

Dear Members and Friends welcome to...



My Dear Fellow Pilgrims,

I recently read a story about a boy who was sent to the flower shop by his mother to purchase some flowers for the dinner table. It was a small town and the boy had to carry the flowers through the town from the florist's shop to his home. He found the trip embarrassing. He was afraid his friends would see him and call him a sissy for carrying flowers

A few years later, he was in love with a young woman and he returned to the same florist's shop, purchased a bouquet for the object of his affection, and carried it through the same streets without shame. "I was no longer concerned with what anyone would think of me," he reflected years later. "I was just thinking of her, and of how happy she would be to get flowers, and of how happy I was to be the one to bring them to her."

What is our motivation to give? Do we give out of a sense of duty and obligation or out of a sense of love? Do we give willingly or reluctantly? Is our giving a joyous act or a painful act?

Christmas is often referred to as a "season of giving," and it's true. There will be a lot of giving going on in the next few weeks. We will find ourselves giving to family members, co-workers, and perhaps those who serve us in some ways such as the person who does our hair or takes care of our landscaping. We may also find ourselves giving to someone only because they have already given to us and we wouldn't feel right not returning the favor.

The giving that feels best, however, is the giving done out of love. Just like the young man who thought nothing of walking through the same small town carrying a bouquet of flowers for his love, it's giving out of love that makes us feel best and brings meaning to our lives and our relationships.

Christmas is a time to remember that God gave himself to each of us not out of a sense of obligation or duty but out of a sense of love. God gave up all the advantages of being God to become human out of love. This gift indeed defines the meaning of our life and the meaning of our relationship with God – we are loved and we matter to God. How great is that?

Merry Christmas my friends!

Pastor Gary



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

December 1 – Jesus calls the First Disciples
8 – Fun/service night

Welcome to Sunday School

We begin our Advent rotations Sunday, December 5th.
This year we're celebrating "Christmas Around the World"!

December 5: Christmas in Germany! **December 12:** Christmas in France! **December 19:** Christmas in Mexico!

We will be sampling traditional food, crafts, and learning songs! *We hope you can join us!*

Bell Choir: Grades 3-12 are invited to participate in our Advent Bell Choir. We'll be practicing Sundays at 11 am starting Sunday (November 5 and December 5). We will perform at services on **December 12th**.

Grades K-8 Singing: During our Sunday School rotations, Grades K-8 will be learning Christmas songs from the three countries and singing them at the 9:45 am service on **December 19th**.

There will be **NO** Sunday School on December 26 and January 2.

If you have any questions, please call (805-527-6379) or email (olseysue@sbcglobal.net).
In His Service, Lisa Lewis

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,

Jorden 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



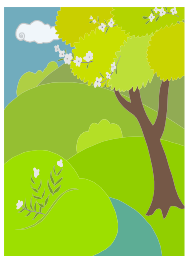
Family Caroling Night

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

Serves a meal to the less fortunate 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.



Piano lessons by *Carol Jackson*
reasonable prices please call 805-822-7344



Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Preschool



November was a busy month at preschool. We celebrated our 40th birthday with a special service and a barbecue lunch. Those that attended had lots of fun. Special thanks to those in the congregation that joined us. During the month, we have been talking about families, and about pilgrims, Indians, and the first Thanksgiving. Also we held our Thanksgiving feast. All the children brought in a favorite food to share for lunch. Each class dressed like pilgrims or Indians, and made special gifts to share with their friends. Many children talked about the fun we had, and wanted to do it the next day. Because of the way the holidays fell in November, we only had two chapel times. We heard about how Jesus is like a night light-He is always with us so we have no need to be afraid, and that Jesus was a shepherd and takes care of his lambs (us).

December is also a short month, but there is plenty to do as we are involved with Christmas preparations. Our children will be learning about Advent and the birth of Jesus. **Our Christmas program will be held Sunday, December 12th at 3:00.** This is always a highlight of our year, as the children are all dressed up, and they get to hear a special holiday message, and get the opportunity to sing for their families.

The Preschool staff wishes everyone a very Happy Holiday!



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.**

Christmas Ideas from SCRIP

Christmas is almost here. Check out these suggestions, make out your list, and see us at the Scrip table Sunday.

For Her: Kohl's, Macy's, Bath and Body Works, J.Jill, American Girl, Old Navy, Gap, or Starbucks.

For Him: Bass Pro Shop, Golfsmith, Home Depot, Lowe's, Land's End, L.L.Bean, Sears, Staples or Best Buy.

For Teachers: Border's, Starbucks, See's, Bath and Body, or Amazon.com.

For the Babysitter: iTunes, Border's, Baskin Robbins, CPK, or See's.

For Active Lifestyles: Sports Authority, Land's End, L.L. Bean, Big 5, REI or Eddie Bauer.

For Hard to Buy For People: Amazon.com, Borders, Starbucks, Best Buy, Walmart or their favorite restaurant.

For Crafters: Joann's or Michael's.

For Your Prayer Partner: Family Christian Bookstore.

For Business Gifts: Honey Baked Ham, See's Candies, Amazon.com, Regal Theaters.

If you don't see what you want, stop by the Scrip table and pick up a copy of our vendor's list, give us your order and you will have it in about a week. You save time and postage costs while donating to the church treasury at no extra cost to you.

We wish you a Merry Christmas full of joy and love.



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).



Christ Caring for People - That's the Ministry.

People through
motto of Stephen

The Stephen Minister's role is to bring God's love into the lives of people who are going through a difficult time or experiencing a crisis. What do Stephen Ministers do? They listen to you, care for you, support and encourage you, and pray with and for you. And in the midst of this confidential, one-to-one, caring relationship, God's healing love comes pouring through.

What you should know about Stephen Ministry

Shepherd of the Valley has a system for training and organizing laypeople to provide one-to-one Christian care to hurting people in our congregation called **Stephen Ministry**. All Stephen Ministers receive 50 hours of training in care giving and attend continuing education classes every month that prepares them to listen and care for anyone going through a difficult time. The name Stephen comes from St. Stephen, who was the first layperson commissioned by the Apostles to provide caring ministry to those in need, (Acts 6).

Stephen Ministry began in 1975 when the Rev. Kenneth C. Haugk, Ph.D., a pastor and clinical psychologist, trained nine laypeople at his congregation in St. Louis to be **Stephen Ministers**. They assisted him in providing distinctively Christian care to members of the congregation and community. These trained caregivers were so enthused about their ministry; they encouraged Dr. Haugk to offer it to more congregations. Since that time more than 500,000 laypeople have been trained as **Stephen Ministers** in 50 states, 10 Canadian provinces and 24 other countries.

If you or someone you know is facing a crisis--large or small--and could benefit from the caring presence of a Stephen Minister, call Pastor Gary at 805.526.7577.

Senior Quilt Sample Site

Follow this link <http://www.svlcquilts.webs.com>



December 2010

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1 9:00 –GSLC Chapel 4:30-SVLC @ Samaritan Center 7:00-Confirmation 7:00-Youth -YR	2 10:00-SVLC@Attic 3:00-SWC (Team 1) 5:00-Café open 6:00-Stretch N Tone 6:30-Al-anon 7:00-Stephen Ministry	3 9:00-Preschool Chapel 7:30-PADS Begins	4 7:00-SVLC Workday 8:00-Alanon-CR 10:00-AA-Library 5:30-Simi Valley Christian Church
5 GSLC Sings 8:30-Traditional 9:45-Contemporary 11:00-Blended 1:00-NA 7:00-Al-anon-CR	6 6:00-Stretch N Tone 7:00-BSA #698-Hall 7:00-Al-anon 7:30-Al-ateen	7 10:00 SVLC @Attic 3:00-Troop 34&348 6:00-Stretch N Tone 6:30-SVCC Bible Study 7:00-BSA#622	8 9:00 –GSLC Musical 7:00 - GSLC Musical @ Trinity 7:00-Confirmation 7:00-Youth -YR	9 9:30-Naomi 10:00-SVLC@Attic 3:00-SWC (Team 2) 5:00-Café Open 6:00-Stretch N Tone 6:30-Al-anon	10 7:00 - GSLC Musical @ Trinity 7:30 - PADS <i>Pastor off</i> <i>Lauren off</i>	11 8:00-Alanon-CR 10:00-AA-Library 5:30-Simi Valley Christian Church
12 8:30-Traditional 9:45-Contemporary 11:00-Blended 1:00-NA 3:00- Preschool Christmas Program 4:30- Family Caroling 7:00-Al-anon-CR	13 6:00-Stretch N Tone 7:00-BSA #698-Hall 7:00-Al-anon-YR 7:30-Al-ateen-Choir	14 10:00-SVLC@Attic 3:00-Troop 34&348 6:00-Stretch N Tone 6:30-SVCC Bible Study 7:00-SVLC Council 7:00-BSA#622	15 9:00 –GSLC Chapel NO Confirmation 7:00- Youth - YR	16 10:00-SVLC @Attic 3:00-SWC-(Team 3) 5:00-Café Open 6:00-Stretch N Tone 6:30-Al-anon 7:00-Stephen Ministry	17 6:30-Pack #3643 7:30-PADS <i>Pastor off</i> <i>Lauren off</i>	18 8:00-Alanon-CR 10:00-AA-Library 10:00-SVLC@Attic 5:30-Simi Valley Christian Church
19 8:30-Traditional 9:45-Contemporary 11:00- Blended 11:00-Fellowship 1:00-NA 7:00-Al-anon-CR	20 GSLC Closed SAC Open 6:00-Stretch N Tone 7:00-BSA #698-Hall 7:00-Al-anon-YR 7:30-Al-ateen-Choir	21 GSLC Closed SAC Open 10:00-SVLC@ Attic 3:00-Troop 34&348 6:00-Stretch N Tone 6:30-SVCC Bible Study 7:00-Men’s Group	22 GSLC Closed SAC Open 7:00-Confirmation 7:00-Senior High Christmas Party	23 GSLC Closed SAC Open SVLC Preschool Closed 10:00-SVLC @ Luther’s Attic 11:30-Y.I.M.A.H. 3:00-SWC-(Team 4) 5:00-Café Open 6:00-Stretch N Tone 6:30-Al-anon	24 GSLC Closed SAC Open SVLC Preschool Closed 7:30-PADS <i>Pastor off</i> <i>Lauren off</i>	25 8:00-Alanon-CR 10:00-AA-Library 10:00-SVLC @ Luther’s Attic 5:30-Simi Valley Christian Church
26 8:30-Traditional 9:45-Contemporary 11:00- Blended 1:00-NA 7:00-Al-anon-CR	27 GSLC Closed SAC Open 6:00-Stretch N Tone 7:00-BSA #698-Patio 7:00-Al-anon-YR 7:30-Al-ateen-Class	28 GSLC Closed SAC Open 10:00 SVLC @Attic 6:00-Stretch N Tone 6:30-SVCC Bible Study 7:00-Property Mtg.	29 GSLC Closed SAC Open No Confirmation	30 GSLC Closed SAC Open 3:00-SWC-(Team 5) 5:00- Café Open	31 GSLC Closed SAC Open 7:30-PADS <i>Pastor off</i> <i>Lauren off</i>	

December Youth Calendar:

1-Youth Group: Video Series (7pm)
 5-Spark [elementary ministry] (4pm)
 8-Middle School Pizza night (6pm)
 8-Youth Group: Video Series (7pm)
 12-Spark [elementary ministry]:
 Caroling (4pm)
 15-Youth Group: “Show and Tell”
 (7pm)
 18-Middle School Christmas
 “sleepover” (6pm-9pm)

19-Spark [elementary ministry]: ice
 skating (4pm)
 22-High School Christmas Party
 (7pm)
 26- NO Spark [elementary ministry]
 31- HS New Year’s Eve Party at
 Lauren’s!! (10pm-1am)
 *Don’t forget to join our Facebook
 group ‘SLVC Youth-Simi’