

# ECHOES

August 2010

## Mission Statement

As brothers and sisters in Christ, we are called to *invite* people to know Christ, to *build* a community of faith, and to *serve* all in love to the glory of God!  
*Adopted Easter, 1995*



## Notes From Pastor Dave

Dear Friends,

Beginning September 12<sup>th</sup> and ending October 24<sup>th</sup>, our church will be participating in a 40 Days of Purpose campaign. This spiritual growth campaign is designed to answer life's most important question: "What on earth am I here for?" While many congregations of various denominations have used a version of this campaign, I have worked with other pastors at Luther Seminary to learn how this can be best implemented for a Lutheran congregation.

The events of the campaign will give us opportunities to commit to habits of spiritual growth, memorize scripture, participate in a small group, serve in a ministry in our church, share our faith, and learn to live a lifestyle of worship to the glory of God. We are excited as we envision all of us at Palm Valley living in alignment with God's purposes for our lives, and the impact this could have on our church and our community!

We are assembling a Campaign Team which will be responsible for:

- creating a prayer strategy for the Campaign
- coordinating the seven weekend services during the Campaign
- overseeing the weekly Bible studies that focus on the themes of the Campaign
- coordinating the major events that take place during the Campaign:

**KICK-OFF:** The Campaign will kick-off on Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup> as we together learn about *The Purpose-Driven Life*, the book that forms the basis for the Campaign. Pastor Koppel will provide a commentary that will give us a more Lutheran perspective on some parts of the book. The book is divided into 40 daily readings for the Campaign, and everyone in our

## Palm Valley Lutheran Church A Stephen Ministry Church

2500 East Palm Valley Boulevard  
Round Rock, Texas 78665  
Phone: 512-255-3322 Fax: 512-388-2389  
[www.palmvalleylutheranchurch.org](http://www.palmvalleylutheranchurch.org)

Rev. Dr. David P. Koppel, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Joaquin Figueroa, Hispanic Ministry  
Rev. David Tietz, Visitation Minister  
Mollie DeVries, Executive Administrator  
Teri Hunt, Interim Director of Youth

congregation will have the opportunity to purchase a book at a reduced cost.

**JOIN A GROUP:** At the beginning of the Campaign there will be an opportunity to join a small group which will be studying the Purpose-Driven Life curriculum. This interactive study allows for a deeper understanding of God's purposes and allows us to build friendships with others in our church.

**MINISTRY FAIR/MISSIONS FAIR:** These events are designed to give people an opportunity to get involved in a church ministry or outreach by showcasing all our ministries, outreaches and missions, and welcoming new volunteers to serve.

**CELEBRATION SUNDAY:** The Campaign culminates with a church-wide party where we will rejoice together in all God has done in our midst during the Campaign.

If you would like to join one of the teams that are coordinating the various parts of the Campaign, or host one of the small groups, we would love to talk to you! Please contact our Campaign Directors, Susan Thompson or Lisa Napolitano.

We encourage you to join with us now, at this early stage, to pray for this Campaign. The potential impact this could have on our lives will be increased if the soil of our hearts is prepared through prayer. We are excited to embark on this spiritual journey together this Fall and we appreciate your prayers for the Campaign Team, for our church leaders, and for the impact of the Campaign in the lives of our people and the effectiveness of our church. So begin now to pray and prepare your own heart for the life-changing adventure of the *40 Days of Purpose*.

*In His Grip,*

Pastor

## Financial Notes August 2010



### Church Operating Budget:

January - June 2010 Income	\$ 388,104 (96.31% Projected Income)
January - June 2010 Expense	\$ 376,018 (93.54% Projected Expense)
Net	\$ 12,086

*It is quiet here in the office this Saturday morning, no one around, no phones and a good time to think. As I began to think of things that must get accomplished before I leave Monday morning for a conference, my list kept getting longer and longer.*

*The unexpected resignation of a maintenance staff person early Friday morning, certainly only added more fuel to the fire. Suddenly on top of all my other items on my list, there were additional concerns. How would I make sure that thermostats were set for the week's event, or whether the watering system was on or off? I had to kick contingency plans into gear.*

*One of the things on the list was to write my article for the Echoes. "Lord" I cried out in the night "How would I get this all done?" This "stress test" I was experiencing, really made me focus on the word "TIME".*

*How long is a minute? How do we use it? The answer to the first question is obvious to the smallest child who has just learned to tell time. A minute is sixty seconds! And this is universal. No exceptions for male or female, young or old. (Although when I was sixteen my mom told me that the older you get the faster time flies. Of course at sixteen I did not believe her, but today I do.)*

*Think of this. A minute may be forever. It could be my last minute, or yours. For what you do with a single minutes of time may drastically affect your fortune, your health, your influence, your eternal destiny and it may also have much to do with the happiness (or the misery) of those you love and all of those about you.*

*Does not this then speak descriptively and urgently of the necessity of a wise and careful and in fact a deliberate use of our hours and days?*

*It certainly points us to a basic fact of our very existence – we have a GIFT of time! Furthermore, we not only have the freedom but also the obligation of determining how it is to be "invested".*

*We can waste it, use it only for ourselves, use it for others, neglect it, employ it wisely – but we can **never, never** hoard it. Time is so ruthless by its very nature – it heartlessly "ticks" away and is gone! Gone forever! Never to be relived.*

*Consequently, as Christians, we must confront the stewardship of our time by the ways we use the minute, the hour, the day, the month, the year. Since we do not have forever on this earth, it seems imperative that we should "take our moments and our days" and "let them be lived in ceaseless praise".*

*The minutes you use to serve the Lord, here at Palm Valley are certainly appreciated. We have so many volunteers who do so many wonderful deeds, whether Sunday School teachers, council member, committees, meals for families, your minutes used for the Lords work, do not go unnoticed by your church nor by our God.*

*The Volunteer Appreciation picnic this weekend was meant to say "thank you" in a small but tangible way of expressing gratitude for your many "minutes" or hours of effort. I add my appreciation also to you for all of the "minutes" you contribute to God's work at his house here at PVLC.*

*God's blessings to you all as you go and serve the Lord.*

*En agape,*

*Mollie*

Mollie DeVries, F.C.B.A.  
Executive Administrator

Church Council Report

Summary of action taken at the called meeting of the Palm Valley Lutheran Church Council on Sunday, June 27, 2010.

- Approved the award of endowment funds as requested by the Endowment Committee.
- Meetings were moved to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month.

**Radio Broadcasts**

Sundays at 8:00 am  
AM Radio 1530 or 1260

Sponsors are needed (\$70) for August 29th, October 31st and November 14th. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex.

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**Palm Valley Lutheran Cooperative Preschool**

There is just one month of summer left and then it will be time for another school year to begin! We are looking forward to seeing all of our preschool families again. The first day of preschool is September 7<sup>th</sup>. We still have a few openings left for this school year. If you or someone you know is interested in enrolling in our preschool please contact the preschool office at **512-388-5054** or **abc123@palmvalleypreschool.org**. We are in the office on Tuesday through the summer and will resume our Tuesday / Thursday schedule the last week of August. Visit our website **www.palmvalleypreschool.org** for more information about the preschool.

Director: Cathy Cummings  
Asst. Director: Natalie Cearley

**Women's News  
August Calendar**

Tuesday, weekly, 1:00 p.m. Afternoon Quilters

- |                 |            |                             |
|-----------------|------------|-----------------------------|
| Wed., Aug. 11   | 12:00 p.m. | Prayer Group                |
| Friday, Aug. 20 | 6:30 p.m.  | Adults' Night Out           |
| Sat., Aug. 21   | 4:00 p.m.  | Circulo de Mujeres<br>Marta |
| Mon., Aug. 16   | 6:15 p.m.  | Sing-Along @ TCC            |
| Mon., Aug. 23   | 6:30 p.m.  | Sassy Seniors               |
| Thurs., Aug. 26 | 3:00 p.m.  | Cluster                     |

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**Sassy Seniors**

Sassy Seniors has the following schedule for the 4th Monday of the following months subject to changes as needed:

- August 23rd - Springhill in Pflugerville
- September - Mimi's
- October - Saltgrass
- November - Olive Garden
- No Meeting in December
- January—Hunan Lion

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We are looking for people who love to cook and serve! The more people who are interested, the more we can do. Please contact Peggy Felfe for more information.

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**FALL WOMEN'S RETREAT**

Mark your calendar for tentative dates of October 15-17, 2010 for the Fall Women's Retreat at the Wallin Ranch located west of Burnet, Texas. We have small group discussions, whole group worship time, game time, mealtime and even a little alone time You can come for the whole weekend, one night or just for the day on Saturday which ever works in your schedule.

If you have any questions ask any of the ladies who have attended one of our Women's Retreats in the past.



**Christian Education News**

**VBS** is here! We have been planning this week for months and are so excited to share the love of God with the kids in our church and our community. Egypt: Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace will be held August 2-6th from 9am to 11:30am. Our registration is completely full at 150 kids. Our prayer is that this will be a moving experience for all those involved. We'll see you in Egypt!

**W**e are still in need of volunteers for VBS. Please prayerfully consider joining us. You can see a complete list of volunteer opportunities and register as a volunteer at [www.palmvalleylutheranchurch.org](http://www.palmvalleylutheranchurch.org). Or contact Cheree Peterson for more information.

**C**ook and Serve: Are you wanting to help with VBS but haven't found a place? We are asking congregation members to help provide breakfast for volunteers, dessert for the Thursday evening Celebration and salads for the Friday Volunteer Lunch. If you can provide any of these food donations or help serve at one of the meals, please see the sign-up sheets at the Welcome Center Table outside the Palm Room or contact Denise Blomquist for more details.

**VBS** Thursday Evening Celebration—Children are invited to bring their family and friends to this meal and celebration to take a tour of Egypt at 5:30pm in the CLC on Thursday, August 5th.

**VBS** Sunday Celebration—The Children will be singing and sharing some of what we learned in Egypt the previous week with the congregation at the 9am and the 11:15am services on Sunday, August 8th. We invite all children who would like to come share VBS songs to attend one or both of these two services.

**Important Dates:**

**D**edication: Sunday, August 1st at 9am service—we invite all VBS volunteers for a special Staff Dedication during the service.

**D**ecorate: Sunday, August 1st—we need all hands on deck to help decorate for VBS, immediately following the 9am service and into the afternoon.

**S**unday School Social—Sunday, August 15th—join us in the CLC for a BYOL (Bring your own lunch) luncheon for food and fellowship right after Sunday School. Bring your lunch, pick up some lunch, come visit and let the kids play. A great time for fellowship. We will have a monthly social on the 2nd Sunday of each month, so mark your calendar. Everyone is invited!

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**T**he Circus is coming to town! The Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus is coming to Austin. Buy your family tickets for Saturday, August 21 at 11:30am and meet your PVLC friends for some fellowship. We will gather before and then all go see the event. It will be fun for all ages! [www.ringling.com](http://www.ringling.com). Contact Pam Dieterich for more information.

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**R**ally Day—A special day of celebration is planned to kick off the Fall Sunday School year on Sunday, August 29th. Please join us for installation of teachers, distribution of Bibles to the 4th graders, a special opening in the CLC, games in the grove and a potluck lunch.

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**T**he Christian Education monthly meeting for August has been moved to Monday, August 9th to avoid VBS week. We have lots of exciting things planned for the upcoming Sunday School year and invite anyone interested in finding out more about our committee to attend our next meeting. We normally meet the first Monday of every month from 7-9 pm.

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**T**he Christian Education committee is planning a Wednesday Evening Faith Night for the whole church starting this fall on each Wednesday night. We are looking for people interested in helping make this a reality by attending or volunteering. We will have fellowship, an education hour and possibly have a meal. In addition to JAM (K-5th grade) and Youth Group (6th-12th grades), we are looking to expand our programs to provide something for all ages. If you are interested in volunteering to help with a certain age group, help with meals, lead a small group Bible Study or you or your family are interested in attending, please contact Cheree Peterson.



**HISPANIC**  
Ministry

At the time this newsletter went to print, Pastor Figueroa was still in El Salvador. Therefore, we do not have an article from him this month. We look forward to hearing what he has to teach us next month.



## FREQUENTLY-ASKED QUESTIONS

**I hear the word “campaign” and think fundraising. Will I be asked to contribute extra money to a cause?**

The *40 Days of Purpose Campaign* is a spiritual growth campaign which is designed to focus us aligning ourselves with God’s purposes. We will not be asking for extra donations for the Campaign.

**Is this Campaign something I can bring my friends who aren’t Christians to, or is it strictly targeted at people who already have a relationship with Jesus?**

This Campaign will have a powerful impact on both groups. The basic question of the Campaign, “What on earth am I here for?” is an ideal starting place for our friends who don’t have a relationship with Jesus yet. Everyone wants to know what their purpose in life is! Lutherans who go through this Campaign will discover clarity of purpose in their personal walk with God. They will be compelled to go the next level in each of the five purposes on their spiritual journey with Jesus. Please be a part of it, and invite a friend as well!

**What happens during the Campaign that will compel me to go to the next level in each of the five purposes?**

**1. Worship (Awesome Worship):** If you think worship is just about singing, liturgies, or listening to sermons, think again! Discover the full idea

behind worship, and begin to practice real worship during the Campaign.

**2. Fellowship: (Connecting in Small Groups)** If you haven’t joined a small group yet, you will have a chance to connect with one for six weeks to study the five purposes in community with others.

**3. Discipleship (Grow in Faith):** If you need encouragement to grow by developing the personal disciplines of daily Bible reading and scripture memory, you will find inspiration during the Campaign as you read along in the *Purpose Driven Life* book, and memorize a weekly scripture verse about each purpose.

**4. Ministry: (Exceptional Serving)** If you haven’t discovered where you can use your gifts and skills to serve others, you’ll have a chance to explore opportunities and get plugged in to serve with a ministry that needs you. You will also be challenged to think beyond where you may be comfortable, and to have a servant’s heart.

**5. Evangelism: (Reach the community)** If you feel fearful or ill-equipped to communicate your faith to others, you will learn how to share your own story, and develop an effective life mission statement. You’ll have a chance to investigate the various missions and outreaches our church is involved in, and see where you might like to serve.

**Do you still need help on the Campaign Team?**

Of course! The most important area we need help with is prayer! Without the prayer of our people, the Campaign will be just a set of activities. Pray together with us for the impact of the Campaign on the lives of our people and our church. Just give Susan Thompson or Lisa Napolitano a call. Thanks!



## **Social Ministry**

### **LEND A HAND AT THE SERVING CENTER**

**T**here are many ways you can help out or volunteer at the Round Rock Area Serving Center. One of the easiest ways is to help stock the food pantry by bringing items to church and putting them into the shopping cart in the narthex. There is a need for more food in the summer as children do not get meals at school.

**T**o help support the food pantry and other social service programs, the Serving Center provides “Treasures”, a clothing and furniture thrift store open to the public. Donations of clothing, books, furniture, and appliances are always needed! The Serving Center offers other services including financial assistance for utilities, rent, prescriptions, and other needs, clothing and furniture vouchers, and community gardens. Other programs at the center are the Round Rock Community Clinic, the Volunteer Center, and Computers for Kids.

**O**ver 200 volunteers help out in the Center’s programs. Opportunities include picking up food at local grocery stores, unloading, sorting and stocking food, serving as cashiers or pricers, doing interviews or serving as a receptionist, delivering or collecting furniture, unloading trucks, helping in the Treasures store, and doing data entry. As a volunteer, you may choose your area and the days and times you can help out.

**T**he Center, located at 1099 E. Main Street, Round Rock, is a non profit organization and it carries out a community wide mission of churches, other organizations, and individuals serving human needs in Round Rock and surrounding areas. It has a membership of 27 churches, including Palm Valley, and 7 businesses. Contact the Serving Center at 512-244-2431.

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### **Lutheran World Relief**

**C**an you believe it's almost back to school time? By now all the school supplies are on sale. Would you consider buying a few extra items when shopping for your children to donate to Lutheran World Relief School Kits? We need rulers with both inches and centimeters on them, blunt tipped scissors with metal blades, 16- or 24-count crayons, and spiral notebooks. And if any of you have some time, we can always use volunteers to sew simple bags to hold the school supplies. If you have any questions, contact Becky Reichardt.

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### **Free Community Health Fair**

**A**ugust 15th, 1-4pm at St. William Catholic Church, Parish Hall, 620 Round Rock West Drive, Round Rock. Come join us for an afternoon focused on healthy living. Learn more about the Sacred Heart Community Clinic. Blood pressure checks, Diabetic and Vision Screenings, BMI (body mass index), Back Health, Women’s Health Information, Oral Screenings and Consultations, Community Agency Resources, and more.

“Brown Bag Medicine Check Up” - Bring all your medicines (RX and over the counter), vitamins, supplements, and get a FREE consultation with a pharmacist

Blood Drive Van—walk-ins welcome or sign-up online at [www.inyourhands.org](http://www.inyourhands.org), sponsor code: saintwilliams

SHCC is a non-profit, FREE Community Clinic opening this fall for patients in Round Rock with no health insurance. Come by and find out if you are eligible to use this free facility. Bring a photo ID, paystub/unemployment info/proof of residence in Round Rock.

Sacred Heart Community Clinic, P.O. Box 5845, Round Rock, Texas 78683-5845

# Thank You

Palm Valley,  
Thank you so much for your financial and spiritual help in college. The support I have reached in Palm Valley will last a lifetime and I am truly grateful.

God Bless,  
Kirsten Warner

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Kitt and Greg Scharf, had a baby girl! On May 27, 2010, we welcomed Abigail Lea into our family. She was 7 pounds, 13 ounces, 21 inches. We hope to return to church soon.

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Many thanks to everyone who prayed for me and sent cards during my recent hospital stay. A very special thanks to Pastor Koppel and Pastor Tietz for their visits.

Betty Jo Peterson

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Your prayers and the telephone calls and cards I received from my many friends at Palm Valley during my recovery from a recent accident were greatly appreciated.

JoAnn DeLisle

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Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

I'd like to again thank every member of our congregation for your prayers, financial support and encouragement that made our trip to El Salvador possible. Each year, I ask the students to write down their impressions of the trip while we are flying back home. I love to read their thoughts, reflect on their insights and just enjoy their youthful enthusiasm. Let me share a few of them with you:

A high school junior on her first mission trip wrote: "I thought going to El Salvador was to benefit the Salvadoran children. I never expected it to benefit me as well."

Another junior, also on her first trip, wrote: "I feel so much closer to God. I learned a lot about myself and about love. This trip made me realize that I want to do mission work for the rest of my life."

One of our graduating seniors who has been on several mission trips wrote: "The trip meant so much to me as I connected with God...The thing I'm looking forward to most is carrying out this servant way to everyday life here at home."

Another graduating senior who has been on multiple mission trips with me and Carlin related that he

had a conversation in Spanish with one of the Salvadoran kids who he had become good friends with. Our student took a cross necklace, held it to the boy's heart and told him, "I love you, Christ loves you, we love you." The boy looked up at him and said simply, "I know."

Heaven will be a time of eternal joy as we are together with our Creator and Savior. Until we get to heaven, reading those four quotes will give us an idea of the joy that's ahead.

Ken Anderson

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## Adult Choir News

Our choir is currently out for the summer. I'm sure they are all in Hawaii, Las Vegas, the French Riviera or other warm spots. Or maybe, just maybe, they are warming up their voices for our first rehearsal back on Wednesday, August 18th at 7:30pm. You really should get to know these folks. They are fun-loving, welcoming people who enjoy music and sharing their faith in Jesus Christ through music. Are you like that? We are looking for "new recruits" and welcome new members. Some of our members read music and some do not. Others have learned to read over the years in our rehearsals. We sing at 8:00 and 11:15am services (rarely both) and rehearse on Wednesdays. Childcare is available as long as we know it is needed ahead of time. Singing is truly an extension of the soul. Contact Marvin Goad for more information or simply show up at our first rehearsal on Wednesday, August 18th. See you there!

*What choir means to me:*  
I've sung in a church choir since I was 14 years old and it comes as second nature to me. I can't imagine not singing in a choir & don't believe I could be a member of a congregation that did not have a choir. The smallest church we ever attended (less than 100 people) had a choir of 6-7 voices. When I directed a choir, my only requirement was that you enjoyed singing and could show your love for Jesus just by the expression on your face. You sure didn't have to read music and even if you sang off-key, if you could show your love and joy in worshipping the Lord, that was all you needed to do to be in choir. We have a great choir director and accompanist and we would sure encourage you to come sing with us. We meet on Wednesday nights for an hour and a half and will start up again August 18th. Come join us.  
-Dwight Lamb

## **August Youth Calendar**

Every Sunday: Adult/Sr.High Volleyball 4-6pm  
Every Wed.: Youth Group/Bible Study 6-8pm

Aug.2-6 - Vacation Bible School  
Aug. 29 - Rally Day for Sunday School

### **Upcoming Events**

Oct. 7 - Make a Difference Tour



A quick recap of July:

Youth went on the El Salvador Mission Trip. Yay!  
Youth went to Camp. Yay!  
Youth trained for VBS and helped make signs for VBS. Yay!  
Youth held a service at the Trinity Care Center. Yay!  
Youth had a paintball outing. Yay!

Jonathan Brunssen, Vicki Rowald and Delaney Rowald gave messages at our Wednesday night Youth Group. They were awesome! Thank you all!

For August:

The Youth will be volunteering at VBS in various capacities. It should be a great time!

For our weekly meetings, we plan to have a pool party, more messages from our youth and sponsors, a party to welcome our new sixth graders and seeing some of our graduates go off to their first year of college. We will miss them!

If you have any questions about Youth Group, please call me at 255-3322. I'll be more than happy to talk to you about the amazing young people we have at Palm Valley! Or about what we have in the works for this fall! More fun is on the way!

Teri Hunt

## **140 Years and Growing**

*B*e watching for more information on the 140th Anniversary Celebration of Palm Valley Lutheran Church—coming soon!

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### **Greeters Needed**

*W*e are looking for a few more people to volunteer to be greeters on Sunday mornings, especially at the 11:15 service. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex.

### ***Special Thanks to these Helpers with the July Echoes:***

*Johnnie Pecht                      Ann Grimes  
Marion Fowler                  Pat and Herb Wolf*

***Next Echoes Deadline:  
Thursday, August 19, 2010***