

Welcome

To Shepherd of the
Valley Lutheran Church
April Newsletter

You are invited to share a *free* community meal with your neighbors every Thursday 5:00 p.m. at Still Waters Café located in Simi Valley at 4191 Cochran Street call 805-526-7577



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.

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*), Heinz Raaber (cousin of *Joanne Askew*)

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, Rosalie & Kent Fredrick, Craig Wells, Teresa Heier-Cawley, Shannon Hallman



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



Thank you for your service

Dear Fellow Pilgrims,

Our older daughter, Katie, recently returned from a trip to the east coast. She mentioned seeing a number of bill boards on her travels trumpeting the coming of the end of the world in May of this year. She said she found the billboards and their messages irritating, and asked what I thought. I gave her my answer.



Over the last couple of years there has also been a lot of press suggesting the world would be ending in December 2012. So, when will it be? Will it be this May or next December? One thing we can pretty much guarantee is that at least one of the predictions will be incorrect.

In 1844, a gentleman by the name of Miller predicted the end of the world. When it didn't happen on the expected date in 1844 he declared a later date. When the world didn't end on that date either, Mr. Miller went on to found the Seventh Day Adventists.

The followers who walked with Jesus thought the end of the world would come during their lifetime and they would be alive to see Jesus return to usher in God's new kingdom. When those followers began to die off and it appeared Jesus' return wasn't as imminent as they originally thought, the four Gospels of the New Testament were finally written down. Until this time the stories of Jesus had circulated orally since if they were to live to see the end they saw no reason to waste their time writing down the accounts we have today.

It has always seemed to me that predicting the exact date of the end of the world is a futile exercise. Whether we know the date or not there is nothing we can do about it. God will bring it about when God is good and ready and not one moment before. Whether we know the date or not, what difference does it make – especially if we believe the future is securely in God's hands.

Martin Luther was once asked what he would do today if he knew the world would end tomorrow. Luther responded by saying, "Today I would plant a tree." Luther seems to imply that until the end finally comes he would focus on this life God had given him rather than dream about some life over which he had no control. Hmm, live for what God has given us today. Curious thought.

Scripture records Jesus saying that he didn't know the day nor the hour. If Jesus didn't know, how can we possibly know? Is our knowledge greater than his? Even if Jesus had known, do you think he would have told the disciples or anyone else for that matter?

One day Jesus will return and the world will end. Could it be in May? Sure. Could it be in December 2012? Certainly that possibility exists. Could it be centuries or a millennia away? Absolutely – only God knows. In the meantime, let's focus on Jesus and the life he has called us to live in the here and now, using the gifts God has given us to bring glory to the creator of it all.

Your Partner in Ministry,

Pastor Gary



CONFIRMATION CLASSES for April

6th Grade

6-King David
13- Fun/Service Night
20-No Class-Holy Week
27-No Class-School Break

7th Grade

6-Resurrection
13- Fun/Service Night
20-No Class-Holy Week
27-No Class-School Break

8th Grade

2-Forgiveness/Temptation & Trial
13- Fun/Service Night
20-No Class-Holy Week
27-No Class-School Break



Samaritan Center of Simi Valley

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Serves a meal to the less fortunate at the
Samaritan Center – located on Royal Ave.
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.

Parables:

Yesterday & Today...

**A study of the Bible beginning Tuesday, March 8th
through Tuesday, April 12th @10:30 a.m. in the
church library.**

***All are welcome to participate in this exciting new
ministry.***



Library Thoughts

When I was young, it was customary to give something up for Lent. It posed quite a quandary for a youngster. Should I give up chocolate? the movies? Gossiping? What could I successfully manage to do without for over 40 days?

Not too many years ago someone suggested we should add rather than subtract something to our lives during Lent. What a fantastic idea! It isn't always easy to find time for good works or improving oneself but it is certainly worth the effort.

So this month, the Library cart is featuring books to help you improve your relationship with God, increase your prayer life, learn other ways to worship meaningfully, or get more out of reading your Bible.

Stop by and choose a good book that will add something to your Lenten life. If you don't find it on the book cart, check out the shelves in the Library room for other ideas.

For the children, we have an assortment of excellent children's books. And one of the shelves is filled with our new acquisitions. Remember to sign the pocket card and then enjoy reading your selection. But please return it in 2 weeks so others may also have a chance to read it as well.

And may you grow closer to God as you prepare for the coming of Easter.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS
SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY
LUTHERAN CHURCH
4191 Cochran Ave, Simi Valley, CA 93063
(805) 526-7577

Grades K-5 SCHEDULE CHANGE!!! Our new schedule seems to be working well. The Sunday School opening (songs & games) starts at 9:30 am and the lesson starts at 9:45 am. Grades 6-8 can meet at 9:30 am to help with the younger students, or meet in the Youth Room at 9:45 am. We return to church after the sermon so students can commune with their families.

PALM SUNDAY PERFORMANCE:

On Palm Sunday (April 17), grades K-5 will be singing several songs during the 9:45 am service. We'll practice each Sunday at 9:30 am as part of our opening. We hope you all can participate! The children always do such a nice job!

DON'T FORGET....OFFERING & BIRTHDAY PENNIES:

We collect offering and recognize birthdays at the beginning of each class. If a student's birthday occurs during the week, they bring the number of pennies of their age to church for the birthday bank.

DON'T FORGET....GRADES 3-5: BRING YOUR BIBLES:

Students in grades 3-5 who bring their bible to Sunday School each week receive a treat.

Here's our lesson schedule through May:

March 27, April 3, 10: Holy Week Rotations

April 17: Palm Sunday. Sunday School Program

April 24: Easter Sunday! No Sunday School

May 1, 15, 22: "Zaccheus" (May 22 is our last class before summer.)

May 8: Mother's Day. No Sunday School

In His Service,

Lisa Lewis (olseysue@sbcglobal.net or 527-6379)

**See's
CANDIES®**

celebrating 40 years



Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Preschool

Our Spring fundraiser is underway and we are selling See's Candy until April 6th. There's still time to buy some delicious Easter goodies and help us raise funds to have the Mobile Marine Lab (living tide pool) come to our school so the children will be able to experience hands on how animals live in the ocean! Funds will be supplemented by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Conejo Valley Chapter #30204.

Also our registration for fall 2011 has started. We accept potty-trained children between the ages of 2.9 through 5, and have a variety of schedules to meet the needs of families in our area. We believe that each child deserves the opportunity to grow and develop in a safe, loving and stimulating Christian 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 children grow in their sense of self-worth, to recognize their strengths and abilities, and to develop physically, intellectually, emotionally and spiritually. Call the preschool at 526-9069 for more information.

Preschool 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.



Christ Caring for People through People - That's the motto of Stephen Ministry.

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.

Youth News

Spring has arrived, and with it...plenty of youth-related opportunities. As much fun as winter retreats were, we have a lot to look forward to!

SPARK, our 3rd-5th grade ministry is definitely growing, and I look forward to meeting with your elementary students **every Sunday from 4-5:30** in the Youth Room!! We will also be having a **SPARK** movie night April 10th!



The **Hallelujah Jubilee** at Six Flags in on **April 2** and will feature Jeremy Camp as well as The Afters...so come out for a day of theme park fun and fantastic music! **8th-12th graders...**don't forget to sign up for the **Western States Youth Gathering!!** And keep your eyes open for more details!



And on **April 17th**; 6th-8th graders are invited to participate in **Ice Cream Sunday!!** Bring your favorite ice cream toppings up to the youth room at 11, and we'll catch up on the latest 'Scoop'

Interface

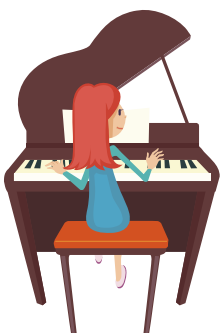
As an ongoing ministry of SVLC we personal care bags at the monthly by taking your donation to the Church office. into a care bag and are given to Interface for Shelters throughout the county. The items needed (in regular sizes): Shampoo, Conditioner, Brush, Comb, Lotion, Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Soap, Deodorant, Tampons, Disposable Razors, Pocket Size Kleenex. In 2010 twenty bags were donated to Interface!



Ministry

collect items for Women's Circles, or These items then go their Battered Women's to make a care bag are

Individual size lotion, soap, shampoo etc. form motel/hotel stays are also appreciated as they are taken to the Samaritan Center for use. If you have any further questions regarding this ministry please contact Jennifer Wacenske @ 581-2923.



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

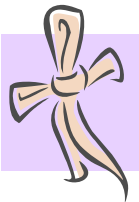


Soup Suppers begin March 16th thru
April 16th @ 6:30 p.m. in Eichele Hall

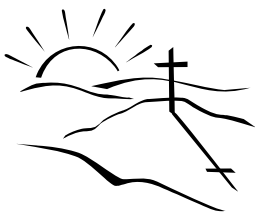
Maundy Thursday
Live re-enactment of
“The Last Supper” 7:00 p.m.



Good Friday – April 21st
Stations of the Cross



Palm Sunday – April 17th 8:30, 9:45 & 11:00



Easter Sunday
6:00 a.m. Sunrise Service & Pancake Breakfast
followed by 8:30, 9:45 & 11:00 worship



School News

Good Shepherd Lutheran School

A Christian community challenging minds and nurturing hearts since 1979



Volume XXXI, Issue VIII

www.gsls-simi.com

April 2011

Keeping Our Eyes on our School's Mission

Lutheran schools exist to be an important outreach ministry of our churches. While providing an excellent academic education, a Lutheran school's mission is to nurture two important things: the faith of a child and our future church leaders.

Recently at Good Shepherd, we have been blessed by very visible signs that our mission is being fulfilled. During Lutheran Schools' Week, four students were baptized at a special joint chapel service for both campuses. In the

last couple of weeks, we have had at least three graduates talk about how Good Shepherd taught them about their faith. In fact, one of the graduates talked about this during their interview to enroll their child in kindergarten for next year.

We are also blessed with the fact that we have graduates that want to teach here at Good Shepherd because of their positive experience here. Students come back

to observe and assist in classrooms. We have a graduate who is looking to teach in Lutheran schools and another grad planning on a pastoral ministry.

Teaching our faith to the next generation is a critical job that God has commanded for us to do. Support your Lutheran schools here in Simi Valley; they are teaching the next generation about faith in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Come take a school tour on
WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS
9-2:30**

News and Notes

THE HABIT DINNER FUNDRAISER

Make The Habit your place to dine on Monday, April 11. Enjoy a burger, salad, or their great onion rings. A portion of your tab will go to support Good Shepherd Lutheran School.

E-WASTE DISPOSAL DAY

On Saturday, April 16, in honor of Earth Week, Good Shepherd Lutheran School will be hosting an E-Waste Disposal Day. Bring your electronic discards, your broken appliances and your used ink and toner cartridges to Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church. There will be an e-waste company there to take your discards off your hands.

8TH GRADE CAR WASH

After you drop off your electronic waste, stay to have your car washed and enjoy a hot dog. Proceeds from this fundraiser helps send our eighth grade students to Washington, D.C.



The four students that were baptized in a special joint chapel service during Lutheran Schools' Week pose with their families and the pastors in front of the baptismal font.



May the hope of Easter be with you now and throughout the rest of the year.



God bless your Easter celebrations.

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).