APRIL 2011

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY NEWSLETTER

Volume I, Issue I

Shepherd's Office Hours; Mon-Thurs 9:00—2:00

Pastor Randy's Office Hours; Tues-Fri 9:00 -12:00 (by appt after 12:00)

> Office phone; 503.645.4994 Sovlutheran.com

Worship Services 8:30 a & 11:00 a Sunday School for all ages I 9:45 a

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Page	2
President's Report	3
VP Report	4
Habitat for Humanity Red Cross Thank You	5
Property Management Prayer Shawl Ministry	6
Stewardship	7
Stewardship Report	8
Kids of the Kingdom	9
Birthday's Anniversaries	10
Water leak	П
Scrip Order Holocaust Speaker	12
Social Concerns	13
Calendar	14

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



EASTER BREAKFAST

SOV YOUTH GROUP

Will be serving Easter Breakfast

SUNDAY APRIL 24, 2011 9:45 AM - 10:30 AM





PASTOR'S PAGE

".. for as yet they did not understand..." John 20:9a

Those words are part of the Easter gospel reading that will be ours in a few short weeks. In this case they are written about Peter and John and them not

knowing what do with the reality of the resurrection of Jesus put before them. In time it became clear. But only in time.

How many times those words may be used about us. Especially when we expect things to turn out one way, and they turn out differently. Or when our intentions meet all sorts of road blocks.

Our response may be like the disciples was at first. They hid behind locked doors. (But of course they had more immediate fears than we usually do.) No doubt they had many questions as well, simply wondering, "so now what?". The "now what" was Jesus coming to them again, and yet again. They needed reassurance. And even with that, when they set out, they did not know what would befall them. And there was still a good chance that "they did not understand".

So it is with us, both individually and as a community. Just as a hypothetical situation, suppose there was a plan to repair and improve things and those plans get changed by some unexpected problems (say something like water damage). That may bring on a whole new set of problems. There may be no explaining, or understanding. And besides, sometimes understanding does nothing to change the situation. What is needed is patience and a trusting in God's presence in the whole mess. There is no time to hide and wish the problems would go away. There is a need to pray for wisdom and move to the task at hand.

Ultimately the task at hand is of the presence of the Christ in our hearts and to share that presence with folks around us in many and various ways. (Starting with being Christ like to one another.) That is easy for me to say, but often difficult to live out, especially when I do not understand.

May we, understanding or not, boldly proclaim once again, "He is risen! He is risen indeed!"

In the peace and power of the Christ, Pastor Randy

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Submitted by Peggy Jo Vermaas

Greetings and God's peace to all. The season of Lent begins. Soup and Bread. Time to take stock.

Appreciate.

As you approach the church notice the trenching occurring in the west flower bed/deck area. This is a new drain system for the west downspouts moving rain water away from our building. A longstanding problem now will be resolved. Flower pots are blooming in our entrance. In our Narthex notice the carpets cleaned and vacuumed, the clipboards filled with opportunities, the 'New to You' closet filled with contributions. Then pick up a bulletin and notice the worship numbers - recently 170 folks in one week. Notice a sanctuary filled with cleaned seats and carpet, new banners, new kneeling rails. See our Rainbow room filled with information around activities and giving options. Look in our kitchen to see the flooring removed and fan's running. The problems with the recent flood will soon be behind us. Notice the folks sitting next to you. Family.

Have you ever had the conversation with someone about our vision to build?

Ever heard that it likely couldn't happen?? Perhaps it already is!?? Keep in prayer. Listen for God's message for SOV. Hopefully, we are following.

This is my last full month in this role as President at SOV. Exec. has begun to look at transition and committee's are getting organized to begin anew. Please consider your role as this journey continues. We are the hands and feet of Jesus here on earth. Listen and follow.

Now, here are some highlights:

The Flood: What did we loose and what will we gain?? Angels continue to watch over SOV and this flood, as it turns out, is yet another example. Pouring water resulted in opening up our building revealing problems we can now address. Our Property Management and insurance folks are working together. Prayers of gratitude are in order for the event (can you believe it??) as well as how folks are working diligently (and lovingly) to a better than before outcome.

Raffle for Habitat: Your Council continues to support diverse opportunities for mission and here is a great one . . . Habitat for Humanity. Rod is anchoring this project. Betty has made a beautiful quilt for our raffle to assist with the needed fund raising. Prayerfully consider your participation.

Budget: While we are still covering our expenses, we have not met our budget and so are spending our reserves. Our goal is to stay on budget and to increase our reserves . . . consistent with our 2003 plan to maintain a reserve of approximately one months expenses. This is a reasonable goal. This goal is highlighted even more clearly by our new pending insurance claim with a \$1,000 deductible to meet. Our script program is the one program your Council has initiated to assist our general budget. If this program does not work for you, please consider how you support the general budget.

Easement: Our attorney and our SOV representatives (Reynold R. and Dave R.) have recommended proceeding with litigation. Council has approved. An initial complaint has been drafted, is being refined and will soon be filed with the Courts. Be in touch with Reynold for specifics. We will persevere.

Retreat with a Mission Focus: Your Council is planning a retreat for Saturday morning, April 9th beginning at 9 am and going until about 1 pm in the home of Mike and Melody B. who will also be our facilitators. Our focus will be on the missions of SOV. We invite all who have an interest. Let us know so we can plan refreshments and seating.

PRESIDENTS REPORT CONTINUED

Giving Opportunities: Our Memorial/Endowment fund is completed and the committee is moving forward with our next steps. See Lee's article for specifics. We are actively seeking donations to the Ann Smith Memorial fund for the purchase of a 'New to Us' organ. The issue of NOT replacing the organ was considered by the Worship Committee. Worship Committee recommended that the organ be replaced. Please consider a small donation. I believe Ann is one of the Angel's watching over SOV.

Pot Luck, Congregational meeting and Elections: On Sunday, May 22nd, after second service, we will have an old fashioned Lutheran Pot Luck luncheon followed by a congregational meeting to elect new officers and committee's. This will also serve as one of the quarterly town hall meetings. Please plan to attend and bring your questions.

Thanks to all who have helped and supported me in this role over the past two years. Blessings to all, Peggy

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT... Submitted by Lee Bonacker

As of 3/23/11, there is \$110,956.91 available for repairs in the Building Renewal Fund. A progress payment was made for the heating and air conditioning work. The concrete slabs have been poured and further work waits upon permits from the city. Property Management continues its assessment and scheduling activities for the repairs to the building.

Attempts to lease or rent space at SOV have not been successful to this point. It may be best to delay those efforts until fall after building repairs are completed.

The Memorial and Endowment Committee is meeting 4/4/11 at 6:00 PM with staff from the ELCA who are experienced in endowments and memorials. The discussion will cover how the ELCA can help with the Committee's efforts. The Committee has finished the guidelines. Please remember that if you have information to forward about your affairs in case of an emergency, the Memorial and Endowment Committee does have the "For My Family" packet available.

There are five individual confirmation classes left. It's been a pleasure to help Pastor Randy with those classes.

The Evangelism Committee has met twice and the interest is very exciting. Aaron has updated the website and taught me how to put recently scheduled events on the website calendar. We are working to make the website calendar an even more useful tool to reflect congregational activities. There are some projects in the works which will improve the website even further. Thanks to Larina and Joe for helping to maximize SOV's presence through Face book . The power of social media has certainly been demonstrated by recent current events.

Lee Ann Bonacker

Habitat for Humanity...submitted by Rod Stoltenburg

Habitat for Humanity started a project in Aloha. A total of 8 houses will eventually be built with the effort starting in early April. SOV is one of several churches in the Tualatin Valley Chapter of Thrivent that will be participating in building one of the homes. As the date gets closer, we will be given choices for build days. So far, eight individuals have expressed interest in helping. So, if you are interested in volunteering, please contact me (503-719-2543). The more help, the better.

In addition, each church is doing fund raising for this project. The total amount required for one of the homes is \$120,000.

\$66,000 provided by Thrivent grant \$42,000 provided by the West Willamette Affiliate for Habitat \$12,000 (10%) will be raised by the congregations participating in the build

For SOV, we will be raffling off a beautiful baby blanket, made by Betty Stoltenburg. On one side is an illustration of Noah's Ark. The other side is luxuriously soft faux chenille waves. This blanket will be on view at the church and raffle tickets are available for purchase. Donations are \$5 for 1 ticket, or 3 tickets for \$10. This

would make a great gift for family or friends, and help build a home for someone in need.

Thank you Choice Schutt for the new Lenten Banner



Thank you Dave Saalfeld for the additional kneelers and candle stick holders.

Shepherd of the Valley is proudly sponsoring an American Red Cross blood drive May 5th 1:30 – 7:00 pm.



We encourage all eligible persons to help our local community by giving the gift of life. The blood donation process takes about an hour of your time and could save up to 3 lives. <u>First time donors are welcome! For more information and/or to schedule your appointment to donate blood please call 800-787-9691 or 503-284-4040.</u>

Walk-in's Welcome

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT... Submitted by Jeff Wagemann

It is time to set a date for our pre Easter indoor and outdoor work at SOV. **April 16, 9-noon.** The "to do" list consists of; window washing, inside and out, knock down cobwebs, clean grime prints on doors and push plates. Dust window sills and ledges, wipe walls around wastebaskets of beverage splatters and other miscellaneous grime. For the exterior, clean up of leafs in flower beds, on the parking lot up against the curbs, litter patrol on the grounds. These items are a starting point.

HOLY WEEK;

PALM SUNDAY APRIL 17TH WORSHIP AT 8:30 & 11:00

MAUNDY THURSDAY APRIL 21ST WORSHIP AT 6:30 PM

GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 22ND WORSHIP AT 6:30 PM

EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 24TH WORSHIP AT 8:30 & 11:00 AM

EASTER BREAKFAST APRIL 24TH SERVED BY SOV YOUTH @ 9:45 AM

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY...

Open to men, women and youth~

Will meet; April 18, 7:00 pm

@ New Seasons Market/Orenco Station
No experience required...





MAY NEWSLETTER ARTICLES ARE DUE APRIL 26, 2011

Service, Stewardship, Education and Fellowship!

A day to share.....May 21, 9 AM to 1 PM A day to THRIVE!

We will start by meeting at the Oregon Food Bank and spend 2 hours

helping pack, label or sort food. Lunch and learning will complete our day

together as we have our first Thrivent workshop that will focus on expanding our understanding and ability to talk about money, values and the fun of sharing what God has given us. The workshop will be geared for ages 6 to



teenagers, the parents, grandparents and other adults that support our youth. Pizza, salad, treats and beverages will be provided.

Reserve your opportunity by contacting Larina Hoffbeck or Diane Lewis



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<u>CPR/AED Class</u> is being offered at SOV April 30th 9:00—3:00 pm (light lunch included) by Jason Rautenkranz, cost is \$35.00 per person. If you would like to take the class please add your name to the sign up sheet in the Narthex, open to family, friends and neighbors.



Facing the truth, Following Jesus...

Submitted by Larina Hoffbeck

We all know that following Jesus is never a bad thing. It can be challenging and sometimes scary, but it is never bad. The same can be said for facing the truth. Most of us probably think that "facing the truth" is going to be painful. Usually we use that phrase when the truth is something we've done wrong or when there is a big disappointment or trial lurking in the wings. One of the most recognizable movie lines of recent times is "You can't handle the truth!"

But sometimes, the truth can be a pleasant thing to face.

For instance, 45 families and individuals in our congregation made a pledge towards SOV's regular offering in 2010. While some of those were not able to meet their pledge, an equal number made up the difference to end up 2% above total pledged amounts. Some may have had to face a hard truth of unexpected lower income during the year, but God provided through the increased generosity of others in our community of faith.

For 2011, 39 families and individuals have pledged. 29 of those also pledged last year with 26 maintaining or increasing the amount pledged. 10 are new pledgers this year. (If you would like to pledge, you can do so at any time. Just ask Bob McFall, Diane Lewis, Larina Hoffbeck, Deb Mueller, Terry Wagemann, Pastor or Tammy for a form.)

While most of the churches in the Oregon Synod have shown a marked decline in attendance over the last six years, SOV's attendance rate has remained stable. At just one Sunday in February at second service, we welcomed eight visitors (three families).

At least 80% of SOV's regular attendees over the age of five have volunteered at or with church in some form over the last year. At our recent Souper Bowl service blitz at the Oregon Food Bank we had more people want to volunteer than we had space for. (We'll be arranging another opportunity in April or May.)

So, thank you for following Jesus so faithfully as a congregation. Let us continue to work together and be good stewards of the many gifts God has given us. Let us continue to grow even closer as the body of Christ and let our light shine before others so that they may see our good works and give glory to our Father in heaven (Matt 5:16).

And that's the truth!

Kids of the Kingdon

Preschool News....by Deb Halligan

Spring is finally here and the preschool is celebrating by planting carrots and peas! The kids will learn about making a hypothesis and then each



will make one on how high their seeds will grow. We will be having Dad's night at preschool where Dad and their child will be making a special Mother's Day gift for Mom. Easter is just around the corner and the death and resurrection of Christ can be a confusing and sometimes scary thing to think about. The Easter story will be taught in a concrete way that is easy to understand and less scary. Each week, the kids will get a piece of the story to put into their Easter bags. By the time Easter arrives, they will be able to tell the Easter story using the props in their bag. We will also be preparing for our Mother's Day Tea in May.

Preschool Directors News....by Linda Rasmussen

Please pray for our program, staff and families as we deal with the cleanup of our spring baptismal waters. We have moved into the nursery classroom and created a clean, safe, welcoming environment for our preschoolers to learn and play while awaiting the restoration of our preschool classroom.

We had a great open house and feedback we received was very positive. Registrations for fall are coming in. Please remind family, friends and neighbors that we are here and ready to serve children and families with a Christ-centered, literacy based, program that helps children learn to love God, their neighbors, and find their place in God's creation. We have added a Twos Time parent/child class and a Pre-kindergarten/Kindergarten class for the fall. We have the



advantages of small class sizes, a beautiful natural setting, well educated, caring, Christian teachers, and the support of a caring congregation. Children are not just learners, but are part of the family of God. Brochures and enrollment forms are available in the narthex. Also, please feel free to contact the Directors, Linda Rasmussen or Wendy Roeder, for more information or to schedule a tour.

It wasn't the roof that leaked

Connie and I arrived at the Church Saturday morning about 11:20 AM on March 19th, to prepare the church for Sunday services. At the time Connie said we will see how long this takes this time.

I finally left at 5:18 PM and Connie about 2:30 PM as she was soaking wet and cold.

You see; about 11:40 AM the small PVC pipe supplying hot water to the kitchen burst.

Connie spent a considerable amount of time in front of the gushing water trying to find a "shut off" to no avail. She got soaking wet.

With water pouring into the kitchen and eventually down into the Pre-school area, and with us not knowing where the water shutoff was, I got on the phone and called for HELP.

First calling Jeff Wagemann and then Arden Tarum; they both dropped what they were doing and rushed to the church, with Arden parking his car next to mine in front of the church.

Shortly thereafter with Jim Tabor and Katrina driving by, Jim saw Arden's car parked next to mine and wondered what was up so he came in to check it out and assist.

After some calamity with the "Shut Off" the water was finally turned off at the street.

I called Peggy to let her know of the disaster and she got up from her sick bed to come to the church and assist with the cleanup.

Everyone was working diligently to get the 4" or 5" water out of the kitchen and then to the basement to access the damage to the KOK.

With ceiling tiles falling on people's heads and water cascading down it was a terrible site but with all five of us moving tables, chairs and other items to non-damaged areas the cleanup began.

Jeff raced home to get his wet-vac and returned to start getting the water up in the kitchen area.

While Jeff was in the kitchen area we worked taking down water soaked ceil tiles as well as filling bag after bag with broken and wet ceiling tiles from the water soaked floor.

At that point I phone Linda Rasmussen to let her know of the damage to the KOK area and also phoned Pastor Randy to let him know of the disaster so he would be aware of what he was walking into Sunday morning.

Linda and Pastor Randy arrived shortly thereafter and Linda phoned Wendy. Wendy and Reynold arrived shortly after Linda phoned. As Jeff was using his shop-vac in the KOK area and the initial cleanup was winding down I phone Cal and he started the insurance claim process. Cal also came to the church and we reviewed what had happened.

Within a 'two hour' window, Service Master, was on the scene doing an initial assessment of damage and setting up large fans, etc.

Sunday between services, Cal met with Arden, Jeff, Connie, Linda, Wendy, Peggy and me to provide us with an initial time line on what Service Master was going to do and when.

Had it not been for the willingness of the family of Shepherd of the Valley to come to the rescue of our church building we probably would have to worship at some other location.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

When more information is available I will try to pass it along.

Bob McFall

SCRIP PROGRAM... Submitted by Linnea Harmon

The scrip program has proven to be a successful addition to the fund raisers at SOV. Participants purchase scrip for face value – no added cost! – and the merchants donate a portion of the cost back to SOV. Since the program started in April of last year, we have realized an income of \$1,897.

Check out the list of participating stores and I'm certain you will find more than one that you frequent on a regular basis. Shop at Fred Meyer or Safeway or Albertsons or, perhaps, New Seasons; all are on the program. Stop by Starbucks occasionally or perhaps Krispy Kreme; they are there, too. And what about all of those plants you intend to buy at Home Depot or Lowes this spring? Pick up some scrip before you go shopping, and SOV will benefit as well.

We have been placing orders monthly, but want to try something new. For the months of April and May, we will be placing orders bi-monthly. The planned schedule is:

Sunday, April 3

Sunday, April 17

Sunday, May 1

Sunday, May 15

Because the Scrip Program is run through the Tigard/Tualatin School District, they only receive orders monthly during the summer months. However, if our April/May trial is a success, we'll continue bi-monthly orders beginning in September.

Give the program a try. Purchase one scrip card for a store you visit regularly. You'll see how simple it is. Imagine how SOV's income would grow if each family could do this.

Thank you to all who have supported the program. You are the ones making it work for SOV!!

Mark your calendars....

April 17th

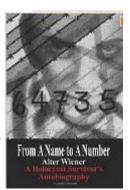
6:00 pm @ SOV

Holocaust Survivor Alter Wiener will present his life story.

(material presented is suited for middle school age and above)

Mr. Wiener's autobiography will be available for purchase for \$20.00.

Please invite your family, friends and neighbors to attend this special event.



SOCIAL CONCERNS...Submitted by Larina Hoffbeck

Social Concerns and Stewardship are working together to have another volunteer opportunity at the Oregon Food Bank-West on Saturday, May 21 from 9 to 11am. This will be immediately followed by lunch at SOV and a Thrivent-led workshop geared towards parents and kids ages 6-14 which focuses on money management, values, and making intentional choices about sharing, saving and spending money. We'd like to invite all of you to join us for this event. We'll be providing lunch (probably pizza) and beverages during the workshop.

We can take up to 30 volunteers to work at the food bank (minimum age is 6), but there is no limit for the workshop. You can choose to do both or either the food bank or workshop, whatever fits best into your schedule. We already have 17 people signed up to go to the food bank, so if you'd like to do that, please let me know as soon as possible...the first to sign up get the spots. We also



need to let Thrivent know how many kids to expect for the workshop so that they can order materials for everyone so please let me know if you'd like to attend that as well.

If you'd like more information on the food bank, please ask me or see their site at: http://www.oregonfoodbank.org/Volunteer/Individuals-and-Families/Food-Repack

The food bank is located at 1870 NW 173rd Ave., about a quarter of a mile from church, and we would be working in the Volunteer Action Center.

Those of you in confirmation class who still need volunteer hours can claim 2 hours from working at the food bank.

We hope you'll be able to join us!

-Larina Hoffbeck



April 2011							
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
April Sweet pea					1 9:00 –11:30 a KOK	9:00-3:00 p CPR/AED Training	
Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am Birthday Sunday Blood Pressures Scrip Orders	9:00—11:30a KOK 7:00 p Social concerns mtg	5 1:00 p Food Baskets 6:30 p Youth Choir practice 6:30 p Ladies Dinner @ Grapevine	67:15 a Coffee Group 9:00 –11:30 a KOK 10:00 Bible Study 5:30 p Soup Supper 6:30 p Vespers Service 7:00 p Adult Choir Practice	7 6:30 p Men's Night @ Old Chicago Pizza 6:30 p KOK Dad's night	8 9:00 –11:30 a KOK	9	
Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am Baptism of De'Juan & Da'rel Simpson	11 9:00—11:30a KOK	12 1:00 p Food Baskets 6:30 p Youth Choir practice	137:15 a Coffee Group 9:00 –11:30 a KOK 10:00 Bible Study 5:30 p Soup Supper 6:30 p Vespers Service 7:00 p Adult Choir Practice	14 7:00 p Parish Ed Meeting	15 9:00 –11:30 a KOK	16 9:00 –12:00 p Property Clean up	
17 Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am Scrip Orders 6:00 p Holocaust Speaker Alter Wiener Palm Sunday HOLY WEEK	18 9:00—11:30a KOK	19 1:00 p Food Baskets	20 7:15 a Coffee Group 9:00 –11:30 a KOK 10:00 Bible Study	21 6:30 p Maundy Thursday Service	9:00 –11:30 a KOK 6:30 p Good Friday Service	23	
24 Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am Easter Breakfast 9:45 a Easter Sunday	25 9:00—11:30a KOK	26 1:00 p Food Baskets 6:30 p Youth Choir practice 6:30 p Executive Council	27 7:15 a Coffee Group 9:00 –11:30 a KOK 10:00 Bible Study	28 7:00 p Council Mtg	29 9:00 –11:30 a KOK	30 9:00 –3:00 p CPR/AED Training	