



Quarterly
NEWS
for the

Flock

Winter 2012

Let it Snow!

Plenty to do inside
and outside this
season at church!

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Schedule

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Studies



Christopher Smith
Senior Pastor



To hear the sermon by Pastor Chris Smith and Jan Nicolai visit www.sotv.org/sermons and click "Play Now" on the Oct. 23 sermon "**Doing Church.**"

Pastors

Christopher Smith
Duane Paetznick
Randy Brandt
Mary Lund
Diane Sponheim
Chris Steubing
Paul Harrington

Visitation Pastors:

Chuck Tindell
Leland Johnson

2011-2012 Church Council

Todd Sipe, President
Steve Mueller, Vice President
Arlen Wilson, Secretary
Troy Nelson, Treasurer
Cindy Archer-Burton
Jenny Buckley
Rusty Fifield
Julie Fries
Dana McKenzie
Lynne Nelson
Kari Slotten

An Invitation: *Experience Jesus*

I co-preached a sermon in the Table on October 23. I say "co-preached" because another worshiper joined me in proclaiming the Gospel that day. I was grateful to have Jan Nicolai join me in preaching because her story was so compelling. My part of the sermon was really setting up her story, a story of how her willingness to reach out in Christ to others made a huge difference in their lives. I invite you to hear that sermon and her story by visiting the SOTV website (*see left sidebar*). You will not regret listening.

Her story tells a tale of how her simple act of reaching out to others became an experience of Jesus for them. She was doing the reaching out, but it was Jesus they encountered. She was hearing others' needs, but it was Jesus who was listening. She took the risk of praying with others, but it was Jesus they were praying with.

The nature of faith is that it is actually a relationship with Jesus. It is faith built on encountering God in human flesh. Encountering God happens in the Bible all the time. In fact the New Testament is a record of how people encountered Jesus and how their experience of Jesus changed their lives. Encounters with Jesus have not stopped. They continue in the ministry of the church and in the lives of the people of the church who claim the name of Jesus. The Holy Spirit created the church so that we and all others may experience Jesus.

I invite you to encounter Jesus through the mission of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church. I invite you to experience Jesus in worship, learning, serving, giving, and loving. I invite you to be changed by the Lord so that when others encounter you, they will encounter Jesus. That is what Shepherd of the Valley is for: a place to welcome all to experience Jesus so that they are so captivated by the love of God that others experience Jesus through them. It's exciting to be part of that.

See You in Church!

Pastor Chris Smith



Children's Christmas Program

Weekend of December 17-18 // in the Sanctuary
Saturday 5:00 PM / Sunday 8:30, 9:45 and 11:00 AM
See page 15 for more information

Sounds of the Season Concert

Sunday, December 18 // 6:00 PM in the Sanctuary
Get in the Christmas spirit! SOTV music groups perform your favorite carols with a grand finale of the Messiah's "Hallelujah Chorus!"

Worship Service of Healing

Tuesday, December 20 // 7:00 PM in the Chapel
See right sidebar for more info.

Travelers' Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday, December 21 // 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary

Christmas Eve Worship

Saturday, December 24 // in the Sanctuary
Family Services: 11:00 AM & 1:00 PM
Candlelight: 2:30, 3:45, 5:00, 6:15, 8:00 PM
Candlelight (with Communion): 9 :30 & 11:00 PM

Christmas Day Worship

Sunday, December 25 // 10:00 AM in the Sanctuary
Christmas Lessons and Carols // No GodZone

Worship Service of Healing

"The Longest Night Service"
Tuesday, December 20
7:00 PM in the Chapel
Led by Pastor Diane Sponheim

For many, Christmas can be a bittersweet time of the year. It is a time for remembering persons and events in our lives that are now changed or gone. For some, the merriment just reminds us that we are in pain. This is the time of year with the longest nights, so around this time we offer a quiet, meditative worship service that creates time for remembering, sharing our hurting places with God, and preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ. Join us for a time of special music, scripture, stories, silent reflection, healing prayer and Holy Communion.

LOOKING AHEAD...

Ash Wednesday is February 22, 2012
Palm Sunday is April 1, 2012
Easter Sunday is April 8, 2012

Check our weekly newsletters and www.sotv.org for service times and other opportunities

Worship



Congratulations to these couples who recently married at Shepherd of the Valley.

August 26, 2011: William and Vicki (Schoenbeck) Tschida

August 27, 2011: Michael and Kari (Zwiefel) Myers

September 4, 2011: Matthew and Angela (Olson) Everson

September 9, 2011: Mark and Tamara (McNamara) Greenlee

October 1, 2011: Ryan and Amber (Visness) Black

October 1, 2011: Thomas and Anna (Uremovich) Heine

October 7, 2011: Andrew and Kari (Newell) Schwab

October 8, 2011: Matthew and Whitney (Hilmoe) Toombs

October 15, 2011: Ryan and Tara (Hoff) Swanson

October 22, 2011: Nicholas and Erin (Odland) Adamini

Contact Jill Johnson at (952) 985-7381 for information on scheduling weddings at SOTV.



Our prayers are with these members who have recently experienced the loss of a loved one.

Brandon Newton on the loss of his aunt, **Linda Dunn**

Carl Dahlberg on the loss of his mother, **Esther Dahlberg**

Craig Lammers on the loss of his mother, **Jane Lammers**

Randy Buffie on the loss of his father, **Richard Buffie**

Jon Rechtzigel on the loss of his father, **Edward Rechtzigel**

Maggi Arndt on the loss of her grandfather, **Benjamin Plowgian**

Debbi Holt on the loss of her brother, **Steve Hegman**

Mike Holt on the loss of his mother, **Lillian Holt**

Delores Pankonin on the loss of her sister-in-law, **Beverly Levine**

The family of Joyce Kriesel

Jim & Rosalee Knecht, Cindy Glewwe, & Melinda Ullrich on the loss of their daughter & sister, **Tammy Schultz**

Kurt Beaver on the loss of his father, **Keith Beaver**

First Communion: Now open to PK - Grade 5

This year we are expanding the opportunity for our youth to receive their First Communion at an earlier age. Previously, fifth grade was the established age for children to learn and partake in this holy sacrament. Over the past several years, many of our youth have demonstrated readiness at a much earlier age, seeking to join their parents, older siblings and the church community at the altar for Communion.

Children in Preschool up to and including Grade 5 are welcome to attend one of the following First Communion classes:

Class Dates

Tuesday, January 31, 2012
Tuesday, April 3, 2012

First Communion Dates

February 4-5, any service
Maundy Thursday, April 5, service TBA

To sign up, visit the Welcome Center or www.sotv.org/events. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Mary Lund at (952) 985-7303 or Mary.Lund@sotv.org. All are welcome to God's table of grace—now more than ever!

Milestones

New Member Classes

Would you like to become a member of our church or simply investigate it further? Join us for information about our mission and opportunities for involvement.

No registration necessary and childcare is available. Please see our weekly newsletters for upcoming classes. Questions? Please e-mail Lori.Bullock@sotv.org.

Tuesdays, January 3, 10, and 17
7:00 - 8:00 PM
Reception on January 22, 2012

Sundays, April 22, 29, and May 6
11:00 AM - 12 noon
Reception on May 13, 2012

Don & Marcia Nelson on the loss of their friend, **Robin**

Mary Vanek on the loss of her mother, **Cecelia Delaney**

Jeff Sampson on the loss of his father, **Richard Sampson**

Pat Buss on the loss of her aunt, **Margaret Tutewohl**

John & Nancy Peterson on the loss of their son, **Scott Peterson**

Debby Shepard on the loss of her brother, **Gary Rozenberg**

Lorraine Robeson on the loss of her cousin, **Mark Davenport**

Bruce Larson on the loss of his father, **Robert Larson**

Craig Bane on the loss of his father, **Charles Bane**

Gloria McMorran on the loss of her aunt, **Jeanette Davis**

Lynette Larson on the loss of her uncle, **Bob Baker**

Richard Sheldon on the loss of his mother, **Eleanor Sheldon**

Joni Hinkle & Todd Hinkle on the loss of their mother and grandmother, **Claudia Kucera**

Terry Larson on the loss of his mother, **Ruth Larson**



God's blessings to these families who celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism in September and October.

To schedule a baptism, please contact Merilu Narum at (952) 985-7326 one month in advance.

Nolan Robert Bremer Henry, son of Sara and Brendan Henry

Ruby Anne Routh, daughter of Delana and Daniel Routh

Caleb David Ruhsam, son of Emily and Craig Ruhsam

Madison Leigh Kuefler, daughter of Andrea and Derek Kuefler

Addisen Rose Saintey, daughter of Chelsie and Richard Saintey, Jr

Brady Owen Feucht & Bryce Ryland Feucht, sons of Anne and Daniel Feucht

Ethan Patrick Laber, son of Jennifer and Ryan Laber

Axel James Metoxen, son of Erin and Todd Metoxen

Rylee Amanda deLeon, daughter of Kimberly and Jonathan deLeon

Jacob Allen Erickson, son of Carrie and Jason Erickson

Julia Helene Moniza, daughter of Caroline and Aaron Moniza

Grayson Alan Baerenwald, son of Alison and Reid Baerenwald

Sophie Maren Conger, daughter of Jennifer and Mark Conger

Chase Michael Dolsky, son of Josselyn Moe and Daniel Dolsky

Klayton Reynold Kaiser, son of Lisa and Kristopher Kaiser

Charles Robert Thoreson, son of Cassandra and Andrew Thoreson

Grace Caroline Bobrowski, daughter of Jennifer and Jacob Bobrowski

Aurelia Mabel Knauf, daughter of Jacqueline and Michael Knauf

Charlie Zachary McNamara, son of Marisa and Michael McNamara

Carolina Ana Paulina Gjevre, daughter of Ann Gjevre

Amber Mariya Kocemba, sponsored by David Kocemba

Aubrey Eileen Wessels, daughter of Amber and Brian Wessels

Allison Jaye Ryan & Colton James Ryan, daughter and son of Kerrie and Nicholas Ryan

Sydney Morgan Kuller & Mackenzie Alexandra Kuller, daughters of Lori Kuller

The Reason for the Season



In the flurry of Santa decorations and holiday parties and Black Friday sales, do you lose sight of the “reason for the season” of Christmas? Kelli Hemenway and her teenage son Blake received a great gift last December—the clear reminder of Christ’s presence—when they volunteered at the Lutheran Social Service (LSS) Holiday Store at the Center for Changing Lives in Minneapolis.

Kelli’s fond memories of bringing quarters to elementary school to buy gifts for her parents got her interested in the opportunity to help children “shop” for gifts for their own parents or caregivers and learn the joy of giving. She was excited to bring Blake along to share in the experience of being a “shopping assistant.”

The child shoppers were not the only ones to learn something that day—those hours at the Holiday Store proved to be life-changing for Kelli. As she describes it, the experience “absolutely shows that when you give of yourself the rewards are even greater. It has opened up a world of giving to me.”

The rewards include watching a 15-year-old boy eager to choose

the perfect gift for his mom, who was recently released from prison. The rewards also include witnessing the joy of a four-year-old girl who, after working with Blake to carefully select and wrap a gift for her mother, jumped up and down shouting, “My mommy’s gonna love this! My mommy’s gonna love this!”

“When you give of yourself the rewards are even greater.”

Whether you’re a high school student or an adult, one Saturday this December you will have the opportunity to avoid the mall and instead step into a different kind of store—one that will move your spirit, center you in faith, and help you see Christ in our world, at work through all of us. To Kelli’s great disappointment, she and Blake will be out of town for this year’s LSS Holiday Store, but perhaps YOU are called to serve in their place. Register today!

YOUR TURN TO SERVE

LSS Holiday Store

**Saturday, December 10,
9:00 AM - 1:30 PM**

Help teach kids the joy of giving! Serve as a personal shopping assistant and help them pick out a gift for their own parent(s) at the LSS Center for Changing Lives in Minneapolis. Bring money for lunch. Register online at www.sotv.org/events.

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.

The programs we are supporting this year are Dakota Woodlands, Armful of Love, Heifer International, Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, Southeast Asian Ministries, Wingspan Life Resources, Tungamalenga Partnership, Military Families, Our Daily Bread Food Shelf and Southside Family Nurturing Center.

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

We will also need volunteer drivers to deliver gifts to families in St. Paul the week before Christmas. Contact Lisa Hegerman at (952) 985-7329 or e-mail Lisa.Hegerman@sotv.org.

Giving

Winter Outerwear Collection Ends December 31

All gently used winter coats, snow pants, boots, mittens/gloves, hats and scarves will be collected and distributed to children and families in need in Dakota County, St. Paul/Minneapolis, and as far away as Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota.

Last year we were able to meet 82% of our requests for winter outerwear from 18 different schools and organizations. Please donate gently used clothing that is clean and in good repair to the collection box in the narthex.



The Mitten Tree at SOTV collects **new hats, gloves, mittens, scarves** during the month of December. Donations can be placed on the Christmas tree in the Narthex.

Questions about the winter outerwear and mitten collections? Contact Lisa Loher at (651) 683-9127.

February Collection: Birthday Bag Supplies

Birthday Bag Outreach helps children in need by providing birthday party supplies which parents may not be able to afford.



Donations needed include: paper plates, napkins, invitations, cups, party favors (these 5 items in packs of 8 when possible) and candles.

We will not be collecting candy this year as many districts have changed their policies due to food allergies.

Donations can be placed in the collection box in the narthex. Thanks!

“Souper Bowl” Food Collection

**Bring donations for
Our Daily Bread Food Shelf
February, 4-5 and 11-12**

During these two weeks, parishioners are encouraged to wear their football jerseys and donate food items to the Super Bowl team of their choice.

**Red Cross Blood Drive
Tuesday February 7, 2012
12:30 - 6:30 PM**

Donors must be in good health, 16 or older and must not have donated since 12/13. Register online at www.redcrossblood.org, or at the Welcome Center.

Volunteers needed! Call Lisa Loher at (651) 683-9127.



Our Daily Bread Food Shelf

February will mark the two year anniversary of our food shelf. Two years ago we knew there was a need in our community and that our congregation could be part of the solution. We

didn't know much about running a food shelf, but we had faith that God would guide us. The first week we opened a handful of families came to our food shelf. Two years later, it is not uncommon to have over 35 families a week.

The need for food is ever present and we continue to find new and better ways to stock the shelves and engage the community around us. Every week we hear the heartbreaking stories that bring families to our food shelf and the gratefulness for the food and kindness we provide. Behind this ministry is a dedicated team of coordinators, a small army of volunteers, and you, the congregation. On behalf of the families we serve, our sincerest gratitude for your time, talents and generosity.

Get involved!

Our food shelf needs individuals to assist with **community outreach**. Building relationships with area schools, churches and others organizations is key to maintaining a steady source of food donations. Please contact Lisa Hegerman for more information, lisa.hegerman@sotv.org or (952) 985-7329.

The food shelf is also looking for a few individuals to join our **on call volunteer list** to help with lifting and shelving larger quantities of food. Sturdy backs required. Usually help is needed on Monday or Thursday mornings; we will email you a day or two in advance. Please contact Robin Sorenson for more information or to sign up, ranchoakmn@charter.net or (952) 997-6877.

Working With Kids

Falcon Ridge Middle School is looking for people interested in working with 7th and 8th graders two days a week for just over an hour. It would be homework help in small group settings.

They will also need people interested in working Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:15 – 4:45 PM.

For more details, please contact Lisa Hegerman at (952) 985-7329 or e-mail Lisa.Hegerman@sotv.org.

Hospitality

Hospitality is kindness to visitors; friendly, welcoming and generous treatment offered to guests or strangers. It's a nice word, isn't it?

How would you like to share your hospitality gifts on Sunday? We need volunteers to staff our coffee, donut and fruit serving areas at three different times throughout the morning:

First shift, 7:45 - 9:30 AM

Set up the area, brew coffee and tea, wash cups.

Second shift, 9:30 - 10:45 AM

Maintain coffee and food supply, wash cups.

Third shift, 10:45 AM - 12:30 PM

Wash cups, maintain food supplies and clean up after 11:00 AM services.

The commitment is only once every two months for the hour and 15 minute shift.

Contact Leiton Larson at (952) 985-7312 or Leiton.Larson@sotv.org.

Give of Your Time and Talents!

Worship services and all the amazing ministries at Shepherd of the Valley don't happen by accident. They are only possible with the help of many volunteers who bring their gifts and talents to the church seven days a week. On this page are some upcoming opportunities. If you would like to serve, or share your talents in an area that you don't see listed, please contact Lori Bullock at Lori.Bullock@sotv.org or (952) 985-7324.

All-Church ServeTogether

Congregational-Wide Outreach Event

Saturday, January 14, 2011

9:00 - 11:00 AM

Families and individuals of all ages are invited to participate in our winter service event. Join together with others to volunteer in meaningful ways, strengthening our community with our service. Very young hands can tie blankets or make gift cards, working alongside adults of all ages. Together we can— and do—make a difference!

There will be many onsite projects (like making fleece blankets for a domestic shelter or assembling sandwiches for the homeless) as well as offsite projects like collecting food for the Food Shelf and visiting nursing home residents.

Gather your family and friends to serve together where we are most needed. Signup online at www.sotv.org/events. Contact Lori.Bullock@sotv.org with questions.

Community Meals at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church

Last Thursday of the month, every other month

Contact: Linda Holt (651) 454-5257

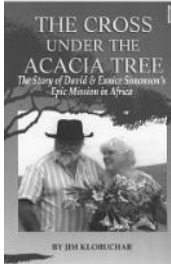
SOTV groups provide a meal to low-income families each month by shopping, cooking, and serving at Mt. Calvary church in Eagan. Volunteers needed for Thursday, December 22, 2011 and February 23, 2012.

Serving

Books That Matter: ***The Cross Under the Acacia Tree***

**Saturday, January 21, 2012
9:30 - 11:00 AM**

Facilitated by Pastor Diane Sponheim



This is a moving missionary story, written by Jim Klobuchar, describing what God has done through the exceptional ministries of David and Eunice Simonson.

It is an exciting adventure story which has the reader wondering what remarkable events will happen next.

It is a moving human story about people in love with God, with each other, and with all of God's people. It is an African story, telling how that continent and its people captured the loves of two Americans and their family.

A limited number of books will be available for \$12. You can purchase at any major books store as well. Everyone is welcome to come, discuss and listen.

Shepherd of the Valley's **Baked Lutefisk Dinner**

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

UFFDA! The annual favorite is back with Chef Leiton Larson at the helm. Come enjoy tasty Norwegian treats including baked lutefisk, Scandinavian meatballs, lefse, lingonberries, herring, krumkake, rosettes, and more! Please sign up at the Welcome Center or online at www.sotv.org/events.



**= Register online or
at the Welcome Center
www.sotv.org/events**

Ash Wednesday Soup Supper **February 22, 2012** **Serving 4:00-7:30 PM**

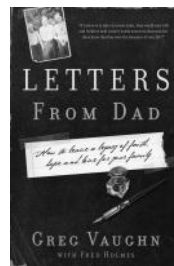
Take stock in our youth! Please support one of our biggest fundraisers of the year, which helps defray the costs of youth summer service trips.

There are two ways to do this: come and enjoy great food and fellowship before or after you attend Ash Wednesday worship (a free will offering will be taken), OR, if you are unable to attend the dinner, you can make a tax-deductible donation to help cover the cost of groceries.

Checks payable to SOTV; please put "Ash Wed Soup Supper" in the memo line. Thank you for investing in our youth!

Men's Ministry Event: Letters From Dad

Thursday, January 12, 2012
More details to come.



If God were to take you home today, what would your loved ones hold in their hands tomorrow that would let them know that they were the treasures of your life?

Letters From Dad is a men's movement sweeping the nation as men learn to unlock the deepest feelings of their hearts and how to share them with their loved ones.

Join Pastor Chris Steubing and other men from Shepherd of the Valley and learn together how to write and say the things you have always wanted to say but just didn't know how.

Events



Winter Bible Studies

Every year, we aspire to reach an hourly goal for community Bible study (hours of study, multiplied by number of participants) Our goal for 2011-12 is 17,500 hours. At the end of September 2011, we were at 1,620 hours.

Please consider attending the studies on the following pages to help us reach our goal, but more importantly to grow in your understanding of God's Word.

Adults

Bible Basics

Tuesdays, 6:30 - 8:00 PM
January 17 - February 28
No class February 14
Led by Mark Gilligan
Cost: \$10
KidCare: \$18/child



Mark Gilligan was a stranger to the Bible until a powerful faith experience awakened a hunger within him to dive deeper into scripture. Now, he delights in revealing to newcomers all that the Bible has to offer.

In Bible Basics, Mark thoughtfully collects both testaments into a six-week tour that will be enlightening for people with little to no Bible knowledge or those just looking for a refresher.



Hear more of Mark's faith story at www.sotv.org/wonders

MORE STUDIES

Friday Morning Bible Study: A Study of Galatians and James

Fridays, 9:30 - 11:30 AM // February 3 - March 16 // Led by Pastor Mary Lund // Cost: Free

You are invited to join us as we share prayer concerns, enjoy fellowship, and together study the Word. This winter, we'll study a book Luther loved (Galatians) and one he loathed (James, which he called "an epistle of straw").

Making Sense of the Cross

Tuesday evenings, 7:00 - 8:30 PM // February 21 - April 17 // Led by Pastors Mary Lund and Duane Paetznick // Cost: \$15. Includes cost of the book

Pastor Mary Lund and Pastor Duane Paetznick are teaming up to teach this class and using David Lose's *Making Sense of the Cross*. In the book, Lose invites the reader to engage in a conversation, one that he imagines discussing around his kitchen table, about major questions of the Cross.

The Gospel of Mark

Thursday evenings, 7:00 - 8:30 PM // January 26 - March 15 // Led by Pastor Duane Paetznick // Cost: \$12

The Gospel of Mark is not just good news about Jesus. It reveals, sometimes in surprising and scandalous ways, how Jesus is God's good news to us. This study takes 8 big questions based on the text and challenges participants to explore them thoughtfully together.

Sunday Adult Forum

9:45 AM in the Chapel

Our Adult Forum features professors and teachers from the area, as well as people from our congregation, for presentations on topics connected to our faith.

No December Adult Forums

January 8, 15, 22 & 29

"Great Minds of the Early Church: Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Augustine, and Anselm"

Led by Walter Sundberg, Professor at Luther Seminary

February 5: TBA

February 12

"Journey to Housing Justice"

Led by Heidi Johnson McAllister

February 19 & 26

"Reformers Not Named Luther"

Led by Mark Tranvik, Professor of Religion at Augsburg College.

For Women

Shepherd Quilters

Meets every Monday at SOTV
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

All skill levels are welcome to help quilt, cut, iron, and stitch. Quilts are donated to Target House and other organizations. For more information contact Lorraine Robeson at (952) 423-3681 or larobeson@frontiernet.net.

Caring Quilts Day is an annual whole day designed for creating and finishing quilts for Target House. The 2012 date will be Saturday, March 24, from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm at SOTV.

Sarah Circle Bible Study Group

Meets every 2nd Saturday of the month
8:30 - 9:30 AM

This group will not meet in December and will start a new study in January. All are welcome!

Contact: Judy Anderson (651) 207-8407.

Shalom Bible Study Circle

Meets every 3rd Thursday of the month
at 1:30 PM

December 15, 2011
Theme: "Beyond Boundaries"
Verse: Mark 4:40

January 19, 2012
Theme: "Confessing Christ"
Verse: Mark 9:24

February 16, 2012
Theme: "Tough Questions"
Verse: Mark 10:49



= Register online or
at the Welcome Center
www.sotv.org/events

Women's Bible Study

Beth Moore's "Mercy Triumphs"

Tuesdays evenings, Jan 10 - Mar 6 (no class Feb 14)
6:30 - 8:30 PM
Cost: \$20; KidCare: \$32/child

James, Jesus' own brother, started out as a skeptic. See how one glimpse of the resurrected Savior turned an unbeliever into a disciple. Topics in this study include: joy, hardship, faith, reversal of fortunes for rich and poor, wisdom, gifts from above, single-mindedness, the dangers of the tongue, humility, and prayer. Please join us!

Women's January Breakfast with Gaye Lindfors

"Don't Miss Your Boat: Living a Life of Purpose in the Real World"

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



We've all said to ourselves, "If I can just get through this week, then..." or "As soon as the kids get older, I'm going to..." But, daydreaming about the future can get discouraging after a while!

Our days are filled with "real life." Aging parents, unemployment, laundry, and bad hair days! We try and please so many, and sometimes we lose our own purpose...our own self...along the way.

With stories, humor, and lessons learned the hard way, Gaye will remind you that you were created for a divine purpose and YOUR life matters. You will leave Encouraged. Inspired. Hopeful.

Women in New Konnections (WINK)

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

Historic Murphy's Landing
Saturday, December 3, 9:30 AM
Horse-drawn trolley rides, food vendors, cooking, weaving, spinning, woodworking, and demos. Tickets: \$6.50 & \$7.00

Visit www.sotv.org for 2012 events

Upcoming Women's Dates:

Women's One-Day Winter Retreat

Lebanon Hills in Eagan
Saturday, March 3, 2012
9:00 AM - 12:30 PM
Cost: TBD

Breakfast, Fellowship,
Cross Country Ski,
Snowshoe or Hike.
Think Snow Angels!

Spring Tour of Tables
Saturday, April 14, 2012



Adults

For Men



Coffee for Men

9:00 AM each Wednesday in the atrium area of the narthex.

Men who would like to get together to visit over a cup of coffee or tea are encouraged to join an informal Coffee for Men. There's no particular agenda other than connecting with other guys.



Men's Breakfast

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

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



Theology on Tap

The Third Tuesday of Each Month
7:00 - 9:00 PM
Old Chicago Restaurant, Apple Valley

Gather with Pastor Chris Steubing on the third Tuesday of each month to enjoy a cold beverage and a conversation about questions of faith, God, and spirituality in real life.

December 20 - *A Virgin Birth, Really?*
January 17 & February 21 - *Topics TBA*

Look for our "Letters to Dad" event on Thursday, January 12!



Men's Bible and Faith Study Groups

All men's Bible study groups gather to grow in God's word and to share in the fellowship of Christian friends. They are peer-led and are open to men of all ages and places on their journey of faith. You are welcome to drop in at any of the following times as we seek to discover our identity as men who are loved, forgiven, and free in Jesus Christ. Contact Pastor Chris Steubing or Denny Ofstedahl (denny.ofstedahl@gmail.com) with questions.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study Group: 6:00 - 7:00 AM

Studying 1 Corinthians, offering engaging discussion of the Biblical text and an early morning foundation for the day, with occasional volunteer service opportunities at other times.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study Group: 6:00 - 7:15 PM

Studying assorted passages and topics as decided by the group.

Friday Morning Faith Study Group: 6:30 - 8:00 AM

Reading and discussing assorted Christian authors to expand our understanding of where Jesus may be leading us, individually and collectively, at this time and in this place.

Seniors (55+)

Older Kids (OK's)

All seniors are welcome to the following events:

Gloryland Band

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

Dr. Chuck Lutz

Monday, January 16
12 noon luncheon
Cost: \$5

Bonnie Melzarek's Harp Music

Monday, February 13
12 noon luncheon
Cost: \$7

Global Ministries Potluck

Monday, March 19
12 noon potluck

The Golden Stitchers

This group meets year-round every 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month, from 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM at SOTV. All skill levels welcome to quilt, cut, iron, and stitch.

Contact: Shirley Blix at (952) 432-2083.

Caring Quilts Day is an annual whole day designed for creating and finishing quilts for Target House. The 2012 date will be Saturday, March 24, from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm at SOTV.



= Register online or at the Welcome Center
www.sotv.org/events

For Couples

Lutheran Marriage Encounter

Whether you have been married one year or fifty, this holiday season consider giving the gift of love. If you are seeking deeper communication, growth, and intimacy in your marriage register for one of the upcoming Lutheran Marriage Encounter weekends. It is a weekend of discovery...a lifetime of love.

Upcoming weekends are:

- February 10-12, 2012
Crowne Plaza, Brooklyn Center
- March 23-25, 2012
Country Inn and Suites, Duluth
- May 4-6, 2012 Hiawatha Beach Resort, Walker MN

The weekends begin Friday at 8:00 PM (Please arrive between 6:30 and 7:30 PM to check in) and end at 5:00 PM on Sunday.

For weekend information and registration call Pete & Phyllis McMahon at (763) 561-1575 or visit: www.GodLovesMarriage.org.

You may also contact members Rita DeBruyn and Jim Hedin, at (651) 687-9651.

Lutheran Marriage Encounter brochures are available in the narthex

SAVE THE DATE

One Day Couple's Retreat
March 17, 2012

Annual Coffee House ☕

Saturday, January 21, 2012 // 6:00 - 8:30 PM
Cost: \$10/individual or \$20/couple // KidCare: \$5/child

Back by popular demand! The Great Hall will once again be transformed into a relaxing coffee house setting. Join us for an evening of music, mingling and relaxation with old friends and making new friends. Enjoy appetizers, dessert and a variety of beverages while listening to talented musicians.

Love & Laughter Valentine's Event ☕

A Fun-Filled Couples' Evening
Featuring Comedian Bob Stromberg

Saturday, February 11, 2012 // 7:00 - 9:00 PM
Cost: \$25 per couple // KidCare: \$4 per child



Join us for a wonderful evening of fun and fellowship with other couples, and enjoy lots of laughs with the love of your life!



St. Paul native and comedian **Bob Stromberg** (left) will provide entertainment, performing his very unique and perfect blend of story, stand-up and physical comedy. Bob is sure to provide a little comic relief for our busy lives, reminding us that laughing with our sweetheart really feels good!

Delicious desserts will be served, adding an extra dose of sweetness to this Valentine's date night. So skip the flowers and chocolates this Valentine's Day – and bring your sweetheart to an evening of love and laughter!

FINANCIAL WORKSHOPS



From Me to We ☕

NEW CLASS DATE
Thursday, January 19, 2012
6:30 – 8:30 PM
Led by Chris Sipe
Cost: Free

Are you engaged or newly married? Find common ground with money management and work together to reach your goals. During this free workshop you'll learn how to take steps to:

- Identify your values and attitudes about money.
- Set goals and use a budget to reach them.
- Manage your money together.

Financial Peace University ☕

Mondays, January 9 – April 9, 2012
7:00 – 9:00 PM
Led by Randy Buffie
Cost: \$100 (through Dec 20); \$113 (after Dec 20)
KidCare: \$52 per child

Preview days:
Saturday, Dec 10 & 17 at 6:00 PM
Sunday, Dec 11 & 18 at 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.



Children

📞 **Children, Youth and Family (CYF) office:** (952) 432-6385

GodZone Goes to Worship

Children are invited to participate in worship with their crews throughout the year. These opportunities nurture a child's sense of identity and belonging to the larger SOTV faith community and deepen their desire to celebrate God's love through word and song.

The following grade levels will meet their crews in their classrooms before going to a portion of the worship service on the dates identified. Wednesday crew members may sit with their parents and join Sunday crews when they are prompted to do so.

Sunday, January 8

All Grade 1-3 crews are invited to observe a baptism and receive a blessing as they recognize their own baptisms at all worship services in the Sanctuary.

Sunday, January 22

PK-K children will provide special music following the Good News for Kids (Children's Time) at all services in the Sanctuary.



What is GodZone?

GodZone is our fun, engaging and creative Christian education program for age 3 through Grade 5! It utilizes a highly relational large and small group model to provide opportunities for children to worship, pray, serve, share, give and grow in faith and community.

GodZone is a construction zone for building strong hearts and minds in Christ through "Faith Building Blocks" (PK - Gr. 3) and "Road Signs" (Gr. 4-5). A 2011-12 program schedule is online at www.sotv.org.

GodZone Class Groups:

Preschool to Kindergarten (PK-K) = "Little Builders"

Grades 1 & 2 = "Crew 1-2"

Grade 3 = "Onsite 3"

Grades 4 & 5 = "Zone 45"

hg (holy ground) in Zone 45

hg represents a new series in Zone 45. It is designed to help crews consider the significance of worship and grow in their awareness of what it really means to them. Fourth and fifth graders are invited to participate in four worship services with their GodZone crews throughout the year. Fifth graders will be asked to play a leadership role in an additional service as they "Move On Up" to Confirmation and Youth Ministries.

This worship series is based on the Bible story about Moses and the Burning Bush (Exodus 3:1-12). It breaks down the content of this Bible story into 4 themes as it invites youth to interpret what happens when God invites Moses to observe a common place as "holy ground."

Zone 45 Crews are encouraged to wear their "hg" shirts to remind them that, just like Moses, they live their lives on holy ground. (Exodus 3:1-12)

Zone 45 will be invited to participate in each of the following worship services with their GodZone crews:

- December 18 in the Sanctuary
- February 5 in the Sanctuary
- April 1 in the Sanctuary
- "Movin' On Up!" Celebration - May 5 @ 5 PM. in the Sanctuary (Fifth graders lead & assist in worship)

Sunday crews are asked to meet at the "hg" sign in the Atrium 5 minutes prior to service scheduled at their GodZone time.

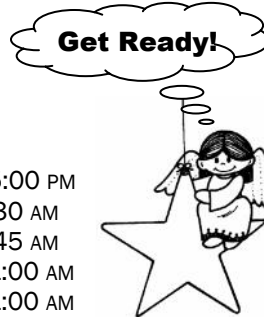
Wednesday crews are asked to meet at the "hg" sign in the Atrium 5 minutes prior to the 11:00 AM service or they may sit with their parents at any service.

Children

Christmas!

A Little Different Kind of GodZone Christmas Program Saturday, December 17 and Sunday December 18

The GodZone Christmas programs for all sessions will be incorporated into one of the four worship services in the sanctuary.



<u>GodZone Session Time</u>	<u>Christmas Program Time</u>
Wednesdays at 5:45 PM	Saturday, December 17 at 5:00 PM
Sundays at 8:30 AM	Sunday, December 18 at 8:30 AM
Sundays at 9:45 AM	Sunday, December 18 at 9:45 AM
Sundays at 11:00 AM	Sunday, December 18 at 11:00 AM
Wednesdays at 4:30 PM	Sunday, December 18 at 11:00 AM

The programs will be presented during the first part of the service and then Zone 45 will remain in worship, Grades 1-3 will proceed to the "Gift Factory" - a special service project and PK-K will go with their crews leaders to their GodZone rooms for special activities.

Rehearsals will take place during the regular GodZone sessions on Sunday, December 4 and 11 and Wednesday, 6 and 13. There will be separate rehearsals for special roles.

For more information on all GodZone events and programs, please contact Jeanne Mikulski in the Children, Youth & Family (CYF) office at (952) 985-7357 or Jeanne.Mikulski@sotv.org. Registrations can be completed online at www.sotv.org/events and at the Welcome Center or CYF office.

Christmas Break

There will be no GodZone sessions between December 21 - January 1. GodZone will resume on Wednesday, January 4 and Sunday, January 8, 2012.



GodZone Extras

"Happy Birthday, Jesus" Party

For Pre-Kindergarten - Kindergarten (PK/K) // Saturday, December 11, 10:00 - 11:30 AM // Cost: \$7/child

PK/K children and their parents are invited to take a "peek" into the stable to see what Christmas is all about. Meet some characters from the Christmas story and see some live stable animals. There will also be a craft, service project, a special birthday cake and other activities! Be sure to bring your cameras. Please register online to make this a memorable part of your family Christmas. Registration deadline is December 8.

It's Starting to Look A Lot Like Christmas

For Grades 1-5 // Friday, December 2, 6:30 - 8:30 PM // Cost: \$5/child.

Crafts, games and a special service project will give Crews 1& 2, Onsite 3 and Zone 45 exciting opportunities to rev up for Christmas! Register online, in the Children's, Youth and Family (CYF) office or at the Welcome Center.



 **Children, Youth and Family (CYF) office: (952) 432-6385**



Youth

PARENTS AND FAMILY

Family Snow Tubing

**Friday, February 10, 7:00-10:30 PM
Green Acres (Lake Elmo)**

All ages are invited to participate! Cost varies (\$5-\$15) based on age and height; see the registration form (available at the Welcome Center and CYF Office) for details. Register as a family and indicate number of tickets needed in each category. Questions? Contact Erin

Parenting Partnership Nights

Select Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 PM in the Sanctuary

Join with other pastors, youth staff, and other parents for support, conversation, and to hear special guest speakers with topical expertise. Questions? Contact Pastor Randy or Erin.

Dec 7: Alcohol and Teen Depression

Personal stories from Augsburg College's StepUP students. Info for parents from Depression Coalition task force.

Jan. 18: How to Help my Kid Have Faith

Pastor Randy Brandt and Erin Swenson-Hatzung take the mystery out of faith formation with a fast-paced review for your family.

Haiti Dinner

Saturday, January 14, 6:00 PM

Mark your calendar! Enjoy a meal in support of the group of youth and adults who are preparing to travel to Haiti next summer.

ALL YOUTH GRADES 6-12



2012 Summer Immersion Ministry

Immerse yourself in a community of other youth and adult leaders that is on a mission to love and serve in the name of Jesus! Talk with a Youth Staff person to find out more.

YOUTH STAFF CONTACTS

Pastor Randy Brandt
Interim Executive Pastor
(952) 985-7302 // randy.brandt@sotv.org

Katie Heilman
Director of Youth & Family Ministries
(952) 985-7360 // katie.heilman@sotv.org

Brandon Newton, Youth Director
(952) 985-7361 // brandon.newton@sotv.org

Erin Swenson-Hatzung, Youth Director
(952) 985-7367 // erinsh@sotv.org

Barb Schulz, Administrative Assistant
(952) 985-7351 // barb.schulz@sotv.org

Summer Camps

Registration opens on Wednesday, December 14, for Luther Dell, Teens in Mission (TIM) Team, Ox Lake, and Journey of the Cross. Pick up materials at the Welcome Center or CYF Office. Questions? Contact Barb.

Service Trips


There are still opportunities available for all ages! SOTV has spaces reserved that will be released back to the organization by January 15 if they are unfilled. Questions? Contact Brandon.


Fundraising and Scholarships Available


There are a variety of ways to earn money toward your registration fees; learn more about how you can raise money by contacting Erin.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

6th & 7th Grade Parent Night // Wednesday, December 14, 7:00 PM // Rooms 20-22 (6th graders & parents) / Sanctuary (7th graders & parents) // Special emphasis on Summer 2012 trip/camp opportunities for middle school youth! // Contact: Erin

Movies, Munchies, and More  // Friday, December 9, 7:00 – 10:00 PM // Cost: \$5 // Games, snacks, and favorite holiday films // Contact: Erin

Middle School Welch Village Ski Retreat  // Friday-Sunday, January 20-22 // 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 // Contact: Erin

Moonlight Madness  // Friday, March 9, 9:00 PM – Saturday, March 10, 7:00 AM // Swim, climb, bowl, skate, and play all night long out on the town, and then return to SOTV for a delicious breakfast prepared for you by our talented volunteer chefs from men's ministry // Contact: Erin


Christmas Break

There will be no Confirmation on Wednesday December 21 or 28. We will resume on Wednesday, January 4, 2012. Have a blessed celebration of the birth of Jesus. See you at Worship!

9th GRADE CONFIRMATION

9th Grade Parent Night: Alcohol and Teen Depression // Wednesday, December 7 // 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary // Contact: Katie


9th Grade Parent Night: "My Life and Faith Project" (Part 1) Sharing // Wednesday, February 15 // 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary // Find the project outline at www.sotv.org/youth // Contact: Katie


9th Grade Relationship Retreat  // Camp Friendship, Annandale, MN // Remaining weekend: February 25-26 // Saturday 11:00 AM – Sunday 12:30 PM // Each 9th grader must attend one retreat during the course of the year—and this is the last one! RSVP at www.sotv.org/events or email barb.schulz@sotv.org. Cost is included in your Confirmation registration fee. Meet at SOTV // Contact: Katie

Confirmation (Grades 6-9)

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

High School Magi(cal) Mystery Tour  // Friday, January 20, 9:00 PM – 12 midnight // Spice up your winter with a night of surprise and adventure! Meet at SOTV, but don't expect to stay there! // Bring \$20 // Contact: Katie

High School Welch Village Ski Retreat  // Friday-Sunday, February 17-19 // 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. // Contact: Erin

Panera Before School // Mondays when school is in session // 6:30 AM // Apple Valley Panera // CR 42 east of Cedar Ave // Meet youth staff for breakfast, a bible reading, and prayer—a great way to kick off your week! Rides to school as needed // Contact: Katie

URL (Unwind, Recharge, and Learn) // Wednesdays when school is in session // 8:15 – 9:00 PM // Shepherd Room // A mid-week "God pause" of rest, reflective worship, scripture reading, and prayer, followed by a tasty treat // Contact: Katie

Sunday Night Dive In // 5:00 – 7:00 PM // Shepherd Room // Session II: Nov 20 + 27, Dec 4 + 11 // Session III: Jan 8 + 15 // Session IV: Jan 15, 22 + 29 // "Dive in" to important topics and your burning questions using the Bible, videos, music, and fun activities. Come once or every time we meet! // Contact: Katie

High School (Grades 9-12)

No registration required for regularly-occurring high school ministry gatherings. For special events, register using the paper form (found in the CYF Office or Welcome Center) or online at www.sotv.org/events.



= Register online or
at the Welcome Center
www.sotv.org/events

Care

Job Connection Group

Tuesdays, 6:30 - 8:15 PM
Prince of Peace Christian Life Center

SOTV and Prince of Peace share leadership for a job connection support group for anyone who is in transition, seeking a new job, or a new career.

The group provides job search information with speakers on specific topics like resume writing, interviewing, networking, and more.

Hotline number: (952) 898-9388.

SOTV contacts:

Julie Opheim at (952) 985-7331
Ben Kilgore at (952) 898-4441

For more information and to see titles of upcoming classes, please visit:
www.princeofpeaceonline.org/jcg

Challenged by Cancer (CBC)

Every 2nd Tuesday, 7:00 - 9:00 PM

An opportunity for women living with cancer to gather and support one another. Support groups have helped thousands of people cope with cancer, and no matter where you are in your journey, we encourage you to come.

Contact Cher Nelson, Parish Nurse at (612) 209-1404 or Cher.Nelson@sotv.org.

GriefShare Support Group

Dates TBA // Visit www.sotv.org for updates

GriefShare is a video series that features some of the nation's foremost Christian experts on grief and recovery topics. Sessions include "The Journey of Grief," "The Effects of Grief," "When Your Spouse Dies," "Your Family and Grief," "Why?" and "Stuck in Grief."

Each night combines a video session with a grief support group discussion time to allow group participants to talk about the content of the video and about how they are dealing with the death of their loved one. This group is facilitated by Pastor Diane Sponheim and Pat Drake, Parish Nurse.

Growing Through Loss

Next series: Thursdays, March 1-22, 2012

Location: All Saints Catholic Church
19795 Holyoke Avenue, Lakeville, MN 55044

Topics and speakers to be announced in February. Visit www.sotv.org for details.

A Worship Service of Healing
Tuesday, December 20
7:00 PM in the Chapel

DivorceCare

Tuesdays, beginning February 7, 2012 // 6:30 - 8:30 PM // Cost: \$15, includes new workbook

DivorceCare is a video series featuring some of the nation's experts on divorce and recovery topics. Each week a different topic is featured in the video which is followed by an opportunity to share your real life experience in a support group setting. The workbook also serves as a support tool for participants to apply the knowledge learned in each session.

Topics include "Facing My Anger," "Facing My Loneliness," "Depression," "New Relationships," "KidCare" and "Forgiveness."

DivorceCare provides an opportunity for education and support for those separated, going through divorce, or who have recently gone through divorce. Scholarships are available.

Down Syndrome Parent Support Group

Meetings are every 3rd Monday // 6:30 - 8:30 PM

For additional information, contact Suzy Runkel at (952) 891-5082 or suzynelson@hotmail.com.

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 at (651) 683-9236 or Susan@Ferbbers.us.

The Depression Support Coalition



Depression is real. Hope is real too. Major depression is a medical illness that now affects 15 million adults each year. Depression affects our thoughts, feelings, mood, behavior, and physical health. Although devastating at times, depression is highly treatable. The mission of the Depression Support Coalition is to inform, educate, support, and cultivate a community of spiritual hope for those affected by depression — as well as their families.

Monthly Educational Speakers

The Depression Support Coalition has developed a program of monthly informational talks by leading healthcare professionals and clergy educated and experienced about depression and related diseases.

“Expectations, the Holidays, and Depression”

Lynn Silva-Breen, MDiv, MA, LMFT, Therapist

Thursday, December 1, 7:00 – 8:30 PM

Mary, Mother of the Church Catholic Church
3333 Cliff Road, Burnsville MN 55337
Jamie Maloney— (952) 890-0045

“The Whole-Person Approach to Treating Depression/Anxiety”

Kim Bushman, PhD, LP, Water's Edge Counseling & Healing Center

Monday, February 6, 7:00 – 8:30 PM

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

Weekly Support Group Meetings

Prince of Peace

13901 Fairview Drive, Burnsville
Christian Life Center, Room 110

- **For family members and loved ones of those with depression:**

6:30 PM every Tuesday evening

Contact: Randy Goeke
(952) 240-2754

- **For individuals who suffer from depression:**

6:30 PM every Tuesday evening or 10:00 AM every Wednesday morning

Contact: Richard Erickson
(651) 788-0275

Faith Partners

Promoting Chemical Health

Faith Partners promotes substance abuse education, prevention, and recovery in our community. This group helps develop events and provides information to support chemical health for individuals and families.

Please visit the resource cart located in the church library for FREE information on substance abuse. Whether contemplating how to address chemical health issues with yourself, child, teen, spouse or loved one, Faith Partners has information for you. For more information, please contact Karen (952) 201-6193 or Scott (952) 431-2566.

ADHD, Autism, & Other Disabilities on the Spectrum

These meetings are open to everyone in the community!

Cost per session varies. See payment information below each presentation title. It will vary based on the speaker. KidCare is always \$5 per child. Pre-registration and payment is required for KidCare only.

Monday, December 5, 2011

Success Strategies for Living with ADHD in Young Adults

No cost for this presentation.

Robin Nordmeyer, Strategic Life Coach specializing in ADHD

Monday, January 23, 2012

Beyond the Label: Practical Tools & Resources

Cost: \$10/individual or \$15/family

Linda Vettrus, Special Education Teacher

Monday, February 27, 2012

Introduction to Biomedical/Functional Medicine Treatments for Autism, ADHD, Sensory Integration Disorders & Mental Health Disorders

No cost for this presentation.

Stephanie Belseth, MAN, CPNP, founder of Newbridge Clinic

Full schedule and more detailed descriptions are available online:
www.sotv.org/ADHD

For more information, please contact:

- Brenda Brookman (952) 322-2176 bbbrookman@aol.com
- Connie Simonson (952) 431-5667 conniesimonson@charter.net
- SOTV staff liaison: Julie Opheim, Adult Ministries Director (952) 985-7331

Caring for Creation: Human Impact on Planet Earth

by Bill Ireland

A 2009 book about human ecological impact is dedicated “For all the grandchildren, and their grandchildren's grandchildren.” It agrees well with a century-plus old American Indian saying, “We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors but borrow it from future generations.”

When we consider that the world population did not reach one billion until 1804 and two billion until 1927 but will reach seven billion before the end of 2011, tripling since 1940, we can better understand our increased human impact. Additionally, the impact of our western lifestyle substantially outweighs that of other areas of the world. The population of all of North America is about 5% of the world population but the U.S. alone uses more gasoline than the next 16 highest consuming nations combined.

Past articles have concentrated on our need, above all others, to reduce daily energy consumption in every possible way, in our heating, lighting, electronics in general and transportation. There are simple steps we can each take toward reducing our overall impact. Keeping future generations in mind should encourage all of us in doing that.

YOUR TURN TO CARE

10 Ways You Can Be Hospitable to People with Disabilities

—Lindsay Wieland Capel

1. When talking with someone who has a disability, look at that person—not at the interpreter or companion.
2. Avoid using such words/phrases as retarded, wheelchair-bound, suffers from, handicapped, able-bodied, victim, defect.
3. When talking to someone in a wheelchair, take a seat to position yourself at the person's eye level.
4. Don't interact with a guide dog.
5. When interacting with someone who has a visual disability, say who you are when you approach and announce when you leave.
6. Be flexible when people in the congregation or their medical devices make additional noise.
7. When talking with someone who has an intellectual disability, speak in your normal tone.
8. When listening to someone who has difficulty speaking, be patient and ask them to repeat what you did not understand instead of pretending that you understood.
9. Sit near people with disabilities during worship.
10. Encourage your kids to befriend kids who have disabilities.

These ideas were gathered from the Christian Reformed Church Handbook for Disability Advocates.

Care

Celebrating Children



Preschool

3 & 4 year olds

For children who will be attending Kindergarten in the fall of 2014. **Tuition: \$105 per month**

- **Monday & Wednesday, 9:00 – 11:30 AM**
- **Tuesday & Thursday, 9:00 – 11:30 AM**

Children need to be three years of age by September 1, 2012, potty trained and able to bathroom independently in non-disposable underwear in order to be enrolled in this program.

4 & 5 year olds

4 & 5 year olds who will be attending Kindergarten in the fall of 2013. **Tuition: \$135 per month.** Choose from morning or afternoon classes:

- **AM Classes** **Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday**
9:00 – 11:30 AM
- **PM Classes** **Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday**
12:30 – 3:00 PM

High Five

For children who will be 5 by September 1, 2012 but are planning to attend Kindergarten in the fall of 2013. **Tuition: \$160 per month.**

- **Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday**
9:00 – 11:30 AM

At Celebrating Children we want to know and understand each child as a valued individual. We want to establish an atmosphere of acceptance and well-being for all who participate in our school.

The educational plans at Celebrating Children Preschool are designed to promote the healthy growth of the “whole” child by meeting his/her emotional, social, intellectual and physical needs. Most importantly, we want to help the child realize that they are special and loved by God.

Registration

The initial registration process for the 2012-13 preschool year will take place January 3 - 27, 2012.

Pick up a registration form in the Children's Ministries office or download a form from our website www.sotv.org/preschool beginning January 3. Complete the form and return it along with a check for \$50 (a non-refundable registration fee) and ½ month's tuition for the class you are registering for (tuition refundable up to July 1st, 2012) before January 27 to Celebrating Children Preschool.

If you and your child would like to visit Celebrating Children Preschool while school is in session or have any questions call the preschool office at (952) 985-7370.

Families currently and/or previously enrolled in the program are given first priority. If there are more registrations than we have slots for, a lottery will be held. Families will be notified in early February by e-mail/mail with their enrollment information. If waiting lists are necessary, children will be placed on the list in order of registration.

Celebrating Children Preschool admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship programs, and other school-administered programs.

Other Child Care Options

Nursery & KidCare

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.

Contact: Jeanne Mikulski at (952) 985-7357 or Jeanne.Mikulski@sotv.org.

Friday Mornings Out (FMO)

FMO provides parents with a peaceful time away from their children, engaging them in age appropriate activities such as music, crafts, and more. Tuition is \$47 a month.

Registrations are accepted at the Welcome Center, in the Children, Youth and Family (CYF) office and online.

For more information contact: Susan Mitsch at (952) 985-7354 or Susan.Mitsch@sotv.org.

Building Chapels in Tungamalenga Parish

Our partnership with the people of Tungamalenga Parish, Tanzania, works *bega kwa bega* or shoulder to shoulder, to accomplish many things through ministries of evangelism, education, healthcare and economic development. The foundational aspect of this partnership is to work together to construct chapels for worship in the 20 villages that comprise the parish. We have more than ten chapels currently under construction, and during Pastor Diane's October visit, she had the privilege of dedicating two newly completed chapels at Makambalala and Mpalapande villages.



Above:
Dedication of the newly completed chapel at Mpalapande

Top right:
Building chapel walls

Our chapel projects are undertaken in the spirit of *bega kwa bega*, each partner doing the task they are able to do. Tanzanians provide volunteer labor to make bricks from clay, they dig stones for the foundations, they build the walls. Shepherd of the Valley

provides the funds to purchase needed cement, iron sheeting and timbers for roofing.

Sometimes it takes years to complete a project. A typical small chapel requires about \$3,000 in funding from Shepherd of the Valley. With so many chapels in various stages of construction, it can take a few years before a village receives its 'turn' to purchase materials for the roof. The chapel at Makambalala has been under construction since 2004. Thanks be to God for its completion!

Many congregations sacrifice mightily to build their chapels. At Mpalapande, we heard that the women made bricks, and then carried them from the river bed TWO MILES to the



construction site. They carried bricks on their heads, 3 or 4 at a time. The men of the congregation, who were not at the time Christian, saw the women's efforts and dedication, and were so impressed that they provided the funds for cement.

Sometimes we are asked, why place such a priority on building chapels when funds could be used for more pressing human needs, like health, education, nutrition? The simple answer is that we build chapels with our partners because that is what they ask us to do. They are so grateful to God for the salvation they have received through Christ Jesus, that THEY want to have a place to worship God, teach the faith to their children, and go out to serve their communities. They want a building that proclaims our Christian presence and identity in the community. We understand and honor that priority, and we proceed in partnership with our brothers and sisters.

Mahove Water Project Update:

We are so grateful to all who have contributed to the Mahove Water Project! We have raised the funds needed, and are currently fine-tuning the project plan. We have scheduled phone conference calls every two weeks with Pastor Naftal, Joan & Richard Dornfeld, and friends from the water organization, St Paul Partners. We are moving forward and soon, the people of Mahove will have access to a safe source of drinking water right in their village! Thanks to all who have supported this goal!

What difference do we make?

Funds from the 2011 Garage Sale were used to buy gas cards and Cub gift cards for local families in need. Here are some recent thank you notes from our partners at area schools.

"I just had a grandma in my office, she is raising her grandchildren, and money is very tight! She [needed] gas to get her grandchildren to their therapy appointments, and the gas cards really eased her stress level."

"I had a mom almost crying with gratitude today for the Cub gift card, as she really needed to buy some items that the food shelf didn't have."

"Thank you so much. One family just came and got a gas card-the child has asthma, and mom had to cancel the appointment yesterday, because she didn't have any gas."

"Your donations really do make a difference in the lives of our families."

"I wanted to sincerely thank you for your more than generous donation...several families in our school who are struggling with being able to put nutritious meals into their children's bellies."

Your generous giving makes wonderful things possible at SOTV.

Thank You!

Contact Us

Church Office: (952) 432-6351
Fax: (952) 432-6917
Website: www.sotv.org

Parish Nurses

(952) 985-7365

Children, Youth & Family

Office number: (952) 432-6385

Weddings

Jill Johnson (952) 985-7381

Funerals

Lori Bullock (952) 985-7324

Baptisms

Merilu Narum (952) 985-7326





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Thank you to everyone who helped with the creating, proofing, printing, addressing and mailing of this newsletter.

Deadline for the Spring 2012 newsletter is Monday, January 16. Send your submissions to Trip.Sullivan@sotv.org.



Have you received *Wonders* yet?

An exciting new celebration of our ministries was mailed in November along with **2012 pledge cards**. Both documents are available at the church and for download online at www.sotv.org/wonders.

Please explore *Wonders* and pray about how you will support our shared ministry in the coming year.

Please return pledge cards by December 31, 2011 if possible.

Thank you for your generosity!

