

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: February brought us the stories of Jesus teachings. Zacchaeus was a favorite story and song. We also played "musical hearts" and when the music stopped, we picked up a felt heart and shouted "Jesus loves ME!" March brings us Noah and his trust in God. Boats, rain, rainbows and animals will help us learn the Noah story and how to obey God.



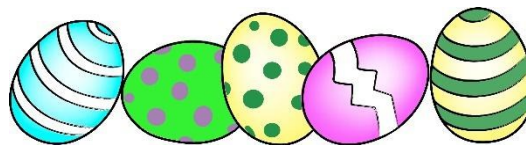
(Class will not be held on March 31.)

Sunday Adult Education: Pastor Dan will lead Adult Education Discussion between services in March (10th, 17th and 24th) on the Sacraments of the Lutheran tradition.

Sacraments, sometimes called "the Word made visible", are central to our faith, identity and worship as Lutherans. Each Sunday we gather around the Baptismal Font and the Communion Table to proclaim faith and hear God's grace proclaimed for us. When we receive members, as we did this past Sunday, we use our language of Baptism. When a pastor visits shut-ins or those facing hard life paths, she or he often celebrates the Meal of the community by extending the table from Sunday morning in one way or another.

Sacraments, the "ordinary" made "holy" by God's Word, are both windows into and participation in God's unfolding realm in our midst. Join us on 3 Sunday's in March for a conversation about the history and practice of Sacraments in our life together.

Community Easter Egg Hunt at Shepherd!



Shepherd of the Valley and Kids of the Kingdom Christian Preschool are teaming with Thrivent Action Teams to host an Easter Egg Hunt for the community on April 13.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! If you would like to volunteer to help with this EGG-citing event, please contact John P or Wendy R.

Pastor Dan's Message

The seasons come and the seasons go.

This is the time of year which keeps me on edge. No matter where I've lived I always have a sense of impatience in the last days of the winter rains or snows; I'm ready for spring. I'm ready for sunshine and warmth. It's time to get on with it.

In worship the season of Epiphany is framed by the stories of recognition that the Jesus of the manger is the God of all creation; that this God is walking on earth! This coming Sunday is "Transfiguration Sunday", the culmination of the season of Epiphany. The church will be dressed in holiday white; we will read, as we do each year, the tale of Jesus, Peter, James, John, Moses and Elijah all gathered on the mountaintop; and we are amazed by the glory! Then we come back down to earth. It's time to get on with it.

Epiphany is also, for me as a preacher, the season of getting ready for Lent and Easter. With Wednesday night services on the horizon and with Sunday Lenten Worship needing its particular focus and direction; with the great church observances of Passion Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday coming; with the celebration of the primary Christian holiday of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday, there is much to prepare for; I learned early on not to enter Lent unprepared: I will never be close to catching up!

All of this preparation starts to make me impatient and ready to be getting on with things by Transfiguration!

Perhaps this is a good image of our lives of faith as followers of Christ. Our discipleship is always preparing for seeing God's Reign; always dimly, always in the "yet to come" even while we name it now. We are the people of Christ's community; we are waiting for its full presence. We ought be a little impatient as we journey, always ready to be getting on with it, always ready for the coming of Christ into the world.

Along the way,

Council Presidents Report

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 March 20.

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 still an opportunity to pay down even more through special gifts. Please check out the “Sheep Pen” on the bulletin board in the Narthex for more information.

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? Watch for 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 Harmon
Council President

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).



Evangelism Committee

On the last Saturday of the month beginning on March 30th and continuing through the summer, the SOV Evangelism Committee will host a “walk in the park” activity, noon to 1:30 pm. The goal is to provide time to get together and safely enjoy the nature park that adjoins SOV. We are reaching in to our community including others as well. The park is wheelchair accessible so folks with mobility issues can participate. Kids with tricycle and bicycles will enjoy the park and must be supervised by a parent. A nature treasure hunt will be available for kids. Come and enjoy the beauty of spring and the fellowship of SOV. Refreshments will be funded by Thrivent Financial through their Action Team program. Again, this begins on March 30th and will continue through the summer.

Kids of the Kingdom Christian Preschool

We have some exciting news!

It has been a long time since KOK has sold t-shirts.

We are taking orders for them until March 7th. Tammy has order forms in her office. Thank you for supporting KOK!

Also, enrollment for the next school year has begun.

If you or someone you know is interested, please send them our way!

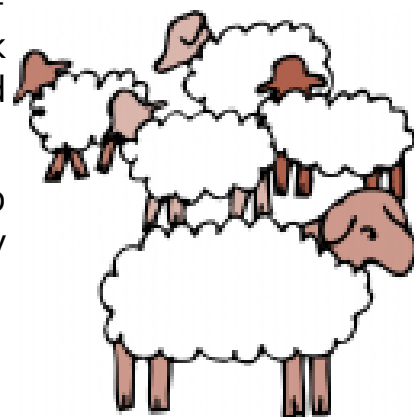


Stewardship – “Free the Sheep!” Campaign

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, March 7th

12:00 pm

Elmer's Restaurant

All are welcome!



APRIL NEWSLETTER ARTICLES ARE DUE MARCH 22ND

Give Others Our GEM Baskets of Love

This year's program benefits at-risk children and youth served by Union Gospel Mission's **Life Change for Women and Children** and **HomePlate Youth Services**

Children and youth will be given toiletries, school supplies, and other things young people will use that are not covered by food stamps.



MATCHING FUND

Donations Matched Dollar for Dollar up to \$500

Accepting Donations through March 31th – Mark your check "GEM"
Questions? Contact the Social Concerns Committee (Lisa Ramsey, Christine Edgar, Kristi Ray, Monica K, Christina Emmanuel, Diane Lewis and Jonathan Barnes)

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3 Kinsley A

9 Mark A

10 Jameson T

12 Matthew V

14 Deirdre A

16 Michael J

20 Chelsea P

24 Japhety N

24 Kristi R

26 Kari H

28 Darin H

30 Hope R

Edith G



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

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Ron & Judy Farnsworth
March 4th

Arden & Erin Tarum
March 17th

Randy & Choice Schutt
March 30th



Greetings from the Worship Team!

First I want to thank everyone who helped us decorate for Christmas and those who helped us take down the decorations when Christmas was over. I especially want to thank Christina for leading us. Our worship is made so much richer through your efforts. Thank you also to all who set up, clean up, usher, read, sing and perform. Those who provide the goodies and make the coffee, thank you. I love being a part of this family. If you are considering volunteering in some way but are unsure because you don't know exactly what to do, get in touch and we will be happy to show you. Every contribution is appreciated. In particular, we are looking for people willing to clean up communion after the second service. Please let me know if you are interested.

Easter is on its way and we are already beginning our Lenten journey. Ash Wednesday is March 6th with a service at 7pm. Then we will begin our Wednesday Lenten soup suppers on March 13th at 5:30pm followed by a Lenten service at 6:30pm. Please join us.

Looking Ahead

Ash Wednesday

March 6th service at 7:00 pm

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



APRIL NEWSLETTER ARTICLES ARE DUE MARCH 22ND

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 and subsequently pressure washed.

Indoors, the Committee made 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.

SOV Movie Night

March Movie nights;

Tuesday, March 5th 7:00 pm

Saturday, March 12th 6:00 pm

Saturday, March 23rd 7:00 pm

For more information or questions

sovmovienight@gmail.com



“GEM Baskets of Easter Love”

Our Shepherd of the Valley Social Concerns team is excited to announce that our application for a Thrivent Action Team grant of \$250 was approved for our Spring “GEM Easter Baskets of Love” project.

GEM stands for “Gap Essential Ministry” and is an ongoing ministry of our SOV Social Concerns committee. This program works to supply items that Food Stamps don't cover. The GEM Easter Baskets of Love are designed for children 15 years old and under. Some of the items we include are age appropriate books, crafts, school supplies, Easter treats, hygiene products and other items that aren't covered by Food Stamps.

An additional \$250 was donated for a matching funds challenge of \$500. This challenge will enable us to reach our projects goal of \$1000. The challenge runs from February 24 to March 31. April 7, the items for the baskets will be purchased and volunteers will be ready to organize and distribute during the last two weeks before Easter.

Each \$50 that is donated becomes \$100 with our matching funds. Each time we have donations that total \$50.00 it will become a \$100.00 “egg” for our baskets of love. When the basket is “full” we will have reached our \$1000 goal. We can't ever have too many eggs in our basket because our basket will automatically become a bigger basket that can help more children!

Each basket costs about \$40 to “fill”. Last year we distributed 17 baskets. Our hope is to increase our ability to reach more children through this springtime project and give them an

Our hope is to put Christ's love into action as we help create awareness of the need in our community, reach out to children whose families are struggling or youth that are homeless and put Christ's love in Action!

Challenge yourselves to live generously and be part of sharing Christ with these children in need. After all, life's not about having more. It is about doing more with what we have. Share this with your friends and let's fill these Easter Baskets with love! Together we can make a positive difference.

For more information see the new flier in our SOV newsletter and share it with your friends and family.

Scrip Order Sundays in March 3 & 17

See's Easter Candy On Sale now!

MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Surrender to what is</i></p> <p><i>Let go of what was</i></p> <p><i>Have faith in what will be.</i></p>					1 	2 9:30 a Choir rehearsal
3 8:30 & 11:00 a Worship 10:00 jr High SS 11:00 Little Lambs SS Scrip Sunday 1:30 p OEC	4 9:00 - 12:30 p KOK Preschool 5:00 - 9:00 p Bread of Life Church	5 9:00 - 12:30 p KOK Preschool 7:00 p Movie Night	6 9:00 - 12:30 p KOK Preschool 7:00 p Ash Wednesday Service	7 9:00 - 12:30 p KOK Preschool 12:00 p All Church Lunch outing at Elmer's Restaurant	8	9 9:30 a Choir rehearsal 10 - 12 p The Scared Labyrinth Path 
10 8:30 & 11:00 a Worship 10:00 jr High SS 11:00 Little Lambs SS 1:30 p OEC	11 9:00 - 12:30 p KOK Preschool 5:00 - 9:00 p Bread of Life Church	12 9:00 - 12:30 p KOK Preschool 7:00 p Movie Night	13 9:00 - 12:30 p KOK Preschool 5:30 p Lenten Soup Supper 6:30 p Holden Evening Prayer Service	14 9:00 - 12:30 p KOK Preschool	15	16 9:30 a Choir rehearsal
17 8:30 & 11:00 a Worship 10:00 jr High SS 11:00 Little Lambs SS Scrip Sunday 1:30 p OEC	18 9:00 - 12:30 p KOK Preschool 5:00 - 9:00 p Bread of Life Church	19 9:00 - 12:30 p KOK Preschool 	20 9:00 - 12:30 p KOK Preschool 5:30 p Lenten Soup Supper 6:30 p Holden Evening Prayer Service	21 9:00 - 12:30 p KOK Preschool 	22	23 9:30 a Choir rehearsal
24 8:30 & 11:00a Worship 10:00 jr High SS 11:00 Little Lambs SS 1:30 p OEC	25 9:00 - 12:30 p KOK Preschool 5:00 - 9:00 p Bread of Life Church	26 9:00 - 12:30 p KOK Preschool	27 9:00 - 12:30 p KOK Preschool 5:30 p Lenten Soup Supper 6:30 p Holden Evening Prayer Service	28 9:00 - 12:30 p KOK Preschool	29	30 9:30 a Choir rehearsal 12:00 - 1:30 p Walk in the Park
31 8:30 & 11:00a Worship 10:00 jr High SS 11:00 Little Lambs SS Scrip Sunday 1:30 p OEC	<p>Lent starts on Ash Wednesday in western Christian Churches and climaxes during Easter Week.</p> <p>The last week of Lent is called Holy Week.</p> <p>During the 40 days of Lent, Christians remember the time when Jesus went into the desert to fast and pray before beginning his work for God.</p>					