

Welcome!

*“Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us,
looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith....” Hebrews 12:1b-2a NRSV*



My Dear Fellow Pilgrims,

Some time ago Corrine and I were sitting at a table at Chili's when an acquaintance approached us on their way out of the restaurant. The comment made on their way out has stuck with me and has even caused me to ponder its implications on a couple of occasions. The comment was simple, yet unlike many other parting remarks, couldn't be a simple toss away line as the thought is pregnant with possibilities.

So, what was said? "How is it we're willing to give a 15% tip to our wait person but so reluctant to give 10% to God?" There. It's laid out on the table for discussion. To me it's a profound question that could cause some real soul searching. The comment holds at least a kernel of truth – having known many people over the years who have worked in restaurants I have heard their perspective and know how much those tips help and how hard some individuals work for those tips. But I also know that a 15% tip on a \$30.00 food bill once a week doesn't seem like a big deal. Besides, if the tip is made at a restaurant we visit frequently I may also justify the tip by thinking, "This will ensure me good service next time I'm here – especially if I have the same wait person. I'm investing in good service for the future."

But 10% for God? Or even 5%? That can be a much different story because we would be talking much bigger numbers. Ten percent of \$30.00 wouldn't be much of a sacrifice, but for many of us our income is far more than \$30.00 a week. If we make \$1,000 a month, ten percent would be \$100. For some people \$100 seems like big money! Much more than we think we could afford to part with – even as a gift to God.

This brings me to the good news/bad news part of the discussion. The good news is this; the command for a 10% tithe comes from the Old Testament and appears not to be a command continued by Jesus. Hurray! Now for the bad news. Jesus says all we have, 100%, is due to God because everything we have and everything we are is only on loan to us and ultimately belongs to God anyhow. It's a bit like the old humorous tax form that went around at one time that had only two lines on it. The first line read, "Record your total income for the year on line one." The second line read, "Send a check for the total amount written on line one as your tax amount due."

How often do we really stop to consider the air we breathe, the food we eat, or the friends and family whose company we enjoy? How often do we consider our lives, our loves and those things in our lives that bring us joy? They are ours because of a benevolent God who does love and care for us. The bottom line is we do nothing each day to produce the air that we breathe. We do nothing to produce the friends and family we have. We do nothing to produce those things that bring us joy. All are gifts from God and all ultimately belong to God.

It's Stewardship time. As we ponder how much we can or should return to God by giving to the church consider those things we experience each day that we receive through no effort of our own. Whether it's 2%, or 5%, or 10% or 30% we offer back, can we ever truly give enough to thank God for all we receive?

Intriguing thoughts – 15 % for the wait staff, no problem. Now, how much to return to God for all the bounty we receive? That is the million dollar question.

Your Partner in Ministry,
Pastor Gary

Adopt-a-Bill thank you!

Thank you to the congregation for its support of the bills adopted over the past three months. This month we collected \$389 towards our workers' comp bill. In September we collected \$569, highlighting our tree trimming and property beautification; in August we targeted the electric bill and collected \$522. Your support of this 'above and beyond' request to assist with our deficit budget is appreciated!



CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

CLASSES BEGIN AT 7:00 P.M. IN EICHELE HALL

November 3 – Simeon

10 – The Wilderness Temptation

17 – Jesus' Nazareth Sermon

24 – **No** Class – Thanksgiving Eve

December 1 – Jesus calls the First Disciples

8 – Fun/service night



Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Preschool

celebrating 40 years

Save the date

You are invited: Sunday, Nov. 07, 2010

Beginning during the 11:00 worship service with festivities following.

If you are an alumni of Our Saviour Lutheran Preschool, Or Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, we would love to hear from you ☺ Please contact Preschool Director Terry Labrum @ 805-526-9069 or the church office 805-526-7577



Y.I.M.A.H (Young In Mind And Heart)

Thanksgiving

Gathering

Turkey and all the trimmings!!!

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

Getting together for fellowship and good eats

Bring your favorite dish to share!

November 18th at 11:30 a.m.

For further information please call:

Edith Engemann 805-526-9069 OR the church office 526-7577

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.



We Extend our Christian Sympathy to the following families on the recent loss

of their loved ones: Deanna McGrail and the Trevor Yates family on the loss of loving husband and father Roy McGrail.

Hugh Fisher and family on the loss of his Aunt Arlene.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER... Pastor Gary, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Preschool, Good Shepherd Lutheran School and our church leaders.

Undergoing cancer therapy ...Gary Lee Boswell
(son of *Gloria Holst*), Craig Wells

Under convalescent or hospice care... Tim Simpson

(Minn Simpson's son)

Undergoing surgery, various tests, treatments, recuperating and continued comfort... Eloise Cooley (Marcia's Cooley's mother), Pastor Leslie Soyster, Florence Huff (Carol Jackson's mother), Ron Schultze family, June Goldberg, Connie-Kieffer-Collins, John Yanuklis, Bob Haseley

Our Military Personnel now serving:

Joe Anderson, Dan Balaun, David Bond, Jeffrey C.A. Bower, Wayne Combs, Tyson and Blake Crosby, Nisha Dean, Shane Denning, Richard Deobler, Robert Deobler, Travis Girard, Nick Goldsmith, Jordan Gutowski, Mike Hultman, Michael Kidd, Frank King, Chris Labelle, Brett Launer, Brian Lowen, John Parker, Brian Richardson, Jonathan Scholberg, Raymond Schooler, Captain Ted Slocum, Allen Steinke, Cpl. Brett Tyre, Sgt Elliott Van Marion, Thomas Weaver, Matthew Wilkins

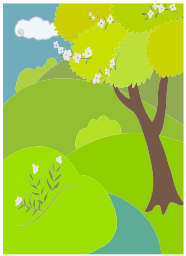


Family Caroling Night

AND... **Baked Potato Potluck!!!** BYOT (Bring your own topping)
Sunday, December 12th meet at the church at 4:30 p.m. we will carol to shut-ins in Simi Valley and then return to the church for our Baked Potato Potluck and...Dessert will be supplied



Celebrating our first year Anniversary



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:

- **Mealtime is served beginning at 5:00p.m.–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

COATS FOR CUDDLIN' & SOCKS FOR SNUGGLIN'

As the winter months approach we would like to share our good fortune with those in need.

Now is a great time to rummage through that closet and grab those gently used coats or jackets that you won't wear again. Every size coat is needed from kids to adults. We're also asking for packages of new socks. Everyone deserves to be warm and cozy when it's cold outside.

Please bring your coats/jackets and socks to church and we'll make them available to our guests at the Still Waters Café and our PADS folks.

We would appreciate coats/jackets and new socks only. Please do not bring other clothing items; we do not have the storage area. There are two coat racks and a plastic bin in Eichele Hall for your donations. We thank you in advance for your generosity and love for others.



Angel Food – There is
meals which can
Simi. Menus
feeds 4 people
food: there are no



a wonderful servant-ministry providing low cost
be ordered on line and picked up locally here in
vary from month to month but the standard order
for seven days for \$30!! **Anyone** can order the
restrictions. www.angelfoodministries.com

**Can you spare 2 hours of your time
once a month for the:**

Samaritan Center of Simi Valley?

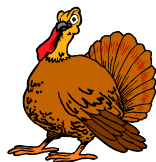
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
feeds the homeless community at the *Samaritan Center* the
1st Wednesday of every month from 4:00-6:00 p.m.

This is a church service project and **we need help.**

We need volunteers to do the following:
buy and deliver food to the Samaritan Center, serve food **or**
donate money.

If you would like to help, please contact Yvonne Baird at 584-2521.

Thank you for your prayers and support for this important ministry.



Shepherd of the Valley

Lutheran Preschool

celebrating 40 years



As you walk through the classrooms, it's easy to see that fall is here. Pumpkins, painted leaves, jackets, runny noses - all signs that our summer days are gone. The children have been talking about seasons, fire prevention, manners, and of course, Halloween. They have been talking about Halloween costumes for 6 months, and are looking forward to class parties, a costume parade and trick or treating the lower campus classrooms.

We started our chapel time this month and the children really look forward to going to chapel each week. This past month we talked about how God made each one of us, and even though we are not exactly the same, God still loves us and is always there for us. We also learned the importance of persistence, and not giving up on things that are important to us.

In November, we are looking forward to our birthday celebration on Sunday the 7th, at the 11:00 am service, and invite all to join us as we celebrate 40 years of the preschool ministry. The preschools will be talking about blessings, and we will be sure to include the blessing of our preschool ministry!

Thanksgiving blessings to all, Terry Labrum

Our Mission...

We believe that each child deserves the opportunity to grow and develop in a safe, loving and stimulating environment. Children are treated with warmth and respect, and learn to appreciate their value and importance in God's world.

Our goals... are to help child grow in their sense of self-worth, to recognize their strengths and abilities, and to develop physically, intellectually, emotionally and spiritually.

*The Staff ...*are educated in early childhood education, and are dedicated Christian people who enjoy working with young children in a positive, effective manner.

Class size is small, and we offer a well-balanced, carefully constructed program designed to meet the needs of preschool children.

*We offer...*both full day and part day schedules, and accept children between the ages of 2 years 9 months and 5 years of age.

*Please call...*the preschool office at 526-9069 for more information. Better yet, pass this information on to friends or neighbors who are looking for a good preschool experience for their young children.

JOYEAUX NOEL MERRY CHRISTMAS FELIZ NAVIDAD

Yes, it is almost that time again. Stores are full of Christmas decorations, and gift suggestions. May we make a few gift suggestions as well?

When **you** purchase a gift card from the church you benefit in a lot of ways.

1. **Your** recipient is able to choose exactly what they always wanted.
2. No hassle of trying to find what **you** are looking for in crowded stores and long check out lines.

3. By enclosing the gift in your greeting card, which you are going to send anyway, **you** save not only wrapping paper and ribbon but extra postage and a trip to the post office.

4. **Your** purchase is actually 2 gifts in one. The gift card itself, and a cash donation to the church of anywhere between 4% and 18%.

5. We have well over one hundred stores to choose from, many available in Simi so it saves **you** the drive to other areas. We also have chain stores that are located in other parts of the U.S. for those friends and relatives that live back east. See us at the Scrip table on Sunday and pick up our list of stores for you to study and choose from. Give us **your** order soon as possible to avoid any last minute disappointment. In most cases, if we get your order on Sunday we can have it available the following Sunday. But sometimes holidays cause delays in delivery. So pick up your order list, sharpen that pencil, and get cracking!



the

L One of our most cherished customs is the saying of a prayer of Thanksgiving as we sit down for our holiday dinner. Sometimes it is hard to think of something sincere to say that truly expresses our gratitude for all God's blessings.

I And how about your evening prayers? Do you have problems phrasing your ideas then, too?

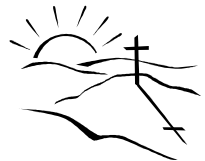
B This month our book cart will be featuring material that inspires and motivates us. Books with daily readings, inspirational thoughts, and yes, books of prayers. There will be stories of brave modern Christians, who faced death and imprisonment in order to share the gospel with their countrymen. Such reading material reminds us of all we owe our Lord and Savior and of how much he really loves and cares about us.

R All that we have that means so much to us is a gift, given to us without our having earned a bit of it.

A So check out the book cart this month, open your hearts and minds to inspirational ideas and learn to improve your prayer life.

R

THANKS BE TO GOD



PLEASE...HELP SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL



Luther's Attic...a thrift store in

Moorpark at 189 High Street that helps support Good Shepherd Lutheran School.

Give donations, shop and/or **volunteer your time!!**

It all helps our Christian school ministry here in Simi Valley.

For further information call 805-523-7188.

The proceeds from the store are split between the three schools that receive financial support from the store. The financial split is based on volunteer hours submitted by members from each of the churches (the more volunteer hours from your church the stronger the financial support).

Thanksgiving Eve Pie Social

Will be sponsored by the:

SVLC Fellowship Committee

Please bring your favorite Holiday

You may drop off your pie in Eichele



pie pre-cut and ready to share ☺

Hall before service.



School News



Good Shepherd Lutheran School

A Christian community challenging minds and nurturing hearts since 1979

Volume XXXII, Issue IV

www.gsls-simi.com

November 2010



Pastors from all over Simi Valley joined Good Shepherd students at the special Pastor Appreciation Chapel on October 6. On this rainy day, pastors were honored for the differences they make in people's lives. When asked what they have learned from their pastor, one student replied, "I learned from Pastor Gary that it is all right to wear shorts and sandals."

Better Than An Alleluia

Growing up in today's world is a hard thing. Young people face many more challenges than I did as a student. Families are torn apart by divorce, students can be bullied 24/7 because of the Internet, texting, and social networks, and much of what they learn is driven by the media. Where do students turn to learn about God, the gift of grace given to them by Jesus Christ, and the peace that passes all understanding brought to them by the Holy Spirit.

Sure, young people can learn about God in church. But more time than that is needed. Lutheran schools offer students the chance to learn about God for over thirty hours a week. What other ministry in our church has that kind of influence on a student's life.

We are living in what is termed the post-church era. Less and less people are coming to church to worship God and young people are not exposed to faith in their young lives. Many parents say that they will let their children to decide for themselves what faith they will practice. How can children decide on faith when there is no foundation?

So, here is our mission. Let the Gospel be the voice our children hear for over 30 hours each week. The media is getting at least that much time to influence our children. Dedicating ourselves to the idea of outreach in our schools is hard, it is frightening, and it costs money. But this dedication pays off because from our schools come our future church leaders and children who can bring faith to our community. As Amy Grant sings, this hard work is "better than an alleluia sometimes."

GSLS TO SING AT CITY'S VETERAN'S DAY CEREMONY

Good Shepherd Lutheran School students, grades K-5, will have the honor of singing at this year's Veteran's Day Ceremony at Rancho Tapo Park in the Veteran's Plaza. Students will be singing two songs: *Thank You Soldiers* and *God Bless America*. Pastor David Brinkley will give the benediction.

One of our school-wide learning goals at Good Shepherd is to teach our students how to be contributing citizens in their church, community, country, and world. Singing on this special day gives our students the chance to learn more about the sacrifice our soldiers have made.

News and Notes

GRADE 7 TO CATALINA

On another rainy day, October 18, seventh grade students made their way to Catalina Island to spend the week learning about the special land and marine ecosystems on the island. Students will snorkel, kayak, hike, and participate in hands-on labs throughout the week.

DINNER FUNDRAISER

Please come to the next dinner fundraiser at The Habit on Monday, November 8, 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. The monies raised from this evening will benefit the Eighth Grade Washington, D.C. trip. Everyone has to eat. Come eat with a purpose at the Habit on November 8.

Women's Thank Offering Service November 21st

"Thanking God for daily blessings and placing an offering in a Thankoffering box is a century-old tradition."



November 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:00-Stretch N Tone 7:00-BSA #698-Hall 7:00-Al-anon 7:30-Al-ateen	2 Election Day! 10:00 SVLC @Attic 6:00-Stretch N Tone 6:30-SVCC Bible Study	3 9:00 -GSLs Chapel 4:30-SVLC @ Samaritan Center 7:00-Confirmation 7:00-Youth -YR	4 GSLs Picture Makeup Day 10:00-SVLC@Attic 3:00-SWC (Team 1) 6:00-Stretch N Tone 6:30-Al-anon-class	5 9:00-Preschool Chapel 6:30-Pack 3643-Hall 7:30-PADS Begins	6 8:00-Alanon-CR 10:00-SVLC @ Luther's Attic 10:00-AA-Library 5:30-Simi Valley Christian Church
7 SVLC Preschool 40 th celebration/BBQ 8:30-Traditional 9:45-Contemporary 11:00-Blended 12:30-New Members Class 1:00-NA 6:00-NOLA-Hall 7:00-Al-anon-CR	8 6:00-Stretch N Tone 7:00-BSA #698-Hall 7:00-Al-anon 7:30-Al-ateen	9 10:00 SVLC @Attic 6:00-Stretch N Tone 6:30-SVCC Bible Study 7:00-SVLC Council	10 9:00 -GSLs Chapel 7:00-Confirmation 7:00-Youth -YR	11 GSLs & SAC CLOSED SVLC Preschool Closed 9:30-Naomi 10:00-SVLC@Attic 3:00-SWC (Team 2) 6:00-Stretch N Tone 6:30-Al-anon-class	12 GSLs & SAC CLOSED <i>Pastor off</i> <i>Lauren off</i> 7:30-PADS	13 8:00-BSA #622 E-Waste collection 8:00-Alanon-CR 10:00-AA-Library 5:30-Simi Valley Christian Church
14 8:30-Traditional 9:45-Contemporary 11:00-Blended 1:00-NA 5-7:00-Accrediation Closing 7:00-Al-anon-CR	15 6:00-Stretch N Tone 7:00-BSA #698-Hall 7:00-Al-anon-YR 7:30-Al-ateen-Choir	16 10:00-SVLC@Attic 6:00-Stretch N Tone 6:30-SVCC Bible Study 7:00-Men's Group @ Home-Town 7:30-Hannah Circle	17 9:00 -GSLs Chapel 7:00-Confrimantion 7:00- Youth - YR	18 9:00-Preschool Chapel 10:00-SVLC @Attic 5:00-SWC-(Team 3) 6:00-Stretch N Tone 6:30-Al-anon-Class	19 Middle School 7:30-PADS <i>Pastor off</i> <i>Lauren off</i>	20 Youth Gathering 7:00 SVLC Workday 8:00-Alanon-CR 10:00-AA-Library 10:00-SVLC@Attic 5:30-Simi Valley Christian Church
21 8:30-Traditional 9:45-Contemporary 11:00- Blended 11:00-Fellowship 1:00-NA 7:00-Al-anon-CR	22 GSLs Closed SAC Open 6:00-Stretch N Tone 7:00-BSA #698-Hall 7:00-Al-anon-YR 7:30-Al-ateen-Choir	23 GSLs Closed SAC Open 10:00-SVLC@ Attic 6:00-Stretch N Tone 6:30-SVCC Bible Study 7:00-Property Mtg.	24 GSLs & SAC Closed 7:00-Confrimantion 7:00-Youth -YR	25 GSLs & SAC Closed 10:00-SVLC @ Luther's Attic 11:30-Y.I.M.A.H. 3:00-SWC-(Team 4) 6:00-Stretch N Tone 7:00-Stephen Ministry Train-Cr 6:30-Al-anon-Class	26 GSLs & SAC Closed SVLC Preschool Closed 7:30-PADS <i>Pastor off</i> <i>Lauren off</i>	27 8:00-Alanon-CR 10:00-AA-Library 10:00-SVLC @ Luther's Attic 5:30-Simi Valley Christian Church
28 Advent Begins 8:30-Traditional 9:45-Contemporary 11:00- Blended 1:00-NA 7:00-Al-anon-CR	29 6:00-Stretch N Tone 7:00-BSA #698-Patio 7:00-Al-anon-YR 7:30-Al-ateen-Class	30 10:00 SVLC @Attic 6:00-Stretch N Tone 6:30-SVCC Bible Study 7:00-Youth Bd. Mtg.				

November Youth Calendar:

- 3-Youth Group: Video Series (7pm)
 - 7-Spark [elementary ministry] (4pm)
 - 7-NOLA12 info meeting (6pm)
 - 10-Middle School Pizza night (6pm)
 - 10-Youth Group: Video Series (7pm)
 - 11-High school @Still Waters (5pm)
 - 14-Spark [elementary ministry]: Knots for Nets (4pm)
 - 17-Youth Group: "Show and Tell" (7pm)
 - 19-21-Middle School Youth Gathering: Anaheim (meet to leave 4:30pm)
 - 21-Spark [elementary ministry] (4pm)
 - 24-NO Youth group (Thanksgiving eve service)
 - 28-Spark [elementary ministry]
- *Don't forget to join our facebook group 'SLVC Youth-Simi'**