

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Volume I, Issue I

Shepherd's Office Hours:

Mon-Thurs

Pastor

Dan Heath

Mon - Tues

10:00 - 1:00 pm

And by appt.

Office phone;

503.645.4994

Sovlutheran.com

Worship Services

8:30 a & 11:00 a

Adult Bible Study

9:45 a

Children's Sunday School

11:00 a ages 1-7

Jr High SS

10:00 a

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"A caring community
touched by Christ,
touching others for Christ"

Parish Education News

Little Lambs Sunday School: In January we studied the story of Creation. We learned about the six days of God's amazing work and his one day of rest.... And it was good! In February, we will learn about Jesus and his love. The Bible stories include Zacchaeus, the Good Samaritan and Feeding the 5000 which help show us what our love for others should look like. We have been singing "The B-I-B-L-E" and "Jesus Loves Me" songs---the children are really rocking it!!



Sunday Adult Education: Practicing Prayer Class will be held between services on February 10 and 17th. Prayer is both a blessing and a challenge for people of faith. The Creator invites us to share in conversation and experience with God; Jesus' discipline of regular prayer is obvious in the Gospels; and the apostle Paul reminds us that "the Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words." Prayer is an intentional part of the journey of faith and yet difficult to imagine, practice and to develop the "listening" part of prayer. Pastor Dan will be presenting on the "Practice of Prayer", including forms of prayer, prayerful devotion time, and prayer in movement between services on February 10. Follow up discussion will be held on February 17.



Middle School Class: Meet each Sunday at 10. Let us know if you want more information to join this group.

Confirmation: This group meets with Pastor Dan once a month. He is enjoying this group and their liveliness and learning about their faith.



Pastor Dan's Message

Greetings, Saints of the Valley!

Only a few short weeks now until we move from the church season of Epiphany into Lent, the season of reflection in preparation for the great celebration of the death and resurrection of Christ we know as Easter. In February we will complete the lectionary readings on the revelation and realization of who Jesus is as the Messiah, finishing on the mountain with Peter, James and John standing awestruck as they watch Jesus visit with Moses and Elijah on "Transfiguration Sunday."

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, on March 6 this year, where we start the 40-day journey (not counting Sundays which are always Easter celebrations) to the Resurrection and the discovery of the empty tomb. The journey is a thoughtful and intentional process of remembering who we are in creation, as the people of God in Christ, and as the church led by the Spirit into the world.

Our midweek Lenten worships begin March 13 with Soup Supper at 5:30 and worship at 6:30. Using the "Holden Evening Prayer" service to shape our time together, our focus will be on our identity as a people "Led By the Spirit", exploring Luther's explanation of the 3rd Article of the Apostles' Creed in the Small Catechism.

Each Sunday we use the Creed we say these words:

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Luther's explanation for teaching and reflection is this, as you might have had to memorize in a Confirmation or Sunday School class along the way:

Pastor Dan's Message Contd.

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own understanding or effort believe in Jesus Christ my Lord, or come to him. But the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, and sanctified and kept me in true faith. In the same way he calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it united with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church day after day he fully forgives my sins and the sins of all believers. On the last day he will raise me and all the dead and give me and all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true.

In preparation for Lent I invite you to reflect on the words "Called", "Gathered", "Enlightened", "Sanctified" in the "Church"—and who we claim to be in and by the work of God in the Holy Spirit. I hope our season of Lent deepens and expands our understanding and passion for being "Led by the Spirit" . . .

* . . along the way.

Pastor Dan

Recycling Program:

We are continuing our recycling program of returnable items with deposits at SOV. Over the past year, we received on average \$50 a month. In January, \$75 was earned. A big thank you to all who bring in their cans and bottles. I so appreciate that they are clean, lids off and that they are not smashed (machines will not take smashed items).



Council President

Thank you to all who attended our congregational meeting on January 27 and voted to approve the 2019 spending plan. Thank you, again, to Dave Rasmussen, as Treasurer, and Jacob Tabor, as Financial Secretary, who worked hard to pull all of the information together for your review. I think we have a good plan and look forward to the coming year.

The coming year also brings elections in May or June – to be decided and announced at a later date. This year the two positions open on the Executive Committee are President and Treasurer. (I have heard, however, that we have a fine candidate who will probably throw his hat in the ring as Treasurer again!)

In addition to these two positions, we will also have positions open on the Memorial and Endowment Committee and, as always, on the Council Committees. If you are interested in either working on the Nominating Committee or serving in one of these open positions, please let a Council member know. We would like to have a working Nominating Committee by our next Council meeting which is February 21.

Finally, I want to congratulate our congregation for taking the important step of paying down our mortgage! This is huge and incredibly exciting. Our mortgage payment went from over \$1200 per month to under \$130 per month. This is tremendous! In addition, there is the opportunity to pay down even more through special gifts. Please see the Stewardship Committee article in this newsletter for more information and check out the “Sheep Pen” on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

I’m excited about where we are at SOV. There are so many new and exciting events going on and opportunities available. Have you attended the Prayer Club first Sunday of the month between services? What about Movie Night? Or Walk in the Park? Or any of a number of other events and activities? There is so much going on at SOV. Please check them out and invite your friends and family to join you.

Yours in Christ,

Linnea

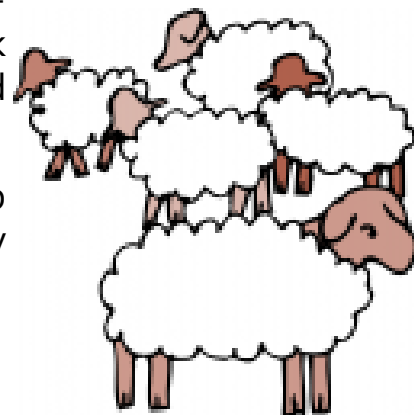
MARCH NEWSLETTER ARTICLES ARE DUE FEBRUARY 22ND

Stewardship – “Free the Sheep!” Campaign

Our SOV congregation recently voted to utilize some of the Building Committee funds to pay down the mortgage. This left about \$14,800 of the mortgage balance outstanding. Some SOV members expressed an interest in paying off the entire mortgage, including the last \$14,800. SOV Council approved the establishment of a restricted fund to receive these donations. Stewardship has designed the “Free the Sheep!” campaign to inspire and track the congregation’s progress against this goal.

As you may have noticed, Stewardship is maintaining a bulletin board measuring our progress in gradients of \$1,000 by marking a shepherd’s hook like a thermometer and moving a paper sheep out of the pen and into the meadow. There was a strong start with just over \$5,000 donated and most recently an additional \$1,000. Each \$1,000 is releasing an individual sheep from the fenced pen and setting the sheep free. To-date we have freed six sheep! Look for this fun graphic in the entry way of the church – and remember, “Free the Sheep!”

To donate to the campaign, just mark your check or envelop as “mortgage payoff” or “Free the Sheep”. If you have any questions you can direct them to Reynold or Linnea.



All Church Luncheon

Thursday, February 7th

12:00 pm

Elmer's Restaurant

All are welcome!



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

03 Shayne J

23 Marion L

20 Divine H

12 Dave R

05 Nathan J

29 Skylar J

23 Jim A

17 Mitch R

08 Verna W

18 Bruce G

23 Gary G

10 Kathy T



God's Blessing
 For a
 Joyful New Year
 In
 Life!

Looking Ahead

*Ash Wednesday**March 6th**Midweek Lenten Soup & Service**March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10**5:30 soup, 6:30 Holden Evening Prayer Service**Palm Sunday**April 14th, services at 8:30 & 11:00 am**Maundy Thursday**April 18th**Good Friday**April 19th**Easter Sunday**April 21st, services at 8:30 & 11:00 am*

The
Season
of
Lent



Updates From the SOV Property Committee

The SOV Property Committee has been working on maintaining and improving the building and related grounds. Over the summer and early fall, working with the Kids of the Kingdom Preschool and a large group of volunteers, we were able to demolish the old playground and fencing and build a new fenced playground. The new playground includes two design elements to solve a drainage problem we had in the past. The group was able to install a French drain and a five- inch drain rock pad elevating the playground. So far, it looks like the drainage issue has been resolved. The preschool kids are enjoying the new play structure and now completely usable area.

Also in the late summer and fall period, a group worked on various landscaping projects. These included building a small retaining wall up near the east end of the newly paved portion of the parking lot, removing and replacing some of the old vegetation adjacent to Cornell Road, and lots of general pruning and weeding. Some irrigation was also installed.

More recently, the Property Committee undertook an effort to remove some of the displaced concrete around the building. You may have noticed some of the areas where the concrete was ground down. We expect to pressure wash these areas in the near future so that the newly ground areas won't be so noticeable.

Indoors, the Committee expects to make some plumbing improvements in the main floor restrooms and is exploring the removal of the sliding wall partitions.

Looking forward, we have tentatively scheduled the spring clean-up work party for April 6, 2019. This is a time where we spruce up the landscaping and do a deep cleaning of the interior of the building in anticipation of Easter. Volunteers are welcome!

The Committee is constantly identifying maintenance issues and exploring upgrades to our existing building and grounds. If you have any suggestions or concerns, please feel free to communicate them to any of the Committee members.

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Scrip Order Sunday February 3rd

See's Valentine Candy Sale starting now!

\$6 for 4oz Box, \$5 for 3oz Butter Heart and \$14 for Heart Box.

Only one order this month.



Join us for a Fellowship Outing

Join us for February's monthly fellowship on Thursday, Feb 7 for Portland's Festival of Lights. It is an outdoor event which involves walking. We will meet at the 185th MAX station at 5:30 and travel together to the beautiful works of art using light. For more info and meets up at a later time, contact Kristi Ray (503)758-0732.



SOV Movie Night

February Movie nights;

Tuesday, February 5th and 13th 7:00 pm

Saturday, February 24th 6:00 pm

For more information or questions

sovmovienight@gmail.com



FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 9:00 - 12:00 p KOK open house 	2 
3 8:30 & 11:00 a Worship 9:45 a prayer club 10:00 a Jr high 11:00 a Little Lambs Scrip 1:30 p OEC	4	5 5:30 - 7:30 p KOK open house Movie Night 7:00 p Bruce Almighty 	6	7 12:00 p All Church Luncheon at Elmer's Restaurant 5:30 p Festival of the Lights	8	9
10 8:30 & 11:00 a Worship 9:45 a Adult Ed 10:00 a Jr high 11:00 a Little Lambs 1:30 p OEC	11	12 Movie Night 7:00 p Chocolat 	13	14 Valentine's Day 	15	16 
17 8:30 & 11:00 a Worship 9:45 a Adult Ed 10:00 a Jr high 11:00 a Little Lambs 1:30 p OEC	18 Presidents' Day 	19	20	21	22	23 Jim Allgaier Memorial Service Movie Night 6:00 pm Dead Poets Society
24 8:30 & 11:00 a Worship 10:00 a Jr high 11:00 a Little Lambs 1:30 p OEC	25	26 	27	28 <div> <div>Christ</div> <div>is the center</div> <div>of our Home</div> <div>a guest at every Meal</div> <div>a silent Listener</div> <div>to every conversation</div> </div> 		