



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

Newsletter September 2009

Home to...

Still Waters Cafe



“A **no cost** dining service to those who are suffering economic hardship, homelessness or who are lonely and wish to have a dining companion”

Amenities at the café:

- **Mealtimes are 5:00–7:00 p.m. every Thursday**
- Fresh home cooked meal served in a family atmosphere with home style table settings.
- To go snack bags are offered.
- Highchairs and booster seats are available for the younger family members.
- There are wheelchair accessible entrances and bathrooms available.
- Prayer requests can be satisfied.
- Homework help is available for school age children K-8th grade 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. and includes a snack.

For further information please call 805-526-7577

Prayers needed...



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), 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); Irene Tangren's daughter, Debbie; Pr. Paul Werfelmann, John Yankulis Jr. (son of John Yankulis). Marion Green (*friend of Sigrid Bremer*) Jim Geres (friend of Norma Studer), Hortensia Salcedo (Helen Anderson's mother), Becky Rodriquez (former manager for Luther's Attic).

WE EXTEND OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO... Lara Baas and family on the loss of her father Bob Herrick on Thursday, August 6th. And to Lynn Bonelli on the loss of her mother Joan on August 14th.

***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

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?"



Wedding Anniversaries for September

Gladys & Gordon Clark-23yrs

Ray & KC Landers-13yrs

Michael & Elaine Lin-20yrs

Doug & Jennifer Maske-21yrs

Torri & Paul McCartney-31yrs

Rodney & Christine Newbill-37yrs

Timothy & Linda Palmer-21yrs

Ray & Earlene Schultze-31yrs

Matt & Lynn Squire-19yrs

If you are celebrating your anniversary this month also and you are not listed it maybe that the office does not have your anniversary date in our records, if you would like this information corrected please contact the church office 526-7577.

Note: *this type of information can be of help to family generations who maybe tracking heritages*

From the Pastor...

Dear Fellow Pilgrims,

When in school I was “lucky” to get the teachers who would throw out two ideas or thoughts and ask the students to “compare and contrast” between the two. While some classmates hated the exercise, I actually found it a challenge and enjoyed it. Recently in my reading I came across a quote I hadn’t heard in years. It is a quote from a Lutheran theologian, pastor, teacher and martyr, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who said, “The church is only the church when it exists for others.” Now, let’s take a moment and compare and contrast that with a quote that has been popularized in recent years by American Express, which says, “Membership has its privileges.”

“The church is only the church when it exists for others,” begs the question that has become all too common, “What’s in it for me?” The prevailing attitude in much of society seems to be that unless a benefit exists for me there is no reason to become involved in a project or organization. We who are members of a congregation have long believed that as members of a congregation we should receive something – use of the facility for nothing, a person or group of people who are at our beck and call when we have needs, smooth sailing into heaven when this life is done, etc. But after reading the Bonhoeffer quote we may end up going back to the previous question, “If what Bonhoeffer says is true, then what *is* in it for me?”

As for the American Express Card, we know there are some privileges that come with being a cardholder or member. We may get preferred seating and first chance to purchase some theater or concert tickets. We may get discounts on certain products. We may even get extra protection on certain purchases we make. Those come with a written guarantee and all we have to do to receive the benefits is to pay our annual membership fee and remain in good standing with the company. It’s also important to remember that American Express membership does have it’s cost also – a cost that will enrich the company and its stockholders.

At first glance, the American Express promise of privileges may seem more appealing than membership in an organization that is only an organization when it exists to meet the needs of others – with perhaps no outward promise for ‘what’s in it for us?’ Is the reason for dwindling church membership across our country tied up in idea that church membership doesn’t promise the kinds of privileged American Express or others promise? Or is the reason because the church has lost sight of its mission that it isn’t really the church unless it does exist for others?

We can’t blame Jesus for not being clear. After all, Jesus said, “Those who wish to save their life will lose it and those who lose their life for my sake will keep it.” How much more clear could Jesus be in regards to what it means to truly follow?

Oops, I almost forgot to mention the one major privilege of a church existing for others. When a church exists for others it no longer needs to ask itself if God is on its side, because it knows full well at that point that the church is on **God’s** side. What a privilege that is!

Partner in Ministry,
Pastor Gary



CONFIRMATION

A meeting for parents of youth in grades 6-8 will be held in the sanctuary following the 11:00 worship on Sunday, September 20th. At this time the program will be explained, the exact beginning/ending time will be determined and questions will be answered. Please call Pastor Gary if you have any further questions or if you will be unable to attend.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

The 2009-2010 Sunday School year will begin with Rally Day on Sunday, October 4th. Further information regarding classes and activities for the day will be announced at worship in the upcoming weeks. If you are interested in helping to teach (short term commitments of 2-3 weeks), please contact Lisa Lewis.



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’RE BACK 😊

We are looking forward to our Fall meal together - September 17th at 11:30 a.m.
For further information please call the church office 526-7577.



News from SVLC LIBRARY

It is back to school time, and parents are sending their kids off with mixed feelings. Are they prepared? Will they do well? Make friends? Enjoy their classes?

This month the book cart is featuring reading material that just might answer some of your questions and help prepare both you and your child for the coming year. Be sure to check the cart for all it has to offer.

There are also children's books to encourage your child to enjoy reading and to read well, a skill so necessary to success in school.

We also have a shelf on the cart filled with new acquisitions that span all interests. Look them over and find something that piques your fancy. Try something new. Expand your interests. Don't be intimidated by a new subject.

Although children do not have to check out their books, we ask adults to do so. Just sign the pocket card and leave it in the box. And please remember to return the book in about two weeks so others may take it home.



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

INTERFACE ITEMS NEEDED...the following items are needed by the Battered Women's Shelter:

STANDARD SIZES PLEASE of Shampoo & Conditioner, hairbrushes , combs, body lotion, toothpaste,

toothbrush , deodorant, tampons, disposable razors  and pocket size Kleenex . You may bring this items and place them in the narthex please identify them on the outside of the bag “INTERFACE” or you may drop items off at the church office. If you have any questions please call Jennifer Wacenske 581-2923 or the church office ☺



PRESCHOOL NEWS

The summer flew by so quickly. The children were busy playing in the water, cooking, painting, learning social skills-all things necessary for a good basis for the next level.

Our new school year officially started on September 8th. Our wonderful staff- Mrs. Susan, Ms. Ann, Ms. Carla and Mrs. Carolyn will all be coming back and are looking forward to another year of helping children grow and develop.

We have openings available for children in all three classrooms (ages 2.9 through 5 years of age).

For more information, or to set up an appointment to see the school, call 526-9069.

Terry Labrum



Dear Members of the Endowment Fund Committee,

Thank you so much for your scholarship gift! I have had an absolutely wonderful first year at California Lutheran University and am thrilled to be able to continue my education. With the state of the economy and the costs of college constantly rising, a good education is becoming much more difficult to attain, and all the more valuable. Thank you again for helping make this possible for me! I really appreciate it.

Sincerely, Katie Stevenson



School News

Good Shepherd Lutheran School

A Christian community challenging minds and nurturing hearts since 1979



Volume XXXI, Issue I

www.gsls-simi.com

September 2009



Graduates in June, first graders in August. Two of our kindergarten "graduates" smile their way through the entire graduation program.

School Year Begins

Opening services for the 2009-2010 school year will be held Wednesday, August 26, 8:30 a.m. at both Shepherd of the Valley and Trinity campuses. The pastors of the GSLS Association will officiate.

This school year marks the 31st year of operation for our school.

News and Notes

SIMI VALLEY DAYS PARADE

Yes, we will have a float in the parade again this year under the able direction of Mrs. Amy Babel, kindergarten teacher. Be sure to tell us "hi" when we go by. Be sure to tell those standing around you the value of a Christian education, especially the one sponsored by your church.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

In these uncertain times, financial assistance is available based on financial need. If you are interested in Christian education and high academic standards for your child but think you can't afford the fees, call us, 526-2482, and we'll give you information about how to apply for financial assistance.

FAITH IN OUR FUTURE

"For I know the plans I have for you . . . plans to give you hope and a future." In these uncertain times, it is important that we always fix our sights on our Lord who is truly the only one who knows our future. Here at Good Shepherd, we hold on tight to that promise of hope and a future. Putting our trust in His plan is truly our hope.

As we work to understand God's plan for us and our students, Good Shepherd Lutheran School's goal is to nurture the faith of our children. We want all our students to know that their hope is in the Lord, and this faith will not only help them during their lifetime here on Earth, but will see them through all eternity.

As we prepare students for God's future, it is evident that we are preparing them for jobs that do not exist today. Our goal is to teach our students the skills they need to cope with this rapid change. Students at Good Shepherd develop a strong core

knowledge, practice critical thinking skills, learn to work in groups, and develop strong technology skills. These 21st century skills are designed to prepare our students for their future.

This year, we welcome returning teachers Mrs. Amy Babel, Mrs. Robin Goebel, Mrs. Theone Geres, and Mrs. Sylvia Wilmot. New to us this year is Mr. Dean Siewert, a Lutheran teacher for 24 years, and Mrs. Melissa Field, a recent graduate of CLU. Mr. Siewert will be teaching our fourth and fifth grade students and Mrs. Field will be working in middle school. Both of these teachers have a heart for working with children and a commitment to teaching them about faith.

Good Shepherd respectfully asks all our church prayer warriors to keep this ministry in you prayers. May the Lord bless each and every one of you as we remember our hope and future is in the Lord.



REGISTRATIONS BEING ACCEPTED

Applications for the 2009-2010 school year are still being accepted in grades K, 1, 4, 5, and 6.. Call us, 526-2482.



Save the Date
Monday, September 14
Dinner Fundraising Night
More to follow . . .



Back
to
School

SEPTEMBER 2009

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1 6:00-Stretch N Tone 6:30-BSA#622-Hall 7:00-Youth Group	2 9:00-GSLS Chapel 4:30-SVLC@ Samaritan Center 7:00-Youth Group 7:00-Parent Mtg.	3 10:00-SVLC @ Luther's Attic 3:00-Still Waters Café Meet n Greet 6:00-Stretch N Tone 6:30-AI-anon-CR	4 <i>Pastor Gary Off</i>	5 10:00-AA-CR 5:30-Simi Valley Christian Church
6 8:30-Worship 9:45-Rejoice 11:00-Worship 1:00-NA 7:00-AI-anon-CR	7 LABOR DAY GSLS & SAC Close 6:00-Stretch N Tone 7:00-BSA #698-Hall 7:00-AI-anon-CR 7:30-AI-ateen-SAC	8 10:00-SVLC@ Attic 6:00-Stretch N Tone 6:30-BSA#622-Hall 7:00-SVLC Council	9 9:00-GSLS Chapel 7:00-Youth Group	10 9:30-Naomi- Ailene Brekke 10:00-SVLC @ Luther's Attic 3:00-Still Waters Grand opening 6:00-Stretch N Tone 6:30-AI-anon-CR	11 6:00-Pack #3643 Eichele Hall <i>PASTOR OFF</i>	12 10:00-AA-CR 10:00-SVLC @ Luther's Attic 5:30-Simi Valley Christian Church
13 Grandparents Day 8:30-Worship 9:45-Rejoice 11:00-Worship 11:00-Women's Bd. 1:00-NA 7:00-AI-anon-CR	14 6:00-Stretch N Tone 7:00-GSLS Back to School Night 7:00-BSA #698-Hall 7:00-AI-anon-CR 7:30-AI-ateen-SAC	15 10:00-SVLC@ Luther's Attic 6:00-Stretch N Tone 6:30-BSA#622-Hall 7:00-Happy Squares	16 9:00-GSLS Chapel 7:00-Youth Group	17 10:00-SVLC @ Luther's Attic 11:30-Y.I.M.A.H. 3:00-Still Waters Café-Hall 6:00-Stretch N Tone 6:30-AI-anon-CR	18 <i>PASTOR OFF</i>	19 10:00-AA-CR 5:30-Simi Valley Christian Church
20 8:30-Worship 9:45-Rejoice 11:00-Worship 12:00-Confirmation Parent Mtg. 1:00-NA 7:00-AI-anon-CR	21 6:00-Stretch N Tone 7:00-BSA #698-Hall 7:00-AI-anon-CR 7:30-AI-ateen-SAC	22 10:00-SVLC@ Luther's Attic 6:00-Stretch N Tone 6:30-BSA #622-Hall 7:00-Men's Group- IHOP	23 9:00-GSLS Chapel 7:00-Youth Group	24 10:00-SVLC @ Luther's Attic 3:00-Still Waters Café-Hall 6:00-Stretch N Tone 6:30-AI-anon-CR	25 3:00-BSA Rummage Sale Setup <i>PASTOR OFF</i>	26 6:00-BSA- Rummage Sale 10:00-AA-CR 5:30-Simi Valley Christian Church
27 8:30-Worship 9:45-Rejoice 11:00-Worship 1:00-NA 7:00-AI-anon-CR	28 6:00-Stretch N Tone 7:00-BSA #698-Hall 7:00-AI-anon-CR 7:30-AI-ateen-SAC	29 10:00-SVLC@ Luther's Attic 6:00-Stretch N Tone 6:30-BSA#622-Hall 7:00-Property Mtg.- Library	30 9:00-GSLS Chapel 7:00-Youth Group			