

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

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 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

4191 Cochran Street, Simi Valley, CA. 93063

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... To the friends and family of Dorothy "Dot" Myers who passed away Sept. 14th - Judy Nichols and family on the passing of her sister Ede on September 27th and to...Bruce Hedin and family on the passing of his mother Lorraine also on September 27th.

**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 October

Richard & Lori Lioy- 23yrs

Conrad & Pauline Nervig-59yrs

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...

My Dear Fellow Pilgrims,

Believe it or not, I do not care much for religion and do not consider myself a religious person. Now, before anyone goes off having a hissy-fit because their pastor has just announced he has abandoned the faith, let me explain what I mean by “religion” and “religious person.”

I see religion as a system of empty rituals devised to occupy a person and make them acceptable before God, and are therefore an end in and of themselves. A religious person, therefore, is a person who unquestioningly follows these rituals believing by doing so they are being faithful to their God. So what’s wrong with this? I believe it misses the point, and I believe Jesus would agree.

Throughout the Gospels we find Jesus being confronted by the religious people of his time. Very often these were the ones who claimed their faithfulness by their actions, and Jesus’ unfaithfulness by his actions. They couldn’t understand how Jesus could claim to be God, or claim to have been sent by God, when Jesus didn’t follow their rules. Jesus didn’t always wash his hands properly before eating. Jesus did what many considered “work” on the Sabbath. Jesus shared table fellowship with those who were considered outsiders and unacceptable. Jesus touched the untouchable and talked with those who were labeled “troublemakers.” Interestingly enough, Jesus saved his harshest criticism for those who were most connected to these rules. (“This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.” Matthew 15:8-9)

If the truth is to be told, following Jesus is not a religion. For those of us who have always answered the survey question that asks “religion” as Christian or Lutheran, these words may come as a shock. Following Jesus is not a religion because instead of being a religion, following Jesus is a relationship. Following Jesus means that any rituals in which we participate that don’t bring us close to God or neighbor is empty or meaningless. Following Jesus means loving and serving God by loving and serving others, rather than loving and serving a senseless and meaningless detail that can neither love us nor serve us in return.

Following Jesus is not religion but relationship – a relationship with the creator of the universe and the most powerful entity that will ever be known. Given the choice between performing senseless ritual that leads nowhere and having a relationship with the creator of the universe, which would you choose? Seems like a no brainer to me.

Down with religion – up with following Jesus.

Your Partner in Ministry,

Pastor Gary



CONFIRMATION

6TH – 7TH AND 8TH Grade Wednesday October 7, 14, 21, & 28 at 7:00 p.m.

November 4, 11, 18, 25 at 7:00 p.m.

December 2, 9th only also at 7:00 p.m.



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



POTLUCK

(Young In Mind And Heart)

All those 50 years of age and older who are “Young In Mind And Heart”

October 15th at 11:30 a.m.

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



News from SVLC LIBRARY

The library committee would like to give John & Mary Moore a big hug and a thank you for the nice blue chair they donated to the library.

Library Trivia

Here is a question for you. Who were the first "evangelicals"? We usually think of the conservative churches but that is not the case.

Martin Luther did not want a church named after him so his followers were originally called "evangelists". Even today most German churches are not known as Lutheran but Evangelical churches.

This month we celebrate Martin Luther and his daring to nail the theses to the church door. Our book cart will be featuring books on his life and also those on Lutheran beliefs. Educate yourselves on what it means to be a Lutheran and how we differ from other faiths. Browse not only the book cart but our Library shelves to find something that interests you.

Also introduce your children to our vast selection of children's books and encourage them to take them home to read.

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 these 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

Our first month of the new preschool year is drawing to a close-and children are settling into schedules and routines. Many are making new friends or renewing old friendships. Pastor Gary led our first chapel service of the year, and the children were of strong voice as they sang favorite songs and listened to the message that even though we don't look alike we are all very special and important to God.

Currently there are openings for children in all three classes. Preschool is an important part of the early childhood years-studies show that children who attend preschool have a better foundation beneath them when they start kindergarten. Attending a faith-based preschool is even better because we have the opportunity to remind children about God and their importance in God's world.

For more information about our center and what we have to offer, call the preschool office at 526-9069. We would love to talk with you and have you see what we have to offer.



School News

Good Shepherd Lutheran School

A Christian community challenging minds and nurturing hearts since 1979



Volume XXXI, Issue II

www.gsls-simi.com

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Students of all kinds headed back to school in September. *Right:* Mrs. Geres, second and third grade teacher, helps students with their alphabetizing skills. *Left:* Middle school students hang out in the locker hall between classes. *Middle:* A hungry and thirst gray fox comes down from the hills to join classes on the first day of school. Animal control was able to return her to her home in the wild.

COME TO TRUNK OR TREAT



The Good Shepherd Lutheran School Parent-Teacher League is proud to announce the First Annual Trunk or Treat event on October 31, 5:00-7:00 p.m. Think of it as our very own Halloween tail-gate party.

It seems in past years that the number of trick or treaters coming to my house has diminished. Volunteer to participate in the Trunk or Treat, and you will be able to be an important part of a child's Halloween.

Volunteers will be assigned a spot at either Shepherd of the Valley or Trinity to hand out their candy. Trunks can be decorated however the volunteer wishes.

As one young participant in a similar event declares, "You go trick or treating when you go to other people's houses to get candy. You go trunk or treating when you go

to people's cars to get candy, and that's much better because you can go around the cars a million dozen times and you don't even get tired."

So think of the backs of your cars as the new front porch for Halloween, a safe alternative for our children. All congregation members and families are invited to be a part of this event as either a trunk, a treat, or both. We look forward to seeing you there.



Just to give you an idea . . . a sample picture of a trunk decorated for trunk or treating.

News and Notes

SHOPPING FOR STUDENTS

Bring your Simi Town Center mall receipts to church and leave them in the box provided in the parish hall (Trinity) and the narthex (Shepherd of the Valley). These receipts can earn up to \$2500 for your school mission.

RECYCLING

Good Shepherd would be happy to recycle your plastic (drink containers only), aluminum cans and all glass drinking containers, old cell phones, ink and toner cartridges of any kind. Bring them to the church or school offices.

DINNER FUNDRAISER

Save the date for Monday, October 12. Celebrate Columbus Day by enjoying dinner out at a restaurant to be announced in your church bulletin.

WOMEN'S THANKOFFERING SERVICES NOVEMBER 22, 2009



This is our day to shine! Our women are incredible! Help us celebrate the contributions of the women in our congregation. Join us at all 3 services, and enter Thanksgiving week renewed. Please contact Sue Wedemeyer at 526-9411 if you can help on this day. I will tell you what I need. Thank you.



2009

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				1 10:00-SVLC @ Luther's Attic 3:00-Still Waters Café Meet n Greet 6:00-Stretch N Tone 6:30-Al-anon-CR	2 <i>Pastor Gary Off</i>	3 6:00-Stamping 7:00-Workday 10:00-SVLC @ Luther's Attic 10:00-AA-CR 5:30-Simi Valley Christian Church
4 Rally Day/ Bake Sale 8:30-Worship 9:45-Rejoice 11:00-Worship 1:00-NA 6:30-Pack 3643-Hall 7:00-Al-anon-CR	5 6:00-Stretch N Tone 7:00-BSA #698-Hall 7:00-Al-anon-CR 7:30-Al-ateen-SAC	6 10:00-SVLC@ Luther's Attic 6:00-Stretch N Tone 6:30-BSA#622-Hall 7:00-SVLC Council	7 9:00-GSLS Chapel 3:00-GSLS Bake 7:00-Youth Group 7:00-Confirmation	8 9:30-Naomi- Ailene Brekke 10:00-SVLC @ Luther's Attic 3:00-Still Waters Grand opening 6:00-Stretch N Tone 6:30-Al-anon-CR	9 Relay 4 Life CLU Sr. High Gathering 6:00-Pack #3643 Eichele Hall <i>PASTOR OFF</i>	10 10:00-AA-CR 5:30-Simi Valley Christian Church
11 8:30-Worship 9:45-Rejoice 11:00-Worship 11:00-Women's Bd. 1:00-NA 7:00-Al-anon-CR	12 <i>COLUMBUS DAY</i> 6:00-Stretch N Tone 7:00-BSA #698-Hall 7:00-Al-anon-CR 7:30-Al-ateen-SAC	13 10:00-SVLC@ Luther's Attic 6:00-Stretch N Tone 6:30-BSA#622-Hall	14 9:00-GSLS Chapel 7:00-Youth Group 7:00-Confirmation	15 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-Al-anon-CR	16 6:30-Pack 3643-Hall <i>PASTOR OFF</i>	17 10:00-AA-CR 5:30-Simi Valley Christian Church
18 8:30-Worship 9:45-Rejoice 11:00-Worship 1:00-NA 7:00-Al-anon-CR	19 6:00-Stretch N Tone 7:00-BSA #698-Hall 7:00-Al-anon-CR 7:30-Al-ateen-SAC	20 10:00-SVLC@ Luther's Attic 6:00-Stretch N Tone 6:30-BSA #622-Hall 7:00-Hannah-Nell 7:00-Happy Squares 7:00-Men's Group- IHOP	21 9:00-GSLS Chapel 7:00-Youth Group 7:00-Confirmation	22 10:00-SVLC @ Luther's Attic 3:00-Still Waters Café-Hall 6:00-Stretch N Tone 6:30-Al-anon-CR	23 <i>PASTOR OFF</i>	24 10:00-AA-CR 10:00-SVLC @ Luther's Attic 5:30-Simi Valley Christian Church
25 WAFFLE SUNDAY 8:30-Worship 9:45-Rejoice 11:00-Worship 1:00-NA 7:00-Al-anon-CR	26 6:00-Stretch N Tone 7:00-BSA #698-Hall 7:00-Al-anon-CR 7:30-Al-ateen-SAC	27 10:00-SVLC@ Luther's Attic 6:00-Stretch N Tone 6:30-BSA#622-Hall 7:00-Property Mtg.- Library	28 9:00-GSLS Chapel 7:00-Youth Group 7:00-Confirmation	29 10:00-SVLC @ Luther's Attic 3:00-Still Waters Café-Hall 6:00-Stretch N Tone 6:30-Al-anon-CR	30 <i>PASTOR OFF</i>	31 10:00-AA-CR 10:00-SVLC @ Luther's Attic 5:30-Simi Valley Christian Church 5:00-GSLS TRUNK N TREAT