



## The Shepherd's Staff

*to inform and encourage*



November 2013



## Advent by Candlelight

Shepherd of the Valley has been blessed to be able to offer this program again this year. Advent by Candlelight is planned for Saturday evening, November 23rd at 6:30 pm at SVL. The purpose of Advent by Candlelight is to prepare the hearts of our women for Advent. Along with that, we offer Christian fellowship and dessert for all to enjoy.

The setting, of course, is candlelight, which creates a very peaceful atmosphere. Hostesses set their tables with dessert plates, cups and saucers, Christmas decorations, and candles. The program is held at the beginning of the Advent season. The theme this year is "I Bring You Good News of Great Joy that will be for All People". The program will include songs, Bible readings, and spiritual thoughts on preparing our hearts for Advent.

This event is considered an outreach effort. It provides women with an opportunity to invite some of their friends who may go to other churches or not go to church at all. It is a safe environment for the unchurched, and still they hear about their Savior.

Women who have experienced Advent by Candlelight say that it helps them reconnect with their families and look forward to the season, rather than dreading it. In our busy world filled with numerous responsibilities and activities, this program provides an evening of quiet reflection on everything the Lord has done for us.

Mark your calendar. Plan to join us this year for a relaxing evening of friendship and preparation for the true meaning of Christmas. A sign-up sheet in the narthex is waiting for your name! We are also looking for interested hostesses.

If you have questions, or would like to know more about this program, please contact Kathy Kieselhorst – 303-931-3934 or [kieselhorst4@yahoo.com](mailto:kieselhorst4@yahoo.com).

Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday November 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

*Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
his love endures forever. Psalm 107:1*





## From the Pastor's Desk

**I get depressed sometimes.  
*Can God help me deal with  
discouragement?***

Do you ever feel that things you do really don't make a difference?

Is it sometimes difficult to see the results of your hard work?

There are many times when we may ask ourselves, "What's the point? Why do I keep trying?"

Take, for example, the woman who, by no fault of her own, can't seem to keep a job for more than a year or two. She's to the point where she expects to be laid off whenever cutbacks happen. Discouraging? Yes, definitely.

When events in our lives lead us to be depressed or discouraged, two reactions come rather easily to us. The first is blaming God for the problems. The second is thinking that somehow God is punishing us for something we have done. However, neither of these reactions is correct.

The problem lies not with God; it lies with sin. All of life's problems come as a result of living in a world filled with sin. These problems include layoffs at work, health problems, family issues, and others. We'd have to get rid of sin to remove the troubles and problems that discourage us. But that's something we could spend the rest of our lives trying to accomplish and never complete the task. Thankfully, God accomplished what we are unable to.

We deserve to be sentenced under the judgment of God for everything we do or say or think that violates God's will for us to live perfect lives. But the Bible gives us the good news from God that **"as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us"** (Psalm 103:12). In tremendous love for us, God took away all of our sins and laid them on Jesus. He charged his Son with our guilt. Jesus, our Savior, suffered the punishment that we deserved. He died to free us from eternal death.

Even though we experience discouragements in our life, nothing can take away the peace we have in Jesus, who took away our sins. Through faith in our Savior, we are children of God. Every day God is at our side helping us through difficult times. Confidently trusting in him, our discouragements melt into calm assurance that our loving God is always leading us.

Pastor Kieselhorst



# SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

Help for those dealing with grief during the holidays

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran will be providing a two hour seminar on Sunday, November 24th from 2-4pm on "GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays".

GriefShare is a helpful, encouraging seminar for people facing the holidays after a loved one's death. The seminar features practical suggestions and reassurance through video interviews with counselors, grief experts and other people who have experienced the holidays after their loved one's death.

Topics to be discussed include "Why the Holidays Are Tough," "What to Expect," "How to Prepare," "How to Manage Relationships and Holiday Socials" and "Using the Holidays to Help You Heal."

Those who attend will receive a booklet with over 30 daily readings providing additional insights and ideas on holiday survival. Child care will be provided for anyone who requests it ahead of time.

There is a \$5.00 charge for the class and booklet.

For more information, call Shepherd of the Valley Church at 303-424-1306 or email [womensministry@shepherdofthevalley.org](mailto:womensministry@shepherdofthevalley.org)

## **KING SOOPERS FUNDRAISER UPDATE**

Thank you so much for your support! By using the King SOOPERS reloadable gift cards, we have raised close to \$800 in just two months! If you are not a part of this program and would like to help, please contact Sharon Presser (303) 460-9338. She would be happy to explain how easy this card is to use.



## Sunday Adult Bible Classes at SVL in November:

### Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>

Bible Topic – *Seek First His Kingdom: Don't Fear If You Fail* (**Romans 7:15-25**)

Location: Fellowship Hall      Teacher: Vicar Williams      Time: 9:30 am

Bible Book – *Hebrews: What a Supreme Treasure We Have in Christ Jesus!*

Location: 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Classroom      Teacher: Pastor Haag      Time: 9:30 am

BIBLE 101 – *Faith Builders: The Scriptures*

Location: 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Classroom      Teacher: Pastor Kieselhorst      Time: 9:30 am

### Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>

Bible Topic – *Seek First His Kingdom: Gather with God's People* (**Hebrews 10:22-25**) Location: Fellowship Hall      Teacher: Pastor Kieselhorst      Time: 9:30 am

Bible Book – *Hebrews: What a Supreme Treasure We Have in Christ Jesus!*

Location: 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Classroom      Teacher: Pastor Haag      Time: 9:30 am

BIBLE 101 – *Faith Builders: Reading Your Bible*

Location: 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Classroom      Teacher: Vicar Williams      Time: 9:30 am

### Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>

Bible Topic – *Seek First His Kingdom: Utilize Power of Prayer* (**Matthew 6:9-13**)

Location: Fellowship Hall      Teacher: Vicar Williams      Time: 9:30 am

Bible Book – *Hebrews: What a Supreme Treasure We Have in Christ Jesus!*

Location: 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Classroom      Teacher: Pastor Haag      Time: 9:30 am

BIBLE 101 – *Faith Builders: The One True God*

Location: 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Classroom      Teacher: Pastor Kieselhorst      Time: 9:30 am

### Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>

Bible Topic – *Seek First His Kingdom: Worship the Way God Wants* (**John 18:19-23**)

Location: Fellowship Hall      Teacher: Pastor Kieselhorst      Time: 9:30 am

Bible Book – *Hebrews: What a Supreme Treasure We Have in Christ Jesus!*

Location: 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Classroom      Teacher: Pastor Haag      Time: 9:30 am

BIBLE 101 – *Faith Builders: Jesus Christ*

Location: 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Classroom      Teacher: Vicar Williams      Time: 9:30 am



## **Weekly Adult Bible Classes at SVL in November:**

### **Mondays at 7:00 p.m. (except November 3<sup>rd</sup>)**

Ladies' Bible Study – *Becoming a Woman of Excellence*

Location: Fellowship Hall Teacher: Congregational Assistant Laurie Behrens

### **Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m. (except November 27<sup>th</sup>)**

Ladies' Bible Study – *Our Lutheran Identity: Luther's Large Catechism*

Location: Fellowship Hall Teachers: Pastor Kieselhorst and Vicar Williams

### **Saturdays at 8:00 a.m. (except November 30<sup>th</sup>)**

Men's Bible Study – *Broken: 7 "Christian" Rules Every Christian Ought to Break Often*

Location: Fellowship Hall Teachers: Pastor Kieselhorst and Vicar Williams