

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, ELCA

WONDERS

2012

*A special annual
celebration of
accomplishments,
opportunities,
and dreams*



WONDERS

An annual celebration of accomplishments, opportunities, and dreams

An Invitation to Give:

What can one gift do?

One gift can do wonders!

Read the stories

Be inspired

Make the difference

Find out how on the back page

**“And all of them
were full of
wonder.”**

-Acts 3:10

Centuries ago, the writer of Acts of the Apostles wrote a book of wonders. Christianity was just beginning to grow. Acts was a book designed to tell the story of Jesus - how he lived, died and rose to transform the whole world. From that moment, wonders have never ceased as the story of Jesus has been shared and shared again.

You have in your hand a book of wonders. It tells the stories of just a few of the people whose lives have been changed because of the welcome of the Lord and the transforming power of his love. This isn't just an annual report of what's been happening at Shepherd of the Valley. This is a book of stories, an extension of Scripture, where the testimony of God at work in the world sings his praises.

Enjoy this celebration of ministry. Read it, learn from it, pray with it. Then go, do, give, and serve in the name of Christ. The next story is yours and it will be wonderful.



Pastor Chris Smith
Senior Pastor

*Pictured at left with Grace Fedje
Read her story on pages 8 & 9*

Highlights

of our ministry, 2010-2011

44 members traveled to the Holy Land, bringing over 200 books for the children of Bethlehem

388 people attended four ServeTogether service events, creating:

- 120 blankets tied for Bridge to Youth,
- 8,000 sandwiches made for 363 Days Ministries,
- 200 breakfast bags for Ronald McDonald's House Charities, and
- 120 toiletries bags for Wheels on Wheels

Pipe Organ Project

The last element of the sanctuary is completed!

"Our Daily Bread" Food Shelf

934 families received 5,220 bags of groceries donated by our members and local organizations conducting food drives during the year. That's approximately 78,300 pounds!

The beginning of new ministries

ServeTogether, SAIL (Showing All Individuals Love), and the Falcon Ridge Middle School Partnership

10 years of partnership with our Tungamalenga sister parish in Tanzania

20 years of partnership with Habitat for Humanity, Milwaukee

Over \$26,000 raised by the annual Garage Sale, 100% going to children in need

68 baptisms

38 weddings

24 funerals performed by SOTV pastors

154 youth confirmed

7 pastors

40+ staff

100,000+ volunteer hours



Alyssa Fitzgerald Discerning God's Plans

Alyssa Fitzgerald grew up faithfully attending SOTV for worship and Sunday school until eighth grade, when she decided to go to church with friends in Lakeville. After being confirmed, she began to lose interest in church. Attending Gustavus Adolphus College with her friend Kelsey helped her reconnect with God again.

“I thought that faith, my relationship with God, was just between me and Him and that I didn’t need any community or fellowship,” Alyssa remembers. “Kelsey and the Gustavus community convinced me otherwise.”

After graduation, she sought to reconnect with her first faith community, SOTV. Not long after returning to worship here, she began to be recruited as a volunteer leader working with children and youth. Despite working 45-50 hours a week at two after-school programs in St. Paul through AmeriCorps, Alyssa always made time for helping out at church.

Because AmeriCorps is a federally-funded initiative, she was not allowed to speak to her students about God or her faith. She

soon became frustrated that she couldn’t connect with her St. Paul students in the same way she could with her SOTV students, such as offering to pray with them if they were having troubles. “I felt like I was living a double life!”

When Alyssa learned about the Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program, a one year international mission service through the ELCA, she was intrigued by the combination of travel and working in ministry.

She was surprised when she was accepted into the program and delighted to learn she would live for a year in Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, about a half hour north of London. Later she found out her placement would be with a Christian-themed theater troupe that travels around to different schools in the United Kingdom.

Although acting is not her cup of tea, she came to accept that God was challenging her to try new things. She realized that had she gotten to do exactly what she wanted, she might not have as powerful an experience abroad.

“If I had said no, I would have regretted it later,” she says, confessing her hope this experience helps her discern whether or not she is called to ministry. “I need to be open to what God wants me to do.” It seems that might have been God’s plan all along.

Did you know? Shepherd of the Valley is supporting Alyssa's year in Global Mission with a small one-time gift through the Benevolences Fund. Learn more about what else SOTV supports this way on the next page.

Prayers for our Wonders: Pray that benevolent giving by SOTV serves those in need and shares the love of Jesus with thousands.

Benevolences

Total: \$285,966

Paid Out: August 2010 - July 2011

What is a Benevolence?

At Shepherd of the Valley, the word "Benevolence" refers to monetary donations given to charitable organizations outside our church walls. Just as we ask our members to give a portion of their gifts to the church, SOTV tithes a portion of our budget, based on the offerings we receive. The Benevolence Committee meets monthly to discern what causes to support on behalf of the congregation. Take a look at the list of benevolence giving. Isn't it amazing? Thank you for enabling us to be benevolent!

<u>Payment Made to</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Payment Made to</u>	<u>Amount</u>
360 Communities	8,100	Lewis House	275
363 Days Ministries	4,359	Local/Individual Needs	3,795
All Nations Indian Church	912	Lutheran Social Services	9,515
Alliance Academy	273	Lutheran Volunteer Corp	3,000
Birthday Bags	277	Lutheran World Relief	203
Bridge To Youth	1,464	M.O.M.S.	275
Bundles of Love	2,400	Meals on Wheels	520
Camp Wapogasset	3,000	Metro Lutheran	300
Children in Need		Metropolitan Interfaith Council	
College Scholarships	2,000	on Affordable Housing (MICAH)	500
Children in Need Garage Sale	2,666	Military Support	2,185
Children's Home Society		MN Teen Challenge	3,000
and Family Services	275	Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS)	3,000
Coffee Project	4,749	Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church -	
Concordia College - Justice Journeys	200	Community Meals Ministry	900
Crossways International	200	Our Daily Bread Food Shelf	23,486
Dakota Woodlands	1,190	Pine Ridge Reservation	1,436
Dorcas Widows Fund	851	Plymouth Church Neighborhood	
Easter Dinner Baskets	1,008	Foundation	2,000
ELCA Disaster Relief	9,262	Prayer Shawls	547
ELCA Pastor's Fund	150	Preschool Scholarships	1,509
Fairview Foundation -		Quilters	876
Youth Grief Services	110	Ronald McDonald Charities	421
Falcon Ridge Middle School -		Rosemount Schools	188
Anti-Bullying Program	2,500	School Supplies	5,055
Feed My Starving Children	3,333	Seminary Support	2,000
Friends of Sabeel - North America	300	Senior Adults Learning Together	150
Fuller Center Disaster Relief	474	Social Concerns	1,071
Gas Vouchers	4,922	Southside Family Nurturing Center	200
Habitat for Humanity	5,448	St. Mary's Health Clinic	10,000
Heifer International	15,889	St. Paul Area Synod - General	40,000
Hug Bags	195	St. Paul Area Synod - Hunger	10,520
Hunger Task Force	115	Tanzania	78,784
Kaleidoscope	634	Young Adults in Global Mission	1,000
La Conexion	2,000		



Meredith Cocker & Rachel Larson Ambassadors for Change

Rachel Larson (right) and Meredith Cocker (left) are not your typical teenagers. The two Eastview seniors spend an awful lot of time at church. They also really enjoy it.

“Church is the one place we go where everyone is always happy to see you,” explains Meredith. “It’s not stressful, and nobody’s asking me if my homework is done.” Fair enough. A closer look at how these teenagers actually spend their time at church however, reveals a schedule just as dizzying as their school day. We barely have time for our scheduled interview. It’s the first Wednesday night of Confirmation and both girls have obligations as guides. Rachel also just agreed to serve as a GodZone Crew Leader as well, and needs to attend a meeting in twenty minutes.

Despite their hectic schedule, SOTV staff praises them for their reliability. “If I ask either of them to do something, it’s as good as done,” says Katie Heilman, SOTV’s Director of Youth Ministry. Despite their many activities, their passion is Ambassadors for Change, or AFC as the girls call it.

Only entering its third full year, AFC is a youth-led stewardship committee. Every year, projects and goals are developed with the idea of educating fellow youth on the importance of giving, and presenting causes for them to rally around. The group was conceived following a summer mission trip to Denver, on which Rachel, Meredith and the core of AFC attended.

The most visible products of AFC are their creative videos. A particularly memorable series designed to raise money for SOTV’s utility bills imagined the church filled with smelly garbage bags. Rachel is often credited as the mastermind behind these videos, but it’s clear that AFC is a team effort.

One of the girls’ favorite campaigns was helping the church purchase a new dishwasher (“LXI,” as they’ve named her). This feat required working hand in hand with other ministries around the church for support, and they still give of their time on Sundays to help carry coffee cups from the narthex to the dishwasher.

“It’s good to feel that we’re achieving something,” notes Rachel. “In school we’re always working towards the ability to achieve something. Here we can actually see the difference we’re making.”

Did you know? Here are just a few of the results from Ambassadors for Change projects from 2010-2011:

- **Over \$950 raised** for fleece blankets and **over \$350** raised for sandwich supplies for a ServeTogether event
- **\$2,325 raised** for new dishwasher; eliminated use of styrofoam cups at church
- **Over \$625** raised to help pay SOTV trash bills
- **\$360 raised** for Tanzania scholarship; **\$360 raised** for Tanzania water project

Prayers for our Wonders: Pray that God will empower the youth of SOTV to make a difference in the world in the name of Jesus.

Prayers for our Wonders: Pray that the confirmation ministry of SOTV will enliven the faith of youth and families.

Dan Ehresmann Seeker and Teacher



Looking back, Dan Ehresmann wishes he had questioned his Christian faith more in high school. When he encountered opposing points of view in college, he had difficulty articulating his beliefs and responding to criticisms of Christianity.

“I had a simple, child’s faith,” Dan says of his pre-college church experiences. “All it takes is one person who’s smarter than you to completely shatter your beliefs.” It would take many years for Dan to find answers to his questions, and develop a stronger and resilient faith.

Dan began to volunteer as a small group leader in Confirmation when his oldest child entered 6th grade, almost 15 years ago. His college experiences gave him a unique perspective for teaching Christian education, especially when he noticed many of his students were encountering the same adversity he faced, but at a much younger age.

Last year, he began to teach a new separate class for 9th graders, who traditionally meet as one big class,

called the “Seekers” with the idea of giving a full hour for deep discussion instead of the usual half hour. Some of the seekers simply craved a more challenging class, but some students, who had experienced struggles in their lives, had been expressing deep doubts about their faith and had specific questions.

“Doubting in Christianity is a natural part of learning,” he says. “It shows you’re thinking for yourself.” In order to properly nurture and grow in faith, Dan teaches there is a constant cycle of doubting, learning, and gaining faith. Two or three steps back can often result in a huge leap forward.

He reminds his students that while they may be life-long seekers, “I’ll always be around to talk if they have questions.”

Did you know? Confirmation is for students in grades 6-9. Students meet for an hour each week, divided into two half hours: large group (videos, music, presentations, games) and small group (discussions on a specific theme).

The Rite of Confirmation ceremony takes place in the fall of students’ 10th grade year.

In the 2010-11 school years there were:

- 702 youth in Confirmation
- 87 adult volunteers
- 41 high school leaders

Linda Haffner & Jessica Fedje Surprised by Grace

Jessica Fedje and her mother Linda Haffner both knew that Jessica would give birth to a child with a cleft lip and a cleft palette. What they didn't know was that God was with them, and so was their extended family of the Shepherd of the Valley congregation. A year has passed since they learned this concerning news, but it has been a year filled with great understanding of the love of Jesus. It is only fitting that Jessica's baby girl, born on March 9, 2011—Ash Wednesday of all days—would be named Grace Elizabeth Fedje.

Pastors, volunteers and other members of the congregation reached out to Linda and the Fedjes over the year, praying with them, comforting them, and doing acts of kindness. It was a wonderful moment when Jessica received a Hug Bag at the hospital on the day of Grace's first major surgery, and was even more of a surprise for Linda—because she had probably packed the bag herself when volunteering at church. Linda remembers pulling out the knit prayer shawl and wrapping it around her. "I could feel the arms of the whole church around me," she says.

Jessica says she and her family have struggled over the past year, but looking back she finds peace in the many "God moments" that have occurred over Grace's short life. One moment in particular is when Pastor Diane Sponheim prayed with Jessica for a successful pregnancy around the 5th week, around the time experts say the cleft palette often develops. Did Diane's prayer keep something even worse from happening to Grace? Or when Jessica's mother-in-law



Top, clockwise from left: Linda, Jessica and Grace post-lip surgery on the day of her baptism.
Inset: Grace pre-surgery

Did you know? An awful lot of time and dedication goes into Congregational Care at SOTV. In the fiscal year of 2010-11:

56 Hug Bags were given out

150 prayer shawls were given out

25 volunteers made prayer shawls

12 hours to make a single prayer shawl

\$550 approximate cost of yarn for the year

74 members on Prayer Chain, praying for members each week

25 approximate number of people who pick up a hard copy of the prayer concerns list each week

5-8 hours/week is spent by each pastor on hospital visits, phone calls, and other congregational care related tasks

Grace's story continues on page 9

Prayers for our Wonders: Pray that God will bring healing and peace to SOTV households in crisis.

Surprised by Grace

Continued from page 8

dreamed that God would send Grace an angel, and a hospital chaplain brought a silver angel ornament to hang on her bassinet the next day. There's also the odd coincidence that Jessica and her husband Jim are both nationally recognized speech coaches. Grace is likely to need speech therapy. "Maybe God put this baby in our lives because we'd know exactly what do with something like that," Jessica wonders.

"Congregational care is about God becoming flesh and taking on and understanding your worries and problems," says Pastor Chris Smith, who visited the family at the hospital before Grace's surgery. "And it's the efforts of many, many people, not just the pastors that make the difference to people in need."

Grace will next have surgery to reconstruct her palette in February, 2012. Jessica and family hope and pray for another successful operation and are comforted to know they have a congregational family behind them for support.

Worship & Music

Worship is at the heart of experiencing Jesus at Shepherd of the Valley, and as such, it is only possible with the hard work and dedication of many volunteers.

Even a casual visitor at SOTV can see all the various volunteer opportunities, including greeters, ushers, communion assistants, and most audibly noticeable—musicians!

SOTV is home to a rich and multifaceted music ministry featuring thirteen different choirs and ensembles for voice, handbell, brass and woodwind.

But there are countless other volunteers who work tirelessly behind the scenes as well. Something even simple like Holy Communion requires time and effort to set up. A stroll through the sanctuary on first and third Saturday mornings often reveals a group pouring each cup of wine and juice for distribution the following morning. These volunteers also fill the wafer trays and check the amount of supplies in between services on Sunday. There are three rotating teams who handle this task for about an hour and a half, twice a month. It is not a huge time commitment for such a vital task. There is always a need for more volunteers. If you are looking for an easy way to help out with worship, maybe this a job for you!



Photo: BlancheK

Did you know? In the fiscal year of 2010-11:

\$4,424.64 was spent on wine, juice, wafers, baptismal napkins, and candles

152 number of ushers who volunteered

1,967 average weekly attendance, all services

\$6,027.58 was spent on music for all ensembles

\$1,387 was spent just on music licenses

107 members in Senior Choir

13 different music ensembles

Prayers for our Wonders: Pray that the Holy Spirit will blow through SOTV's worship creating faith and life for all.





Richard & Joan Dornfeld Travelers with a Purpose

While Richard and Joan Dornfeld are no strangers to traveling abroad, they are no mere tourists. The two long-time teachers have had vocational stays teaching in many countries including Japan, Germany and Australia for a year or two at a time.

Compared to those sojourns, their current journey will be remarkably short, but promises to be their most colorful and ambitious yet. In September, 2011, they traveled to Tanzania and will remain there for five months. Richard will spend the time teaching mathematics at Tumaini University in Iringa, founded by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania in 1996. Joan plans to help out where needed at Tumaini, and at *Bega Kwa Bega*, the partnership between the St. Paul Area Synod, of which SOTV is a member, and the Iringa Diocese, of which the Tungamalenga parish is a member.

Joan has traveled to Tanzania before and looks forward to the dedication of two chapels in Tungamalenga and reconnecting with old friends. Richard looks forward to experiencing Tanzania for the first time. Why are the Dornfelds so willing to give of their time? “Why not?” replies Richard, explaining that while Americans may be fortunate in material things, there is much to learn from our Tanzanian friends spiritually. “They live their faith all the time,” adds Joan. Being there she says “gets you all excited” about faith and spreading God’s word.

SOTV Tungamalenga Partnership in 2010-2011:

- Completed the construction of chapels at Makambalala and Mpalapande with gifts of \$3500
- Purchased four bikes for lay evangelists’ transportation with proceeds from Children in Need Garage Sale bike sales
- Provided \$2,000 for medicines to fully stock the pharmacy at Tungamalenga Dispensary
- Supported scholarships for 150 secondary and university students at a cost of \$49,600
- Purchased a motorcycle for the pastor’s use with funds raised by Men’s Ministry and additional gifts totalling \$5,000
- Hosted four Tanzanian guests for three weeks at a cost of approximately \$10,000
- Raised almost \$20,000 for the Mahove Water Project
- Thousands of lives changed, in Tungamalenga and Minnesota = priceless



Pastor Naftal Ng’amillo (back row, far right) and Dorah Saga (2nd from left) from Tanzania visit with GodZone children in October 2010.

Prayers for our Wonders: Pray that the mission of SOTV in Tanzania will continue to bear fruit.

Gifts in Kind

August 1, 2010 - July 31, 2011

145 Birthday Bags assembled by H.Y.P.E. groups and delivered to various locations in the metro area.

202 units of blood collected at two blood drives for the American Red Cross.

15 meals from Let's Dish assembled by Club 45 students for people in our congregation who might enjoy the comfort of a meal.

41 Easter dinners and 54 cookie/beverage baskets donated to All Nations Church, Pueblo de Fe, & SOTV families.

808 combined hours worked by 43 adult volunteers on **Habitat for Humanity** homes in August 2010 & May 2011

56 HUG Bags distributed to uplift various women during times of sorrow and joy.

6 Community Meals prepared and served at Mt. Calvary

46 middle school students and **17 adults** prepared meals at **Feed My Starving Children** and served at Global Health Ministries.

150 Prayer Shawls distributed to people in need.

1 full size quilt, 177 receiving blankets, 31 twin quilts, 13 kids quilts, and 2 pillows created by the Golden Stitchers and donated to area hospitals and care centers and several special people.

163 quilts and pillow cases made for the Target House by the Shepherd Quilters

172 youth and 47 adults set out around the country on mission service trips this past summer.

4 suitcases taken to Tanzania by the SOTV travelers in August 2010, stuffed full with student gifts, t-shirts, medical supplies, educational supplies, and Bibles.

Gifts in Kind refer to non-monetary donations given by Shepherd of the Valley members to individuals, the church itself, and charitable organizations outside our church walls. These gifts can include service time, food, clothes, and more. It is a wonder to behold how our members give selflessly for the well-being of their brothers and sisters in Christ. Thank you to all who serve!

900 items of winter outerwear collected in the narthex. Items included coats, mittens, hats, scarves, boots, and snow pants. They were donated to eleven local non-profit agencies and many local schools.

52 care packages were sent to soldiers overseas for Christmas and volunteers helped at military family functions.

Children's Service Various service projects were done in connection with Augustana Home, Dakota Woodlands, Our Daily Bread Food Shelf, Feed My Starving Children, and birthday bags.

Christmas Gifts given to over 60 families and 200 individuals in need through Armful of Love, Dakota Woodlands, SEAM, Southside Family Nurturing Center, and Wingspan Life Resources.

H.Y.P.E. middle school students completed various service projects for SOTV and 16 local care agencies and non-profit organizations.

Summer Stretch middle school students completed various service projects for ARC Value Village, Cleary Lake Regional Park, Feed My Starving Children, Kaleidoscope Place, Our Daily Bread, and various nursing homes.

Gas Vouchers donated to 360 Communities, Alliance Academy, Children's Home Society and Family Services, M.O.M.S., Rosemount Elementary, Rosemount Family Resource Center and many area residents and members in need.

School Supplies Numerous backpacks and supplies were collected and distributed to eight local non-profit agencies and many local schools.

Lewis House Various items, including school supplies, clothing, and food were delivered throughout the past year.

Children's Education

Highlights

- Our GodZone Christian education program for age 3 to grade 5, had a great year with 950 children and 150 volunteer adults and youth.
- A memorable Christmas program that carried on despite the huge snowstorm.
- 500 children had an awesome time at "SonSurf" Vacation Bible School.
- 156 fifth graders "Moved On Up" to Confirmation.
- Keep the Candles Burnin' and Water Works brought in lots of offering for special causes.
- Tending Nature Together brought children and "Older Kids" together for an afternoon of making "Angel Gardens."
- Many children traveled to Camp Wapo for a long weekend during the summer.
- Zone 45 children served at Feed My Starving Children on several occasions.



Adult Education

Adult education at Shepherd of the Valley is incredibly varied thanks to a broad ranging curriculum, but is especially enriched by the personal faith journeys of our volunteer leaders. Meet three such dynamic teachers:

Mark Gilligan

"For me, the Bible is a AAA guide to understanding Jesus Christ," says Mark Gilligan, who teaches a Bible Basics class. "It's history, but also a roadmap for our own lives."



It was an initial interest in Middle East history that was Mark's lone entry into Christianity. He was a stranger to the Bible growing up, a big thick book that sat on the living room table, unopened.

It wasn't until his 2 year old daughter Shannon

had a brush with death that Mark began to "talk to God." He was surprised by how natural praying felt, and astonished when doctors reported a miraculous overnight turnaround in Shannon's condition.

This experience awakened a hunger in Mark to dive into faith and find a greater understanding of the Bible, which he now shares with others. While anyone can attend his Bible Basics class, Mark is especially delighted when revealing to scripture newcomers all that the Bible offers. "Okay God, I get it," he often thinks when reading scripture and discovering something new. "How can I tell someone else about how great this feels?"

Adult Education

Randy Buffie

Financial Peace University (FPU) is a 13 week course created by Dave Ramsey, a radio and television host. It is designed for families to get out of debt, get finances in order, and increase their financial literacy. Ramsey has a strong faith and ties in scripture, and tithing elements to each week's lesson.



From Randy Buffie's point of view, it can also be a marriage-saver. Randy has taught FPU for less than two years, and has been amazed how it not only creates amazing financial turnarounds, but also brings couples closer together. Most couples have only one partner taking care of the finances and it becomes a source of friction, he says. Once they're on the same page, and communicating about finances, it removes a major stressor.

Randy says there's something everyone can learn from FPU, who believes the true power of "clearing our financial ills" is the increased ability to give our gifts back to God. "Even if you don't have any debt, what are things you could be doing with your wealth?"

Prayers for our Wonders: Pray that the knowledge and faith of Jesus Christ will grow through learning ministry at SOTV.

Did you know?

17,042 hours

were spent in adult community Bible study by participants during the 2010-11 program year

The Divine Drama is a 14 week study covering the book of Genesis to the time of Jesus

Crossways is a two year in-depth exploration of the entire Bible, with a year on each Testament

The next **Financial Peace University** sessions begin January 9, 2012 at 7:00 PM

Sanna Ellingson

If you'd asked Sanna Ellingson five years ago if she could see herself teaching studies like Divine Drama, and this fall, Guided by the Spirit, a study on prayer, she couldn't have imagined it. "I had no idea that I would be so interested and enticed in the Bible to want to discuss and share it with others," she says.

After taking an Alpha course, and later Divine Drama and Crossways, Sanna came to see the Bible as a living document, not just a historical one. She discovered that those "old stories" actually continued to include us in our own lives today. The Holy Spirit became a powerful witness for her, and enabled Sanna to see the continued



work of the Bible happening around us. "The God we learn about in the Bible is still the same God we encounter today," she explains.

One of Sanna's gifts as a leader is to create a welcoming atmosphere that's not intimidating, and shows that everyone is a part of the stories in scripture. Sanna is aware that it is often difficult to approach the Bible, and remembers her very first Divine Drama class where she barely said a word the entire 14 weeks, and would just come to listen and absorb. "Just taking that first class can be hard," she recalls knowingly. She urges others to try just one class and see what the experience is like for them.

If that first experience is with Sanna, you're definitely in good hands.

Financial Summary

During the fiscal year ending July 31, 2011, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church experienced a positive change in its cash fund balance of \$318,301. This was achieved through the continued consistent giving by our members and careful management of expenses by our dedicated staff.

Although we had anticipated a decrease in contributions due to the unfavorable economic conditions and job market, General Fund income was basically unchanged from the prior fiscal year. Overall, income was down slightly due to a decrease in contributions to the Building Fund. *(Continued page 15)*

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church Financial Recap

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>August 2010- July 2011</u>	<u>August 2009- July 2010</u>	<u>Variance</u>
<u>Income:</u>			
Tithes, Offerings and Interest	\$ 2,682,561	\$ 2,678,212	\$ 4,349
Tuition & Preschool Income	220,678	223,267	(2,589)
Total Income	2,903,239	2,901,479	1,760
<u>Expenses:</u>			
Adult Ministries	4,445	5,658	1,213
Benevolences - Tithed *	100,608	101,426	818
Building & Grounds	174,654	173,188	(1,466)
Capital	-	199,066	199,066
Children's Ministries	53,207	61,048	7,841
Confirmation	22,250	14,831	(7,419)
Fellowship	6,744	5,970	(774)
Non-budgeted	7,920	158	(7,762)
Outreach	21,155	-	(21,155)
Payroll	1,889,514	1,869,240	(20,274)
Preschool	87,189	87,238	49
Stewardship & Administration	142,563	163,231	20,668
Worship/Music/Arts	20,076	18,283	(1,793)
Youth	14,709	11,023	(3,686)
Total Expenses	2,545,034	2,710,360	165,326
Net Change	\$ 358,205	\$ 191,119	\$ 167,086
<u>Building Fund</u>			
Income	\$ 399,126	\$ 411,130	\$ (12,004)
Expenses	446,414	363,502	(82,912)
Net Change	\$ (47,288)	\$ 47,628	\$ (94,916)
<u>Campership & Endowment Funds</u>			
Income	\$ 7,534	\$ 4,420	\$ 3,114
Expenses	150	150	-
Net Change	\$ 7,384	\$ 4,270	\$ 3,114
<u>Cash Balances</u>			
Balance August 1	\$ 1,465,155	\$ 1,165,385	\$ 299,770
FY Net Change	318,301	243,017	75,284
FY Donor Designated Funds Net Change	(131,182)	56,753	(187,935)
Balance July 31	\$ 1,652,274	\$ 1,465,155	\$ 187,119

* See page 5 for Total Benevolence paid out

(Continued from page 14)

Our cash position was further benefited by a lean budget allowing for cost savings but at the same time maintaining our many meaningful ministries. While expenditures in most budget categories remained similar to the prior fiscal year, one major budget decrease was in our General Fund Capital expenditures. Mortgage payments were moved from the General Fund budget to the Building Fund, allowing for the addition of a new General Fund ministry, Outreach. This ministry provided support to a number of community programs.

Ultimately, the many programs and activities that are the core of our mission at Shepherd of the Valley can only be achieved through the ongoing generosity of our members and we are so deeply grateful for your past and continuing support. Thank You!

An Invitation to Give:

**Every gift matters
Every gift does wonders**

What's a Pledge?

A pledge is a commitment to give on a regular basis to support the mission and ministry of Shepherd of the Valley. Inside this publication, you found an envelope designed to help you make a pledge. Consider making the commitment! It feels great to know that your regular giving is making a difference in the name of Jesus Christ every day here and around the world. Money is important. People will experience the love of God because you gave and gratitude abounds.

**Please return your pledge envelope to church the weekend of
November 19-20, 2011.**

Thank you!

The Building Fund

The building that is the headquarters of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church began in 1984 with what is now the Music Room. In the decades that followed the congregation built five additions. During a given week, a hundred things happen in the building that grow faith, serve others, comfort the suffering, and send people into the world. Your gifts to the building fund provide the space for all that to happen.

The mortgage currently stands at about \$5 million (the building is valued at over \$16 million) and monthly payments are \$35,000. That's a lot of money and every penny supports faithful ministries that wouldn't happen without a great building.

Our goal is to pay off our mortgage as quickly as possible. Your giving to the building fund moves us toward the day when we will have no debt. Then we'll be able to do more, give away more, and serve more. Thanks for designating a part of your giving to the building fund to help us reach that day sooner.

