



The Shepherd's Staff SEPTEMBER 2013

VOLUME 20, ISSUE 09

From the Pastor



OUR HELP IN THE YEAR PAST! OUR HOPE IN THE YEAR TO COME!

The beloved hymn of Isaac Watts, "O God, Our Help in Ages Past," offers a jumping off point as we remember the blessings of God to Shepherd of the Valley in this past year, and the hope that we trust in, in the next year. This past year, 2012-2013 has truly been a blessed one. A year ago we moved into a new parish year somewhat apprehensively with a budget gap (deficit), expecting that we might have to spend more than we projected receiving. We held the line on most budget line-items and agreed that we would meet half way through year to see how things were going and make cuts if needed. And, an appeal was extended to the membership to do just a little more and give a little more to balance out the budget. Well, here we are a year later, praising and thanking God! He has blessed us through the faithful stewards and members of Shepherd of the Valley. We not only made the budget, but we surpassed it. We spent less than was projected and received more than hoped for - "our cups runneth over!" Thank you to all! Praise and thanks be to our God, our help in the year past!

There is much more to celebrate! This past year we have seen the average Sunday morning worship attendance increase about two percent. While 2% may not sound like much of an increase, it is a great step in the right direction. For the past 15 years or so we have seen a slow and steady decline in our attendance and membership. We have had a significant number of people move out of the area, but many have either just stopped attending church or chosen to go elsewhere. This past year God has blessed us with an increase in attendance and a number of new members, some very involved and dedicated. Praise the Lord! Of course, we have also commended into the Lord's eternal arms a few of our beloved and long time saints, as they entered into glory.

Our preschool also had a very good year. Since the down turn in the economy in 2008, it has been very difficult for our school to remain viable. Thanks to the diligent and frugal management of the school, and some financial assistance from the church, it has weathered the storm when many other preschools in Moreno Valley had to close. This past year, though, the school has operated at near capacity and exceeded its budget as well. As we began the 2013-2014 school year we were almost completely full and have a growing list of students waiting for an opening. During the difficult years, the Lord blessed Shepherd of the Valley with the Big Springs School that leased four classrooms and an office from us. Now that our program is rebounding and theirs is growing as well, there have been discussions about Big Springs moving part of their school operation to Temecula and our school reclaiming more classroom space. We had even considered trying to somehow share the Youth Room with a two-year old classroom, but the church boards and the voters' assembly did not see that as a good move for either program. Further discussions will continue as we try to address the growing needs of the school. What a wonderful problem (blessing!) to have. Praise the Lord once again! God works in mysterious and wonderful ways, doesn't He? When Big Springs came along, we needed them and they needed us. They have a fine educational program that reaches out to students with very specialized and extreme needs. What a blessing to be able to offer them a place and space for their much needed service to our community. We trust the Lord to show us His direction for the future.

There's more! Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church has had a growing presence and contribution in our Moreno Valley community. We are very involved with the food pantries and the faith based collaborative of churches. We've had the opportunity to host a couple of special forums with our chief of police and school district superintendent. And, we serve as the "home base" for the Moreno Valley Master Chorale who annually presents several concerts for the community at Shepherd. Northridge Elementary school has always been a special neighbor to our school and church, so along with many of the churches in our city who have adopted schools, we have adopted them as our school. We need to explore ways to help and assist the students and staff of Northridge. And, as mentioned, Shepherd has taken an active role in the leadership work in our community assistance programs of: CAP and the Joseph Project. It is very important that our church be in the community and engage and serve people where they are. One of the best compliments a church can receive is when the community genuinely feels that they are "glad that the church (Shepherd) is here!"

There is a huge challenge before us, as you know. One out of five people in America profess a faith in Jesus Christ and are regularly and actively involved in worshiping and serving Him in and through a church. While four out of five people in America 'claim' to be Christian, it's obvious that most of them only "talk the talk," but do not "walk the talk." The fastest growing religious groups in America are: Islam (Muslims); Mormons; and the "Nones" (those who check the religious affiliation box - "None"). Did you notice? Not the Christian church. (although some consider Mormonism part of Christianity). The challenge is great, but so is the power and Spirit of our Lord and His Word. The fields are white and ripe for harvest. Did you know that there are more Christians in Africa than in all of the Americas combined. There are more than twice as many Lutherans in Africa than in North America. The mission field is at our door step, in our neighborhoods and in our community. Pray for workers to go out into the harvest field. Pray that the Lord motivate and send YOU.

(Continued inside)

(Continued from outside)

The vision, mission and context of the church is always changing and evolving. While not good English... "It ain't your daddy's church anymore!" I'd like to suggest the following Vision guidelines for the future of Shepherd of the Valley:

1. Radically Kingdom minded! (It's not about us, our church and our school. It's about the Kingdom of God.)
2. Reformationally Relevant! (The Reformation brought the church to the people. The church must always be relevant to people.)
3. Resolutely Serving! (We are here to serve. The church is not a club filled with members. We are to serve and follow Jesus.)

THE SHEPHERD CHALLENGE... As redeemed disciples and members of the Body of Christ at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church:

1. Attend worship regularly and often (weekly) Commit your way unto the Lord!
2. Join a TLC-Small Group, or a Bible Study Be in the Word! Join in fellowship!
3. Pray Pray for Shepherd! Pray for one another! (Pray every Saturday night for the effectiveness and ministry on Sunday morning!)
4. Serve Serve around the church and in the community!

Thanks be to God! To God be all the glory!
Pastor Dennis Krueger

LET US PRAY!



As we begin a new parish year and school year we want to commend it to the Lord and seek His guidance and blessings in prayer. For all who are interested we will have a "Prayer Service" on Thursday, September 5th at 6:00 p.m. We will gather in the sanctuary of the church around the altar and join together in prayer. If you cannot join us, please pause if you can at that time to pray for the work and ministry of Shepherd of the Valley Church and School.



TWO NEW TLC-SMALL GROUPS

"Good Grief"

A growing number of our members at Shepherd have experienced loved ones being called to their heavenly rest. While we rejoice that they have received their crown of glory and are with the Lord, we also experience the emptiness and pain of the loss of them in our lives. In this time of sorrow and adjustment it is very helpful to gather with others who are also journeying through this season of grief and find mutual consolation together in God's Word and prayer. This small group is being started to provide a time and opportunity for fellowship and healing. While the time and day have not been set, we are looking at meeting twice a month, and using Granger Westberg's book, Good Grief as a guide. More information will be coming. Our first "get-together" will on Friday, September 6th at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We'll discuss the best meeting time and location for everyone who desires to attend.

"Fishers-of-Men"

Last Fall we explored the Evangelism book by Pastor Bill Hybels, Just Walk Across the Room. Better late than never... here we are almost a year later hoping to offer a follow-up training program on sharing one's faith. If there is enough interest we'd like to offer a small group that would meet monthly to learn / improve our witnessing to others and sharing the Good News of Jesus! The hope is that the group would not only learn, grow and become more comfortable with sharing the Gospel—but actually go out an DO IT! The small group will determine when and how this will happen. Watch for a sign-up sheet in the church lobby. More will be said about this and the other TLC-Small Groups of Shepherd on Sunday September 8th, in church.



Our Year has begun! And what a great start we're having. Our classes are full and we have a very long waiting list. God is so good!

We have added a new person to our staff - Ms. Chris who has been at Moreno Valley Christian for over twenty years. She is fitting in fantastically with our school and we are looking forward to a great year.

We have a yummy fundraiser coming up on September 23rd at Chili's. **All you have to do is eat!** Our fundraiser runs from 11:00 am to 10:30 pm at the Chili's off Nason near the Super Target. Flyers will be coming out soon in church and at the school. Take the flyer to Chili's and the school receives 15% of your total food purchase. The money raised is being dedicated to funding our Open House in March. Everyone needs to eat so treat yourself (and the school) at Chili's!

Upcoming Events:

- Sept 2 – Labor Day – School Closed
- Sept 5 – Grandparent's Day Chapel, 10:00 in the church
- Sept 24 – Picture Day, LifeTouch
- Oct 6 – Children sing at 10:45 service & School Picnic @ 12:30 on the playground
- Oct 7 – 18 - Midland Fundraiser Catalog Sales

Please continue to pray for God's many blessings on our school and for more space! We need to make room for these children so we can share with them the love that comes from God.

In His Service,
Linda Williamson, Director

QUILTING FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF



Hello Everyone,

Our quilting group is so busy completing quilts and making the much needed back packs for sending to LWR in Oct. So far the items to fill the kits have been coming in very slow so we truly need your help with the purchase for these items. Please have all items at church by the end of September so we can assemble the kits in time to get them to the pick up point. There is a box in the church lobby to put your donations or you can leave them at the church office. We truly do thank all of you for your help and support. Without all of you we could not begin to do anywhere as much as we do. Thank you my special angels.

We would like to also thank Marina and Jim Bromar for the materials they donated and Anne Neudecker for material from the mobile home ladies and to my "secret" angels for the thread and yarn and material bits. All of these items help us to create the beautiful quilts that we send off.

If you would like to join us or check on us please stop in at the hall on the 4th Saturday of each month at 9:00 am. to noon. We love having company and visitors to share our snack and devotion time. If you would like more information call Linda Olson 276-0373 and I will try to answer your questions. And don't forget, we have no meetings in November and December.

Power Point Schedule for September & October

	8:00 am	10:45 am
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
10/6	Joshua Stange	Bob Maurer
10/13	Luke Hamann	Amanda Johansen
10/20	Gerry Klepps	Abby Covert
10/27	Bud Kenefick	Marvin Niles

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!



HEALING SERVICE: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13th

September 13th marks the most important day on the Jewish calendar, "Yom Kippur." Also known as the Day of Atonement, it is a time of prayer, fasting and repentance. Even though we are not Jewish, it offers us an opportunity to gather for a time of prayer, confession and healing. The book of James in the New Testament instructs the elders of the church to pray for those who are ill and to anoint them with oil that they might be healed in soul and body. Healing and the forgiveness of sins are closely linked together. So, on this ancient festival day of Yom Kippur we will gather for prayer, confession and the anointing with oil for the healing of our sin-sick souls and bodies. Join us on Friday, September 13th at 6:00 p.m. in the church for a day of healing and atonement. This is a time for all to gather and pray, not just those suffering with physical infirmities.



Holiday Craft Boutique: November 2, 2013 from 8 a. m. until 2 p.m.

Hi Everyone,

Hard to believe that in two months it will be time for the Boutique. We are in full swing getting ready for our big day. We have had our crafting workshops and on September 14th starting at 9: a. m. we will have our canning workshop. There is a sign up sheet if anyone would like to join us to learn how to preserve fruits or just enjoy the fellowship. It certainly gives you an appreciation of what all goes into a homemade jar of jam or jelly.

We are so looking forward to seeing the crafting you have done this year. It's always a blessing to see how involved our congregation is towards making the Boutique successful. We certainly could not do this by ourselves. This is truly a tradition that has been going on at Shepherd for a long time. Just ask Betty McFarland. You're all so truly devoted and talented. We have some new people on board this year and it will be a surprise to see their contributions. You will love them. Thank you for being part of our team with all that you do. It's truly appreciated.

We are praying for God's wisdom and guidance to place in our hearts and minds where He would like our proceeds to be used. Please join us in praying also. Questions please call Marina Bromar 301-3598

In His Service,
The Boutique Committee



KNIGHTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT MEN'S BIBLE STUDY TLC

"Winning the Race" is the title of the new Knights of the Holy Spirit Bible study, beginning on Saturday, September 14, at 9:00. It will be led once again by Pastor Allen. Just as athletes compete to win, so do we in the human arena. The contestants we battle, however, are frequently ourselves, our circumstances, and struggles we wage against the powers of darkness in this fallen world. While our personal scorecard may reveal a lackluster performance, God wants each of us to take the ultimate prize -- the crown of life -- already won for us by Jesus Christ. We hope that you will join us and bring a friend. Late word has it that they will meet in Ric Riccardi's garage. Bring a tool box to sit on.



ATTENTION MEN - ALL AGES

(young, middle aged, older) - no age limit for this event.

You are being invited to a Men's only brunch - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21st starting at 10 a.m. Super good food, loving cooks, and entertainment you won't want to miss. Why you say? Because we want to honor the men of our church who give of their time, energy and love for many things that get accomplished for others. Mark your calendar, invite a friend, bring your dad, bring your son, bring yourself! See you there! Oh, and by now you should know the drill . . . sign up on the clip board in the church lobby so we will know how much delicious food to prepare!

GREETINGS FROM THE CHOIR DIRECTOR

A Psalm of Thanksgiving (Psalm 100--NRSV)

*Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness; come into His
presence with singing.
Know that the Lord is God.
It is He that made us, and we are His; we are His
people, the sheep of His pasture.
Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts
with praise.
Give thanks to Him, bless His name.*

It is that time of year to "Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord" with our choir voices! I hope you all had a restful summer. Our rehearsals for the Fall season will begin on Tuesday, September 10 at 5:45PM. I have been previewing new Christmas Cantata's—there's great new material out there!

I want to welcome you all back and want to extend an invitation to anyone interested in "Making a Joyful Noise"!

Blessings to all,
Chris Deinert, Choir Director





SOCIAL MINISTRIES COORDINATOR If you have a heart for helping those who are in need and have some organizational gifts, please pray about volunteering for this position. Shepherd needs someone to work with the pastor to coordinate our community participation with food and clothing distribution organizations, to manage our own benevolent/assistance ministry, and to oversee our holiday food basket assistance. This coordinator would work with the pastor, the Board of Lay Ministry and our Office Manager and Treasurer, Marge Clark.

STEWARDSHIP TEAM (Task Force) LEADER Every church needs strong stewardship leadership! This position is not about fund development and raising the resources needed to meet the budget. Shepherd of the Valley needs a mature “disciple-leader” to put together and head up a task force to promote, equip and educate the congregation in Biblically sound Godly stewardship. This man or woman will work closely with the pastor and the Mission and Ministry Board of Directors.

EVANGELISM TEAM (Task Force) LEADER If you are even reading this ministry-service position description, you just might be the one that the Lord is urging to serve Him and His church in this area. Most people tend to ignore or avoid anything with the word “evangelism” attached to it. We desperately need someone who has a passion to reach out to lost people with the Gospel, to motivate and facilitate the teaching and deploying of witnesses to share the love of Christ. Said leader and team would work closely with the Board of Lay Ministry and the pastor.

ELEMENTARY YOUTH “AWANA” LEADER If you’re seeking an exciting and rewarding ministry opportunity . . . LOOK NO FURTHER! The Youth Action Team of Shepherd is seeking an individual or couple who enjoys young children and their growth in the knowledge of the Bible, and their relationship with Jesus. This leader would administer the Awana program of our Elementary Youth Ministry, lead the Awana teachers and assist with the weekly meetings conducting openings and helping maintain discipline. Training in the Awana program would be arranged as such opportunities arise in our area. This person would work with our Youth Ministry Director, Drew Covert and the Youth Action Team.

TLC-SMALL GROUP MINISTRY COORDINATOR A few years ago we used to have monthly meetings of our Small Group Leaders for coordination and skills development. While our TLC-Small Groups continue to function independently it would be very helpful to have the leaders gather monthly-or-quarterly to share and pray. We need someone to coordinate this effort and encourage the forming of new small groups for our members to participate in. This person would work with the Board of Lay Ministers and the pastor.

CHILDREN’S CHURCH & CHILDREN’S SERMON COORDINATOR While it may not seem like a very vital function, Shepherd truly needs someone to coordinate and schedule people to volunteer at leading Children’s sermons in both services and covering Kid’s Church during the 10:45 am service. It mostly requires lining up people to serve, and working with the pastor to provide children’s lessons and videos. This person would work with the pastor and Marge Clark.

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY WEB-MASTER While this sounds like some kind of position out of “Dungeons and Dragons” it is a very, VERY, important position that Shepherd of the Valley has needed to fill for some time. Most people learn more about Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church and School on the internet than any other place. Newspapers and the Yellow Pages are soon to be a thing of the past (if not already). We need someone who has some computer savvy to learn and be able to monitor and edit our SVLC web-homepage. This is IMPORTANT. This is where Shepherd most often gives its ‘first impression.’ There have been times when the same newsletter or pastor’s page has remained on the web site for almost a year! This is not acceptable. Our current web page is a template driven one for the most part that is not too hard to master for someone comfortable with computers and the internet. We’d also like to expand and grow in our effective use of the internet, facebook, twitter . . . for our church, school and youth ministry. Help wanted! Help needed!

VISIONARY-VOLUNTEERS – VISION TASK FORCE At the annual meeting of the congregation Pastor Krueger shared some visionary guidelines. We truly need to formulate a vision of where we see Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church going. If you are a dreamer, someone who can think outside the box, and has a real heart for the mission of the church in serving the Lord as it serves others, then please contact Pastor Krueger. It is our hope to conceptualize where Shepherd of the Valley “is” and where it “envisions” being three to five years from now. This is SO ABSOLUTELY IMPORTANT! If we have no idea where we are going, we will go no where. As a part of this we want to also consider a master plan of the use of our property to fulfill this vision. For example, if we believe we need to build a Youth Ministry building, or expand our classroom space we really ought to have a master plan of what they might look like. While we have had such plans in the past they probably need to be adjusted or abandoned to meet the needs of ministry in the years to come. This should not be a long term commitment and can hopefully conclude its work by early 2014. This Task Force will work under the leadership of Pastor Krueger. A final report will be presented to the congregation for their adoption. Only dreamers who firmly believe that all things are possible through God need apply!



FOR SALE:

Slightly used Pride Lift Chair with heat and massage. Chair was only used for about a month. Color is harvest brown. Owner's Manual is included. Asking price is \$700 paid 1400 in March of 2013. If interested call, 951-544-5050 or speak to Bernice Bennett or Eva Carlson at church.



Our TLC for Cancer Patients Ministry will resume its regular schedule on Tues. Sept. 24th at 7PM in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us for a very worth-while cause and lots of fun.



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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DON'T FORGET YOUR FOOD DONATIONS FOR CAP EACH SUNDAY!
Thank You!

NEEDED FOR CRAFT PROJECTS:



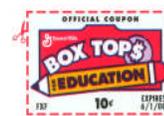
- Old cds & cases, Greeting card fronts, Laundry soap scoops, Film containers,
- Powdered drink mix cans,
- Magazines, Plastic baby food containers
- Prescription bottles (small), Insulin bottles,
- Candy boxes, Advertising magnets
- Small bottles, containers, boxes
- Empty thread spools (wood or plastic)
- 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 local cancer patients undergoing treatment. . Thank you each and everyone for your help.



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.

SCRIP AVAILABLE!

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

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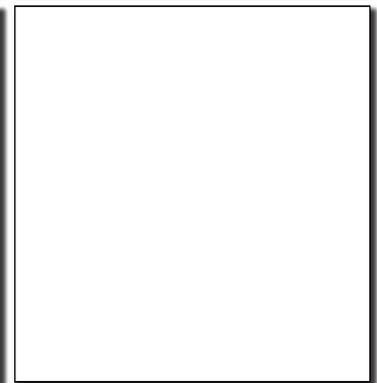
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Thank You.



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

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

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

SEPTEMBER 2013

YOUTH GROUP START UP DATES AND TIMES:

High School Youth Group:
Sunday, September 8th 6-8pm.

Jr High Youth Group/Confirmation:
Sunday, September 8th 6-8pm.

Awana:
Wednesday, September 11th 6-7:30 pm.



RE-THINK STUDENT CONFERENCE:

The youth group will be attending the Re-Think Conference on October 25th and 26th at Crossline Community Church in Laguna Hills. The conference is for Jr. High through college age students. Details for the conference can be found at

<http://rethinkapologetics.com/orangecounty>.

We will be staying Friday night at the Courtyard Inn in Irvine. We are asking for a \$25 deposit to sign up. When you attend the conference, we will return the \$25 to you to purchase dinner Friday night, and breakfast and lunch on Saturday. Dinner Saturday night is included with the conference. If you do not attend, we will keep the \$25 to cover our losses on the registration fee. The only other cost to you will be \$10 to help with gas for those that are driving. The deadline to sign up is September 27th. This will be an incredible conference, and at a unbeatable price! A sign-up sheet is in the church lobby. Register early to make sure you don't miss out! If you have questions, please contact Drew Covert at 951-525-8111 or by email at lcmsdrew@outlook.com.



YOUTH BEACH DAY SEPTEMBER 14TH

The Jr. & Sr. High youth will be taking a trip to the beach on September 14th. We will be departing the church parking lot at 8 am, and return at approximately 10 pm. Students should bring either a sack lunch or money for the snack shop. We will

cook hot dogs for dinner at one of the fire pits. Please bring \$10 to help with gas and the cost of parking. A sign-up sheet will be in the church lobby. Please let us know you are going so we can plan for transportation. If you have questions, please contact Drew Covert at 951-525-8111 or by email at lcmsdrew@outlook.com. See you all there!