



The Shepherd's Corner

“Our Mission: Disciples Growing,
Leading, and Multiplying.”

3900 Ashworth Road, West Des Moines, IA 50265

Pastor David J. Dahlke
Pastor Eugene R. Krueger
www.shepherd-valley.org

Phone: (515) 225-1623

Service Times

Saturdays

5:00 p.m. (traditional)

Sundays

8:00 a.m. (traditional)

10:30 a.m. (contemporary)

Sunday School - 9:15 a.m.

Adult Bible Class - 9:15 a.m.

Sunday - December 3rd

8:00 a.m. Worship Service

9:15 a.m. Cookie Sale

9:15 a.m. Sunday School

9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study

9:30 a.m. High School Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

11:45 a.m. Hispanic Worship Service

1:30 p.m. Hispanic Ministry

4:00 p.m. Basketball Practice

5:30 p.m. Men's Basketball

Monday - December 4th

6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast Bible Study

3:30 p.m. VHS Cheerleading Practice

4:15 p.m. UniTy

6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry

6:30 p.m. Voters Assembly

7:00 p.m. Leadership Meeting

Tuesday - December 5th

5:30 p.m. Basketball Practice

7:00 p.m. Hispanic Praise Band

Wednesday - December 6th

3:30 p.m. VHS Cheerleading Practice

6:00 p.m. Storytelling for Parents

6:30 p.m. BLAST, JAM, Confirmation

6:30 p.m. ACT

7:00 p.m. ADVENT

WORSHIP SERVICE

8:00 p.m. Adult Choir

Thursday - December 7th

9:30 a.m. Ladies Bible Study

3:30 p.m. VHS Cheerleading Practice

6:00 p.m. Basketball Practice

7:00 p.m. JuBELLation Practice

8:00 p.m. Bible Study

Friday - December 8th

5:00 p.m. Basketball Practice

Saturday - December 9th

8:00 a.m. Intercessory Prayers

9:00 a.m. Hispanic Christmas Special Event

5:00 p.m. Worship Service

Sunday - December 10th

8:00 a.m. Worship Service

9:15 a.m. Parent & Youth Confirmation

9:15 a.m. Sunday School

9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study

9:30 a.m. High School Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

11:45 a.m. Hispanic Worship Service

1:00 p.m. YMCA Worship - Offsite

1:30 p.m. Hispanic Ministry

2:00 p.m. Miller Share Group - Offsite

6:00 p.m. Basketball Practice

WELCOME TO SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY!

Thank you for choosing to worship with us today. Our desire is to make your worship experience a positive one. Check out our information booth, in the skylight area. Take home a church calendar of events or any of the other items you may find helpful to you. Please make yourself at home. This is God's house and a home to all who worship here.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY: will resume next Sunday in the Family Life Center from 9:15-10:15 am Sunday morning for Part 3 of Martin Luther

SUNDAY SCHOOL PARENTS....in December, SS children (preschool to grade 4) will be practicing songs for the Sunday, **December 17th** 10:30 worship service. Having your child in SS to practice is **VERY** helpful and makes participating in the worship service easier for your child!

STORYTELLING FOR PARENTS....yes, for parents! Each week of Advent (6:15 – 6:55 p.m.) parents are welcome to come to Higher Ground to listen and engage with a storyteller. Come hear the challenges and joys of being a Christian parent! Come to all or as many sessions as fit your schedule.

BLAST, JAM OR CONFIRMATION on **Wednesdays** from 6:15–7:00 p.m. (before 7:00 p.m. Advent worship). JAM and Confirmation will be in their usual classrooms. BLAST will be meeting in the gym! **December 27** is our Christmas break. Classes resume the normal schedule on **January 3**.

ATTENTION ALL MEN Please join us for a delicious breakfast and Bible Study at the Iowa Machine Shed (east of I-35/80 on Hickman Road in Urbandale) at 6:30 am, Monday, **December 4th**. Come to encourage each other in God's Word and enjoy the fellowship! Questions, contact Mark Rowley at mtzmrowley@mchsi.com or 515-249-7226.

LWML MEMBERS REMINDER: There will be **NO** LWML Board Meeting or General Meeting in the month of December.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held **Monday, December 4, at 6:30 pm**

THE CBL has approved the 2018 budget and it will be presented at the **December 4th** Congregational meeting at 6:30p.m. for voter approval. We will go over the main points of the budget at the meeting. However, if you want a more in depth look at details, please see Sherry Wilkinson or Pastor Dahlke before or after the meeting.

NEW BANNER IN SANCTUARY: A new paper banner is displayed in our Worship area. This banner focuses on the birth of Christ, different characters within the Christmas story and the different names for our Messiah. It is based on Isaiah 9:6. “A child has been born for us. We have been given a son who will be our ruler. His names will be Wonderful Advisor and Mighty God, Eternal Father and Prince of Peace.” Many different groups and people have spent the last 6 months coloring this banner. Also, thanks to Kris Wilkinson for creating the frame and display. Stop by and take a look!

ALTAR CIRCLE POINSETTIAS Help us decorate the sanctuary during the upcoming Advent season. The plants cost \$8.00 each. Deadline for ordering is **Monday, December 4th**. You may pick up your plant after the 9:00 a.m. Christmas Day service. If you have any questions, please call Rita Rusch at 223-7326.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: Thank you to everyone who filled shoe boxes, brought in supplies, prayed over boxes, helped collect boxes and/or donated money for Operation Christmas Child this year. Many children will be blessed through your efforts! We collected 1058 shoeboxes this year (67 cartons). The cartons will be trucked up to Minneapolis for the next step of their journey.



CHRISTMAS TREE SALES CONTINUE - complete your holiday decorations by purchasing your beautiful Christmas tree and decorative wreath from A.C.T.! Sales have begun and will continue on **Saturdays, 9:00-5:00, Sundays, 11:00-5:00, and Monday-Friday, 5:15 – 7:00 p.m.** Thank you for supporting High School Youth Ministry!

STILL A CHANCE TO VOLUNTEER – there's still some time slots left to help sell Christmas trees and decorative wreaths with High School Youth Ministry! Sales started last week and run thru mid-December or until our supply runs out. Thank you for serving alongside us!

ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT THANK YOU! A special thank you from the Advent by Candlelight committee to all the people that helped make the Advent by Candlelight service a special event this week... thank you to all the SOTV members that volunteered decorations and food, the Church Office Staff, the Confirmation students and their parents, Ann Bass, Marcelyn Churchill, Phyllis Rourke, Pat Roberts, Marie Rickert, Julie McFarling, Jeanette Parrott and Heidi Vermeer-Quist. What a terrific way to start the holiday season and renew the meaning of Jesus's birth!!

THE JUBELLATION CHOIR will once again be performing at the Bethel Mission to share the Christmas story through music. We will be collecting donations of men's white briefs and socks, men's deodorant, and shampoo to take along with us. If you are able to assist, please place your donations in the bin in the narthex. Donations will be accepted until after worship on **Wednesday, December 13**.

STEPHEN MINISTRY: Scripture says we should carry each other's burdens. A Stephen Minister is a well-trained lay person, who is matched with someone of the same gender who is going through a difficult time. A Stephen Minister helps carry the burdens of our brothers and sisters.

Do you think you would make a good Stephen Minister? A new class is starting in January!

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex, you can call Lisa Jimenez at 515-473-2586 or the church office. Sign-up deadline is **December 17th**.

DEBT IS NORMAL. BE WEIRD Find out how you can change your life for the better. Sign up today! Financial Peace University starting **Monday, January 8, 2018** at 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm; FPU Coordinator: Janice McCullough. Questions? Phone/text: 515-480-4179 or email: jkmccullough@msn.com

GENE AND KATHY HART want to thank everyone for all of the hard work outside and inside in helping them clean up, pack, and prepare for their move to their new home. They also want to thank everyone for the fellowship and good food at the special celebration reception in their honor on **Sunday, November 26th**.

"We used to live where we ain't no more -
We moved to where we never lived before.
You know where we was,
But not where we is -
So here's the new address where we lives:"

Gene & Kathy Hart
Keystone Place at Forevergreen
1275 W Forevergreen Road, Apt. # 3036
North Liberty, IA 52317-8539
Telephone: 1-(319) 626-2203

HELP ACT YOUTH ON THEIR UPCOMING SERVANT & MISSION PROJECTS throughout the year! Planning to go out for lunch after church? Need a last minute gift? Please stop and see us first. We have cards on hand for many area restaurants plus HyVee, Fareway, Target, Wal-Mart, and many others. Purchase Gift Cards under the skylight or in the office during the week. It's so easy! See Kim Rasler after the Saturday evening service and Jodi Parrott, Shelli Burmester, or Angie Spann on Sunday mornings. If you are thinking about Christmas gift purchases, there is a great opportunity to use lots of Scrip cards for your planned purchases or you can give a card as a gift! The youth and leaders of ACT thank you for your support!!!

PLEASE PRAY for the annual COG Children's shopping spree coming up on Saturday, **December 9th** from 9:00 to Noon. Pray for the volunteers who will chaperone school age children as they shop for Christmas gifts for their family members. It is a wonderful opportunity to connect with a child and share Jesus' love with them. If you have any questions, please contact Marla Melco mb.melco@gmail.com or Larry Rix at Larry@sotv-wdm.org with questions.

FOOD ITEMS NEEDED FOR HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS!! COG is collecting boxed stuffing mixes and gravy to include in holiday baskets to be given out to the community at the Eddie Davis Community Center in Valley Junction. There will be a box in the Narthex to collect items until Monday, **December 11th**. Questions, contact Marla Melco or Larry Rix in the office.

OUR CHAPTER OF OPERATION BARNABAS is launching its 5th year partnering with Freedom Alliance's Present for Patriots Program adopting disabled Veterans and their families for Christmas. These families are adjusting to life changing physical and emotional injuries while also enduring financial hardships. We are asking for gift cards from Target or Walmart and also cash so the parents can take pride in purchasing gifts for their kids. Please mail donations along with a Christmas card to: Operation Barnabas, ATTN: Linn Hayden at 405 NW Sturbridge, Ankeny, IA 50023, call her at 515-664-7359, or join us for the **December 14th** meeting at 7pm at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Urbandale. It is such an amazing and heartwarming experience to bless these families in such big ways! Thank you.

DON'T DELAY—DONATE TODAY BEFORE CREDITS ARE GONE! Although the deadline for donating to the Iowa Lutheran School Tuition Organization (ILSTO) is December 31, 2017, last year tax credits were gone by the middle of December. Please consider donating today to help fund tuition assistance to Lutheran students in our Iowa Lutheran schools. How much Iowa tax do you pay each year? Why not send this money to help Lutheran students' families instead! Donors receive a 65% Iowa tax credit and probable Federal charitable deduction. Forms are on the web at iowalutheransto.org or call ILSTO program manager Dewey Torkelson at 712-260-2991 for more information.

CREATION THEATER AT MISSION CENTRAL Mission Central is now ready to receive tour groups to see the Lord's Creation Theater where they will hear the REAL STORY of how our God made the world in 6 days! Due to the number of people coming to Mission Central, it's important to contact them for available tour times. Come and see what the Lord has done at this place in the middle of nowhere as it will "blow your socks off" and will truly be a "once in a lifetime experience." Contact Mission Central at 712-882-1029 or email Gary at Gary.Thies@lcms.org.

LIFE LINE SCREENING, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings will be at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church on Tuesday, **March 13, 2018**. Ultrasound screenings to identify risk factors for Cardiovascular disease include; **Carotid Artery** (plaque buildup-a leading cause of stroke), **Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm** (an enlargement or weak area in the main blood vessel that carries blood from the heart to the rest of the body), **Peripheral Arterial Disease** (hardening of the arteries in the legs), a **Heart Rhythm Screening** (an EKG to detect Atrial Fibrillation-irregular heartbeat) and an **Osteoporosis Risk Assessment** for men and women. Being proactive about your health by knowing your risks helps you and your doctor address problems early.

Register online TODAY at www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle and receive your "Community Circle" discount and your Preferred Appointment!

PRAYER REQUESTS

Norma Allen
(Gaylon Dayton's aunt)
Rebecca Michelle Arman
Jessica Arment
Janie Baines
(LeRoy Monson's stepsister)
Harry Blackburn and
Nathan Blackburn
(Becky Blackburn's husband & son and
Brittany & Janel Parrott's father&brother)
Aaron Bonefas
Joanie Bral
(friend of the Gierstorf family)
Rhonda Butz
(Hank & Jan Krohn's daughter)
Norma Christeson
Scarlett Sadler DeFrance
(friend of Neil & Sue Graber)
Tom Donaldson
(Dave & Marcia Johnson's friend)
Katelin Enderton
(friend of Gaylon Dayton's family)
Kerry Feekes
(Dan & Nick Feekes' father)
Robert Fogler
(Janet Dayton's father)
Alice Geber
(Sheri Ober family friend)
Emma Gehring
(Kaylene Crouch's niece)
Eugene & Kathy Hart
Myrne Hayman
(Reita Spradlin's sister)
Niavh Hyatt
(Western Hills student)
Grant Jones
(Michael & Katie Shepard's nephew)
Ruby Kastner
(Dorothy Rix' sister)
Hank & Jan Krohn
Judy Lukensmeyer
(Melanie Belden's sister)
Scott McClure
Nadine McNamara
(Dave McNamara's mother)
Mark Mohr
Randy Nemitz
Kristine Nicewarner
(Karen Jackson's sister)
Janet Nihart
(Friend of McNamara family)
Eugene Obman
(Friend of Keith Erickson)
Carol Pieper
Ginny Penton
(Gloria Sear's friend)
Jeremy Plucker
(Neal Baedke's nephew)
Kate Plucker
(Neal Baedke's sister)
Adam Rix
(Larry & Dorothy Rix' grandson)
Todd Robertson
John Sauer
Lanae Seid
Mackenzie Sobek
Alice Anne Swenka
(Gene & Kathy Hart's daughter)
Carrie Valerio
(Reita Spradlin's daughter)
Wayne and Mary Vaudt
(Terry Vaudt's father & mother)

MISSION PRAYER REQUEST Please pray for Deaconess Kim Bueltmann who serves the Lord through the LCMS as a missionary in Germany. In her role as a deaconess, she assists German congregations in providing outreach to refugees from the Middle East. She teaches these refugees and other new believers about the Christian faith and leads outreach activities. She helps the refugees learn German and provides them compassionate support and friendship. Kim also supervises GEO missionaries serving in Germany.

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: Anne Marie DaLuga - December 3rd; Brent Lenz, Gloria Sears, & Marilyn Short - December 4th; Bekki Welch - December 5th; and Erin Arnold & Shari Wagner - December 9th.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER The four Sundays prior to Christmas are the four Sundays of Advent, which begin the church year. The purpose of Advent is not only to prepare you to celebrate the birth of Jesus which occurred over two thousand years ago but also to prepare you for His second coming. Jesus, Who came to you in a stable, will come again when the trumpet sounds in glory on the Last Day. The New Testament stresses that Christians must be ready at all times for the second coming. You are to live with joyful expectation. Whether by Jesus' return or our own deaths, we should always be prepared to meet Him. Peter wrote, *"The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. Above all keep loving one another...in order that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ."* (1 Peter 4:7-10).

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE "God created you in the womb. He formed your very being. He called you by name for His great plans. He made your life new through the Holy One of Israel. God gave you a new heart through Christ. God has loved you so deeply—and He gives you the gift of life so deeply—that He gave you the heart of Christ. HIS heart beats within you. THAT is God's gift of grace." *Rev. Paul J. Frank, Hosanna Lutheran Church and School, Mesa, Arizona – A "Life Quote" from Lutherans For Life www.lutheransforlife.org*

BUILDING HEALTHY FAMILIES: Depression is associated with many things, but a weak faith is not one of them. Martin Luther himself struggled with depression as did many other church leaders. If you are feeling depressed, don't suffer alone. Talk to someone. Luther had the right idea 500 years ago when he said, "Solitude produces melancholy. When we are alone the worst and saddest things come to mind. We reflect in detail upon all sorts of evils. And if we have encountered adversity in our lives, we dwell upon it as much as possible, magnify it, think that no one is so unhappy as we are, and imagine the worse possible consequences." LFS counselors are here to help when needed. **Lutheran Family Service** (515) 251-4900 or (515) 573-3138; web site: LFSiowa.org

HOLY COMMUNION guests please read: Because we desire that all who participate in Christ's body and blood will receive the blessings promised therein, and because the Scriptures themselves call for a self-examination prior to participating in the Lord's Supper (I Corinthians 11:28), we have found the following questions helpful in preparing for the Lord's Supper:

- † Have I been baptized in the name of the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit?
- † Do I believe that I am a sinful human being without hope of eternal life except for God's mercy in Christ?
- † Do I believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son and my personal Savior?
- † Do I believe that He is personally present in the Sacrament of Holy Communion with His body and blood?
- † Do I hope by the power of the Holy Spirit to live a Godly life?

AS YOU COME TO THE LORD'S SUPPER, you are affirming with each communicant that Jesus is your Savior and Lord, that with Lutheran Christians you believe His body and blood are present, and you desire to serve Him as a dynamic disciple in the fellowship of the church.

Maryjane Waldroup
(Barb Monson's sister)
Dee Weaver
Marcia Weitzel
(Jodi Parrott's aunt)
Richard Willham
(Lee Willham's father)
Susan Williams
Chris Yelle
(friend/coworker of Zach McFarling)