

Welcome

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church November Newsletter

Still Waters Café invites you to share a *free* community meal every Thursday at 5:00 p.m. The café is located at 4191 Cochran Street.

For more information please call 805-526-7577

“A 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.

For further information please call 805-526-7577

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



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.

Undergoing cancer therapy ... Craig Wells, Gary Lee Boswell (son of *Gloria Holst*), Willie Cornforth (*Allison Graybill's aunt*), Shirley Stienke, Heinz Raaber (*cousin of Joanne Askew*), Carol Williams (*Al & Joanne Askew's daughter*), Terry Labrum (*SVLC Preschool Director*), Marguerite Kidd (*Marvin Kidd's mother*), Deanna McGrail (*Trevor Yates mother*)

Under convalescent or hospice care...

Tim Simpson (*Minn Simpson's son*), Rev. James Cherrill (*Cathie Badillo's uncle*), John Moore

Undergoing surgery, various tests, treatments, recuperating and continued comfort...Eloise Cooley (*Marcia Cooley's mother*), Pastor Leslie Soyster, Ron Schultze family, Connie Kieffer-Collins, June Goldberg, John Yanuklis, Becky Counts, Kent & Rosalie Fredrick, Jenny & Marvin Kidd, Dewey Blowers.

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, 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

***The Congregation of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
thanks you for your service***





My Dear Fellow Pilgrims.

Do you make New Year's resolutions? I don't, although I know some who do. The old joke, of course, is, "Go ahead and make resolutions, so you can have something to give up come Lent." That attitude can give us an easy out. And, as we're often reminded, "Life doesn't offer any do-overs."

No, life doesn't offer any do-overs. There are consequences for our actions, good or ill. Not caring for ourselves has the potential consequence of ill health, whereas healthy eating and exercising has the potential consequence of good health. But once the consequences come we can't go back and change things to make it so that the consequences never happened. Those instead are the things of fantasy stories and movies.

But God does offer do-overs. When we find ourselves on the wrong path in life, God offers us the chance to change direction and climb on the right path. If we find our present relationship with God strained or broken, we can turn to God who has done everything to restore the relationship even before we are ready for restoration. These do-overs don't make past consequences disappear. They do, however, change the present and offer us hope for the future.

As we enter the New Year we now have a chance to reevaluate our lives and our relationships. Are there any that need do-overs? If so, take them to the God who has promised to make all things new.

Your Partner in Ministry,
Pastor Gary

Thank you all for your cards and gifts to our family this past Christmas. You are indeed a blessing to our family and we love and appreciate you all.

Sincerely,
The Stevenson Family

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

2012 Offering Envelopes

Church members, please pick up your giving envelopes in the Narthex to save us the cost of postage. For members interested in giving electronically, please contact Marilyn Shapiro at 522-0331 for information about the Simply Giving program



CONFIRMATION CLASSES RESUME

January 11th at 7:00 P.M.

in Eichele Hall

SVLC Annual Meeting Sunday, January 29th

One service 10:00 a.m.

The following chairpersons have annual reports due to the office no later than Friday, January 20th:

Pastor
Council President
Youth Director
Financial Secretary & Treasurer
SVLC Preschool
Good Shepherd Lutheran School
SVLC Endowment
SVLC Women's Board
Still Waters Café

Worship
SVLC Property
Sunday School
Library - SCRIP
Altar Guild
Stephen Ministry
Cradle Roll
Y.I.M.A.H
Samaritan Center

Good Shepherd Lutheran School

School News

Faith ♦ Academics ♦ Family Since 1979



Volume XXXIII, Issue V

www.gsls-simi.com

January 2012



Oh, for the faith of a young child . . . Good Shepherd students re-enact the nativity during their Christmas musical *Star of Wonder* presented on December 9.

TEACHING SERVANT LEADERSHIP

Our Savior was a servant leader. In every way, He set the example of how to be a servant to others. "Whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all." Mark 10:44. During every minute of our lives, we are either serving others or being served by them. Our balance of giving versus receiving depends largely on what we learn at a young age.

At Good Shepherd, in partnership with our families, we believe it is imperative that students are taught how to serve others. During our Advent celebrations this year, instead of bringing in gifts to exchange with other students, Good Shepherd students broke with tradition and used the money they would have spent on these gifts to buy donations for two different charities.

Students in kindergarten through grade three brought in new books for the Ronald McDonald House in Pasadena. Fourth through eighth grade students collected wish list items to give to the For the Troops organization in Simi Valley.

To see their projects through to completion, students delivered their donations to the Ronald McDonald House and For the Troops. Students toured and learned more about the Ronald McDonald House and middle school students helped package boxes at For the Troops. As one student said, "That was a lot of fun, and it made me feel good."

We know that God blesses those who serve, and we pray for the wisdom to teach that to our students in a manner that impacts their lives. Let's start early with all our children because it is a better world we live in when people are servant leaders.

SPECIAL DATES

- January 11—Scripps Institute National Spelling Bee School Round—Finalists will compete to determine who will represent Good Shepherd in area spelling bees
- January 13—Good Shepherd sponsors homeless feed at the Samaritan Center
- January 18—National Geographic Geography Bee School Round—Finalists will compete to determine a school winner
- January 20—Middle School Winter Dance—It's Dancin' Night!—Shepherd of the Valley campus, Eichele Hall
- January 20—Last day of Quarter 2
- January 20-27—Scholastic Book Fair

Dinner Fundraiser

Plan on eating with a purpose on Wednesday, January 11. Come to Topper's Pizza and help raise money for the athletics program. Everyone has to eat. Come eat with a purpose at Topper's Pizza on January 11.

Please Support GSLS by:

- Being a prayer warrior for this ministry; pray for its success daily
- Make a donation the Annual GSLS Christmas Appeal sent out in December
- Recommend your church's day school to people searching for education alternatives, especially an excellent Christian education in a smaller classroom environment
- Volunteer to work at Luther's Attic
- Collect the following items for GSLS (Turn in to church or school offices or place in containers at the back of the church.):
 - General Mills Box Tops for Education
 - Campbell's Labels for Education
 - Old cell phones and ink toner cartridges
 - Recyclables—We recycle plastic, aluminum, and glass containers.
 - Simi Valley Town Center receipts—We participate in the Simi Valley Town Center's Shop Smart School Rewards program.

Middle school students help pack boxes to mail to our troops stationed overseas.





Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Preschool

"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."

Although Christmas is over, we want to let you know of the wonderful job the children did at our Christmas program re-telling the story of the birth of Jesus, singing, and of course enjoying milk and cookies. Now with the Christmas break behind us the children are once again settling into the Preschool routine. Some have no problem-others it takes a little while.

January is a fun month as winter themes are explored. We are learning songs, rhymes, practice letters and their sounds, numbers, have lots of fun art experiences and learn from some science explorations. We will also reinforce kindness, sharing, prayer and "being a sunbeam for Jesus".

If you know of someone with a child between the ages of 2.9 and 5 years old, looking for a preschool, please pass our name along. We would love to have them join in our fun!

Call the preschool at **805-526-9069** for more information.

SVLC Preschool Director

Terry Labrum

YOUTH NEWS - JANUARY

Hello and happy new year to everyone. Great things are happening with the youth in 2012. We have many activities coming up in January and throughout the year. NOLA is only six months away and we are in the fundraising mode as well as preparing the youth and chaperones for the life changing experience. Please pray for all the youth in the church to become more involved this year. I'm still looking for someone to help me with leading high school Sunday school twice a month at 11am, if you are interested please see me. I'm looking forward to serving the youth in 2012. Below are some great events coming up.

In Christ,

Marc Mohr

Parent Meeting for 3rd – 12th grade: 11am in Eichele Hall & NOLA

Parent meeting @ 12pm!

Spark (3rd – 5th grade) – Winter Camp at El Camino Pines. Friday, January 20th-Sunday, January 22nd. Please sign-up your child by Wednesday, January 4th. So far we have three children going and two adults. Cost is \$129 per child. Please talk to Marc or Adrienne if interested in having your child attend. 

Starting on January 11th your kids can show up to hang out with Marc at 6:30pm. We will have pizza this night and play games.

Confirmation will start at the regular time at 7pm.

Middle School & High School grades 6th – 12th.

Ice Skating @ The Lakes by Claim Jumper in Thousand Oaks .

Friday, January 13th from 6pm-10pm. Cost will be \$20 for ice skating and dessert at Claim Jumper.

- Youth group starts at 7:30pm starting Wednesday, January 4th.



NOLA Potato Bar preparation on Saturday, January 28th from 12-2pm at the church.

NOLA Potato Bar fundraiser on Sunday, January 29th from 10am-1pm at the church.



3rd – 5th graders resumes January 4' 2012

We meet in the upstairs SAC room on Wednesdays from 7-8:15 p.m.
Please join us for a relaxing evening of fun, games, and bible study.

Friends are always welcome.

Call Adrienne Stuck at 520-6947(h).

Sunday School Schedule



Sunday School for grades K through 8 meets at 9:45 am each Sunday. Children meet in the upstairs classrooms at 9:45 am and return to church after the sermon so they can commune with their families. Sunday School for grades 9-12 meets in the Youth Room at 11 am each Sunday. All are welcome!!

Grades K-5:

In January we're learning the bible story of Jesus Asleep in the Boat.

On 1/8, 1/15 and 1/22 we'll be doing art, science and cooking, and drama rotations.

Please join us!

Grades 6-8:

Middle School will be looking at some of the individuals highlighted in the Old Testament.

We'll be starting with Esther, moving on to Job, and ending with Daniel

(of Daniel and the Lions' Den fame). We hope all Middle Schoolers will come join us.

Grades 9-12:

1/8 kickoff Sunday School at Denny's (Bring \$10)

1/15 no Sunday School however parent meeting for grades 3rd-12th in Eichele Hall at 11am and NOLA parent meeting at 12pm.

1/22 Sunday School @ 11am

1/29 No Sunday School

There will be NO Sunday School on January 29 because of the annual meeting.

On January 29, there is only one service at 10 am and then the annual meeting will begin after the service.

Any questions or need more information? Please call or email.

In His Service,

Grades K-5: Lisa Lewis (olseysue@sbcglobal.net or 527-6379)

Grades 6-8: Angela Hess (ahess91@roadrunner.com or 526-3731)

Grades 9-12: Marc Mohr (marc.mohr@dslextreme.com or 526-7577)



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

2012 Potluck Luncheon

Thursday, January 19, 2012

For further information please call: Edith Engemann 805-526-9020
or the church office 526-7577.

Fellowship Event

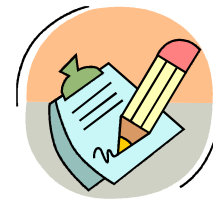
Save the date, Feb. 4th

Adult Bunco Night!

The fun starts at 6:00 pm in Eichele Hall.

Bring an appetizer to share and your own drinks.

Coffee will be provided. Prizes and good times!



Sign- up on the patio in January!!

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.

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). For further information call 805-523-7188.

New Orleans News

**2012 ELCA Youth Gathering Update
January 2012**



The youth have gotten a great start in their fundraising efforts for the upcoming National Gathering trip to New Orleans in July 2012.

In December we did the following fundraisers:

- Round Table Pizza - \$94.00
- Howie's restaurant – no total available yet
- Christmas help - \$280.00
- Envelope Project - \$1,242.00
- Cookies in a jar - \$1,070.00

**Thank you all for your
support and prayers**

Total fundraised as of December - \$3,989.71

Initial Deposits - \$2710.00

General contributions - \$520.00

Miscellaneous - \$68.73

Total collected - \$7,288.44

27% towards the goal

Coming up:

- Potato/Sundae Bar at annual meeting – Jan. 29 – (hosted by Gearhart family)
- Envelope Project – (cont'd) (hosted by Hess family)
- Macaroni Grill – date yet to be determined (hosted by Stephens family)
- Beignets – Feb. 12 (hosted by the Lewis family)
- Mardi Gras dinner – Feb. 21 (hosted by Mohr and Stevenson family)

On March 24th we will be having a large rummage sale so save your unwanted items for this. Watch for more details in February's newsletter.

If you have any questions, please contact Marc Mohr at marc.mohr@dslextreme.com, Pastor Gary Stevenson at gstevenson@svlcsimi.com or Corrine Stevenson at stevensonrus@msn.com



Samaritan Center of Simi Valley

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church serves a meal to the less fortunate at the *Samaritan Center* – located at 280 Royal Ave. on 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.

Stamps, Stamps, Stamps

On behalf of the Women's group and in support of various charities here in California as well as around the country, please save used postage stamps. You can leave them on the envelope or clip about 1/4 inch around the stamps, pop them in an envelope or baggie and drop them off in the narthex the next time you visit our pretty little church.

It's quick; it's easy, and it means a lot to the folks we help.

Interface Ministry



As an ongoing ministry of SVLC we collect items for personal care bags at monthly Women's Circles, or by taking your donation to the Church office. These

items then go into a care bag and are given to Interface for their Battered Women's Shelters throughout the county. The items needed to make a care bag are (in regular sizes): shampoo, conditioner, brush, comb, lotion, toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, deodorant, tampons, disposable razors, pocket size Kleenex. Last year twenty bags were donated to Interface!

Individual size lotion, soap, shampoo etc. from 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.



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.

LIBRARY NEWS



The old year is gone and the New Year is upon us. It is time again to reflect on the past year and make plans for the new. Instead of making a bunch of resolutions we know we will not keep, perhaps we should simply ask God for forgiveness for past mistakes and pray for the ability to change and become kinder, more thoughtful, more giving and more loving.

The book cart this month will be full of books that will help you reflect on the changes you need to make in your lives, prayers of humility and requests for forgiveness. There will also be reading material to help you change, to offer suggestions for the future and to assure you of God's willingness to be there for you as you improve your life.

He is always ready to embrace us in love. But we can always use written advice and encouragement as well.

Check out the book cart during January for helpful reading.

And may God grant you a very Happy New Year.

ATTENTION Students 3rd – 12th grades Beginning January 11th at 6:30 p.m. Marc Mohr is offering a come have pizza and hangout until your program begins at 7:00 p.m. this is optional 😊 but please attend when possible you will have a great time 😊 😊

Calendar of Events

January 2012



<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
1 Happy New Year 10:00-Worship	2 SVLC office closed SVLC Preschool closed GSLs closed	3 6:00-Preschool 7:00-SAC 8:30- GSLS 10:00 SVLC @Attic 6:00-Stretch N Tone 6:30-SVCC Prayers 7:00-BSA #622	4 6:00-Preschool 7:00-SAC 8:30- GSLS Begins 9:00-GSLS Chapel 4:30-Samaritan Ctr. No-Confirmation 7:00- Youth Group 7:00-SPARK 7:00-GSA Mtg.	5 6:00-Preschool 7:00-SAC 8:30- GSLS Begins 10:00-SVLC@Attic 3:00-SWC 4:30-Daisy #60668 5:00-Café Open 6:00-Stretch Tone 6:30-Al-anon	6 6:00-Preschool 7:00-SAC 8:30- GSLS Begins 6:30-Pack #3643 7:30-PADS <i>Pastor Off</i>	7 8:00-Alanon 8:30-GSA Mtg.Hall 10:00-AA-Library
8 8:30-Traditional 9:45-Contemporary 9:45-Sunday School 11:00-Blended 12:00-NA 12:00-NOLA Mtg. 4:00-Simi Valley Christian Church 7:00-Al-anon-CR	9 6:00-Preschool 7:00-SAC 8:30- GSLS Begins 6:00-Stretch N Tone 7:00-BSA #698 7:00-Al-anon 7:30-Al-ateen	10 6:00-Preschool 7:00-SAC 8:30- GSLS 10:00 SVLC @Attic 6:00-Stretch N Tone 6:30-SVCC Prayers 7:00-BSA #622 7:00-Council Mtg.	11 6:00-Preschool 7:00-SAC 8:30- GSLS Begins 9:00-GSLS Chapel 5:30-GSA Mtg. 6:30-Confirmation 6:30-SPARK 7:30- Youth Group	12 6:00-Preschool 7:00-SAC 8:30- GSLS Begins 9:30-NAOMI 10:00-SVLC@Attic 3:00-SWC 5:00-Café Open 6:00-Stretch Tone 6:30-Al-anon	13 6:00-Preschool 7:00-SAC 8:30- GSLS Begins 6:00-ICESKATING Grades-3 rd - 12 th 7:30-PADS <i>Pastor Off</i>	14 8:00-Alanon-CR 10:00-AA-Library 10:00-SVLC @Attic
15 8:30-Traditional 9:45-Contemporary 9:45-Sunday School 11:00-Blended 11:00-NA 4:00-Simi Valley Christian Church 7:00-Al-anon	16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day GSLs, SAC & SVLC Preschool Closed 6:00-Stretch N Tone 7:00-BSA #698-Hall 7:00-Al-anon 7:30-Al-ateen	17 6:00-Preschool 7:00-SAC 8:30- GSLS Begins 10:00-SVLC@Attic 6:00-Stretch N Tone 6:30-SVCC Prayers 7:00-BSA #622 7:00-Men's Group 7:00-Hannah Circle	18 6:00-Preschool 7:00-SAC 8:30- GSLS Begins 9:00-GSLS Chapel 6:30-Confirmation 6:30-SPARK 7:30-Youth	19 6:00-Preschool 7:00-SAC 8:30- GSLS Begins 10:00-SVLC @Attic 11:30-Y.I.M.A.H 3:00-SWC 4:30-Daisy #60668 5:00-Café Open 6:00-Stretch N Tone 6:30-Al-anon	20 6:00-Preschool 7:00-SAC 8:30- GSLS Begins 6:30-GSLs Winter Dance 7:30-PADS <i>Pastor Off</i>	21 8:00-Ala6on-CR 9:00-Hall in use 10:00-AA-Library
22 8:30-Traditional 9:45-Contemporary 9:45-Sunday School 11:00- Blended 11:00-NA 12:00-SVLC Women's Luncheon 4:00-Simi Valley Christian Church 7:00-Al-anon-CR	23 6:00-Preschool 7:00-SAC 8:30- GSLS Begins 5:00-SPARK Skate 6:00-Stretch N Tone 7:00-BSA #698-Hall 7:00-Al-anon 7:30-Al-ateen	24 6:00-Preschool 7:00-SAC 8:30- GSLS Begins 10:00-SVLC@ Attic 6:00-Stretch N Tone 6:30-SVCC Prayers 7:00-BSA #622 7:00-Property Mtg.	25 6:00-Preschool 7:00-SAC 8:30- GSLS Begins 9:00-GSLS Chapel 5:30-GSA Mtg. 6:30- SPARK 6:30- Confirmation 7:30-Youth Group	26 6:00-Preschool 7:00-SAC 8:30- GSLS Begins 10:00-SVLC @Attic	27 6:00-Preschool 7:00-SAC 8:30- GSLS Begins 7:30-PADS <i>Pastor off</i>	28 8:00-Alanon-CR 10:00-AA-Library 10:00-SVLC @Attic 12:00-NOLA Potato Bar prepping 2:00-Sanctuary in use
29 SVLC Annual Mtg. 8:30-Traditional 9:45-Contemporary 9:45-Sunday School 10:00-NOLA Potato Bar Fundraiser 11:00-Blended 11:00-NA 4:00-Simi Valley Christian Church 7:00-Al-anon	30 6:00-Preschool 7:00-SAC 8:30- GSLS Begins 6:00-Stretch N Tone 7:00-BSA #698 7:00-Al-anon 7:30-Al-ateen	31 6:00-Preschool 7:00-SAC 8:30- GSLS Begins 10:00-SVLC@ Attic 6:00-Stretch N Tone 6:30-SVCC Prayers 7:00-BSA #622				