



"COURAGEOUS DISCIPLES WANTED..."

There has been a resurgence of interest in the incredible voyage of Ernest Shackleton. Shackleton is the British sea captain who led an expedition to the Antarctica, that ice-covered, wind-swept piece of land at the very bottom of the earth.

One of the more incredible aspects of Shackleton's trip was that he got people to accompany him in the first place. In 1914, when Shackleton was planning his expedition, he put the following ad in the London papers: *"Men wanted for hazardous journey – small wages, bitter cold, long months of complete darkness – constant danger, safe return doubtful."*

His ad was far more prophetic than even he realized at the time. It proved to be one of the most heroic ventures in the history of exploration. Ice crushed his boat in the Weddell Sea; the men who went for a rescue party had to cross many miles of ice-pack on foot; and those who stayed behind couldn't be certain their companions would make it back to find rescuers. The courage and resolve of the men in the group was tested beyond anything we can imagine.

But Shackleton's ad had told the men what lay ahead. Whatever else you might think about the captain's notices in the newspapers, he was brutally honest – so much so that you wonder that anyone signed on with him. No one in Shackleton's party could later claim that he didn't understand the terms of the expedition.

If Jesus ran an ad in today's newspapers, inviting people to join him, his ad might read a lot like Shackleton's. Jesus never made any promises about how easy his followers would have it or what a pleasant trip the journey to life everlasting would be...just the opposite. He emphasized the difficulties and dangers so much that you'd think he was trying to scare people off, not gain followers.

Our Lord told a young man who was very wealthy, **"Sell all that you have, distribute it to the poor and come, follow me" Luke 18:22.** And that was too much for the young man. He couldn't do that, so he became "very sorrowful" and went away.

What is interesting is that Jesus didn't chase after the young man. Nor did he lower his standards to keep the young man hanging around. Luke tells us that Jesus himself was "very sorrowful" the young man couldn't make the commitment necessary, but he didn't re-think his requirements.

Jesus put up front the demands of following him. He held the cross up for all to see. He didn't hide it in the back of the display case or conceal it under the small print in the contract. And the rich young man was not the only one with whom Jesus used that offensive word "cross." When Peter tried to get Jesus to stop his "cross-talk," our Lord told Peter and the others, **"If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me" Matthew 16:24.**

The disciples knew that to be Jesus' followers meant *"constant danger, safe return doubtful."*

Would you recommend using such an approach in modern evangelism – emphasizing the cross? Not many do. Current wisdom tells us we should invite worldly people into the church on their own terms. "Come and get *something*," we are to tell the people of this world, not, **"Deny yourself, give up that or those dear to you, take up a cross."**

The cross is no longer at the center of many churches' approach or proclamation. After all, it's a turn-off to the self-centered, superficial, pleasure-seeking society in which we live – or at least we're told. Make people feel good about themselves, rather than making them right with God.

Shackleton didn't get many men to sign up for his expedition, but the men he did get were worth having. Our Lord said that *"there are few who find"* the difficult way to life everlasting (Matthew 7:14). But those who do will **"stand firm in the faith, act like men and be strong," 1 Corinthians 16:13.**

- Pastor Kieselhorst

We have SIX Wednesday suppers for this year. We need the congregation's help to honor our Savior's gift of sacrifice for our eternal salvation.

Any church committees who would like to serve one of the suppers please contact Tomoko Koerber. If additional womanpower is needed help your committee serve, we can get you the assistance you need.

Invite your friends and neighbors to join us for some faith, fellowship and food.



3/1: Shepherd Women
3/8: **Open**
3/15: **Open**
3/22: Comet Boosters
3/29: **Open**
4/5: **Open**

DIVINE CALL RECEIVED

Dear Brothers and Sisters at Shepherd of the Valley,

This past week I received a divine Call to serve as an associate pastor at St. John's Lutheran Church in New Ulm, MN. In the weeks ahead, therefore, I will be prayerfully deliberating whether to accept this Call to serve God's kingdom at St. John's or to continue in the Call extended to me through Shepherd of the Valley to serve as your pastor. It is humbling to be considered for service to God's people in both places. To assist in this deliberation, I welcome a discussion with you about our ministry here at Shepherd of the Valley and your expectations for your pastor going forward. Please keep me and my family in your prayers as we consider where to serve in God's kingdom. I will continue to pray for you as you work together to serve and glorify our gracious Savior.

In Christ's service,
Pastor Kieselhorst

RMLHS FEDERATION MEETING – FEBRUARY 26th at 3:00 pm

Items on the Agenda: Approve a new budget for the 2017-18 school year
 Vote on the use of a special gift given to the high school

Rocky Mountain Lutheran High School
10391 Luther Court
Commerce City, CO 80022



We will be continuing the GriefShare support group every Saturday at 10am at SVL.

How GriefShare works: If you've lost a spouse, child, family member, or friend, you've probably found there are not many people who understand the deep hurt you

feel. This can be a confusing time when you feel isolated and have many questions about things you've never faced before. GriefShare groups meet weekly to help you face these challenges and move toward rebuilding your life. Each GriefShare session has three distinct elements:

1. Each week your GriefShare group will watch a video seminar featuring top experts on grief and recovery subjects.
2. After viewing the video, you and the other group members will spend time as a support group, discussing what was presented in that week's video seminar and what is going on in your lives.
3. During the week you will have the opportunity to use your workbook for further personal study of the grieving process and to help sort out your emotions through journaling. Your group will spend time discussing questions and comments from the workbook study.

The cost for the 13 week class is \$20 and includes the workbook. You can register with Laurie Behrens at dlmb1@comcast.net or 720-939-1288. You are welcome to begin attending the GriefShare group at any session. Each is "self-contained," so you do not have to attend in sequence. You will find encouragement and help whenever you begin. With GriefShare you will learn how to walk the journey of grief and be supported on the way. It is a place where hurting people find healing and hope.

Women's Cancer Support Group: Every congregation has people who have been diagnosed with cancer. This diagnosis is frightening. Families facing cancer often look for a place where they can find the support and understanding they need to cope with the long term effects of cancer. Shepherd of the Valley has started a support group for women affected by cancer and the care givers that support those with



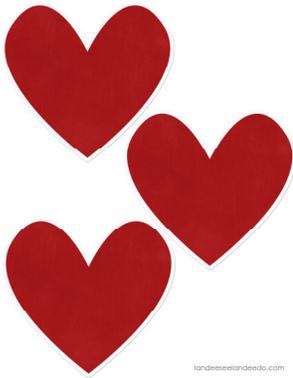
cancer. Our first Cancer Support meeting on Jan. 17th went very well. Thank you to everyone who attended. Our **next meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 21st at 7pm** at the church. Every woman affected by cancer is invited to attend, including care givers. Please let me know if you plan to attend so we can make sure to have enough copies for everyone. Thank you. Laurie Behrens 720-939-1288 or dlmb1@comcast.net

KING SOOPERS CARD FUNDRAISER

FEBRUARY KING SOOPERS UPDATE –

THANKS ALL YOU SHOPPERS! Our King Soopers program benefitted from a January deposit of \$634.67 which is 5% of your shopping bills for one month. Our current total is \$8,409.29!

If you'd like more information about this easy, reloadable gift card program, please speak with Sharon Presser



Do you have a student away at college? In February, Naomi Eaton will be putting together care packages for out of town SVL students again this year. Donations for non perishable food, baked goods and small gifts will be in the fellowship hall. If you have a student away at college, please fill out a form in the Narthex with your student's info and put in Naomi's mailbox.



February Birthday Blessings to:

Justin Ripley: 2/1; Ginger Dally-Mulvaney: 2/2; Deborah English, Avery Salazar: 2/3; Suzie Galbraith: 2/5; Ben Helmreich: 2/9; James Doyle, Ardell Lommen, Norbert Mielke, Meagan Mathis: 2/11; Robert Maulis: 2/14; Len Ranger: 2/15; Kaden Huss, Mekynlee Kennedy: 2/17; Erika Boucher: 2/20; Jan Diede: 2/23; Pat Carlson: 2/25; Shayna Welty: 2/26; Sam Olvera: 2/27; Brittany Befort, Sharon Stucht: 2/28



Happy Anniversary to:

Harvey & Carrie Berkhiem: 2/24

*I was glad when they said to
me, 'Let us go into the house
of the Lord.' "*

~ Psalm 122:1



THANK YOU
for your willingness to
VOLUNTEER
for
WORSHIP ENHANCEMENT
What an **AMAZING** response:

The background of the list is a grey rectangle. On the right side, there is a lit candle with a bright flame. The word 'Worship' is written in a large, white, cursive font across the middle of the rectangle. There are also some blurred yellow and orange shapes on the left side, possibly representing other candles or light sources.

20 L.I.F.T. Participants
Leader: Dawn Kohl

44 Ushers
Leader: Jason Welty

80 Greeters
Leader: Cari Ranger

26 Lay Readers
Leader: Erick Larsen

17 Deliver Welcome Packets
Leader: Rick Wilking

11 Soloists
Leader: Sharon Presser

7 Organists/Keyboardists
Leader: Carrie Berkhiem

7 Instrumentalists
24 Small Group/Choir Singers
Leader: Jeff Falck

(If you still have a blue sign up card, please give it to Mrs. Presser and join your fellow members in service!)

You're Invited
to
Shepherd of the Valley's
88th Ave. and Field St. - Westminster, CO

Kindergarten Roundup

Who: Children who turn 5 on or before September 15, 2017

When: Wednesday, February 8th ****Please RSVP by calling the school office 303-424-1306**

Where: Shepherd of the Valley Early Childhood Building (the house next to our church)

Time: 8:30 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

Parents and children are welcome to arrive beginning at 8:00 A.M.

****Parents are welcome to stay with their children during calendar time and through our Bible lesson. Following our Bible lesson, we will have a mini math lesson and snack. We will break for a short outdoor recess and continue with an alphabet activity and mini art project. Parents are welcome to join us back in the classroom at 11:00 A.M. for a question and answer session with our principal, Mr. Jeffrey Falck. I will also be on hand to answer any questions you may have about the kindergarten program. I look forward to meeting with you soon!**