



*From the Pastor*



## THE REFORMATION – OUR REFORMATION?

If anyone should know what the Reformation was all about it should be us Lutherans, right? Hmm? I suspect it's one of those things everybody's heard of but few really quite understands. Many might say it was when Dr. Martin Luther (not 'King') took on the Pope and the Church of Rome over the selling of indulgences. And that would be right, but very one dimensional and quite simplistic! The Reformation was the culmination of centuries of corruption in the church and among the clergy and the consequence of a European power vacuum. I have pondered where I (we) might "stand" if the Reformation occurred today. The Reformation rocked the Roman Empire and the church in a way we probably cannot truly understand.

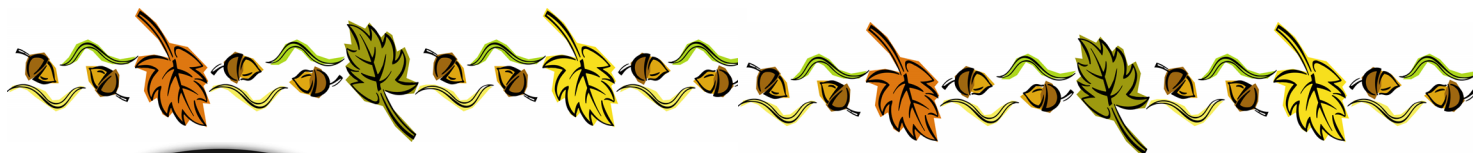
The story really began over a hundred years earlier, when the Papacy began to reap the effects of centuries of compromise. The Great Schism saw two, even three individuals claiming to be the Pope, and the Council of Constance in the early fifteenth century saw a power struggle between Bishops and Pope. Combined, they hindered Papal government and harmed the reputation of the Church in the eyes of the laity. The church carried on unabashed and proud, selling offices and indulgences, a political plaything for princes and a useful source of income. Many priests became wealthy performing multiple masses day after day, holding out the hope of reducing loved ones' time in purgatory. The very same church where the 95 theses were posted was conducting some 9000 masses a year (24-25/day) most often times at the expense of poor and starving peasants. Consider that fact alone when Martin Luther comes along and says that one is saved freely by the grace of God. No more indulgences needed to be purchased! No more masses had to be paid for! This had a huge impact on the church that was reaping great sums of money selling forgiveness and eternity.

It was a depressed German cleric, Martin Luther, who lit the fuse for the first, European, Reformation. Provided no comfort by Catholic ritual and horrified by abuses in Italy, he concluded that salvation was a personal matter between God and man: traditional church ceremony was irrelevant at best and at its worst - the sale of indulgences, for example - fraudulent! Nailing his 95 Theses to a church door in Wittenberg, Germany, prompted massive theological debate and he was condemned as a heretic and an outlaw. Luther's ideas were white hot and they spread fast. Of course with the invention of the printing press and moveable type (the internet of the day) these challenges and ideas spread far and wide. Given the power vacuum of the day, these challenges to one of the great power brokers sent tremors throughout Europe and England.

While all of this may be interesting, we still might wonder why the Reformation was so important. True, it happened a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away, but it established in Europe and England a major paradigm shift in religion, economics and politics. This is why the secular world also studies and concludes that the Reformation was one of the great pivotal points in history. Of course in the Lutheran Church we also remember and celebrate Luther's allegiance and submission to the Word of God. It was that Word that drove him to turn the whole world upside down and take his "stand" upon it! Maybe we need another Martin Luther today! (I wonder if the Pope today might be a reformer of sorts? He is turning some things upside down!) But, if God blessed us with another Martin Luther, I wonder if we would be willing to see our world turned upside down and support serious and significant changes in order to follow him.

Let us celebrate the Reformation by renewing our hunger for the Word of God, our reliance on the mercy and grace of God revealed in it and our commitment to follow God's will set forth in it! Our God is "a mighty fortress Whose Word still remains." The Lord is still "by our side with His good gifts and Spirit." And, whatever may come our way in this life, "our victory has been won, and the kingdom ours remaineth!"

Pastor Dennis Krueger



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

Our pastors have requested that if you planned on giving them a gift card or monetary gift to direct donations to Shepherd earmarked "Barnabas Aid" in honor and appreciation of our pastors. A check will be sent from Shepherd in their name to Barnabas Aid to help persecuted Christians around the world. If you would prefer to give a gift directly to Barnabas Aid, go to their website at [www.barnabasaid.org](http://www.barnabasaid.org) or write them at Barnabas Aid, 6731 Curran St., McLean, VA 22101.



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

Make sure your calendar is marked for this special day. It's our annual Congregational Fall Fundraiser. We are looking forward to seeing all the wonderful crafts and delicious baked goods that each of you are making. This is truly "effective team" work. It really shows what a close family we are and how each of us comes through with the special talent that God has blessed us with. Making crafts or baking also makes us take time to relax and enjoy a few moments of time well spent. We are still praying for God to show us where he would like "His" funds to go this year. We have had some excellent suggestions. We are still listening for ideas.

The set - up time is Friday, November 1 from 1 p.m. until 6 p. m. You may bring in your crafts and baked goods to the Fellowship Hall during this time. Thank you for all of your contributions.

Our canning class was excellent and we had so much fun even though we were really hot. Linda Olson was an excellent demonstrator and kept us moving. We were also lucky to have two men join us. Jeff Frohock and Troy Standard. They were our strong arms and keep us laughing. We canned over 100 jars. Linda even canned some more at home for us. Thank you to all who contributed all that was needed to do this. Any questions please call Marina Bromar 301-3598.

In the Love of Christ, The Boutique Committee

### QUILTING FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF



#### HELLO FROM THE QUILTING GROUP!

We are so busy getting the quilts finished for LWR and baby quilts for Parkview NICU and sewing backpacks to pack school kits. Thank you so much to Gary and Karen Palmer for helping sew backpacks along side of the ones that Michael, Amber and myself have been sewing. Without all their help I know that we couldn't have reached our goal.

A special thank you to everyone who donated items for all the kits. You have all been a blessing to Karen and myself. We asked and you all have supplied us with needed items. We want to say thank you to Janet and Ric Riccardi for the sheet sets, thanks Lynne Gonzales for adding quilting books and magazines to our library, to our special angel for 3 packages of threads for tying our quilts, and thanks Richard Nygren for the material pieces, and to Gary and Karen Palmer for batting. We are so blessed to have such generous folks as you to help our group along the way.

Now I have to let you know that we will need your help to pack all the kits on October 12 starting at 9 am until completed. This year we will add our tracking numbers to each box so you can see where our items are being sent and when they arrive there. The blessing of quilts and kits will be on Sunday Oct. 13. Be sure to bring your cameras as we have many new design quilts. We will also invite you to check out the beautiful baby quilts that will go to Parkview Hospital. They have been made by Anne Neudecker's sister, Eleanor Barber.

We have been richly blessed this year and ask The Lord to bless each of you for all your help and support.

If you would like to stop in and see our work or join us we would like to have you stop in at the hall on the 4th Saturday of each month except (November and December). We start at 9 am and work until noon and sometimes take work home to complete. We also have snack time and devotions. Come see us in action! If you want more information about our group call Linda Olson 276-0373.

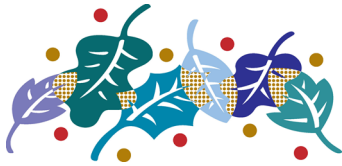


#### The TLC-Good Grief Small Group

is off and running! We are planning to meet this month on Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, and Friday October 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will be finishing up our reading and discussion of the book, Good Grief, and beginning the follow up study guide. All are welcome to join us at any time!

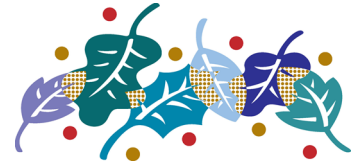


Shepherd of the Valley is celebrating LWML Sunday on November 10th at both services. Ladies, watch for more information in the weekly announcements or contact Ruth Ann Krueger to find out more about LWML.



## PRESCHOOL NEWS

HAPPY FALL!



This is such a busy time of year with so much fun!

The children will be singing in church for the first time this year on October 6. They have been practicing so hard with their new songs and also have learned the Lord's Prayer. We are all very excited. This will be followed by our school potluck picnic.

Our October Fundraiser is starting this week and goes through the 18<sup>th</sup>. It is "Midland Fundraising" catalog sales with a lot of wonderful goodies in it including foods, kitchen items, and magazine subscriptions to name a few. A catalog will be in the church office so come in and take a look. I'm sure you will find something in there that you will want to order and you will be supporting our school.

This year our school will be having a Costume Harvest Party on October 31 at 10:00 am – 11:30am. We have decided that it would be fun for the students to be able to "Trunk or Treat" in the top parking lot. If you would like to bring up your car, decorate your trunk, and hand out goodies to the children please call the school office and let me know. We would love for the children to have fantastic and safe time. Or if you would just like to donate treats to be handed out, that would also be great. We will need all the treats to be individually wrapped (candy, pretzels, novelties, etc.).

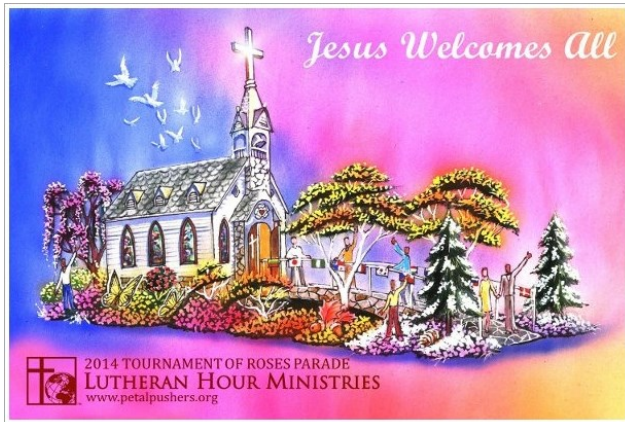
### Upcoming Events:

- Oct 6 - Children sing @ 10:45 followed by picnic
- Oct 2 -18 - Midland Fundraiser
- Oct 29 - Pumpkin Patch & "Whatever Little Pony" pictures and rides
- Oct 30 - Pumpkin Patch
- Oct 31 - Harvest Parties & Trunk or Treat (10–11:30am)



Please continue to pray for God's many blessings on our school.

In His Service,  
Linda Williamson, Director



### LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

**2014 ROSE PARADE FLOAT "JESUS WELCOMES ALL"** - The cost of this project is not included in any budgets of the International Lutheran Laymen's League or the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. We hope that you will want to share with us in this ministry. We request your prayers and appreciate your financial support. Please send your gift to: The Lutheran Hour Float Committee, P.O. Box 20044, Riverside, CA 92516-0044.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** - 4,000 Petal Pushers® are needed this year to decorate floats in the 2014 Tournament of Roses Parade. 2014 marks our 64th year of participation and the LHM Float continues to be the only Christian Float in this famous media event. Decorating starts on December 7 and continues through December 31. It is not too early to sign up to help

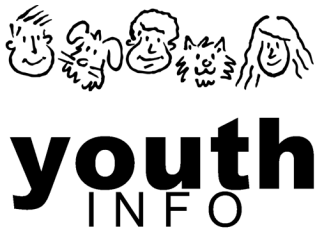
**PETAL PUSHERS® COLORING CONTEST** - We invite students in Preschool through 8th grade to enter the Petal Pushers® 2014 Rose Parade float coloring contest. Go to [www.petalpushers.org](http://www.petalpushers.org) to download the coloring page. Entries are to be postmarked by November 1, 2013. Please be sure to complete all information on the coloring contest entry page. Winners of the contest will receive a Family Pass to the Behind the Scenes Party, a float t-shirt, and a float magnet. The teacher of the winning student from each category will also receive a Family Pass to the Behind the Scenes Party. Four winners will be selected, one from each category: Preschool-Kindergarten; grades 1st & 2nd; grades 3rd-5th; and grades 6th-8th. Submit entries to: Lutheran Hour Ministries Float Committee, P.O. Box 20044, Riverside, CA 92516-0044.



### **Confirmation / Jr. High Youth Group Schedule:**

Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup> – Confirmation Class: 6-8 p.m., Divine Drama, Chapter 2  
Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup> – Jr. High Youth Group: 6-8 p.m. "Church / Religion . . . That's 'Boring'"  
Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup> – Confirmation Class: 6-8 p.m., Divine Drama, Chapter 3  
Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup> – Jr. High Youth Group: 6-8 p.m., Luther - "A Rebel with a God!"  
Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> – Confirmation Class: 6-8 p.m., Divine Drama, Chapter 4. Also it is "B"  
Day! Everyone must be able to recite the Books of the Bible!

**Early Communion Class** For those who have completed the third grade in school and are interested in learning more about the Sacrament of Holy Communion so that they can participate in this Holy Meal, an Early Communion instructional class is being offered on three consecutive Thursday evenings: 10/17; 10/24; 10/31. We plan to meet from 6 -7 p.m. in the Church Office conference room. Parents of the students are encouraged (not required) to stay with their children for these three classes. Attendance at all three classes is required. First Communion is scheduled for Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, in our "All Saints Sunday" services. Any questions please call Pastor Dennis Krueger at the office.



The youth have kicked off the school year here at Shepherd of the Valley! All groups started back in September, and we have been busy from the get go. Awana kicked off their year with an ice cream party. The Jr. and Sr. High groups have already taken a trip to the beach. Jr. High students have begun their confirmation curriculum. Sr. High students were out at UCR getting different opinions on God, the afterlife and morality. We came up with some pretty interesting answers to those questions! Coming up later this month will be our Re-Think youth conference, and on October 20, the youth will be leading us in worship. Come join us and don't miss out on all these exciting events!

### **MEN'S "THANK YOU BREAKFAST"**

It was great! About 24 men attended and enjoyed a breakfast casserole, potatoes, fruit, juices rolls and a delicious coffee cake. There was enough food for seconds (and even thirds) so no one left hungry. And the fellowshiping was what made it even nicer.

Kurt Stange shared his experiences in the world of baseball and sports. We could have listened to another hour of those stories, Kurt. It was too bad that more of our men were not able to join us, but maybe next time.

### **CROSSWAYS**

Our Crossways Bible Study resumes in October on 10/10 at 10:30 a.m.! We are starting the last section of our study, Units 51-60 that will take us through the Book of Acts, the Epistles, and Revelation. We plan to meet every other week ( 10/10; 10/24; 11/7; 11/21 etc.). We may take a little break at Christmas time, but should finish our study by Valentine's Day in 2014. If you haven't participated in the past you could still jump in and benefit from this very insightful study.

### **Power Point Schedule for October & November**

	8:00 am	10:45 am
10/6	Joshua Stange	Bob Maurer
10/13	Luke Hamann	Amanda Johansen
10/20	Gerry Klepps	Abby Covert
10/27	Bud Kenefick	Marvin Niles
11/3	Joshua Stange	Amanda Johansen
11/10	Bud Kenefick	Jim Wilson
11/17	Luke Hamann	Abby Covert
11/27	Gerry Klepps	Bob Maurer



### **KNIGHTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT MEN'S BIBLE STUDY TLC**

Winning the Race is the title of the Knights of the Holy Spirit Bible study, next meeting on Saturday, October 12, at 9:00 am. 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. This month's session is "Exceeding Expectations" and points to examples of people and teams that accomplished more than expected. We hope that you will join us and bring a friend.

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](mailto:lcmsdrew@roadrunner.com). Thank you all for your service to our Church and our Lord!

## Un-apologetic column 7

### Who Is God, And What Is The Gospel?

Last month we discussed some basic Mormon theology, and how it differs in key areas from classical Christianity. Now that we have some knowledge under our belts, let's get together a game plan for discussing our convictions with our new Mormon friend. Using our knowledge of LDS teachings, we can make our case for the nature of God, and how we are saved. I will also prepare you for the queen mother of all Mormon missionary tactics, the personal testimony, or "The Burning in the Bosom" as it is commonly referred to among Mormons.

One quick word before we begin. Do not expect that these tactics will immediately convince a LDS member to abandon the Mormon Church. There are many factors outside of theological reasons for a Mormon to remain in the faith, even if they come to the belief that they are in error. They stand to lose their family, friends and in many cases their employment if they work for a company run by other LDS members. This is a big decision, and a monumental shift in worldview and lifestyle. We must be kind and understanding, yet firm in Christ's message of salvation.

When focusing on the question "Who is God," we should try to get a specific answer from our Mormon friends. As I pointed out last month, Mormons use the same words as Christians, but mean different things. If a missionary tells you they believe in Jesus, ask "What is your view of who Jesus was?" Use scripture to back up your position that Jesus, the Holy Spirit and the Father are one, and that the triune God is the only god. Point them to scriptures such as Deuteronomy 6:4, Isaiah 43:10 and 44:6-8, Mark 12:29, and John 17:3. Mormons will agree scripture states there is only one God, but then qualify that by saying he is the only God of "This World." But is that what scripture says? In the book of Isaiah, God does not claim He is the only God of this world. He proclaims, "I am God, and there is none else" (Isaiah 45:22). John 1:1 says, "In the beginning was the Word (Jesus), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." In John 10:30, Jesus says, "I and my Father are one," clearly understood to be a claim to deity. The Apostle Paul echoes this view of Jesus in Philippians 2:5-8. Passages like Matthew 28:19 support this conclusion, as Jesus commands us to baptize in the "name," not names, of the "Father, Son, and Holy Spirit." Ironically, support for the Trinity can also be found in the Book of Mormon, in passages like Alma 11:26-29, Alma 11:44, and Mosiah 15:1-4.

"Gospel," as we all know, means "good news." What is this good news? It's forgiveness of sins through the atoning sacrifice of Jesus (Matthew 26:28, 1 Peter 2:24). It's reconciliation to God through the work of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:18-20). It's new life through the resurrection of Christ (Romans 6:4, Galatians 2:20). All this Christ did "that He might bring us to God" (1 Peter 3:18). The Gospel is the greatest news the world has ever known. According to the LDS scriptures however, individual salvation is only achieved through perfect obedience. But as we know, perfection is impossible. This has caused one commentator to dub the Mormon gospel as an "Impossible Gospel." Preaching a false gospel is a grave offense and the consequences match it in severity (Galatians 1:6-10). Point them to Titus 3:5-7 to show that we are not captive to a works-based salvation. Lead them to verses such as Romans 4:1-8, Ephesians 2:8-9, and Hebrews 10:10-14. Let the true nature of grace and mercy that is spoken of in these passages be a light to them, and allow the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts and minds.

At some point in your conversation, once you have presented your argument, you are likely to hear the following statement. "I have read the Book of Mormon from cover-to cover. I testify to you that I know the Book of Mormon is true. I know that Joseph Smith was a true prophet of God. And I know the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is true." Personal testimony is a crucial part of Mormon witnessing. But in light of what we have set before them, does personal testimony outweigh evidence? I ask the following question of my new friends to prove my point on this matter. Suppose I go into my bank and ask the teller for \$5000. The teller looks up my account and says "I'm sorry Mr. Covert, you only have \$7.58 in your account." I reply to her "I have prayed about this, and I know I have \$5000 in my account." Should the teller trust the evidence before her, or my personal feelings on the matter? You might also ask "Have your feelings ever lead you astray?" I know that mine have on many occasions. Feelings are not a good reason to ignore the evidence before us in God's Word.

I hope these tips will help you get started in your conversations. This is by no means an all-encompassing treatment on the subject, but should help you hold your own in a conversation. For deeper study of the issue, I recommend the books "The Maze of Mormonism" by Walter Martin, or "Mormonism, an Ambassadors Guide" by Brett Kunkle, the latter of which proved helpful in writing this article. I will pick up this series again in January with tips on dialoguing with Jehovah's Witnesses, but would like to take the next two months to discuss some different issues. See you next month!

Your Servant, Drew Covert



**Air Force Village West - "Village Concert" Sunday, October 20th, 3:00 PM**

**Jolivet Trio: Judith Farmer, bassoon; Susan Greenberg, flute; Kyunghee Kim-Sutre, harp**

**Presenting: Viva La France! With music by all-French composers.**

**Concerts are performed at the Memorial Chapel at 21233 LeMay Drive, Riverside (Air Force Village West)  
Doors open at 2:30 pm. Tickets: \$20 (\$15 for seniors & students). Call (951) 697-2928 for more information.**



## MEMBERSHIP CLASS

**What Does This Mean** membership class will meet in October on Thursday, the 17<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> at 10:30 a.m. in the Church Office conference room. We will be meeting every other week, generally,

through the end of the year. This class is for those who may or may not have had much background in a church. We will discuss the basic Christian faith and teaching with a special emphasis on our Lutheran doctrine. If someone would like to attend for a review, that would be most appropriate! Contact Pastor Dennis for more information.

## 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!



## THE LUTHERAN HOUR

*Proclaiming Christ for 75 Years.*

"The Lutheran Hour" and other Lutheran Hour Ministry broadcasts can be heard on KKLA Radio 99.5 FM and KPRO 1570 AM. Check out lhm.org or the radio station's website to find dates and times of broadcasts. You can also listen the programs directly from the LHM website [www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org).



**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.

*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.*

**Ads  
Go  
Here**



## ***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*

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
MORENO VALLEY, CA  
PERMIT NO. 75

**SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY  
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL**  
11650 Perris Blvd.  
Moreno Valley, CA 92557  
Church (951) 924-4688  
School (951) 924-3422  
[www.shepherdofthevalley.net](http://www.shepherdofthevalley.net)

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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

# **OCTOBER 2013**



### **Sundays in October . . .**

We have a number of special Sundays coming up in the month of October!

#### **The First Sunday, 10/6**

Our Preschool will be singing at the 10:45 a.m. service! They will be Having their Preschool Picnic/Pot-Luck following the service.

#### **The Second Sunday, 10/13**

We observe our annual blessing of the Lutheran World Relief Quilts and Kits in both services.

#### **The Third Sunday, 10/20**

Our Youth Group will lead our Sunday morning services at 8:00 and 10:45 a.m. This is always a real treat having our youth serve in these services.

#### **The Fourth Sunday, 10/27**

We will observe this day as Reformation Sunday as we give thanks to God for working through Martin Luther and others to bring reform and renewal in the church.