

Seek the Lord, Study God's Word, Serve the World

Newsletter July 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...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 (SVLC member), John Moore (SVLC 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); Lydia Christensen; Eloise Cooley (Marcia's mother); Good Shepherd Lutheran School; Laurie Kephart (John Yanuklis' daughter); Millie McDermott (Mary Kotwitz' mother); Mary Milligan (friend of Pastor Lynn); 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). Marion Green (*friend of Sigrid Bremer*) Dennis Moore (Delores Moore's son *awaiting Kidney transplant*), Jim Geres (friend of Norma Studer), Hortensia Salcedo (Helen Anderson's mother), Priscilla Thompson (*pinched nerve in neck*). Becky Rodriguez (former manager for Luther's Attic).

**WE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR AMERICA, THOSE FIGHTING IN FOREIGN LANDS
AND FOR THE CONTINUED STRENGTH OF THE LEADERS OF THIS GREAT NATION**

Our Military Personnel now serving: John Parker, Shane Denning, Tyson and Blake Crosby, Joe Anderson, Mike Hultman, 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, Jorden Gutowski, Allen Steinke, Robert Deobler, Sgt Elliott Van Marion. Matthew Wilkins, Cpl. Brett Tyre, Travis Girard

WE EXPRESS OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO... Connie Kieffer-Collins and family on the loss of her daughter Vicki Kieffer in Texas on Sunday, May 10th.

Also to George Blake and family on the loss of his mother Loretta on July 1, in Olathe, Kansas.

Loretta Frances Blake

Loretta Frances Blake, 88, surrounded by loved ones, entered into eternal rest on Tuesday July 1, 2009 at Homestead Assisted Living of Olathe, Kansas. Loretta was born in Williamsville, NY, married in 1945 and moved to California in 1947. She lived in Simi Valley from 1961 until she moved to Olathe 7 months ago. She was a member of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Simi Valley, CA. and loved being a volunteer at Luther's Attic Thrift Shop in Moorpark, CA.

Loretta was pre-deceased by her husband, George O. Blake in 1974 and a son, Frank O. Blake in 1990. She is survived by: a son, George Raymond Blake of California; a daughter, Susan Frances Genter and her husband David, Olathe, Ks.; 4 grandchildren (Timothy & Michele, Scott and Jennifer Genter) and 2 great-grandchildren, Collin and Cameron Genter; two brothers, Elmer Jones and Melvin Jones; a sister, Alma McTigue.

Visitation will be from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, July 7th at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Simi Valley, CA. followed by a service at 10:00 a.m. Burial will be at Oakwood Memorial Park Cemetery in Chatsworth, CA. A Family reception will follow at the church. Memorial Contributions in her name are suggested to the church for their Homeless and Family Assistance program.

Fond memories and condolences may be left for the family at www.dwnewcomers.com. Arrangements by D.W. Newcomer's Stine and McClure. 816-931-7777.

From the Pastor



My Dear Fellow Pilgrims,

A few weeks ago, Ariana was working on an English Assignment. She was to write about a “life altering experience”. After much deliberation, thinking through the experience she could share, she finally settled on a visit we paid to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C., two years ago. Most moving, perhaps, was near the end of our visit to the museum when watching videos of survivors telling their personal stories of struggle and survival. Ariana learned about the horrors and cruelty of hatred and prejudice.

This past week, I had a “life altering experience” myself. I took a week of Continuing Education and went to Denver to volunteer and learn more about the SAME Café. The SAME Café is indeed unique among restaurants since it is a non-profit restaurant located in downtown Denver. Because of its location, its mission, and the quality of food served, a wide variety of people were served each day.

The name, SAME, is an acronym for So All May Eat. Perhaps the first noticeable differences upon entering the restaurant are seeing no prices on the menu and no cash register in the establishment. Each day the clientele is made up of the homeless, people between jobs, young “artists” from the community, business people, and the curious who want to see how such an establishment can serve excellent food without set prices and continue to exist.

The SAME Café offers lunch for all who come. If the customer has no money to pay, they are invited to eat and then exchange some work around the restaurant (washing dishes, mopping floors, etc.) for their meal. If the customer is only able to leave a small amount for the meal, they leave what they can, almost always with the hope they will be able to come at a later time and pay more for their next meal. Those who are not suffering economic hardships often give as much or more than a similar meal would cost at a traditional restaurant, in order to support its mission.

Each day, Brad Birky, the owner, along with a cast of volunteers, offers a choice of two types of soup, two types of salad, and two types of pizzas. Using organic ingredients almost exclusively, one of each daily option is vegetarian. I was amazed how a group of volunteers, under Brad’s direction, could make such delicious offerings given the modest kitchen facilities, yet nearly a hundred people came through the doors daily during the three hours of operation.

Brad, and a very part time person who operates the restaurant on Saturday evening during extended hours, are the only paid employees. Everyone else volunteers their time. All profits from the restaurant are given to charities in the Denver area that provide food and shelter.

Why would I call this a “life altering experience”? I describe it as such because of the incredible community I experienced – people caring about one another, helping out one another, and receiving each other in a non-judgmental way regardless of status in life. I believe I experienced a brief glimpse of heaven, where all are welcome and valued.

If you are curious about the SAME Café, you may see more at www.soallmayeat.org. I hope in the next few weeks to find time to share my photos and experience with those who are interested.

Your Partner in Ministry,
Pastor Gary

HOMELESS? IN SIMI VALLEY?

The County of Ventura 2009 Homeless count has now been completed. The total count of homeless for all of Ventura County is 1,715 persons. Of these, 303 were counted in Simi Valley. Of these 303 persons:

- 98 % were living on the street, 2% in facilities
- 5% were seniors (62+), 18% were between the ages of 18-24, 1% were unaccompanied youth (without parents) between the ages of 13-17
- 69% were men, 31% were women
- 69% of adults were white; 23% were Hispanic or Latino; 1% were American Indian or Alaskan Native; 3% were African-American or black; 1% were Asian/Pacific Islander; and 3% were other
- 67% were born in California
- 12% of the total number of persons counted were children
- 18 families were counted – 10 two-parent families with children and 8 one-parent families with children.

20% of the homeless in Ventura County call Simi Valley “home”. “Lord, when did we see you hungry and homeless and invite you in?”

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”

We wish everyone a blessed summer loaded with love, happiness and health

We have enjoyed being together this year average attendance was 29 AWESOME!!

We are looking forward to our next meal together - September 17th at 11:30 a.m.

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

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The ladies group of OSLC began saving stamps ago. Now that we have united as Shepherd of the Valley, Please set aside any used postage stamps you receive, in the narthex. You can either leave the envelopes whole, or cut a quarter inch or more around the stamps. I will collect them regularly and send them as a donation to one of several charity organizations which use them to earn money from stamp dealers and/or for educational purposes.



donations by the congregation several years ago. Now that we have united as Shepherd of the Valley, let's continue this worthwhile mission. and drop them off at the church office or in the narthex.

I recently received a thank you note to the congregation from Stamp Camp USA (you can check them out at www.stampcampusa.org) for stamps from the US and Britain and picture frames which were donated. I have learned that they need any and all stamps, even ones that are torn, etc. They also need any other philatelic and general office supplies, craft materials, used award trophies and small picture frames,

By way of full disclosure, I am a stamp collector. I sort and collect many stamps during the year and regularly mail donations of duplicate material on my own. I generally do not need the stamps you donate, but if I see one that I do not already have, I will replace it with more than one of my own. Anything you include for Good Shepherd School I will sort out and deliver as well. If you wish, please contact me at stampdude03@gmail.com, or 805/581-2923.

Thank you, Bill Wacenske



Dear helpful, thoughtful, wonderful Women of the church, your salads were delicious. I never dreamed you could feed so many about 120 people. I gave Pastor a monetary thanks for your group, but I'll never be able to name the ways you showed your Christian help. Thank you is too little for so much. God Bless, *Jeanne Schlosser*



LIBRARY NEWS

I hope you are all taking advantage of the library book cart which is on the patio every Sunday. It is full of our new acquisitions and lots of relevant reading matter as well.

With both Mother's Day and Father's Day coming up, we thought it would be interesting to put parenting books on the cart. If we don't have children, we probably have nieces and nephews or perhaps grandchildren. We can all use ideas to help the little ones have a happy childhood.

We also have books written for children on the cart. They can read them by themselves or, if too young, you can read them to your youngster. Please let the children choose what books they wish to take home and encourage them to enjoy the stories. These books do not have to be checked out.

Also, for our women who attend circle, we have a novel which tells the story of Esther and her experiences. I am sure you are learning the fascinating and exciting story as told in the bible and want to learn more.

Don't forget our Book Exchange. Donate your gently read paperback novels, and exchange them for ones you have not yet read. Why pay big bucks for a book when you can take one home for free?

Remember the Library is YOUR library. Please visit anytime and make use of all we have to offer. Suggestions are always welcome as well. Let us know what you want from us and we will try to provide it. Donate any suitable books you no longer need. We appreciate your help and interest.



PRESCHOOL NEWS

Our preschool year is winding down, and the children are very much looking forward to summer. Our annual open house and moving on ceremony is scheduled to take place on June 4th at 7:00 pm. There will be a slide show featuring activities that the children have participated in throughout the year, end of the year certificates, classroom visitation and of course refreshments. The last day of preschool will be June 17th, with our summer program starting June 18th.

We are currently registering for both our summer and fall programs. If you know of someone who is looking for a preschool for their child (2.9 -5 years of age, encourage them to give us a call.

Terry Labrum, Preschool Director

Relay for Life

“The Power of the Dream 25 Years of Hope”

is this year's theme for the Simi Valley Relay for Life. Relay will be October 10 & 11, 2009 at Royal High School. Relay for Life is the American Cancer Society's signature event. It is a 24 hour team event that raises awareness of cancer in the community and raises funds to fight cancer. Throughout the event, Relay for Life teams commit to keeping at least one member walking the track . . . because cancer never sleeps.

Cancer also knows no race, gender or age.

Last year Our Saviour raised **\$13,364!!** and had over 71 walkers. For the fourth year in a row we won the “Golden Sneaker” Award for the most money brought in by a non profit team. The award is on display in the narthex. Our Saviour has helped to put an end to cancer for the past 10 years and I don't want to stop until there is a cure.

This year we are going to continue our fight as Shepherd of the Valley. The American Cancer Society's goal is to wipe out cancer by 2015. That means we would see a cure for cancer in our lifetime. Let us help to make that goal a reality. Anyone may walk, from the young to the old. Please contact me or visit the website printed below if you would like to join our team, pray for us, or sponsor one of our walkers. Also contact me if you are a survivor of cancer and would like to participate in the survivors events.

Julie Honda 341-3866 R6Hondas@Roadrunner.com

Website www.relayforlife.org/simivalleyca

Click on view teams and then click on Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

Women's Bible Study

When: Saturday, August 8th

Where: Lynn Squire's Home
3877 Citronella Street

Time: 11:00

All Women are invited to come and enjoy Lunch and a Wonderful Bible Study lead by Marcia Cooley.

Please Bring a Salad to Share.

Don't forget your Bibles

Please e-mail Carol Bunn at CABunn@sbcglobal.net if you have any questions.



School News

Good Shepherd Lutheran School

A Christian community challenging minds and nurturing hearts since 1979



Volume XXX, Issue X

www.gsls-simi.com

July 2009



TEACHING CHILDREN ABOUT FAITH

One of the biggest benefits in a Lutheran school ministry is the opportunity to surround students with positive role models that can also talk openly about their faith.

Jonathan Shapiro, member of Shepherd of the Valley, spoke to middle school students about his missionary service in Africa. Pastor David Brinkley, pastor at Trinity, concludes his teaching unit on California missions by taking the third and fourth grade students on a tour of the San Fernando Valley Mission.

These are only two examples of the faith lessons taught to students at Good Shepherd Lutheran School. Pastors, youth directors, teachers, and other faith role models have an opportunity to provide our students with the foundation for a faith to last a lifetime, an eternal lifetime..



News and Notes

EIGHTH GRADE CLASS AWARDS

Ryan Conrad was named as 2009 class valedictorian at Good Shepherd this year. John Scuoler was named as class salutatorian. Both young men delivered speeches at the graduation ceremony on June 9. Maddie Maresca, Trinity member, gave the opening prayer.

RECYCLING NEWS

Recycling efforts for the 2009-2010 school year brought in over \$1200. Recycling will continue throughout the summer on both campuses. If you want to help, bring your recyclables to the blue recycling containers at Shepherd of the Valley and Trinity Lutheran Churches.

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Beginning June 29, the school office will be open from Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m.-12 noon, at the Trinity campus location. The office will be closed on July 3rd for the July 4th holiday.

YEAR ENDS

Friday, June 12, was the teacher's last day of work for the 2008-2009 school year. Our end of year mailing containing report cards and other materials went out in the mail the last week of June. The first day of school for the 2009-2010 school year is August 26.

REGISTRATION CONTINUES

Registrations are still being accepted for the 2009-2010 school year. Call the school office, 526-2482.

Good Shepherd Lutheran School wishes to thank its partners in ministry, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church and Trinity Lutheran Church, for their support during the 2008-2009 school year.



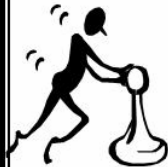
Church members enjoy the barbeque lunch after the Pentecost celebration at the joint worship service of Trinity and Shepherd of the Valley on May 31.

"For I know the plans I have for you . . .



plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29 : 11



Go Eagles!



July 2009

Please note the Covenant Players will be using the facilities
from 6/22-8/14 ☺

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1 7:00-Youth Group	2 10:00-SVLC @ Luther's Attic 6:00-Stretch N Tone 6:30-Al-anon-CR	3 <i>PASTOR OFF</i>	4 10:00-AA-Conf.Rm. 5:30-Simi Valley Christian Church
5 Youth @ El Camino Pines 8:30-Worship 9:45- Rejoice 11:00-Worship 1:00-NA-Conf. Rm. 7:00-Al-anon-CR	6 Youth @ El Camino Pines 6:00-Stretch N Tone-SAC 7:00-Boy Scouts #698-Hall 7:00-Al-anon-CR 7:30-Al-ateen-SAC	7 Youth @ El Camino Pines 10:00-SV9C@Attic 6:00-Stretch N Tone 6:30-BSA#622-Hall	8 Youth @ El Camino Pines 7:00-Youth Group	9 Youth @ El Camino Pines 9:30-Naomi Circle- 6:00-Stretch N Tone 6:30-Al-anon-CR	10 <i>PASTOR OFF</i>	11 10:00-AA-CR 10:00-SVLC @ Attic 5:30-Simi Valley Christian Church
12 8:30-Worship 9:45-Rejoice 11:00-Worship 12:00-NOLA Parent Meeting-Sanctuary 1:00-NA 7:00-Al-anon-CR	13 9:00-VBS 6:00-Stretch N Tone 7:00-BSA #698-Hall 7:00-Al-anon-CR 7:30-Al-ateen-SAC	14 9:00-VBS 10:00-SVLC@ Attic 6:00-Stretch N Tone 6:30-BSA#622-Hall 7:00-SVLC Council	15 9:00-VBS 8:00-Youth Group	16 9:00-VBS 6:00-Stretch N Tone 6:30-Al-anon-CR	17 9:00-VBS <i>PASTOR OFF</i>	18 8:00-AA-Pancake Breakfast-Hall 5:30-Simi Valley Christian Church
19 Youth Group #1 travel to NOLA 8:30-Worship 9:45-Rejoice 11:00-Worship 1:00-NA 6:30-Pack #3643PR 7:00-Al-anon-CR	20 6:00-Stretch N Tone 7:00-BSA #698-Hall 7:00-Al-anon-CR 7:30-Al-ateen-SAC	21 Youth Group #2 travel to NOLA 10:00-SVLC@ Luther's Attic 6:00-Stretch N Tone 6:30-BSA #622-Hall 7:00-Happy Squares	22 Youth Gathering Begins	23 6:00-Stretch N Tone 6:30-Al-anon-CR	24 <i>PASTOR OFF</i>	25 10:00-AA-CR 5:30-Simi Valley Christian Church
26 8:30-Worship 9:45-Rejoice 11:00-Worship 1:00-NA 7:00-Al-anon-CR	27 6:00-Stretch N Tone 7:00-BSA #698-Hall 7:00-Al-anon-CR 7:30-Al-ateen-SAC	28 10:00-SVLC@ Luther's Attic 6:00-Stretch N Tone 6:30-BSA#622-Hall 7:00-Property Mtg.	29 Youth Return	30 6:00-Stretch N Tone 6:30-Al-anon-CR	31 <i>PASTOR OFF</i>	

***Elizabeth Hood at El Camino Pines 7/5 – 7/10**

***Youth/Elizabeth travel to New Orleans 7/19**

***Youth/Pastor Gary travel to New Orleans 7/21**