

# Welcome



## May 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.

*Volunteers are always needed please contact Ray @ 805-527-4061*

**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*), Heinz Raaber (*cousin of Joanne Askew*), Bernice Salcedo (*Helen Anderson's sister-in-law in N.Y.*)

**Under convalescent or hospice care...**

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

**Undergoing surgery, various tests, treatments, recuperating and continued comfort...**

Connie Kieffer-Collins, John Yanuklis, Kent & Rosalie Fredrick, Dewey Blowers, Brian Pierret, Marlene (*friend to Charlotte Weldon*), Gwyen Hadvina (*GSLs Aide*).

**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,

Have you ever found an item advertised in a magazine or a catalog and ordered it, only to discover the product failed to live up to how it appeared in print? Have you ever been in a restaurant promising the “best burger in town” only to walk away promising never to eat a burger in that town again because if the one you had was the best you can’t imagine how bad the others might be?

I imagine most of us have been duped by advertising at least once in our lives. Marketing is a tricky business. Photos can be cleaned up to make a product look better. Words can be used in a way to make a skunk smell like a rose. We may go into a situation thinking we’re getting one thing when we end up getting something completely different. I can remember being enticed by a brochure from Texas Lutheran College (now Texas Lutheran University). They pictured a number of students frolicking around a palm tree on campus. To an Ohio boy in the middle of winter they made the campus looking like a beach paradise. Although I didn’t end up as a student at TLU, I was able to visit the campus a few years later only to discover that Seguin, Texas, home of Texas Lutheran, is not only three hours from the coast, but that the palm tree displayed so prominently in their recruiting information is the only one on campus! Was this a case of false advertising?

At our Quarterly Congregational Meeting in April, quite a bit of discussion was held on how we might better “market” our congregation to the community. Recently we have begun placing weekly ads in the Ventura County Star. Prior to Easter we placed an advertisement in the “Welcome to the Neighborhood” magazine. Also discussed was the need to spiff up our website and make it more attractive since this is the “advertisement of choice” for modern generations.

These are all great ideas, but it’s still important to remember all this marketing is still evangelism and the product we are “selling” is a relationship with the Creator of the Universe as well as membership in the body of Christ that is Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church. If we do all this “marketing” and people do come on a Sunday for worship or come to attend another event at the church, what will they experience? Will they be warmly received, welcomed and loved as we have advertised and promised? If not, chances are they won’t be back again.

All the advertising or marketing in the world is only as good as our ability to produce what we promise. Or, as St. Paul said it, “If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy going or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge, and if I have faith so as to move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.” (1 Corinthians 13:1-2)

People may come because of the marketing, but they will only become part of the body if they experience love. May that be something all may experience through us.

Your Partner in Ministry,  
Pastor Gary



## CONFIRMATION May Schedule:

### 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grade:

5/2-Pentecost

5/9-Fun/Service Night

### 8<sup>th</sup> grade:

5/2-Book of Revelation

5/9-Fun/Service Night

5/16-Practice for Confirmation Day



## FROM THE MINISTRY SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Pastor Gary, Corrine, Shari Swanson, Ray Valderrama, Sue Wedemeyer

“Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up...”

1 Thessalonians 5:11

The leaders of the early church spent a lot of time encouraging each other, practicing their new way of life, and learning how to implement Christ’s teachings in everything they did. It hasn’t gotten any easier with time. Christianity still runs counter-culture to the world in which we find ourselves, a world often characterized by competition, mean-spiritedness, and dishonesty.

In her book, *The Balcony People*, Joyce Landorf Heatherly talks about two types of people: the evaluators (or Basement People) and the affirmers (Balcony People). We all know the Basement People. They are the ones who tell you what you can’t do, the ones who make you feel that you don’t measure up, the ones who let you know "for your own good" how you can be better. Often their words stay with us for life. The affirmers take the opposite approach. They see something special in us; they encourage us to step out and use our gifts; they lift us up.

As Heatherly says,

“Who is the affirmer in your life, who by one small sentence or more, has changed and lifted your opinion of yourself? Who was the person early in your life who recognized the first sparks of originality in the labyrinths of your mind and soul, and saw what no one else saw? And who is the special affirmer who catches quick glimpses of the flames from the fires of your potential and tells you so? Who, by his or her words, helps you to respect and believe in your own value as a person? And who is the affirmer who encourages you to stretch and dream beyond your self-imposed limits and capabilities?”

Think about this in your life. Who are your Basement People? Who are your Balcony People?

We bet, if you’re like us, those Balcony People mean/meant the world to you. Now, think about who in your life you can affirm.

Wouldn’t it be great to be on someone’s ‘Balcony People’ list?

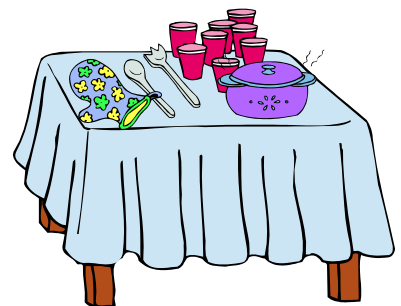
We want to encourage each of you this month in your personal ministry. It is our prayer that you have a chance to thank the affirmers in your life and to find someone for whom you can be that Balcony Person-- noticing God’s presence in their soul, encouraging them in their walk with Christ, giving those important words of affirmation.

God bless.

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

Potluck Thursday, May 17, 2012

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



**SPARK**

**3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> graders**

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).



# YOUTH NEWS – APRIL

## MAY YOUTH NEWS

May is here and summer is approaching very fast. We have quite a bit going on here at Shepherd of the Valley with the youth. There is something for your kids to do whether on Sunday or Wednesday or throughout the week. It's very exciting to be a part of a church where we have so much involvement from parents and adults who just want to invest their time into the lives of youth. Thank you for all the help. Below are some upcoming activities for the youth in May.

Peace, Marc Mohr

### SPARK:



**FRIDAY, MAY 4<sup>TH</sup>** – **MOVIE/ICE CREAM** **NIGHT** – We will be watching a movie, eating ice cream, and yes there will be popcorn too. Time: 6:30-8:30pm at Marc and Niki Mohr's house. Please bring \$5 for the night. Sign-up with Adrienne or Marc. See you then!

**SUMMER CAMP @ EL CAMINO PINES – JULY 1<sup>ST</sup> – JULY 6<sup>TH</sup>** – Please go to [www.lrcchome.com](http://www.lrcchome.com) and sign-up now for summer camp. Your child must be in 1<sup>st</sup> grade to go. The cost is \$365 for the whole week.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL:

**FRIDAY, MAY 18<sup>TH</sup> – THE AVENGERS @ EL CAPITAN THEATRE** – We will be going to see The Avengers movie by Marvel. Meet at the church at 4:30pm and we will be back by 10:30pm. Please bring enough money for dinner in Hollywood at Pinks and the movie. Cost: \$25 for everything.



**SUMMER CAMP @ EL CAMINO PINES – JULY 1<sup>ST</sup> – JULY 6<sup>TH</sup>** – Please go to [www.lrcchome.com](http://www.lrcchome.com) and sign-up now for summer camp. Your child must be in 8<sup>th</sup> grade or below to go. The cost is \$365 for the whole week.



### HIGH SCHOOL:

**NOLA REDS FUNDRAISER – WEDNESDAY, MAY 9<sup>TH</sup>** – Come support the youth going to New Orleans by eating at Reds barbeque.

**FRIDAY, MAY 18<sup>TH</sup> – THE AVENGERS @ EL CAPITAN THEATRE** – We will be going to see The Avengers movie by Marvel. Meet at the church at 4:30pm and we will be back by 10:30pm. Please bring enough money for dinner in Hollywood at Pinks and the movie. Cost: \$25 for everything.

**SATURDAY, MAY 19<sup>TH</sup> FROM 9am-2pm.** – **NOLA CAR WASH** – Come get your car washed and enjoy a Jamba Juice while you wait.



# Sunday School

**Sunday School for grades - K 8** meet at 9:45 am each Sunday. Students meet upstairs and return to church after the sermon so they can commune with their families.

**Grades K-5** meet in the classrooms.

**Grades 6-8** meet in the Youth Room.

All are welcome!

**Grades K-5:** Our last rotation before summer is “The Parable of the Good Steward.”

We'll be doing arts and crafts and drama rotations.

Here's the schedule for May:

May 6 - Parable of the Good Steward

May 13 – MOTHER'S DAY!! NO SUNDAY SCHOOL!!

May 20 - Parable of the Good Steward

May 20th is our last class before summer.

We'll celebrate summer birthdays that day, so if your child has a summer birthday, have them bring their pennies (one for each year of age).

**Grades 6-8:** May 6 is our last Middle School Sunday School class for the year. We will be discussing Revelations. Does the book of Revelations really tell us when the world will end? Come on the May 6th and we'll talk about what Revelations does tell us. We will not meet for the rest of May.

Middle Schoolers you are encouraged to attend church with your families, and attend the confirmation service on May 20<sup>th</sup> to celebrate with this year's 8th graders.

You have any questions?

Please contact Lisa Lewis (grades K-5): 527-6379 or [olseysue@sbcglobal.net](mailto:olseysue@sbcglobal.net) or Angela Hess (grades 6-8): 526-3731 or [ahess91@roadrunner.com](mailto:ahess91@roadrunner.com)

Sarah's House  
Maternity Homes



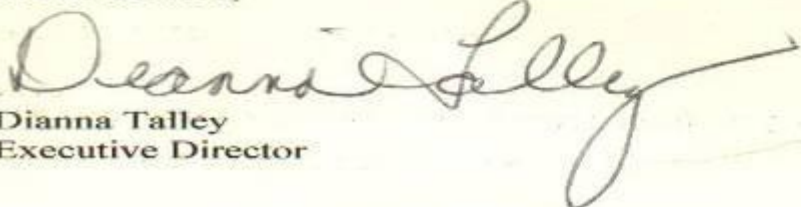
April 22, 2012

Our Savior Lutheran Church  
4191 Cochran Street  
Simi Valley, CA 93063

Dear Friends of Sarah's House;

Thank you so much for your participation in last year's Sarah's House Baby Bottle Campaign.  
**Our Savior Lutheran Church raised \$817.40.**

In His Service,

  
Dianna Talley  
Executive Director

# Words For Women



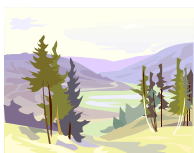
A Newsletter for the Women and Friends of  
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

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## Upcoming Events

Naomi Circle is meeting on Thursday May 10<sup>th</sup> 9:30 am at the home of Vicki Carey.  
Her address is 1243 Newman St. (805) 526-5585.

Hannah Circle is meeting on Tuesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm at the home of Jennifer Wacenske.  
Her address is 4513 Lubbock Dr. (805) 581-2923.



Our 2012 Women's Retreat will be 05/03/12 through 05/06/12. Our gracious hosts from last year have offered their beautiful home again in Frazer Park.

We have a brand new study leader for this year so you won't want to miss it. Signups will start at the beginning of April. Space is limited so please sign up early.

Friends in Need Bake Sale - 05/20/12. Please bring your yummy baked goods on Sunday before the 8:30 service. All proceeds will go to the "Friends in Need" ministry here at church. We purchase grocery store scrip for Pastor Gary to give out when those who are in need visit him at the church office.



Let's go to the Ronald McDonald House. Join us on Saturday 06/23/12 for a trip to Pasadena. We'll stop at the house to donate food, kitchen needs and all the collected pop tops. Then it's off to downtown to eat and shop. We'll meet in the church parking lot at 9:30 and head off from there. If you would like to be on our e-list, please email [Lisagearthart@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Lisagearthart@sbcglobal.net). We'll make sure your name gets added.



## Come join the fun!

*Old Fashion* family picnic  
Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> from 12 – 4:00 pm  
Lemon Park - *under the pavilion*

SVLC Fellowship Committee will be supplying the hot dogs, buns, condiments, water and paper goods. Marc and the youth group will be leading us in fun and exciting games for all ages. Water sports for the young. Sign up on the patio to bring salad, dessert or side dishes. Bring your own drinks. A free will offering will be taken to offset the park rental fees. Call Carolyn Nell (805) 558-0568 if you have any questions.



# Now Enrolling 2 year olds!!!



## Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Preschool

celebrating 40 years

*"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."*

**Find us at [www.svlpreschool.com](http://www.svlpreschool.com)**

Our preschool was established in October 1970. As the needs of our preschool parents and children have changed, our school has changed and expanded to meet these needs. That being said, **we are very pleased to announce that we have lowered the entrance age for our center, and we can now accept children on the day they turn two** (yes this means that children no longer need to be potty trained to enroll at our center). Our philosophy remains the same-that each child deserves the opportunity to grow and develop in a safe, loving and stimulating Christian environment, and learn to appreciate their value and importance in God's world.

It has been proven that children who attend preschool have a better foundation when they start Kindergarten. Please pass the word to neighbors and friends about our center.

Another new change that involves our center is that we are now able to receive Thrivent Choice dollars.

We need people from the congregation to serve on the Preschool Board next year. We meet the first Tuesday of the month (usually every other month) for about an hour. We have several members who are leaving at the end of the school year and need to fill their positions. If this is something that you could help out with, please call the preschool at 526-9069 or speak with Pastor Gary.

Thank you for your continued prayers. As a staff we appreciate all you do to help our school.

SVLC Preschool Director  
Terry Labrum



# New Pictorial Directory

**Photo shoots are scheduled for**

**May 15, 16 & 17**

**May 22, 23 & 24**

**appointments available from 2:00 pm – 9:20 pm**

**to make your appointment**

**please call the church office 526-7577**

# New Orleans News

*2012 ELCA Youth Gathering Update  
May 2012*



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We are getting very excited for our trip and are coming down the homeward stretch. We only have approximately 2 ½ months to go until we leave. On Sunday morning, July 15, there will be a special “sending off” service held.

Our next bible study with the youth will be held on Sunday, May 20 from 4:00-6:00. The youth have been very busy with their fundraisers and want to thank you all so much for your support and prayers.

On Sunday, April 15, 2012 a parent meeting was held where many items were discussed including our remaining fundraisers, the discipline policies and the group covenant.

Totals for fundraisers in April/May:

- No Frills - \$1500.00
- Easter Breakfast – \$516.36
- Babysitting – \$277.00
- Women’s waffle Sunday – \$460.00
- Good Shepherd auction help – no total available yet
- Candle Sales – \$560.40
- Bingo – \$793.54

In May/June we have the following fundraisers planned:

- May 9 – Red’s restaurant
- May 13 – Mother’s day corsages/bouquets
- May 19 – Car wash
- June 8 – TV Taping (tentative)
- June 13 – Dodge game

Total fundraised as of April 23, 2012 - \$22,956.35

The adult leaders spent April 21<sup>st</sup> at Emmanuel Lutheran in North Hollywood at a very informative training event to help prepare us for our Day of Discipleship in New Orleans. Our Day of Discipleship will be focused on our synod’s youth working and studying all together. This year the churches are being housed all together within the synods.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, feel free to contact any of the adult leaders going. They are Marc Mohr, Chris Fisher, Kelli Stephens, Pastor Gary and Corrine Stevenson. You can also access information at the gathering website:

[www.elca.org/ELCA/Youth-Gathering.aspx](http://www.elca.org/ELCA/Youth-Gathering.aspx)

## **HOUSE SITTERS AVAILABLE**

Will you be going on vacation and in need of someone to take care of your house while you’re gone? Retired Pastor Frank and Barbara Starkey, parents of Sandra Carganilla, are willing to house sit for anyone needing it. If you are interested please contact either Sandra or Pastor Gary for information.





Every year we set aside a day to honor our mothers, but really, shouldn't we be honoring them every day instead? Those of us who are mothers are very aware that we are not mothers for one day a year but for every day that passes.

Sometimes it can be an overwhelming job particularly if our child has a social, mental or behavioral problem. How can we cope? Hopefully we can find the right diagnosis and get help.

The church Library has quite a few books on parenting for both fathers and mothers. We will be featuring them on our book cart for you to see. Even if your child is a perfect angel, you might find interesting ideas to make you a better parent. And we have so many great books for you to read to your child. So be sure to check out the offerings on the book cart on Sunday. It is in plain sight on the patio for your convenience.

We also feature our new acquisitions. And we welcome donations of recent books in good condition that are suitable for a church library. Just leave them in the Library room in the container by the fireplace. This is YOUR library. Please make use of it. And God bless.



## SCRIP

Let's talk about shopping... Everyone buys groceries, gas, and medications (plus a host of other things). And these shopping trips are usually done on a regular basis. So, why not prepare for them by purchasing gift cards before you go?

Don't you usually buy the same brand of gas each week? Patronize the same grocery store and drug store? So stop by the Scrip table or the office and purchase what you need, stick it in your wallet or purse, and voila - you are ready to go!

We stock the following cards:

Groceries - Albertson's and Von's, while Ralphs has a program that returns a percentage of what you spend to the church. (We'll explain it to you.)

Gas- We carry Arco, Chevron, Shell and can get Exxon Mobil as well.

Drug stores - how about Walgreen's, Rite Aid or CVS?

Now I am sure there is something there for everyone! Remember, buying gift cards to make your purchases, costs you nothing extra but allows you to send a donation to Pastor's fund to help out those in need. With the economy so bad, and so many people out of work or underemployed, it is almost a necessity to be of service.

We are on the patio every Sunday for your convenience. Of course, when it is too windy, freezing cold or rainy, we will retreat to Eichele Hall. So look for us there!

## 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.



## *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 **1<sup>st</sup> 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 the 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.

# STEPHEN MINISTRY




**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.

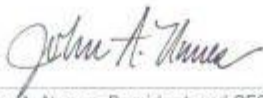
**If you or someone you know is facing a crisis--large or small--and could benefit from the caring presence of a Stephen Minister, call Pastor Gary at 805.526.7577.**

 Lutheran World Relief

**Lutheran World Relief**  
presents

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

this  
Certificate of Appreciation  
for supporting communities in Guatemala and  
Mexico by using Eco-Palms for Palm Sunday 2012.

  
John A. Nunes, President and CEO

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF 700 LIGHT STREET BALTIMORE, MD 21230 USA 800.597.5972 LWR.ORG

Lutheran World Relief is a ministry of U.S. Lutherans, serving communities living in poverty overseas.

