — "DANIEL"

The biblical stories and prophecies revealed in the book of Daniel are brought to life in this new musical experience! Taken from home and family and forced to learn a pagan culture during his 70 year captivity, Daniel's faith is tested as he refuses to allow anything to compromise his relationship with the Lord. What prophecies has the Lord sent through Daniel? The thought-provoking truths will linger long after experiencing this stunning stage adventure.

Performances begin Saturday, August 31, 2013 at 7:30 PM and will continue on weekends through September 29, 2013. Performances are Fridays at 7:30 PM, Saturdays at 2:15 PM (except Opening Night) and 7:30 PM, and Sundays at 2:15 PM. In addition to the weekend performances, there will be a special Thursday performance on September 26, 2013 at 7:30 PM. The performance on Saturday, September 14th at 7:30 PM will feature an interpreted presentation for the deaf. Please take note of our special Gift Giveaway weekend for children: During the second weekend of "Daniel" performances (September 7, 8, 9), each child in attendance will be presented with a free gift!

The theater is located at 1135 N. Church St. in Redlands, next to the Redlands Christian School. Parking is available in the back of the theater. For more information please call 335-3037 ext.21 or visit our website at www.lifehousetheater.com.



The TLC for Cancer Patients Ministry doesn't meet the month of August but will resume their regular schedule in September on the 4th Tuesday at 7 pm.

LISTEN UP, FELLOWS!!

It is time that we show a little attention to the men of Shepherd. So---on September 21st, on Saturday morning, the First Place TLC Small Group will be preparing a brunch for them, together with a little entertainment. This will be a no-charge event, but there will be a sign-up clipboard in the church lobby beginning the middle of August. That's a necessity in order to prepare the right amount of food.

Don't miss out on this because you deserve it! It will be well-worth your attention.



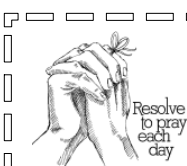
Joseph Project - Community (Citywide) food Bank



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.



Being an LCEF investor means providing the dollars needed to fund loans for churches, schools and ministries within the LCMS. Your investment also provides money for housing loans for our pastors and teachers. Why not talk to your congregation representative, Larry Alexander, today for more information about the ministry of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund. You can also get more information by calling 1-800-843-5233.



JOIN IN THE CHALLENGE

This is a plea that you help build the Prayer Army we need so badly. 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 Pastor, 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!



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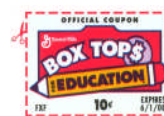
Powdered drink mix cans, Magazines, Plastic baby food containers Prescription bottles (small) Candy boxes, Advertising magnets Small bottles, containers, boxes Empty thread spools (wood or plastic) Tins (from band aids, Altoids, tea, etc.) Starbucks-type bottles with lids and carton

Bring to the church or office. These items are made into craft items and given to the cancer patients at the County Regional Hospital. Thank you each and everyone for your help.



**Thursdays at 9:30 AM
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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.


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We have scrip available for Staters Bros. Stop by the SCRIP table after services or at the school during the week.

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.

August 2013

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>... let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath</p> <p>James 1:19</p>				1 8:00 AM Braille Mail (H) 9:30 AM Tai Chi (H) 12:30 PM Staff (O)	2 6:30 PM Pack 210 Den Meeting (H)	3 8:00 AM Diamond Girls (H) 8:00 PM Youth Movie Night (Lawn)
4 8:00 AM & 10:45 AM Dave Anderson & Roger Walck Concert / Worship Service (S) 9:30 AM Adult Bible Class (H)	5 10:00 AM First Place TLC (H)	6 5:30 PM School Board (O)	7 10:00 AM MV Faith-Based Collaborative (H) 6:00 PM VBS Follow-Up Meeting (H) 7:00 PM Praise Team (S)	8 8:00 AM Braille Mail (H) 9:30 AM Tai Chi (H) 12:30 PM Staff (O) 7:00 PM Band (H)	9 7:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal (S) Reception Set-Up (H)	10 12:00 PM Kohn/Flint Wedding & Reception (S-H)
11 9:30 AM Adult Bible Class (H) 12:00 PM Annual Congregational Assembly (H) BP Screening after Services	12 9:00 AM Women's Koffee Klatch @ Brandon's 6:00 PM Diamond Girls (H) 7:00 PM School Parent Orientation (S)	13 7:00 PM Lay Ministers (H)	14 7:00 PM Praise Team (S) School Starts (PS)	15 8:00 AM Braille Mail (H) 9:30 AM Tai Chi (H) 12:30 PM Staff (O)	16	17 9:00 AM Crafting
18 9:30 AM Adult Bible Class (H)	19	20 6:00 PM M & M Directors (O)	21 7:00 PM Praise Team (S)	22 8:00 AM Braille Mail (H) 9:30 AM Tai Chi (H) 12:30 PM Staff (O) 7:00 PM Band (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 Class (H) 9:30 AM Sunday School Staff Meeting (Y) BP Screening after Services	26	27	28 7:00 PM Praise Team (S)	29 8:00 AM Braille Mail (H) 9:30 AM Tai Chi (H)	30 Camping at Heart Bar	31 Camping at Heart Bar

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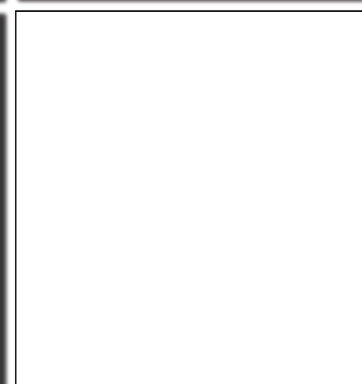
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Thank You.



The Shepherd's Staff

WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES: Sunday: 8:00 & 10:45 AM
5th Sunday of the month - One service only at 9:30 AM

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"Preach the Gospel at all times. If necessary, use words." — Francis of Assisi

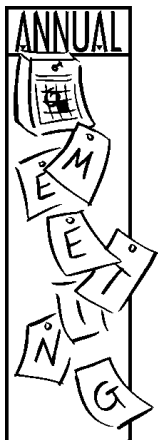
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DENNIS KRUEGER, SENIOR PASTOR
RON KRAFT, EMERITUS PASTOR
LINDA WILLIAMSON, SCHOOL DIRECTOR

August 2013



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
VOTERS' ASSEMBLY:
SUNDAY, AUGUST 11TH

After the Sunday morning worship services we will hold our Annual Congregational Meeting as mandated in our constitution for the offering of reports, election of various positions, and for the adoption of the next fiscal year budget. Please plan to join us for this meeting and exercise your duty and privilege as a member of Shepherd of the Valley. While it has been our practice to allow for other business of the church to come to the floor, it would be preferred that church members please contact the President of our congregation, Phillip Sandstrom, if they have items they would like to have discussed so that they can be included in the agenda of the meeting. Please remember, personnel matters (specific, not general) cannot be addressed in a public meeting but must be referred to an executive session of either the Board of Lay Ministry or Mission and Ministry Board.

God has truly blessed Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church to be a wonderful blessing to our members and our neighborhood of Moreno Valley. When many churches are cutting back and pulling in, Shepherd has been blessed to be able to reach out into our community in a variety of ways. Certainly we can and must do more! When several Pre-schools have had to close their doors this past year, Shepherd's school has been operating at capacity and is looking forward to a great year once again. In partnership with the Big Spring's School, Shepherd of the Valley has been able to provide a valuable place and space (rental) for vital services to educationally challenged children in the greater community. Pastor Fred Huscher, who serves on the Board of the Big Springs school, extends his gratitude and praise to Shepherd of the Valley for their gracious hospitality to their school, staff and students. So, please come and celebrate God's challenges and blessings to Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church at the Annual meeting on the second Sunday of August (8/11) at about Noon in the Fellowship Hall.