

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 1

DECEMBER 2007

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS By Linda Rasmussen

In November we learned about advent and God's promise to send a savior to his people. We learned about some of the prophets and how Jesus' birth had been foretold. We traveled with Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem and listened with the shepherds to the angels who spoke of the birth of a new king. We went to Jesus' presentation at the temple and heard the words of Anna and Simeon. Like Joseph and Mary we were amazed at the words spoken about the new baby.

Our average attendance for November was 26 children. We received \$53.70 in monetary offering to share with our neighbors through the ELCA's global barnyard project and 28 food items, mostly fruit, to share with hungry neighbors for the Shepherd's Storehouse.

In December we will be practicing the Nativity story for our Christmas Program on the 16th. Have a peaceful Christmas and remember to make Jesus the light of your world.

GIFTS FOR THE KING!

2007 Children's Sunday School Christmas Program

Please join us Sunday, December 16th at 11:00 am for our Christmas program. You will enjoy the Nativity story, as read and staged by the children, songs, and gifts shared with the new baby king by three very wise women. All are welcome at this celebration of the birth of our Lord.



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SUNDAY SCHOOL (CONT.)

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SAVE THE DATES

UPCOMING SUNDAY SCHOOL SPECIAL EVENTS

Sun	Dec 2	Christmas Program practice
Sun	Dec 9	Christmas Program practice
Sat	Dec 15	Christmas Program practice & pizza party 3:00-5:30 pm
Sun	Dec 16	Dress Rehearsal 9:45
Sun	Dec 16	Christmas Program 2 nd Service

DECEMBER IS PASTA & SAUCE MONTH!

Remember to bring your gifts of pasta and sauce for the Shepherd's Storehouse. Share Christ's love with our neighbors who do not have enough to eat!

SUNDAY SCHOOL MITTEN TREE

Sunday School needs your HELP! We are sponsoring a mitten tree to help those less fortunate in our community keep warm these chilly fall and winter months. If you would like to help us share Christ's love of mankind, please bring a pair of new gloves or mittens (**SOCKS TOO!**) to clip on our tree. We will take all kinds—men's, women's, youth and children's. If our tree fills up, we will add trees until we have a sock and mitten forest. Thanks in advance for your care of others. Look for our tree in the narthex to hang your gifts on!



ADVENT FAIR

Submitted by Wendy Roeder

The annual Advent Fair is Saturday, December 1, 2007. Advent is the period of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity. The first Sunday in Advent is December 2. The day will begin with crafts of all levels from 4-5 pm. Then, the children will perform a skit of the part of the Bible story where Joseph and Mary are searching for a place to stay but are turned away from the Inn's except for the offering of a lowly manger. Dinner will be served at 5:30 pm and the evening will be concluded with the excitement of a pinata breaking. Sign up sheets are available on Sunday or e-mail Wendy Roeder or the church office if you are coming. A suggested donation of \$5-10 for food and crafts is asked. FELIZ NAVIDAD!



From your Worship Committee

Important Dates to remember for the Holidays

Page 3

Christmas Eve Services

To better accommodate everyone's busy schedules and to make the Worship services more comfortable, Shepherd is offering 3 Christmas Eve service times:

4:00pm, 6:00pm and 11:00pm

The 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. services will be identical services

11:00 p.m. is a more reflective, candlelight service which will include communion

Wednesday Night Advent Services and Soup Suppers

Dates: Wednesday December 5, 12 and 19

Dinner at 6:00 p.m. Worship at 6:30 p.m.

Please sign-up in the Narthex to bring soup or bread

Poinsettias - in memory of

We will be accepting donations to purchase Poinsettias

Sign-up sheets will be in the Narthex beginning December 1

Submitted by Ann Saalfeld, Worship Chair



The Greens Are Here!!! Submitted by Wendy Roeder

If you participated in the Confirmation Christmas Greens fundraiser, the items will be available for pickup at the church Friday, November 30 from 5:30 - 7 pm, Saturday, December 1 from 4-7 pm and

Sunday, December 2 from 9:30 am -12:30 pm. If you were not able to get your order in, we have a selection of 22" and 26" wreaths available for \$18-30 each. Any questions can be directed to Wendy Roeder

503-407-9876 or e-mail wsroeder@aol.com. The confirmands wish you all a happy Christmas season.



Fellowship News and Events

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Thank you to all who participated in making our Thanks-Giving Dinner a success! Look for more details in the article courtesy of Social Concerns, the main organizers of the event.

Cookies and Carol Sing

Sunday, Dec. 9, 6:00 to 7:00 PM

Get into the holiday spirit with a Christmas song sing-a-long! We have plenty of lyrics sheets including all the children's favorites, so invite your friends to come along. Cider and coffee will be provided. Bring cookies to share if you like, or just bring your good cheer and jingle bells if you've got them.



Epiphany Celebration

Sunday, Jan. 6

It's been a hard year for us here at Shepherd of the Valley. January 6 marks the first anniversary of Pastor Kurt's passing. We also have an exciting year ahead—with projects started under Pastor Kurt's direction and others that followed. The call process for finding our next pastor is gearing up, and soon we will see our building process break ground. January 6 also marks the day in our church calendar when we celebrate Christ revealed to the magi. After a long journey following the Star, those wise men (or kings) took the good news out to the world.

We need to mark this day with memorial and celebration.

I invite everyone to get involved in this event to make the remembrance personally meaningful. This will take lots of help, in a very short period of time, in small and big ways including projects kids can help with. Planning meetings will be held after late service Nov. 25, Dec. 9 & 23 starting with a brainstorming session. We'll try to keep them short, so please consider coming even if you can only make one. Please contact me if you have questions or are interested in participating at 360-609-3052 or at katrinelia@yahoo.com with "SOV" in the title.

Peace,

Kari Pinc

Fellowship Co-Chair

SOCIAL CONCERNS...SUBMITTED BY MERT WARNEKING AND OTHER SOCIAL CONCERNS MEMBERS

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Outreach for October:

We spent 131 hrs. and 1,293 miles.

Clothing, furniture, etc. given us is valued at \$900. We gave out 9 food baskets. We spent \$130. We were given \$95 in donated food plus Nike gave us \$200 for our Storehouse. We spent \$11 on refugees.

We spent \$1,846 on our sponsored refugees. When we sponsor a new refugee family, we receive resettlement money from Lutheran Community Service (\$425 per person.) If you put a value on everything spent on Outreach, it would equal 32% of our offerings.

THANKSGIVING DINNER

Approximately 150 people attended our Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday, Nov. 4th. Our two new refugee families came and joined us. We also had about 12 refugees with their families from years past. The tables looked beautiful thanks to Larina Hoffbeck and her girls Carmen and Mallory. The cooking started at 7:00 am with Peggy Vermaas putting the first turkey in the oven, getting the prime

rib ready and glazing the hams. Peggy set up a chair in the kitchen so Ann Smith could keep on eye on things. After the 2nd service, our wonderful men set up the tables and chairs.

Thanks to Kari Pinc for making a run to the store for more supplies, to Staff Breed for getting the ice, to all those who cooked the delicious food, to the many who showed up early to help set up and cook (Tammy McDonald, Pat Nelson, & Charleen Kuykendall to name a few. Tammy & Marissa kept the phone lines open to Jeff so we did not plug into the wrong outlets—no blown fuses! Marissa helped set the tables

Thanks to Diane Lewis for reading the treasured poem an anonymous guest shared, and a special thanks to all who made donations: without your support this event would not be possible.

Thanks to the clean-up crew, both in the kitchen area and those working in the sanctuary. Thanks to all of you for making our dinner so special...if I did not list everyone who helped, please forgive me...remember I am getting older.

Submitted by Ann Smith

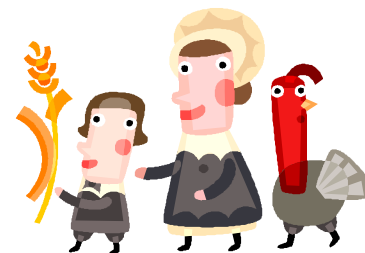
NEW TO YOU TRIP

Remember we are going to make another trip to "New to You" on Saturday, December 8th.

We will meet at the church at 10:00 am and car pool with a stop for lunch, probably at Wendy's. Maybe we will find some great holiday outfit that makes us beautiful and enchanting. We can not pass that up—right?

We had a fun time helping each other look for that special sweater or blouse. Nothing like a shopping trip to brighten up our day. Come along and look if that is what pleases you. If you need transportation, please call Peggy @ (503) 646-6882.

Ann Smith



- Some fun notes:
- Charlotte & Ken Harris cooked and sliced two turkeys. They didn't say who did which but Ken didn't have his apron on. Does that mean something?
- Did you know that Verna Wik's granddaughter published her first book of poems? Proud grandma!
- Sandeep—a recent new member of SOV has shown us his willingness to help out. Several times he stepped in and helped out with ushering. What a nice young man.
- Craig Zetterberg shared his house-divided banner and door mat one Sunday. Do you think he might be a Ducks fan?

Future worry: (smart-aleck remark)

Some people are kind, polite and sweet-spirited until you try to sit in their pew.

SOCIAL CONCERNS NEWS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Page 6

Larina Hoffbeck, Christine Edgar, Deniese Fredericks, Eric and Diane Lewis, Mert Warneking and Ann Smith met Friday night, November 16th to get ready for the distribution of the Thanksgiving food baskets.

Dave & Gunnar Rasmussen arrived with a load of apples and squash donated by Dave's folks in Hood River. Bob McFall donated batteries to go in the baskets.

The volunteers met on Saturday, Nov. 17th, 8:00 am to buy the food and then return to the church and fill the baskets.

WOW—what would we have done without our kids: Wesley, Hayden, Chelsea, Marissa, Austin, Tabitha, Carmen and Mallory, Gunnar and Solveig, Sarah and Jonathan made our day.

Thanksgiving poem submitted by Verna Wik...

T'was the night of Thanksgiving,
But I just couldn't sleep.
I tried counting backwards,
I tried counting sheep.
The leftovers beckoned -
The dark meat and white,
But I fought the temptation
With all of my might.

Tossing and turning
With anticipation,
The thought of a snack
Became infatuation.
So, I raced to the kitchen,
Flung open the door
And gazed at the fridge,
Full of goodies galore.

I gobbled up turkey
And buttered potatoes,
Pickles and carrots,
Beans and tomatoes.
I felt myself swelling
So plump and so round,
'Til all of a sudden,
I rose off the ground.
I crashed through the ceiling,
Floating into the sky
With a mouthful of pudding
And a handful of pie.



But I managed to yell
As I soared past the trees...
"Happy eating to all -
Pass the cranberries, please."

May your stuffing be tasty,
May your turkey be plump,
May your potatoes 'n gravy
Have nary a lump.

May your yams be delicious,
May your pies take the prize,
May your Thanksgiving dinner
Stay off of your thighs.

**May your Thanksgiving be
blessed!**

"JESUS HAD NO SERVANTS"

SUBMITTED BY PATRICA NELSON



Jesus had no servants,
yet they called Him
Master.
Had no degree, yet they
called Him Teacher.
Had no medicines, yet
they called Him Healer.

Had no army, yet kings
feared Him.
He won no military
battles, yet He
conquered the world.
He committed no crime,
yet they crucified Him.

He was buried in a tomb,
yet He lives today.
Feel honored to serve
such a Leader who loves
us.



DECEMBER 2007 CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																				
		<table><tr><td>Sun</td><td>Dec 2</td><td>Christmas Program practice</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Sun</td><td>Dec 9</td><td>Christmas Program practice</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Sat</td><td>Dec 15</td><td>Christmas Program practice & pizza party 3:00-5:30 pm</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Sun</td><td>Dec 16</td><td>Dress Rehearsal 9:45</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Sun</td><td>Dec 16</td><td>Christmas Program 2nd Service</td><td></td></tr></table>				Sun	Dec 2	Christmas Program practice		Sun	Dec 9	Christmas Program practice		Sat	Dec 15	Christmas Program practice & pizza party 3:00-5:30 pm		Sun	Dec 16	Dress Rehearsal 9:45		Sun	Dec 16	Christmas Program 2 nd Service		1 Advent Fair 4:00-7:00 pm
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9 8:30 & 11:00 Worship 9:45a—S.School & Confirmation 10:00a—Adult Class Youth Group—Lazer Tag /6:00-7:00P—Carols & Cookies Sing-a-long	10 Noon—Prayer Ministry 6:00p—SOV Exec. Meets	11 7:15a—Coffee @ Tanasbourne Starbucks 9:00a—KOK Chapel 6:30p—Christmas Women's Dinner 6:30p—Jr. Choir	12 6:00p—Advent Soup Supper 6:30p—Service 7:00p—Choir Practice	13 6:30p—Caring & Sharing	14	15 3:00-5:30 pm Christmas Program Prac-tice & Pizza Party																				
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23 8:30 & 11:00 a Worship 9:45a—S.School & Confirmation 10:00a—Adult	24 1 Christmas Eve Services: 4:00p...6:00p & 11:00 p	25 CHRISTMAS DAY! NO JUNIOR CHOIR	26 NO CHOIR PRACTICE	JANUARY 1ST AND JANUARY 2ND—NO JUNIOR OR ADULT CHOIR PRACTICES																						

A Christmas Alphabet...submitted by Diane Lewis

- A** for the angels who announced Jesus' birth
B is for Bethlehem where Jesus was born
C is for the camels which carried the wise men
D is for the donkey which Mary rode
E is for Elizabeth, Mary's cousin
F is for the fields where shepherds looked after their sheep
G is for the Good News that Jesus was born
H is for Herod who hated Jesus
I is for the Inn-keeper who had no room in his inn
J is for Joseph, Mary's husband
K is for the new-born King
L is for the Little Lord Jesus
M is for Mary, Jesus' mother
N is for Nazareth where Mary & Joseph lived
O is for the oxen inside the stable
P is for the presents the wise men bought-
gold, frankincense and myrrh
Q is for the question the wise men asked: "Where is the baby Jesus?"
- R** is for the long road from Nazareth to Bethlehem
S is for the stable with the star above
T is for the temple where Mary & Joseph took the baby Jesus
U is for the unexpected visit of the angels
V is for the visitors who came-the shepherds & wise men
W is for the wise men who watched and followed the star
X is for the exciting news of Christmas
Y is for the young child who was born for you and me
Z is for Zechariah the husband of Elizabeth



KEY DATES for KOK KOK Thanksgiving Luncheon November 19 at noon///KOK Christmas Program Dec 4 7PM
KOK Staff Christmas Lunch – Friday December 21, 2007/////No KOK Board meeting in December 2007
Next KOK Board meeting: Tuesday, January 15, 2008 5:00pm *to be confirmed*

Dear Friends in Christ,

Happy New Year! ...You might think I'm a month early, but according to the church's calendar, I'm not. The season of Advent, which begins December 2nd, marks the beginning of a new church year. For us who follow Jesus Christ, these four weeks leading up to Christmas are more than a time of preparing our homes for Christmas; more importantly, Advent is a time for each of us to get our "spiritual house" in order. The Scripture lessons appointed for Advent call us to reflect on what it means for us that God has broken into our troubled world by coming to us in the person of God's beloved Son, Jesus. These same lessons also call us to consider the difference God's promise makes in our lives and in the life of our world.

You and I know that this has been a difficult year for the congregation of Shepherd of the Valley. The death of Pastor Kurt and the many transitions you have been through have generated a lot of pain and anxiety. In addition, many of us have also suffered our share of personal hardships. Add to that all the troubles that surround us in our world—the ongoing conflicts in the Middle East, the threat of global warming, and the economic downturn, to name just a few—and it's easy to feel helpless and overwhelmed. No doubt many people do feel this way, and we would, too, if we did not have the hope that comes from trusting in God's promise of life. Martin Luther summed up the essence of God's promise quite well, when he said, "Even if I knew that the world would go to pieces tomorrow, I would still go and plant my apple tree." So great was his trust in God's love for the world....

I have been serving with you here at Shepherd of the Valley for six months now, and I've seen you come a long way during that time! As we get ready to cross the threshold of a new church year and then a new calendar year, I'm very excited for the congregation. The new banner that hangs in the sanctuary bears witness to what is happening here: the cross and the ascending dove, along with the accompanying caption, "The power of His Spirit." The power of God's Spirit is indeed working among you and through you. Look around you and see the signs: In the past few weeks, worship attendance has been up substantially—anywhere from 15 to 30 people above the average of the past two years! Sunday School for both youth and adults is going strong. Your outreach and hospitality ministries have done outstanding work recently—witness the success of the Thanksgiving dinner, with about 150 people in attendance, and the accomplishment of assembling and delivering food baskets to the wider community. In addition, much positive energy is going into the organization of SOV's records and into the creation and renovation of office space for church staff. By the time you get this newsletter, your leaders will likely have a signed contract with Kairos, the capital campaign consulting company that will be helping raise funds for SOV's building project. Speaking of funds, this is also the time of year when each of us is asked to prayerfully consider our financial contribution to the ministry of Shepherd of the Valley for the coming year. Commitment Sunday is December 16th.

Yes, dear friends, I am convinced that God has great things in store for you, the people of Shepherd of the Valley. In this busy season, I hope you will make time to rest in God's Word and enjoy the fellowship of your sisters and brothers here at SOV. In addition to Sunday worship, on Wednesday evenings during Advent (Dec. 5, 12, and 19) we will be having soup suppers followed by a beautiful musical setting of Evening Prayer. Dinner will be served at 6 pm, and worship will follow at 6:30. We should be done by about 7 pm. If you love to sing, you also won't want to miss our Christmas cookie and carol sing-along from 6 to 7 pm on Sunday evening, December 9th. Finally, I urge you to mark your calendars for the Sunday School Christmas program, which will be held Sunday, December 16th at the 11 o'clock worship service. The creative talents in SOV's Sunday School are truly amazing!

As we cross the Advent threshold and enter the new church year, I invite you to reflect on all the ways God has blessed you so that you may be a blessing to others, and I pray that each of us will take time to tend to our relationships with God and with each other, for it is through these relationships that you and I received the greatest gift of all: the gift of love that lights our way through the darkness of this world.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Michelle

SOV PRAYER TEAM MINISTRY submitted by Diane Lewis

The prayer team is being led by Neil and Dolores Austin, Charlotte Harris, Diane Lewis and Pastor Michelle. We have been meeting at the church at 1 PM on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month. The meeting time has been changed to Noon so that we can accommodate the members that expressed an interest to attend during their lunch time.

Anyone is invited to participate in our prayer ministry by praying out loud, silently, asking at the prayer circle, sending in a prayer request by email, phone message or writing out a prayer request and leaving it in the basket in the narthex.

We light candles, share what is going on at church, in the lives of our members, our committees, council, our community, schools or share any other prayer requests. This has been a time to focus on building a better



"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit."
1 Thessalonians 5:16-19

prayer life for our church family individually and as a church body. Prayer is the communication plan that Jesus taught his disciples when He taught them the Lords Prayer. Prayer is the conduit that connects us to God and opens up the possibilities of direction and understanding. It is a time to reestablish and advance our understanding, use and development of this powerful gift of prayer to build our ministry, outreach and intercede on behalf of individuals that have asked for prayers.

Everyone is welcome to join this opportunity to grow together in Christ, seek God's will for our congregation and experience the peace of the Lord through praying together. Our December meeting dates will be Dec. 10 and possibly Dec. 17 due to Christmas Eve falling on the 4th Monday.

CHURCH DIRECTORIES....submitted by Nancy Shetterly

The new church directories are here! A number of folks have already received their copies, but a few copies remain in the church office. If you have not received your copy, please contact the church office. Please let Nancy know if you have any corrections or additions. A big thanks to Ann Tracewell for all her hard work this past year getting the directory ready for distribution. She had a number of roadblocks along the way, but was successful in getting the job done! Thanks, Ann for all your hard work.

Looking back and looking ahead!...

submitted by Diane Lewis

December is here! Christmas is coming and a new year is approaching! As we go into the Advent and Christmas seasons it is a good time for us to reflect and rejoice in God's enduring gift of love and His plan for us:

Thinking about this last 18 months has been what some would call a real head shaker! We had so many plans, well thought out, well planned and even had the grant money to keep us financially even through the sabbatical.

God had other plans and even when things went upside down God took care of us and we were OK.

Pastor Kurt came back, the building committee was diligent in all their work and planning, we were planning to go forward and then Pastor Kurt died January 3, 2007. Pastor Kurt was called to God and the ripple of love and loss was amazing as we began to come out of the shock of losing our Pastor so suddenly and so young.

God's love surrounded us, held us up, encouraged us, and guided us through the darkness of physical loss to the promise that He gives each of us through the light of eternal life in Him.

God's love and grace gave us Pastor Don Parson to lead us through Easter as our interim pastor. Pastor Don listened, taught, guided us and loved us in the first steps of our new journey in being without a full time "called" pastor. This was a time of shock and fear. Pastor Don kept us nurtured in God's love and gave us stability through his nurturing pastoral care.

Once again God gave us His love by "calling" Pastor Michelle Manicke to us as our interim pastor to lead us in the final journey in the "Call process" to "Call" a new full time pastor for our congregation. She jumped into learn all that we were doing, offering a listening ear, guidance when needed and has helped steady us when we need to look at the directions we are going. She is teaching, guiding and caring for us through her love of God and the power of the Holy Spirit in new and profound opportunities that sometimes are even new for Pastor Michelle. Being trained in interim ministry had not given her experience with a building program or researching and hiring for a big capital campaign program yet she has given us God's teachings and understanding to stay on track with all that the congregation has decided to continue in this unexpected time of loss and sadness.

Our congregation came together in new ways to reach out to each other, create new ministries, welcome new members, try new ideas, learn to communicate better, have more people become involved, adopted two new refugee families, and most of all to support each other. We are a family of about 200 members that have been in a grieving process for almost a year. We are a congregation that also have lost many beloved family members this year, lost jobs, some have gone through some other very personal losses and challenges yet we have learned to try to reach out to each other and care for one another. We also learned that we need to sometimes be better for caring for each other and to reach out to people when we haven't seen them at church. We are learning that God wants us to really look at our congregation and besides being a "Caring community touched by Christ, touching others for Christ" outside Shepherd of the Valley, that we really need to take care of each other as a body of Christ within our church.

We made the decision to go forward with the building program, the land was bought for road project, the Call committee is working hard, the building committee has spent countless hours getting everything ready to sell our piece of property, the council has new members, the church has new leadership in new areas, we are getting ready to sign a contract for the big capital campaign that start work in January, a new youth choir has been created, committees are working hard to keep our church thriving, new people are attending and becoming members and the list goes on and on.

This has been a year that challenged us in so many ways. We felt so many losses, had some hard times, some great times and we continue to be working together, worshiping together, sharing God's love and trying to be open to what God's plan is for us as a congregation. As we go into a new year, with so many plans for ourselves individually and as a congregation I encourage each of us to remember to thank God for the blessings He has given us, to pray for His guidance and for us to feel God's love, peace and grace as we remember that in all things we plan it really is God's plan not ours. My prayer for myself and for us together as we look back at this year and look towards a new year is simple..."Thy will be done....in His time".