



WEEKLY NEWS for the

Flock

Welcome to Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church (SOTV), ELCA

Weeks of November 20 & 27



- For 30 wonderful years of ministry at SOTV.
- For a beautiful new pipe organ and its many generous donors.
- For the 157 youth who were confirmed this fall.
- For the nearly 8,000 people in our church last weekend.
- To all those who supported our library, kitchen and youth ministry with purchases at the Christmas Boutique.
- For the many generous hearts who give gifts of their time and financial pledges to the church.

What are you thankful for?

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

This is Pledge Weekend

Pledge envelopes were mailed at the beginning of November with the new annual publication *Wonders*.

You will be invited during communion this weekend to bring your pledge forward. You are also welcome to return pledges, if possible, to the Welcome Center or by mail, by December 31.

Pledge envelopes are available outside the Sanctuary and Great Hall. Thank you for your generous gifts!

NEW Transportation Ministry

We now have drivers able to provide rides to weekend worship at SOTV! If you or a loved one need transportation to worship, please contact Wally Mahlum at (952) 431-0630 or wcrdracer@charter.net. We cannot accommodate wheelchairs at this time and riders must be able to get to and from the vehicle with minimal assistance.

The Wrong Coats

When leaving the church, please make sure you take the right coat! A red coat and a dark navy coat were taken recently from a coat rack. A similar red coat and a dark gray Jones New York (size 6) coat were left in their place. Please see the Welcome Center if you believe you took either of these coats.

Parenting Partnership Nights

Parents of teenagers are invited to join pastors, youth staff, and other parents for support, conversation, and special guest speakers on a variety of relevant topics.

Wednesday, December 7 from 7:00-8:00 PM
"Alcohol and Teen Depression"

Worship Schedule

Celebration Worship (Sanctuary)

Saturday 5:00 PM

Sunday 8:30, 9:45, & 11:00 AM

The Table (Great Hall)

Sunday 9:45 & 11:00 AM

This Weekend in the Narthex:

Fair-Trade Coffee
Blood Pressure Screenings
LSS Ambassadors

Next week:

First Week of Advent

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, ELCA

Christopher Smith, Senior Pastor

12650 Johnny Cake Ridge Road
Apple Valley, MN 55124

www.sotv.org

Main Line: (952) 432-6351

Children, Youth & Family office:
(952) 432-6385

Baptisms

Baptism class is required for families preparing for their first baptism at SOTV.

Contact Merilu Narum at (952) 985-7326 to schedule your baptism with the church one to two months in advance. Baptism forms must be completed prior to scheduling and are available at the Welcome Center or online.

Preschool Registrations

Celebrating Children Preschool will begin their 18th year in September. **There are a few spots** still available in the 4 & 5 year old afternoon class. Please call Sandy Glessing for more information: (952) 985-7370.

Nursery & KidCare

Questions, contact:
Jeanne Mikulski (952) 985-7357

During worship hours, nursery is available at no charge for children ages six weeks through three years.

For programs other than worship, Shepherd of the Valley's KidCare provides childcare for children ages six weeks - 12 years. Pre-registration and pre-payment are required. Register online at www.sotv.org.

Parish Nurses

Parish Nurses are available for care and consultation on any number of health issues. Rose Mahlum, RN is the lead nurse on staff at SOTV.

Rose can be reached at (952) 985-7365 or Rose.Mahlum@sotv.org. Her office consultation hours are Tuesdays and Fridays from 9:00 - 11:00 AM.

Got News for the Flock?

Submissions are due for the weekly newsletter every Tuesday at Noon.


Contact Trip Sullivan at (952) 985-7311, or Trip.Sullivan@sotv.org.

PDF versions of our newsletters and a sign-up form to receive them via e-mail are available online at: www.sotv.org/news.

Gather

Women in New Konnections (WINK)

WINK is a point of contact for women who attend church alone and would like to connect with others. Join us each Sunday, 10:45 - 11:00 AM at the round table near the Welcome Center. Upcoming events include:

Historic Murphy's Landing 
Saturday, December 3, 9:30 AM
Tickets: 6.50 & 7.00

Men's "Theology on Tap"

The 3rd Tuesday of each month
Next date: December 20
Discussion: 7:00 - 8:00 PM
Fellowship: 8:00 - 8:30 PM
Old Chicago Restaurant, Apple Valley

Gather with Pastor Steubing for fellowship and conversations about faith and spirituality. December's topic is "A Virgin Birth, Really?"

Questions? Contact Pastor Chris Steubing at (952) 985-7306 or Chris.Steubing@sotv.org.

Men's December Breakfast

Saturday, December 3
8:00 - 10:00 AM
\$5 suggested donation

Speaker: Todd Fultz, "The Year of Little Victories"

Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service

Wednesday, November 23, 7:00 PM


Join us for worship as we give thanks for faith, community and family. Please bring food items (non-perishable) for our food shelf to provide for the hungry in our community.

Baked Lutefisk Dinner

Friday, December 16
Seatings at 1:00 & 6:00 PM
Cost: \$15/adult plate
\$7/age 12 & under plate

UFFDA! The annual favorite is back with Chef Leiton Larson at the helm. Come enjoy tasty Norwegian treats including Scandinavian meatballs, lefse, lingonberries, herring, and more!

O.K.'s (Older Kids)

Gloryland Band 
Saturday, December 10
12 noon lasagna luncheon
Cost: \$10

Women's January Breakfast

with Gaye Lindfors
Saturday, January 28, 2012
9:00 - 11:00 AM
Cost: \$10/person. KidCare: \$4/child

The theme of this breakfast is "Don't Miss Your Boat: Living a Life of Purpose in the Real World." Gaye Lindfors will use stories, humor and lessons learned the hard way to remind us that we were created for a divine purpose and our lives matter. You will leave encouraged, inspired and hopeful.

Sunday Adult Forum

Sundays at 9:45 AM in the Chapel

November 20: Jim Bergquist on Christians in Southeast Asia

No Adult Forums: Nov. 27 - Jan. 1.

Give

Christmas for the Troops

We are collecting supplies for care packages for our troops this month. The list of items is in the Narthex. This is a great way to say thank you and let them know they are not forgotten.

Questions? Contact Kelly Lehmann (952) 431-5409.

Our Daily Bread Food Shelf

Don't forget to bring your food shelf donations to the Thanksgiving Eve service this Wednesday.

Most needed food items this week:

Diapers (size 4 & 5), beef stew, canned fruit, syrup, laundry soap, mustard and toiletry items

Thank you for your support!

Collecting Winter Outerwear

During November and December we are collecting **gently used** winter coats, snow pants, boots, mittens/gloves, hats and scarves and distributing them to needy children and families in Dakota County, the Twin Cities, and as far away as Pine Ridge Reservation, SD. Last year, we met 82% of our requests for winter outerwear from 18 different schools and organizations. Please bring your donations to the collection box in the narthex. Questions? Contact Lisa Loher at (651) 683-9127.

Christmas Gift Giving

Give Christmas Gifts to a family in need this holiday season. You can choose from among several different shopping programs or give a monetary donation to purchase gifts.

Sign up soon! Fliers can be found outside the Sanctuary & Great Hall doors or at the Welcome Center.

Santas Needed

Drivers needed to play Santa and deliver gifts to families in St. Paul the week before Christmas.

Bell ringers needed at the Eagan Cub Foods Saturday, December 10 to work hour shifts from 10 AM to 7:30 PM.

Contact Lisa Hegerman at (952) 985-7329 or e-mail Lisa.Hegerman@sotv.org.

Volunteers Needed!

- **Ushers at all Christmas Services**, including Sounds of the Season (Dec. 18), Travelers' Christmas (Dec. 21), and Christmas Eve (Dec 24). Sign up at the Welcome Center or contact Greg Camp at (952) 412-0648 or campgr@hotmail.com.
- **Communion assistants** at the Christmas Eve 9:30 and 11:00 PM services. Contact Merilu Narum at (952) 985-7326 or Merilu.Narum@sotv.org.
- **Church cleaners** (a couple hours a week), **grounds maintenance** (fall pruning and clean up before the snow), **a electrician** for a small project, and **helpers for special events** like dinners and concerts. Contact Matt Gomes at (952) 985-7340 or matt.gomes@sotv.org.

Blessed to be a Blessing: Tanzanian Scholarship Program

We're about a quarter of the way toward our goal of providing 150 secondary and university scholarships in 2012!

Fewer than 15% of Tanzanian students can afford to attend school past a sixth grade level. Your gifts provide the opportunity of a lifetime. Just \$1 a day or \$360 per year provides tuition, room and board for one student.

Write checks payable to SOTV with "TZ scholarship" in the memo, or use Simply Giving to make monthly payments. Gifts or commitments needed by Dec. 1. Questions? Contact Kirsten.Levorson@sotv.org.

Ongoing...

Knitters & Crocheters

Want to make Prayer Shawls? Contact: Jill.Johnson@sotv.org or (952) 985-7381.

Down Syndrome Parent Support Group

Every 3rd Monday, 6:30 - 8:30 PM. Contact Suzy Runkel at (952) 891-5082 or suzynelson@hotmail.com.

Faith Partners: Promoting Chemical Health

If you or someone you know is affected by chemical abuse, please contact Karen (952) 201-6193 or Scott (952) 431-2566.

CBC (Challenged by Cancer)

For women living with cancer to gather and support each other. Meets every 2nd Tuesday 7:00 - 9:00 PM. Contact: Cher Nelson, Parish Nurse, (612) 209-1404, cher.nelson@sotv.org

Compassionate Friends South of the River

Meets every 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 PM. For all parents who are grieving the loss of a child of any age from any cause. Contact: Susan Ferber, (651) 683-9236, susan@ferbers.us.

Sarah Circle Bible Study

2nd Saturdays, 8:30 - 9:30 AM
Contact: Judy Anderson
(651) 207-8407

Shalom Circle Bible Study

3rd Thursdays, 1:30 - 3:30 PM

Wednesday Coffee for Men

Wednesdays at 9:00 AM in the Atrium

Men's Bible Studies

Tuesday Mornings: 6:00 - 7:00 AM
Wednesday Evenings: 6:00 - 7:15 PM
Friday Mornings: 6:30 - 8:00 AM
Contact: Pastor Chris Steubing
(952) 985-7306

Job Connections Group

Networking & LinkedIn Demo
Tuesday, November 22, 6:30 - 8:15 PM

Job Search for the Mature Seeker
Tuesday, November 22, 6:30 - 8:15 PM

Prince of Peace, Burnsville, MN

More info: (952) 898-9388
www.princeofpeaceonline.org/jcg

Grow

Just Announced!

The Gospel of John: Are You Juror or Witness?

Saturdays, December 3 & 10
8:30 - 11:30 AM
Cost: FREE! KidCare: \$12/child
Led by Tim Schaefer

It has been suggested that the Gospel of John was written to give Jesus the proper trial that he did not, in actuality, ever receive. The trial continues! Are you in the jury? Or are you ready to sit in the witness stand? Join us as we spend two Saturday mornings immersed in the trial of Jesus according to the Gospel of John.

Financial Peace University

Mondays, January 9 - April 9
7:00 - 9:00 PM
Cost: \$100 (through Dec 20); \$113 (after Dec 20)
KidCare: \$52 per child

Preview days:
Saturday, Dec 10, 6:00 PM
Sunday, Dec 11, 10:45 AM and 12 Noon

Created by Dave Ramsey, a personal money management expert, this 13-week video-based small group teaches families how to beat debt, get control of your money, build wealth, and learn new behaviors around money that are based on commitment, stewardship, and accountability.

DivorceCare

Thursdays, 6:30 - 8:30 PM
September 8 - December 22
Cost: \$15, includes new workbook

Video series featuring experts on divorce and recovery, with a new topic each week. Each session includes support group time to share real life experiences. Scholarships are available.

Depression Support Coalition

Offering information, education, support, and spiritual hope to individuals who suffer from depression and their families

Support Group Meetings

For family members and loved ones of those with depression:
6:30 PM Tuesday evenings
Contact: Randy Goeke (952) 240-2754

For individuals with depression:
6:30 PM Tuesday evenings
or 10:00 AM Wednesday mornings
Contact: Richard Erickson
(651) 788-0275

Location: Prince of Peace
13901 Fairview Drive, Burnsville
Christian Life Center, Room 110

Monthly Educational Speakers

"Depression and Spirituality"
Rev. Jerry R. Storm

Monday, November 7
7:00 - 8:30 PM

Location: Shepherd of the Valley
Contact: Julie Opheim
(952) 432-6351

ADHD, Autism, & Other Disabilities on the Spectrum

Monthly meetings open to everyone in the community. Cost per session varies and depends on the speaker. Pre-registration and payment is required for KidCare only and is always \$5 per child.

Monday, November 14, 2011

Speaker: Rich Frieder, Learning RX
"Unlock the Einstein Inside:
Applying Brain Research to
Unlock Learning Potential"

No cost for this presentation.

Suicide Survivor Support Group

2nd Tuesdays and 4th Thursdays
7:00 - 8:30 PM

Mary Mother of the Church
3333 Cliff Road, Burnsville
Park in West parking lot, enter main door, and look for sign.

This is a support group for those who are surviving the loss of a loved one who died by suicide. For information, call Toni at (952) 890-0122.

More Support Groups

See the rightmost sidebar for more support groups.



Get your News for the Flock by e-mail. Sign up at www.sotv.org/news



Children, Youth and Family (CYF)

News & Events | November 12 & 13, 2011

CYF Office: (952) 432-6385

No GodZone or Confirmation

Wednesday, November 23 or Sunday, November 27.

GodZone (PK - Grade 5)



2011 Christmas Program

Weekend of December 17 & 18

This year we will be presenting an abbreviated Christmas program during worship in the Sanctuary.

Wednesday GodZone at 5:45 PM:
Saturday, December 17 at 5:00 PM

Sunday GodZone at 8:30 AM:
Sunday, December 18 at 8:30 AM

Sunday GodZone at 9:45 AM:
Sunday, December 18 at 9:45 AM

**Sunday GodZone at 11:00 AM and
Wednesday GodZone at 4:30 PM:**
Sunday, December 18 at 11:00 AM

Grades 1-3 will rehearse during GodZone. Grades 4-5 have two options for rehearsing their key leadership roles: Tuesday, December 6 at 6:30 PM or Saturday, December 10 at 8:00 AM.

Shuttle service will be provided from Falcon Ridge Middle School Sunday morning beginning at 7:30. Please plan your arrival time accordingly.

Complete information for parents is available online at www.sotv.org/godzone. CDs are available at the Welcome Center and Children, Youth and Family (CYF) office.

Resources for GodZone Home Edition

Advent calendars, plus a list of fun and creative ways to focus on the real meaning of Christmas this year - are available at the Welcome Center or the CYF office.

GodZone Giving Project

This year GodZone is invited to participate in a "Swaddling Clothes" Drive. Just as the innkeeper made provisions for baby Jesus, families may bring supplies for babies who are born in to families who are homeless or in need. A full list of items is available at www.sotv.org/godzone. All proceeds will go to Dakota Woodlands or the Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery.

It's Starting to Look a Lot Like Christmas!

**Grades 1-5 // Friday, December 2
6:30 - 8:30 PM // \$5.00**

Fun seasonal activities and a special service project.

"Happy Birthday, Jesus" Party

**PK-K Children & Parents // Saturday, December 10
10:00 AM // \$10.00/family**

Live stable animals and a "photo op" with Mary, Joseph and the baby! Special craft, snacks and other fun activities.

Confirmation (Grades 6-9)

Confirmation Pictures

Pictures are here and ready for pickup. They can be found in the Children, Youth and Family (CYF) office during the week and the Welcome Center during the weekend.

Parent Nights

Wednesday, December 7: 9th Grade Parent Night
All 9th Graders and their parents meet in the Sanctuary at 7:00 PM.

Wednesday, December 14: 6th-7th Grade Parent Night. ALL groups meet at 7:00 PM. 6th grade parents and youth will be meeting in Rooms 20-22. Seventh grade parents and youth will be meeting in the Sanctuary.

Middle School (Grades 6-8)

Movies, Munchies, and More

Friday, December 9, 7:00 - 10:00 PM

Games, snacks, and favorite Christmas films! Cost: \$5

Middle School Ski Retreat

Friday-Sunday, January 20-22 at Welch Village

Cost varies based on rental needs and whether you have a season pass. \$75 deposit holds your spot. Limited to 25 girls and 25 boys.

High School (Grades 9-12)

Lutheran Social Service (LSS)

Holiday Store

Saturday, December 10, 9 AM - 1:30 PM

Help teach kids the joy of giving while helping them pick out a parent gift as a personal shopping assistant at the LSS Center for Changing Lives in Minneapolis. Bring money for lunch. Register at www.sotv.org/events.

Post High School/College

College/Young Adult Brunch

Tuesday, December 27, 10:30 AM - 12 PM, Great Hall

Home from college for Winter Break or just want to connect with friends and your faith community? Come join us—brunch provided!

ONGOING CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH MINISTRIES...

GodZone (PK - Grade 5)

**Sundays and Wednesdays
Call for available times**

GodZone is our fun and engaging Christian Education program for Preschool through Grade 5. Children can join any time throughout the year. To register, visit the Welcome Center or our website www.sotv.org/children/godzone.shtm. Call the Children, Youth and Family (CYF) Office if you have any questions: (952) 432-6385

Confirmation (Grades 6-9)

**Wednesday nights
Call for available times**

Confirmation for 2010-2011 is underway, although kids can join any time throughout the year. Call Barb Schulz in the Children, Youth and Family (CYF) Office if you have any questions or to register for a small group. (952) 985-7351

High School (Grades 9-12)

URL (Unwind, Recharge and Learn)

**Wednesdays 8:00 - 9:15 PM
Shepherd Room**

Informal youth gatherings to connect with friends and meet new people.

PBS (Panera Before School)

**Mondays at 6:30 AM
Apple Valley Panera,
off Cedar & County 42**

Jumpstart your week with faith friends, scripture, and prayer (not to mention a tasty breakfast!).

Sunday Night Dive-In

**5:00 - 7:00 PM
Shepherd Room
Nov. 20 & 27, Dec 4 & 11**

"Dive in" to your burning questions using the Bible, video, music, and other exciting activities.