

APRIL 2016

# SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Volume I, Issue I

Shepherd's Office Hours;  
Mon-Thurs 7:30 - 12:30pm

Interim Pastor

Brian Brandt

Tues, 10:00 - 12:15 p

Wed & Thurs

10:00 - 2:00 p

And by appt.

Office phone;

503.645.4994

Sovlutheran.com

Worship Services

8:30 a & 11:00 a

Wednesday Bible Study

10:00 a

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

## YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Saturday April 9th SOV Youth Group  
will be hosting a movie night for the  
Westside High School Collective group!

Make sure to bring your favorite snack  
to share



St Andrews will be putting on a 30 hour famine  
April 30th! See the flier for more details and  
instructions! (posted on the bulletin board or in  
the upcoming Wednesday Message)

If you will be in high school or graduating from HS in 2018  
and are interested in attending the ELCA Youth gathering  
in Houston please contact Stacey at roedersi5@gmail.com.  
There will be an interest meeting soon to start planning for  
our next big trip!



## Interim Pastor Brian's Message

Healthy Communication & Trust-Building  
by Interim Pastor Brian Brandt



Last October members of this congregation received letters from two officers of Shepherd's Executive Committee announcing that they were resigning from Council and quitting SOV. President Lynn Gates and Financial Secretary Elaine Kingston both cited experiences of being treated disrespectfully, of having their moral integrity impugned, and of having their leadership undermined by divisive maneuvering as factors contributing to their resignations.

In my Wednesday Message of October 21, commenting on this matter, I wrote:

*Lynn and Elaine noted some important issues as reasons for their resignations. They are far from the only members of SOV to express their concerns about such matters to me. These issues are serious, systemic, deeply rooted at SOV. I've been trying to address them in my ministry; I will continue to do so. I will gladly work on these issues with all people of good will at SOV who want to bring about healing and carry out God's mission in a respectful way that builds up the body of Christ in this place.*

I'm happy to tell you that Council and other key leaders will now be moving forward in work to promote practices of respectful communication and cultivating trust that will help to build up rather than tear apart the body of Christ at SOV. Before I describe this work, let me give you some background. Last summer SOV did the Congregational Vitality Survey offered by the Research and Evaluation Department of our national church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Pastor Mike Keys from the Oregon Synod staff gave us a presentation on August 2 to help us understand the survey results. One of the issues he noted was SOV's chronic lack of trust in its leaders and a reluctance to bring hidden tensions into the open so they could move toward resolution. On October 25, shortly after the two resignations were announced, SOV leaders met with Pastor Mike Keys again. This session had been planned weeks in advance to follow up on some of the recommendations emerging from the Vitality Survey. So, at our October 25 meeting, we talked about issues that led to these two high-profile resignations. After a couple hours, we identified difficulties in trusting and communicating as obstacles hindering SOV members from working together as respectfully and effectively as they might wish.

Pastor Keys suggested that we work with a professional counselor in order to address these issues soon — since dysfunctional communication, disrespectful behavior, and unresolved conflicts can adversely affect the process of calling a new pastor. SOV's newly reconstituted Executive Committee explored that option. After talking with a couple counselors, they asked

Church Council to consider a proposal to work with Michelle Nelson Sinn, who has credentials in Marriage and Family Therapy and a long history of helping pastors and church congregations work well together in God's service. At the March Council meeting, a resolution to work with Ms. Sinn was affirmed unanimously.

Three sessions are planned for this process. The first will address trust-building through increased capacity for listening and understanding. The second will deal with guidelines for healthy communication. The third will offer discussion of the guidelines, an invitation to adopt them, and will explore ways of holding one another accountable. These sessions are scheduled for May 11, May 25, and June 8.

I feel grateful for the Council's willingness to undertake this important work. I believe it will bear good fruit, helping SOV's leaders work together with respect, confidence, and joy. Clergy candidates in SOV's call process will also be impressed that congregational leaders care enough about their church to take up this challenge of changing their hearts and minds. This is a great way to do the work of resurrection and lead by example in this Easter season.

## Call Committee Update

Sandra Carasco, Ken Plinke, Chris Reger, Reynold Roeder, Cal Sugiyama, and Julie Zetterberg. **Alternates:** Judith Hedberg-Duff and Lorna Hodgins. **Advisory members:** Corrine Gilbertson and Amber Kotvis.

### Call Committee Update

We have great news! We are planning on receiving a slate of candidates near the end of April. In the meanwhile, we have practice interviews scheduled with Pastor Dorothy of Christ the King and Pastor Paul of St. Matthew.

As we move closer to presenting a candidate to the congregation, the Call Committee will be asking for assistance from the congregation and committee chairs to utilize the already present talents of Shepherd.

Currently, we are asking if anyone has airline miles or hotel points available in case a candidate would be traveling.

If anyone has any questions or concerns, please speak to any member of the committee. My contact info is: Chris Reger (503) 713-7508 [regerchris@gmail.com](mailto:regerchris@gmail.com)

As always, we ask for your prayers and blessings as we continue this work for Shepherd. Peace.

<b>MAY NEWSLETTER ARTICLES ARE DUE APRIL 26TH</b>
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# Council President Report

Well, for once I am really happy I procrastinated in writing this article – sorry, Tammy. However, it gives me an opportunity to comment on yesterday's Easter events. The music was outstanding – the choir sounded beautiful and full, the musicians enhanced each song with their talents, and Jon brought it all together magically. I continue to be amazed at how beautiful the music is that our small-ish congregation is able to gift to everyone. In addition to the music, the message was again thought provoking and inspirational. Since I attended 8:30 service, this was all, then, topped off by a tasty, filling breakfast prepared again by our Youth. Unfortunately, being there early meant that I missed the baptism of our newest member – Logan – but I'm certain that was inspirational as well. Thank you to all who made yesterday such a warm and blessed day!

Your Council continues to work conducting the business of the church. As you may recall, early in the Call process, the Transition Task Force requested that Mike Keyes conduct a Congregational Vitality Survey. The results of that survey, along with the results of our small group meetings and additional survey uncovered and brought to light some issues which have been facing SOV for a while now. We have been working toward a plan to address those issues. Now the Council, Call Committee, and Transition Task Force members will be working with a skilled counselor on these areas. We will learn to build on our strengths and address our areas for growth. One of the outcomes we anticipate is a set of guidelines to assist people in communicating – a skill that can be used not only with other members of SOV, but with everyone in our lives. The intent will be to share this information with all of you as we go down this path. Please keep your leadership in your prayers as we begin this journey in May.

Upcoming, too, will be elections at our annual meeting in June. If you have identified a role you are interested in or an area you would like to know more about, please feel free to reach out to any of us on Council. We would be happy to share information and answer your questions.

Blessings to all of you in this Family called SOV,

Linnea Harmon

Your Council President

**Ladies Dinner**

Inviting all Ladies to our monthly Dinner

**Tuesday, April 5th**

**6:00 pm**

**Bugatti's**

2364 NW Amberbrook Dr, Beaverton,

Please RSVP to Tammy

**Men's Night**

**Thursday, March 6th**

**6:00 PM**

**Reedville Cafe**

Hillsboro. 2947 SE 73rd Ave. Hillsboro, OR 97123.

ALL MEN INVITED FOR FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP

**Please join us for Movie Night at SOV**

Thursday, April 7th

5:30 pm Potluck soup, bread, sandwich supper

6:00 pm Featured Movie

**"Jesus Christ Superstar"**

**SCRIP SUNDAYS APRIL 3RD AND 17TH**

Ways to maximize your Scrip cards;

Red Robin—Free birthday burger when you sign up for Red Robin rewards (its free)

Noodles and Company—updates on Free Kids meal days, 2 for 1 offers,

Free noodle bowls, etc.

Pastini—Free birthday meals, special offers, updates on menu



# FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

## All congregational monthly luncheons!

April 28 and May 26 will be our next two monthly congregational luncheon dates. This is an excellent opportunity to gather for a simple lunch and fellowship time. We start at noon and it usually lasts an hour. We would love to have some more volunteers to help “host” our luncheons. It can be very simple. We have canned soup, Crystal light juice and crackers in the kitchen pantry. Other ideas are welcome and if you want to work together with someone else then we welcome your imagination and involvement. Our May 31 our Luncheon will be our annual 80's and over celebration lunch. We have 3 members that will be inducted into our 80's and over group. If there are other members or friends of members that you would like to include in this lunch please invite them and let us know so that they are included in our party. Any one attending that is 80 or over will be our honored guests. Our new 80 year olds will be have special recognition during our celebration. Anyone interested in helping plan one of our lunches is encouraged to let the Fellowship team or Tammy know. We have had volunteers take a month and do the planning. Simplicity and Fellowship has been the goal. All ideas are welcome.

Christian  
fellowship

**Kitchen and GEM shower** Thank you! The Social Concern and Fellowship teams want to thank each of you that helped make our Kitchen and GEM shower successful. Each donation supports our church ministries. GEM supports our local outreach program by helping people with items that aren't covered through other social services agencies. The supplies for cleaning and maintaining the kitchen, paper towels, toilet paper and Fellowship coffee supplies help with supporting coffee for any SOV meeting, function or Sunday coffee hour supplies. This all helps our congregation work together in supporting our church community as well as our local outreach.

**Baby shower for Adlyn, Monica and Subash Bomidipatti's** baby daughter. May 7 at 2-4 PM We will host a baby shower for Monica and Subash's new baby daughter Adlyn. She was born on February 26. We will have the opportunity to meet baby Adlyn and one of her grandmothers from India. Members of the Social Concern team and Fellowship team will be helping with the shower. If you are interested in helping or have questions please contact Diane Lewis or Peggy Vermaas. Gifts are optional. Come and help us welcome Adlyn to her SOV church family. Dessert, punch and coffee will be served.

## Graduation recognition

We will have a special Fellowship celebration between services on either June 12 or 19. Please let Tammy or anyone on the Fellowship team know of an upcoming graduate. We hope to have a little “bio” and photo of our grads.

## Food, Fun, Fellowship!

New ideas and new volunteers are encouraged and welcome! We are hoping to build our Fellowship team with new ways to “Reach Up, Reach In and Reach Out”. Come and be part of building our outreach through Fellowship! Give our great SOV secretary a call or email and let her know you want to be part of the fun. When we all come together and share ideas, work together and share time together we strengthen all our congregation. Please pray about where you can make a difference.



## Kids of the Kingdom Christian Preschool

In March, the KOK families participated in a Dr. Seuss Read-a-thon as a fundraiser for our school and our families sure do love to read! As a school, they read 658 books in just two weeks and raised \$329 for our school! What amazing readers we have!



In April we are looking forward to working in the garden. Each of our classes will help plant and care for the school garden. At the beginning of the month, we will plant lettuce, carrots, radishes and peas. As the days get warmer, we will add beans, cucumbers, zucchini, tomatoes and pumpkins. During the summer months, we will host monthly play days where families can come play and enjoy fresh vegetables from the garden. The garden provides so many hands-on learning opportunities for our students and encourages them to try new vegetables they may not have previously tried!



Registration for the coming school year is in full swing. We will be hosting a "Spring Family Day" on Saturday, May 7th from 10:00am-12:00pm for currently enrolled and families who are interested in experiencing our school. If you or someone you know has a preschooler, come enjoy a morning of play, art and a special snack. Contact our director, Hannah Benedict, with any questions by email [kokpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:kokpreschool@gmail.com) or by calling the school 503-645-0236.

## Thank you!

**To my church family**-----I am so grateful and thankful for your prayers, visits, cards, and flowers!

To pastor Brian for his ministry to me during my recovery from surgery, thank you ! I am doing well and slowly getting used to my new knee! God is Good!

Blessings to you all!

Corrine

**APRIL NEWSLETTER ARTICLES ARE DUE MARCH 24TH**

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

04 Jospin M.

11 Corrine G.

12 Hailey M.

16 Naomi S.

16 Choice S,

16 Aaron Z.

19 Tabitha M.

20 Lyle H.

21 Tiely B.

24 Bob K.

25 Calvin S.

27 Ben S.



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

## APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

*Tom & Lisa Ramsey-Barnes  
April 10th*









*Alden & Rachael Snow  
April 20th*

**Happy  
Anniversary**





# April 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>God, who through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ has given us the victory, give you joy and peace in your faith; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.</i></p> <p>† † †</p>					<p>1 9:00 - 12:00 p KOK preschool</p>	<p>2 10:00 - 11:30 a SOV Choir</p> 
<p>3 8:30 &amp; 11:00 a worship No Confirmation</p>	<p>4 9:00 - 1:00 p KOK preschool</p> 	<p>5 9:00 - 1:00 p KOK preschool 6:00 p Ladies Dinner at Bugatti's in Tanasbourne</p>	<p>6 9:00 - 1:00 p KOK preschool 10:00 a Bible Study 6:00 p Men's Night at Reedville Café</p>	<p>7 9:00 - 1:00 p KOK preschool 6:00 - 8:30 p Jesus Christ Superstar</p> 	<p>8 9:00 - 12:00 p KOK preschool</p>	<p>9 10:00 - 11:30 a SOV Choir 6:00 - 9:00 p SOV Youth Event Movie Night</p>
<p>10 8:30 &amp; 11:00 a worship 1:30 p OEC 6:00 - 7:30 p Confirmation</p>	<p>11 9:00 - 1:00 p KOK preschool</p>	<p>12 9:00 - 1:00 p KOK preschool</p> 	<p>13 9:00 - 1:00 p KOK preschool 10:00 a Bible Study</p>	<p>14 9:00 - 1:00 p KOK preschool 7:00 p LLL</p>	<p>15 9:00 - 12:00 p KOK preschool</p> 	<p>16 10:00 - 11:30 a SOV Choir</p>
<p>17 8:30 &amp; 11:00 a Worship 1:30 p OEC 6:00 - 7:30 p Confirmation</p>	<p>18 9:00 - 1:00 p KOK preschool</p>	<p>19 9:00 - 1:00 p KOK preschool</p>	<p>20 9:00 - 1:00 p KOK preschool 10:00 a Bible Study</p>	<p>21 9:00 - 1:00 p KOK preschool 10:00 a LLL</p> 	<p>22 9:00 - 12:00 p KOK preschool</p>	<p>23 10:00 - 11:30 a SOV Choir</p>
<p>24 8:30 &amp; 11:00 a Worship 1:30 p OEC 6:00 - 7:30 p Confirmation</p>	<p>25 9:00 - 1:00 p KOK preschool</p> 	<p>26 9:00 - 1:00 p KOK preschool</p>	<p>27 9:00 - 1:00 p KOK preschool 10:00 a Bible Study</p>	<p>28 9:00 - 1:00 p KOK preschool 12:00 p All Church Luncheon</p>	<p>29 9:00 - 12:00 p KOK preschool Synod Assembly</p> 	<p>30 10:00 - 11:30 a SOV Choir 2:00 - 5:00 p Private Event Synod Assembly</p>