

Newsletter January 2009



Dear Friends and Family, if there are friends and loved ones whom you would like to have prayers for, or military persons on active duty, please contact the church office at 526-7577 and we will list them in our bulletin and newsletter.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER Pastor Gary and our church leaders.

Undergoing cancer therapy Daryl Barnett, Diane Voorhes, Geoff Connors (*Ralph Nelman's grandson-in-law*), Wendy Weathers (*friend of Elizabeth Hood*) Julie Rolph (*friend of Jan Yoder*).

Under convalescent or hospice care...

Mary Giovinetti, Tommy Timms (cousin of Jeanne Fisher) Hazel Gade (OSLC member), Tim Simpson

Undergoing surgery, various tests, treatments, recuperating and continued comfort...

Elsie Pusateri, Mike Moriarty (OSLC member), John Moore (OSLC member), Kristofer Maass (friend of the Baas family), Loretta Blake, for continuing strength and health; Kenny Kotwitz, to regain some vision; Dorothy Myers; John Yanuklis, Pr. Kenn Bergmann; Sammi Brazenor; Christine and Paul (Pastor Lynn's friends); Judy Casamassina (friend of John Yanuklis), Lydia Christensen; Eloise Cooley (Marcia's mother); Edward Clark (a friend of Pastor Lynn); Travis Girard recently deployed to Iraq (Richard Westerdoll's nephew); Good Shepherd Lutheran School; Laurie Kephart (John Yanuklis' daughter); Millie McDermott (Mary Kotwitz' mother); Mary Milligan (friend of Pastor Lynn); Julie Plummer (friend of Kathy Westerdoll); Margie Schuelke (Mary Kotwitz' aunt); Pastor Leslie Soyster; Kelly Stemler (Carol Howard's daughter); (Marian's friend; Irene Tangren's daughter, Debbie; Pr. Paul Werfelmann, John Yankulis Jr. (son of John Yankulis).

Elena Torres (*friend of Sigrid Bremer*) Dennis Moore (Delores Moore's son *awaiting Kidney transplant*) Scott Robison (*Paula Malloy's son*).

Our Military Personnel now serving: John Parker, Jay Cawley, Shane Denning, Tyson and Blake Crosby, Joe Anderson, Mike Hultman, Mason Siebert, Brian Lowen, Nick Goldsmith, Brian Richardson, Frank King, Michael Kidd, Nisha Dean, Dan Balaun, Chris Labelle, Raymond Schooler, Captain Ted Slocum, David Bond, Wayne Combs, Jeffrey C.A. Bower, Jonathan Scholberg, Brett Launer, Travis Girard. Jorden Gutowski, Allen Steinke, Robert Deobler, Sgt Elliott Van Marion.

WOMEN'S CIRCLES FOR JANUARY....

NAOMI CIRCLE meets Thursday, January 8th at 9:30 a.m., in the home of Leona Stewart 2158 Ardenwood, 583-1063.

HANNAH CIRCLE meets Tuesday, January 20th at 7:30 p.m., in the home of Carol Bunn 2767 N. Licia Place 584-6455.



HAPPY 2009 FROM Y.I.M.A.H

(Young In Mind And Heart)

All those 50 years of age and older who are "Young In Mind And Heart" are invited to our first of the new year potluck.

Where: Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
In Eichele Hall

When: Thursday, January 22nd

Time: 11:30 a.m.

For further information please call the church office 526-7577.



Dear readers, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church has converted to using the new Cranberry edition of the pew hymnals. In doing so, we recycled most of the old LBW green hymnal. There are LBW hymnals which were donated by families in memory of or in honor of loved ones. If you know that your family had dedicated a hymnal and you would like to have the hymnal please call the church office 805-526-7577 and we will be happy to check to see if it is still available. All unclaimed Hymnals will be recycled February 1, 2009.



It's that time again. Time for new beginnings, new resolutions, new promises, a new and better future.

First on our list should be to spend more time with God every day. To learn more about what He wants us to do and be. And as we do, we will ask questions and find answers to nourish the heart and soul.

It is one thing to read about the Christian life and another to actually follow it.

But help is available in your church library. There are books that deal with everyday problems, everyday life, everyday family matters. Our shelves are very well labeled to make it simple to find the help you need. Just come in and browse to see the many books that answer all the questions you have about walking with God each day.

Let us commit ourselves to become closer to the Lord this coming year and experience the wonderful changes that will bless our daily lives.

As we follow the Christ, we will indeed have a Happy New Year.



School News

Good Shepherd Lutheran School

A Christian community challenging minds and nurturing hearts since 1979



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GIVING THE GIFT OF FAITH: Your Church's Ministry

A three-year research project by researcher George Barna found that adults essentially carry out the beliefs they embraced when they were young, particularly before they reach their teenage years. In fact, a person's moral foundations are often in place by the age of nine, a person's response to the meaning and personal value of Jesus Christ's life, death, and resurrection are usually determined before age eighteen, and, in most cases people's spiritual beliefs are irrevocably formed when they are pre-teens.

Lutheran schools provide a foundation on which students can build their faith. The Gospel message is presented daily, and students are reminded daily of God's grace and forgiveness through the example of their teacher.

Studies have found that students that attend Lutheran schools:

- report more frequent experiences with the Lord in their personal lives
- Exhibit a more consistent belief in Christ Jesus
- Profess a greater clarity on the way of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ
- Display more Biblical knowledge
- Do more witnessing to others about Jesus
- Live out stronger tendencies to be forgiving and personally forthright with other people

The list goes on, and I will give you this information as you leave tonight, but research has also proved that the more years a person attended a Lutheran school, the more significant the difference became



Mr. Scott Peters conducts the GSLS band during their recent Christmas Band and Choir Concert

News and Notes

GEOGRAPHY BEE

The preliminary rounds of the geography bee were held in December. Classroom winners are Madie Babel (5th), Eddie Boughan (6th), Robby Cole (8th), Kimmy Farr (5th), Sarah Klebe (8th), Emily Radtke (7th), Erin Scuoler (7th), Heather Williams (6th) and Keats Willis (7th). The final school round will be held after chapel on January 9. The winner of this will take a written test which will be sent in to National Geographic.

SPECIAL DATES

- January 14—School-wide National Geographic Spelling Bee
- January 21 – Kindergarten to see *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day* at the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza.
- January 28-February 8—Scholastic Book Fair

TOPPER'S FUNDRAISER

This month's dining out adventure will be at Topper's Pizza on Tuesday, January 20. Check your church bulletins for flyers.

Adopt A Student

During these difficult economic times, give the gift of a Christian education to a student at Good Shepherd Lutheran School. Respond to the Christmas appeal sent out in December and sponsor a student.

**REGISTRATION BEGINS
JANUARY 14.**

**Give your child the gift of a
Christian education.**



Trinity campus students presented the Christmas musical *I Witness News: Live from Bethlehem*

Dear Fellow Pilgrims,

Are you a victim? I am. Are you? Nobody wants to be a victim, but sometimes it happens. So, how about it; are you a victim? Before you answer the question you may wonder, "Am I a victim of what?" That's a fair question. A victim of what?

I am a victim of post-Christmas let down. Each year I find the Advent and Christmas seasons exciting. From the beginning, which I mark with the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade (rather than the appearance of the first decorations in the stores along about July 4th), I get excited to see the lights go up in the neighborhood. I enjoy driving through town seeing the lights from the trees shining through front windows. I enjoy the radio stations that play all Christmas music beginning with Thanksgiving. I enjoy the electricity I feel standing behind a child in a store, getting all googly-eyed over the large display of toys. I enjoy the candy, the candles and the crèche. I enjoy Christmas Eve worship, and stepping outside at midnight to look up and the stars and ponder the stillness of the night and the amazing love of God.

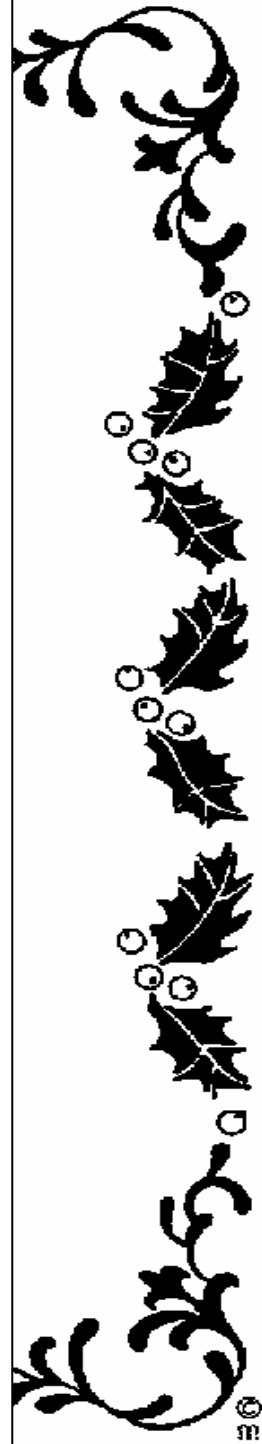
Then comes December 26th. The church calendar says we are still in the Christmas season, but trees, stripped bare of their decorations, are already beginning to appear on the curb. The excitement of the stores turns ugly as customers try to return or exchange those items that are the broken, the wrong size, or don't work out for whatever reason. Slowly the number of houses displaying lights diminishes until there are none left.

Why am I left with the let down feeling? Because the feeling of hope that seemed so strong in the build up to Christmas seems to have disappeared as we return to our everyday routines. When the feeling of "peace, good will toward all" disappears, I find myself sad, largely because it means we really didn't learn anything from Christmas.

God became human in Jesus Christ not that we might have one day or one season to express love toward one another, but that expressing love toward one another might become an every day occurrence. God became human in Jesus to let us know that the status quo envisioned by God is one wherein we love God as well as our fellow human beings each and every day of our lives. What a wonderful world that would be!

Imagine a world in which all the positive things about Christmas became the norm rather than the seasonal exception. I guess I'm just naive enough to hold out hope for that day. Until then, I remain a victim – but at least I'm a hopeful victim.

Your Partner in Ministry,



PRESCHOOL NEWS

Happy New Year To All! We are coming back to preschool after a very well deserved week off for the holidays. The children are full of stories about the great adventures they had over the break. Also with the new year, we are welcoming a couple of new friends to our center (also very exciting!)

We still have some openings for children on all three classes. We offer a well rounded program-helping children to grow spiritually, intellectually, physically, emotionally and socially. Our teachers hold degrees or certificates in Early Childhood Education, and we offer both morning and full day programs. If you have or know of someone looking for a wonderful preschool program, give us a call at 526-9069 for further information.

Terry Labrum

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

The First
Meeting of

Annual Congregational



Is scheduled for Sunday, January 25, 2009
Your presence and participation are essential!

A REMINDER FROM GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN SCHOOL

The holidays are over, your shopping is done...did you turn in your Simi Valley Town Center receipts? If you have receipts, please drop them off in the GSLS Shopping for Students box in the church or school office – envelopes are provided if you want them returned to you.

THANK YOU to everyone who continues to support this program for our school...we are currently in 5th place!!!

Questions about this program?? Please contact Linda Radtke @ (818)464-5193

To Our Dear Shepherd of the Valley Family,

Thank you so much for remembering us this past Christmas season with your many cards and gifts. You have been incredibly supportive to us and we are grateful. It is truly a pleasure and a blessing to be able to live and serve with you.

Sincerely,

The Stevenson Family



SCRIP HAPPY NEW YEAR

Many thanks to all our wonderful SCRIP buyers who made our Christmas season fund raiser so very successful! We hope everyone enjoyed receiving gift cards to their favorite shopping places.

Remember, Scrip makes wonderful birthday, wedding, anniversary, graduation, baptism, confirmation, shower, and gifts for any occasion.

And remember every time you sit down to eat, you could pay for your meal with gift cards to the eatery or to the market where you bought your ingredients. We carry Albertson's, Von's and Ralphs, too.

Don't go shopping without them.

I bet you drive to work, to the mall, to church, to visit friends, don't you? Well, use a gift card to Arco, Shell or Chevron to fill up that gas tank.

House need repairs? Printer need more paper? Planning to get in on all those after Christmas sales? See us for gift cards to whatever store you like to shop at.

Remember, you are enabling the church to raise money with every card you buy. It costs you nothing extra so why not help the church budget? It seems a shame to pass up such a great opportunity when it takes so little time to see us at the SCRIP table on Sundays between services. Pick up a merchant list and check off all those stores you frequent. Then talk to us and we will help you as you help your church.

See you at the SCRIP table!