



# VISTAS

The Season after Pentecost + Reformation Sunday, October 2010



## Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

✝ Our Mission: *We are a welcoming family in Christ who serves through celebrating and sharing our many gifts.* ✝

### BLESSINGS AND STEWARDSHIP (FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK)

It's true, Shepherd of the Valley is a congregation that is "blessed": We have paid off our mortgage and are debt free. We have a thriving preschool and a dedicated staff. New families are discovering what we have to offer. Singles of many age-groups are finding a family here. Bible studies go deep, even as we reach out. We have an elderly population who cares so thoughtfully for one another and for their communities, and who teaches those of us who are younger how to do the same. Our music ministries and youth ministries are blossoming. And we have children in this congregation who continually inspire us with their gifts, their energy, their beauty, and their wisdom. With so many good things here, it's hard not to say it: "God has blessed us."

But we must be very careful with such a claim...for if this is what God's blessings on a church look like, then what does God feel about other churches and individuals who are hurting? Is God choosing not to bless them? What does it mean for those who are hungry, sick, in debt, and without children? Does God not care, or is God giving them what they deserve? Saying too quickly "God has blessed us" can trap us, because then the message between the lines becomes "God loves and blesses this world unevenly and with conditions." This is not how we understand grace, for this is not grace. Grace is an ever-flowing stream. *God, help us to trust in your grace when times are good at Shepherd of the Valley.*

Stewardship season helps us see blessings differently. Stewardship begins with the claim that "all that we have and all that we are comes from God and belongs to God." We Christians believe that "God so loves the world." In other words, *all* are blessed under Christ's loving reign, especially the hurting. Jesus said, "*Blessed* are the poor, the hungry, the persecuted."

What currently sets us apart at Shepherd of the Valley is simply that we have the ability to share what God has entrusted to us without the pressures of immediate financial survival—mortgages, deficits, etc. Instead of referring to ourselves as "blessed," over and against others, perhaps we might simply say, "We are so thankful for what God has given us." God is moving in our congregation these days, showering us with gifts, in such a way as to nudge us into deeper understandings of what it means to be baptized. We have some room to splash around here, a great gift to be sure, and so it seems the perfect time to swim into ever more faithful, biblical stewardship – i.e. joyful, first-fruits (offering not from the bottom but from the top), sacrificial giving.

*Continued on page 4...*

### OCTOBER EVENTS

**Sat. Oct. 2 - Applefest at Camp Yolijwa** from 10am-3pm  
**Acolyte Training at SVLC** from 9am-11am,

**Sun. Oct. 3 - Blessing of the Animals** both services

**Sun. Oct. 10 - Holy Communion Class** 9:30am-10:15am

**Tue. Oct. 12 - Church Council Meeting at T.A.C.O.**

**Thurs. Oct. 14 - Thrivent Financial Planning 101** for the ABC Barn and others interested 6:30pm

**Sat. Oct. 16 - LWR kit Assembly** at 9:00am  
**Quilting Blitz** at 10am  
**Confirmation** at 4:30-8  
**Youth Lock-in** (all night)  
**Work Party** at 7:15am

**Sun. Oct. 17 - Bread for the World Sunday, Ballot Measures Forum, Time & Talent Show,** at 12:30pm

**Sat. Oct. 23 - Sunset by the Sea, T.A.C.O.,** 4:30-7:30pm

**Sun. Oct. 24 - Holy Communion Class** 9:30am-10:15am

**Thurs. Oct. 28 - Fall Festival with the ABC Barn!** 6:30pm

**Sat. Oct. 30 - Confirmation Rehearsal Dinner**

**Sun. Oct. 31 – Reformation & Confirmation Sunday**

#### SAVES THESE DATES FOR NEXT MONTH:

Nov. 5-7 – Pacifica Synod Women of the ELCA Convention, in Fountain Valley, CA

Sun. Nov. 14 – Congregational Meeting, 11:30am



## Our Welcoming Family in Christ...

### SVLC's New Youth Minister!

For those of you that do not know me, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Christy Sorensen. I started going to SVLC about four years ago and became a member about two years ago. I have spent the last 19 years in the Navy. I have eight more classes, and my Bachelors degree in Sports and Recreation Management will be done. I have worked with youth groups, Boy Scouts, and Girl Scout groups.



Recently Pastor Dan and I discussed things we would like our youth to be able to do with church. I have volunteered to become our church's youth minister/leader. I look forward to doing this because I feel that having fun, being part of a group, and being active at church is very important for youth to remain with the church as they get older.

#### Current plans that I would like to make happen.

Oct 2, high school students go to Applefest.

Oct 17, it would be great if some or all of the youth could help me do something for the Time and Talent Show. I think this would be a great time for the youth that went on the Hiking trip to share their trip with the congregation.

Nov 12, high school lock-in at church.

Nov 19-21, junior high/ middle school youth gathering 2010 at Anaheim Sheraton Hotel, with Disneyland trip included

#### Here are some of my other ideas and I would love more ideas from the youth and congregation.

Movie nights, lock-ins, doing community service for people within our own congregation, going to sporting events that our youth participates in, bowling night, and if I keep thinking or check into some other resources I can come up with many more. What ideas do you have? Please call or text me at (619)369-5145. I also started a youth group email address, and it is [svlc.youth@gmail.com](mailto:svlc.youth@gmail.com). I look forward to hearing from all the youth and anyone else with ideas.

### MAKE THEIR EVENTS CHURCH EVENTS

Ever have someone from your church show up at one of your extra-curricular events when you were a teenager? It's something we never forget. So if you're able...make plans! Invite a friend! Cheer on the team! Have a blast! And inspire our young people just by taking an interest, sharing Christian neighbor-love, and offering the power of presence.

Emma Granquist – Volleyball Match – 10/13 at Valhalla H.S., 4pm  
Julia Taylor – Cheerleading – most Friday games at Steele Canyon H.S.  
Jake Zeigler – Soccer match – 10/30 – Albert Van Zanten Park  
(El Cajon) 8am

\*might want to check with the families to let them know you're coming...



### MISSION AND VISIONING PART 1

At the meeting on September 19, we were asked the question: **“What has God been doing at SVLC in the last year/five years?”** Here are just a few of the many wonderful responses:



“We have been moving toward a greater social conscience.”

“God has continued to bless the ABC Barn children and staff with guidance and dynamic energy.”

“Brought us new music minister and renewal of music ministry”  
“Blessed us with ability to pay off mortgage and free up funds for Becca in seminary and support TACO”

“Amazing quilters and ministry!”

“Events that focus on giving and sharing – especially at Christmastime and the response it brings.”

“God sent Pastor Dan and family.”

“Through members and friends who volunteer to get things done.”

“More connecting with and activities for youth.”

“New members and inspiration to ramp up involvement in activities in and out of SVLC.”

*See page 6 for Part 2, responses to the second question...*

### FYI: At last month's COUNCIL MEETING...

- We approved bids for
  - 1) ABC Barn re-do of boys restroom
  - 2) installation/stonework for our new sign.



- ABC Barn staff were granted one additional paid Christmas holiday day at end of the year when attendance is low.

- Discussion and planning the budget for 2011 (we have homework!)

The next meeting is scheduled for  
Tuesday, October 11, at 6:30,  
to be held at T.A.C.O. downtown.

## ...Celebrating Our Many Gifts

### DID YOU KNOW???

ABC Barn families are participating with us by donating items for Lutheran World Relief health and layette kits AND bringing contributions to the Communities of Change collection bin. What generous people we have around here!

### YOU MIGHT HAVE NOTICED...

### SUCCESSFUL ORGAN TRANSPLANT!

On Labor Day, four SVLC hulks literally labored and transported this organ from the home of our beloved brother and charter member (1961) Victor Distad. Victor, an enthusiastic musician himself, had wanted to donate this organ to SVLC for many years. But just recently he was moved to a care facility in La Jolla. His house is being sold, and so the offer came to us once again. After inspecting it, our Minister of Music and Pastor accepted the offer, and thankfully nothing was damaged in the "transplant."



Honoring the past, while looking to the future, this addition seeks only to enhance and diversify our worship experience. We give thanks for Victor's generosity and pray that we will play it and sing along to it in the spirit of Christian joy and faithfulness that he so wonderfully exemplified during his many years of worshipping here.

Our Unsung Shepherd for October is... Barbara Norton!

For years Barbara has been dedicated to keeping SVLC involved with the Common Ground school ministry. She serves as the school liaison for Bancroft Elementary, gets our fundraising and gift giving organized and volunteers her time for just about every activity and event that Common Ground has going. Thank you and God Bless you for your faithfulness Barbara!



### COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE AT SVLC

It's not too late to join or link up with someone and share a subscription! Talk to Pastor Dan. Spread the word to community, family and friends, too. All are welcome. It's healthy, fun and it's "connecting us" in wonderful ways. Farmer Phil is making plans to join us for worship!



### THIRD ANNUAL TIME AND TALENT SHOW

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17, 12:30 PM

Bring your sense of humor, an open heart and an empty stomach.



Your chance to promote your favorite ministry at SVLC, using comedy, music or dance!  
Come share what excites you about SVLC in creative ways...  
And learn about our other great in-reach and out-reach ministries where you can get more involved.  
Call the church office to "get on the bill."

*Don't miss this important (and fun) event!*

The **Out to Lunch Bunch** will meet at TGI Fridays in Rancho San Diego, 2991 Jamacha Rd on Thursday, Oct. 21 at 1:00pm. See you there!

All are welcome at the **Read 'em and Eat** group. We meet at noon on the last Wednesday of every month. Join us for tasty food and lively conversation. Call Lois Hellberg for more information.

## Worship in the Center



**MONTHLY LECTIONARY READINGS** – These are the readings we’ll be hearing in church this month. You’re encouraged to read ahead, join the conversation @ [bookoffaith.org](http://bookoffaith.org), and/or come to one of our Bible Studies (see page 6).

<b>NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b> October 3, 2010 Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 Psalm 37:1-9 (5) 2 Timothy 1:1-14 Luke 17:5-10	<b>TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b> October 17, 2010 Genesis 32:22-31 Psalm 121 (2) 2 Timothy 3:14–4:5 Luke 18:1-8
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<b>TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b> October 10, 2010 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c Psalm 111 (1) 2 Timothy 2:8-15 Luke 17:11-19	<b>TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b> October 24, 2010 Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22 Psalm 84:1-7 (5) 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 Luke 18:9-14
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### Announcements for Worship...

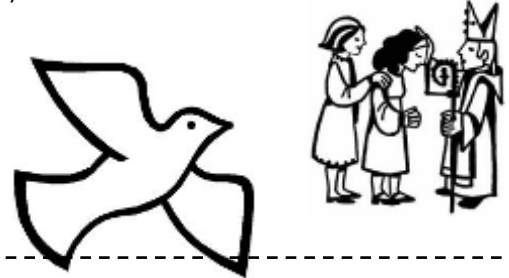
**Holy Communion Class** -- October 10, and October 24. 9:30 to 10:15am (between our two services). First Communion on October 31<sup>st</sup>

**Acolyte training** will be Saturday, October 2, 9-11am.

**Blessing of the Animals on October 3** -- bring your pets, we’ll be worshiping on the new grass, giving thanks for God’s glorious creation and asking a prayer of blessing on “all creatures great and small.”

### Confirmation Schedule

October 16 -- “Sacraments” -- 4:30pm-8:00pm  
We’ll be meeting at church, talking about the Lutheran sacraments, and then visiting Skyline Church for their 6pm evening worship. Discussion (and lock-in) to follow.



...continued from page 1

The money that seems to be “ours” is only with us for a short while, and Jesus longs to free us from what holds us back from discipleship: I’d like to challenge you, therefore, if you’re not doing so already, to tithe. Tithing is the biblical practice of “giving 10% to God,” which traditionally meant offering 10% of one’s total income at her/his regular place of worship. Even while tithing seems ridiculous and impossible to the secular world, many Christians still tithe faithfully, although it is often downplayed and rarely discussed. I don’t like talking about money, especially your money and mine, but we Christians must. With the necessary sacrifices, *everyone* is capable of tithing. (Those with the smallest incomes are often the most faithful tithers.) Take an evening, write down your annual income, say a calm prayer of thanksgiving, and then “simply” move the decimal over one place to the left. The math is easy, the trusting is much harder. (If you’re a member of SVLC, please use the pledge cards and offering envelopes.) If you have children or grandchildren, teach them to do the same with their money. Commit, and encourage others to commit, to releasing 10% of what is already God’s back to God. Don’t do it because your church seems to need it, or because you have some sense of where it will go and believe in the cause; tithing is not fund raising. Tithe your money because it was never yours in the first place. This is a deeply spiritual practice and an integral part of worship. “All that we have and all that we are comes from God and belongs to God.”

Finally, I’d like you to think of this direct and perhaps bold invitation to tithe actually as a *gift*. A gift for you, a gift for me and my family as we prayerfully move our decimal to the left too. Have you ever met a grumpy tither? The gift is real joy – as we release just a fragment of all that God has entrusted to us. The gift is real blessings – as we (all) are ultimately held not in the arms of our dollars, or our things, or our children, or our mortgage-free properties, but in the arms of our Savior. The gift is real trust – that grace won’t just wash over us and dry out later, but that grace will pick us up and carry us forever. The gift is real transformation – that with our open hands and hearts, God will take us and mold us and “create in [us] a clean heart, renewing a right spirit within [us]” (Ps 51:10). Let’s keep talking about biblical stewardship as we keep journeying together with Christ.

For more on tithing, let’s read together *Giving to God: The Bible’s Good News about Living a Generous Life*, by Mark Allen Powell. I’ve ordered a few copies if you’re interested...

Blessings and peace, Pastor Dan

## Serving and Sharing in Response



We've had a terrific response to our Christmas giving campaign for Lutheran World Relief. Please bring items no later than Saturday, Oct. 16 when we'll get them organized and ready to ship. Thanks everyone!



### HEY, WHERE'S OUR NEW PHOTO DIRECTORY?

The new directory is currently in the works with Olan Mills and our very own SVLC graphic designers. It's a bit of a process; we are hoping to have it finished and available to you by the end of November. Thank you all for your participation and patience. If you didn't get your picture taken and are a member of our church, WE NEED A PICTURE OF YOU, and we're waiting for you. Please, please mail, email ([alvinf.svlc@gmail.com](mailto:alvinf.svlc@gmail.com)), or bring a picture to the church office ASAP.

### SVLC YELLOW PAGES

With the release of the pictorial directory, we'd like to put together a categorized resource book listing all the businesses and services of our members. Listing information forms (pink) in the narthex.

### Work Party!



Check out all the fun everyone is having at the SVLC Work Party!

This month's **Work Party** will be on Saturday, October 16th. Hot breakfast is served at 7:15 a.m., and then we get going... There's a project for everyone! No experience necessary...



### SHEPHERDS' VOICES SINGING VISIT



Here are a few photos from the most recent **SVLC Singing Visit in September**. We went to Victoria Special Care in El Cajon. We saw our dear friend Evelyn Wallace too. Stay tuned for the next visit information, and join us for this fun ministry.



## Learning and Growing

### SVLC Bible Studies

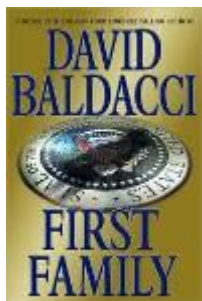


#### Monday Night Bible Study

**Bible Study** is every Monday at 6:30pm in the library at church. We share the highs and lows of our lives, delve into scripture, and close with prayer requests and prayers. As one member wisely put it, "You know, this is the stuff that matters." Consider joining our circle. All are welcome.

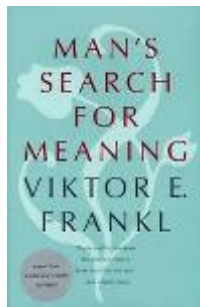
### WHAT'S SVLC READING?

Rich Papike --  
First Family



by  
David Baldacci

Gina Seashore--  
Man's Search for Meaning



by  
Victor E. Frankl

### ABC BARN CHAPEL SCHEDULE & WEEKLY TOPICS

All are welcome to join us at 9:30 am\*

- October 4 – Autumn
- October 12 – Fire Prevention
- October 18 – Community Workers  
& Transportation
- October 26 – Halloween



\*times subject to change; call church office to double-check chapel times

### SHEPHERDING GOD'S PLANET



#### "BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS"



Bring your pets on October 3. We'll be worshipping outside, giving thanks for God's glorious creation and asking a prayer of blessing on "all creatures great and small."

This is a first-time event at SVLC, but "Blessing of the Animals" services have become more common in the last decade, usually occur on or near the commemoration of Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church, 1182-1226 (October 4). Francis cared deeply for all creation, and usually depicted with small creatures on his shoulders or at his feet. He is credited with this famous quote: "Preach the Gospel at all times; when necessary use words."

All are encouraged to bring their pets. Or at least bring a picture of your pet...or your working or favorite animal, to be displayed to enhance informal conversation after the service.

"Holy chaos" is what you may expect. This also has the potential to be a great outreach activity, so invite your friends with pets and children, and together we'll keep "extending God's welcome to all we meet along the way"...human and beyond!

### MISSION AND VISIONING PART 2

At the meeting in September we were also asked the question: **"Where is God calling us as a congregation in the next year? Five years?"** Here are just a few of the many insightful and inspiring responses:

"Connecting to visitors, lapsed attendees, neighborhood and unchurched."

"More ministry to younger, busy, and often struggling families."

"Creative and environmentally conscious use of our resources – more proactive, better stewardship in this area."

"Taking better care of staff at ABC Barn, i.e. health care benefits."

"More commitment to outreach (types and amounts)"

"To create a garden in the empty lot and use it for many types of ministry"

"Greater involvement with: TACO, Common Ground, LRCC, Lutheran Campus Ministry"

"More support and increasing the capacity of ABC Barn in order to have additional resources"

"God is calling us into an increase in giving."

"More opportunities to increase our in-church relationships."

"To be known as a congregation of action in our community and a welcoming church to all who come through our doors."



## Connecting Beyond Ourselves in Mission for Christ

### News from T.A.C.O.

Sunset by the Sea.



Fall Blessings to you!

Sunset by the Sea, TACO's biggest fundraiser, is just weeks away! RSVP's are due by October 2. However, if you are unable to RSVP by October 2, call Rachel Line at 619-235-9445, ext 2 for information. Tickets are \$75.00 each or 6 tickets for \$300.00.

The live and silent auctions are sure to be a hit! You don't want to miss this amazing event on October 23 at 4:30 p.m. at the home of Drs. Rup and Vani Nagala, overlooking the Pacific Ocean, at 6209 Camino de la Costa in La Jolla. Parking is limited, and a shuttle service will be available.

As always, thank you so much for your support of TACO. The service that TACO provides would not happen without the prayers and financial support of congregations in this area. We are blessed by this partnership.

Peace,  
Rachel Line  
Volunteer  
Coordinator



↑ Check out these photos from an SVLC visit to TACO ↑

### Volunteer Coordinator Opportunity

An opening is available for a volunteer to set up and manage the classroom volunteers project at our Common Ground schools. This will include establishing a computerized roster of persons in the program, making periodic contact with them, logging in hours donated, occasionally attending meetings and other tasks as needed. As estimate of time required would be 6 to 8 hours a month, much of which can be done by computer or telephone. There is a member of our congregation who is available to help set up the data base and initiate logs. If you would like to know more about this, please contact Barbara Norton or Jenny Fenner.

### COMMON GROUND: AN INVITATION TO TUTOR

*"Tutoring" sounds stiff and stuffy, maybe suggesting some special training or educational experience. In reality, it's just the opposite! It's simply spending time with a child individually, helping her or him to catch up to the mainstream class group in school.*

*I tutored for several years in a kindergarten room at Bancroft Elementary School, and found it deeply rewarding. I worked only one two-hour period each week, but the amount of time spent is variable, according to classroom and volunteer situations. Usually, the teacher refers the children, providing materials and tasks to be worked on. There is no need for the tutor to do outside preparation — only a willingness to give full attention to that child (or children, at times 2 to 4). The unmet needs are clearly there.*

*I highly recommend the experience of tutoring!*  
-Lois Hellberg

To volunteer or learn more about tutoring, please contact Barbara Norton, Jenny Fenner, or call the Church Office at 670-6756.

### New Class! – "Welcome & Outreach"



"Welcome & Outreach" follows up where our "Evangelism One" class left off by delving into why our relatives and neighbors don't feel the need or desire for God or the church. We will search the Scriptures for our inspiration and direction, share resources and ideas, and gain insights from leaders in the field. The course is offered by PALLMM (Preparing Adult Lay Leaders for Mission and Ministry) and will be on four consecutive Saturdays, 9-12, beginning October 23 at Lutheran Church of the Incarnation in Poway. Please pre-register by contacting Pastor Gene Holtz at [holtzgg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:holtzgg@sbcglobal.net) or 858-613-0041. The usual \$50 PALLMM course fee will apply (checks payable to Pacifica Synod). For information about PALLMM, go to [www.pacificasynod.org](http://www.pacificasynod.org) and click on the palm tree logo.

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 Phone: (619) 670-7656  
 web: www.svlc.org  
 email: svlc.lamesa@gmail.com



Look what our hands are up to lately...



Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

Our vision: *Extending God's welcome to all we meet along the way.*



Rev. Daniel Roschke, Pastor Office 670-7656  
 pastor.dan.svlc@gmail.com  
 Mrs. Judy Ellingson, Parish Administrator Office 670-7656  
 Mr. Ron Blake, ABC Barn Director Office 670-3898



† Sunday Worship Services 8:15 am and 10:30 am †  
 Nursery care provided for young children.  
 Sunday School for preschool through Grade 5 at 10:30

**Don't Forget...the first Sunday food drive on October 3.** Bring non-perishable food to SVLC for the pantry at Crisis House. Your generosity makes a difference for struggling families.

**Stewardship note of the month:**



♪ "All that we have and all that we are comes from God and belongs to God." (PD's September 19<sup>th</sup> sermon)

**Keep in your prayers...**

- Bob Koskinen, as he struggles with continued pain in his leg and his back.
- All of those affected by natural disasters such as floods in Pakistan.

facebook

Catch us on Facebook and Twitter under the name *SVLC La Mesa.*

twitter

Please send corrections/additions to Vistas to the Vistas Editor, Alvin Fenner: [alvinf.svlc@gmail.com](mailto:alvinf.svlc@gmail.com)