

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 8:00 -12:00
(by appt after 12:00)

Office phone;
503.645.4994
Sovlutheran.com

Kids of the Kingdom
Christian preschool &
daycare
503.645.0236

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New Pictorial Directory

It's time to update the Pictorial Directory from Olan Mills. There new members and some very darling children who weren't even born to be part of the last one. So please sign up for a time on December 7th, 2009. After all, it just won't be complete without you!

- Every participating family/household that selects a pose will receive a free directory and a complimentary 8 x 10 Custom Natural Portrait.
- You only need to come to the church once for photography and portrait viewing.
- The directory is at no cost to the church with 40 participating families/households.
- You need to be at church only 10 minutes in advance of the appointment.

There are already 29 places taken, so we are almost to the goal. Thank you, everyone who signed up already. The church also receives free brochures and some other nice evangelism tools at no charge for participating in the program.

Here are the times which are open:

4:20 5:10 5:25 5:30 5:50 6:30 6:50 7:25 8:30 8:40 8:50 9:10

If you can't come on Monday, let me know what dates you are available in the next couple weeks. You can get a picture taken at another church, but it has to be scheduled. I will get back to you with those arrangements also get you the necessary paperwork.

If you just absolutely can't make an appointment, please do submit a photo for inclusion. If you have anyone in the armed services who you would like to honor, please forward their photos for that special page.

Committees – If you would like to include pictures of activities, please put them in my mailbox in the church office.

Please don't hesitate to call me at 971-235-3373 or email me at lee.bonacker@verizon.net if you have scheduling needs or other questions.

Let's See Your Gorgeous Face,
Lee Bonacker





PASTOR'S PAGE

"In those days a decree went out....." Luke 2:1

Do you know the words that come next? They lead into the story that has been read out loud, acted out (to tears and laughter), and shared in many different ways, through the centuries. And in just a few short weeks we will gather to hear them read again. And we will sing familiar hymns. And we will try to be present, even though our minds may tug us in all kinds of different directions. (Of course much of our planning will only come to fruition if the weather is more co-operative than it was last year.)

They are old words, and it is an old story, and many of us have heard it so many times that we can recite what is coming next before the words are even spoken. But things will also be different. Maybe there will be only slight changes. Maybe there will be enormous changes. There are the changes that come with the passage of a years time, and all of our years have held differences for us. There are losses to be counted or mourned over. There are gains to revel in and give thanks for.

I have many wonderings about the time myself. It will be our first Christmas together as the family of Shepherd of the Valley, and a new pastor (at least new in this place and time). There will be more miles logged than usual, differences in the faces seen and housing arrangements, and who knows what else that I haven't even considered yet. If I dwell too long on such things the point of the story can be lost.

We will, all of us, in ways both great and small, try to make this time similar to other years. We will get things done, but not everything. We will think "next year" will be the year that I will start a little earlier, or maybe plan a little less. We will do what people do. We will get flustered, get too busy, think too much, laugh and cry (sometimes connecting the two). We will get foolishly frustrated, feel inexplicable joy, and so much of it will rush right past us.

And the beauty in all of this is sameness of that story. Ready or not, fully focused or not, the story is the same. The grand and glorious promise is the same. And thankfully it's power does not depend on our preparedness or understanding. May our efforts be blessed, and may they achieve at least some of their goals. But in the end may we find solace in the fact that, ready or not, the good news of "*Emmanuel - God is with us*", breaks into our lives as a gift to us. Hear the old story again and let it simply be that gift.

"In those days a decree went out....."

Blessed Christmas, in the peace of Christ,

Pastor Randy

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Submitted by Peggy Vermaas

The trees are bare and the rains have come. Fall is passing. Winter is soon upon us. Here in the Northwest our weather brings more "people" days . . . days when the rain moves us indoors encouraging us to connect with one another. Our grey days are our blessing . . . if we choose that view. Choosing the view. True for most things. Putting our vision into action. What is God's plan for Shepherd? Are we on track with His plan? Touching others for Christ. Rains and reflection. I think about these things. I hope you are too. Share your ideas. Give the gift. Connect. Blessings to all as we enter this season of joy.

Here are some of our blessings:

NEWSLETTER AND INFORMATION STATION:

We have copies of the newsletter available for all who don't access it through the website. Please read the Newsletter for details of our activities. REMINDER: Council minutes are posted on the bulletin board. The most recent minutes are in draft form so have not been approved but are current. Tammy has been working now for six months. Thanks for her attention to detail and creative ideas!!!!

GOOD WORKS: Larry and Bruce Gilbertson installed an additional section of retaining wall by the west entrance of KOK. This will stop the flow of mud into the KOK play area and improve the appearance of that area significantly. A new side by side refrigerator was donated by Daisy Steele and Mike Maynard

and has been installed into the Shepherd's storehouse. Betty Stoltenburg, Susan Vignolo, Beth Kight, and Ann Smith all worked on the new Christmas costumes for our kids.



BLESSINGS EVENT: This event was attended by about 90 SOV folks . . . including some new visitors!!!! Bill Hessler and Linnea Harmon put love in action by cooking and serving our meal and Pastor Randy lead us in the theme of appreciating our missions and blessings.

The deck is completed; the Storehouse is relocated, full of food and ready to serve; KOK WAS IN THE BLACK THIS MONTH!!!!; Mert continues her many years of good works with Lutheran Community Services helping refugees. Touching others for Christ. Our mission statement in action.

BUDGET: Progress made but room for improvement. Our treasurer enthusiastically received the offerings of last week which covered our expenses and so we did not dip further into dedicated funds (Memorials, Pastor's moving fund, concert money, and building funds). Council's goal is to have these funds in interest bearing accounts and not used as our cash reserve for deficits. At present we need to repay the monies we have borrowed from these funds. Council decided to wait on designing the 2010 budget until February so we can consider complete 2009 data in the plan.

Thanks to all for helping.

FACILITY ISSUES: A plumbing contractor has been selected; work will begin soon; cost is covered from the Building fund. The FLOOD of water into KOK from our clogged downspout drains appears to have been abated by disconnecting the downspouts on the west side of the building and attaching above ground drain pipes. Property is working on the solution and KOK is graciously coping with yet another facility related problem (plumbing and gutter drains) that has interfered with their program. KOK has notified both the Fire Marshall and the Daycare Certifier of the problems. Consistent with Synod recommendations for growth, Property, Worship and property have anchored our PAINTING UPGRADE.

FUND RAISING: New 2 You generated about \$80 this month to buy supplies for the Shepherd's Storehouse. The Ladies dinner group provided \$165 for the new Storehouse shelving and supplies. We are supporting this mission. Book program and Newspaper collection continues. More info to come.

EASEMENT: Next meeting with the attorney is 12/01 and includes members from Property, Building, and Exec. Specifics will not be included in the Newsletter. Seek info as needed.

Thanks to all for all you are and do in making us part of God's family.

Peggy

SOCIAL CONCERNS... BY LARINA HOFFBECK

Thank you to everyone who donated funds or came out to help with our Thanksgiving Basket event on the 21st! We gave 57 families a turkey or chicken, potatoes, fruits and vegetables, bread, pie, milk and other food items to help them celebrate a Happy Thanksgiving.

Our Christmas project this year is the Portland VA Medical Center. We will be collecting items from their needs list. A list of their most needed things is on the **Social Concerns**

bulletin board. Further information is available at their web site: <http://www.visn20.med.va.gov/Portland/Volunteer/Documents/NeedsList.pdf>.

We will be collecting through Sunday, December 20th. Thank you for helping us to support our Veterans this Christmas! We'd also like to thank everyone who made it possible for Shepherd's Storehouse to move into its new home. We hope the new location

will make it easier for us to serve more of the hungry people in our community. If you'd like to take a look, Larina would be happy to show you before or after second service any Sunday.



Upcoming Events Offered by Northwest Oregon Group, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| January 28, 2010 – 12:00 pm | Economic & Investment Outlook & Update
Hillsboro Main Library |
| January 28, 2010 – 6:00 pm | Economic & Investment Outlook & Update
Lake Oswego Office |

You are invited to join us at one of our informational meetings. For your convenience, we have two locations: Lake Oswego, 4000 Kruse Way Place, or the Hillsboro Main Library Meeting Room, 2050 N.E. Brookwood Parkway, Hillsboro. Please call to reserve a space no later than the day before each workshop. If you have any questions or would like to sign up, please call us at 503-635-2003.



Kids of the Kingdom

Submitted by Eva Norland

The staff and children of KOK are very grateful to everyone who has helped us with the water issues. With everyone's help we received we are now getting to move our furniture back and have more use of our room. Thank you to the Sunday School for working with us in a shared building and cleaning up after yourself. It makes a difference when we all work together. Our children celebrated Thanksgiving with their families, Pastor and Tammy with a yummy meal prepared for us by the Child Care board. We are all looking forward to Christmas and the birth of our Savior. We will be celebrating Christmas early this year with a short program on December 3rd from 6:30pm-7:00pm. We **invite you all** to come and hear the children sing and hear the Christmas story. We have also hired a new preschool teacher last month named Susan. We are very grateful for her presence as it has helped us keep the center flowing. Our current enrollment went up since spring and we are praying for more students to arrive in January. Please continue to pray for our center and for continued growth. May God continue to richly bless each and everyone of you.

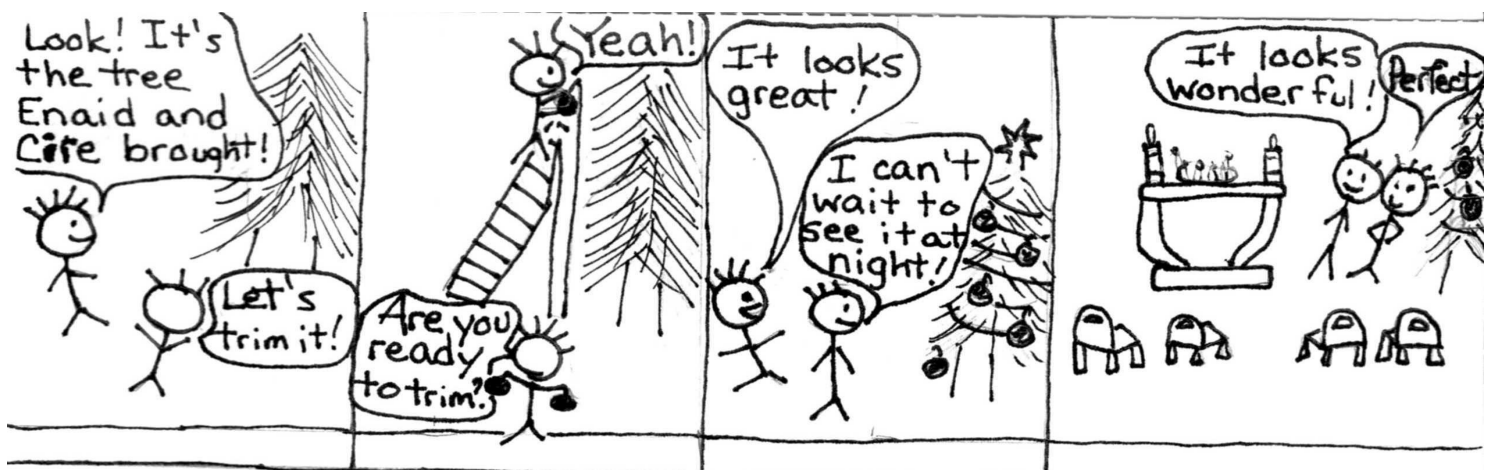
Eva Norland,

Director and the KOK Staff



EOJ AND MIJ HELP DECORATE...

Created by Mallory and Carmen Hoffbeck and Katrina Tabor



AROUND THE PARISH...by Ann Smith

SOV variety show held on October 25th, who knew Arden Tarum was a comedian at heart—not me!. He told some of the old Lutheran jokes then played his trumpet. And would you believe the nurse, our parish nurse plays the piano? Corrine Gilbertson you did a wonderful job. And now for the big surprise—Pastor read cowboy poems, I think that comes from wearing those cowboy boots on Sundays. The Soggy Bottom Beaverdam Boys showed up singing the Beatles songs. The Burundi Singers did a couple of numbers for us singing in their native language. Amber and Julia Kotvis telling riddles and performing a mind reading act Last but not least our very own SOV choirs. They did a beautiful job. The youth choir had a few solos and we had a Tammie Dees return as a guest soloist.

The Rebecca Circle met on Thursday November 5th, ladies attending were Verna Wik, Marlene Loftus, Mert Warneking, Beth Kight, Dolores Aus-

tin, Ann Smith and Peggy Vermaas. We had a busy discussion about what Rebecca's were going to plan for the coming year.

1. Our janitorial service for both restrooms and vacuuming the sanctuary.
2. We discussed being a service group we could act as greeters on Sunday mornings.
3. Send out cards to fellow members for in need of support.
4. We could start a prayer group or prayer partners.
5. Plan an outing during the summer months (if transportation can be worked out)

Joshua, Lorna Hodgin's grandson made our day after receiving his green licorice stick he very politely said Thank You God—to our pastor and as he walked back to his seat he said good bye, also for such a little guy, he has good manners, our children are wonderful!

Another look at KOK, guess it was caused by the plugged gutter drains. We are going to have to address that issue sooner or later. Maybe we should be thinking about that

before the rain really starts?

What do you think about the new food storehouse location? Did you take a look in there? Looks pretty darn good, Larina Hoffbeck and Joe have done a nice job setting it up and its all nicely organized. Can you believe all we have been doing this year? Things are happening around here—Tammy's office really does look great. We are working on cleaning the floor next! Then on to the sanctuary.

Spaghetti sauce red and ample for our luncheon. There must have been about 90 to 100 people there. They helped bless our deck and the storehouse and KOK. Bill Hessler and Linnea Harmon did a great job making all that spaghetti for us. How wonderful that they did that for us. Thank you Bill and Linnea

Ladies Dinner, we used our Sweet Tomatoes coupon for all 12 of us. We had a good time, you know how much we enjoy that talking! But we did enjoy the food too. We are good eaters.



Around the parish continued...

Thanksgiving Pie Social. How many pies can the pastor eat? As skinny as he is I don't think he eats too many. We are thankful for these fellowship times with our church family to share stories and give thanks for one another.

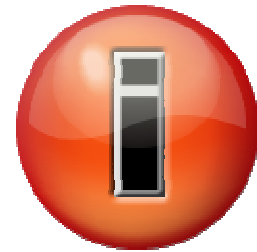
Our new information center is located between pastors office and the church office. What do you need? Change of name form, email change, address change? Did you donate clothing or items to the church or new to you and need a tax dona-

tion form, that's where you will find one. Miss a Sunday and need a bulletin, or want a hard copy of the newsletter, you will find that there also and how about "Christ in our Home" daily devotional booklet? We have them also.

Please note; We try to gather all information for the newsletter by the Monday following council so that Tammy can print it that week. If at all possible please submit your information to her on that Monday. We would like to get the

newsletter out the week prior to the new month.

Thank you in advance.



ONGOING PAINTING PROJECT...

More funds and generous gifts of paint have been donated towards the interior painting project. Helen Ohm of Hohm Design, our design consultant, continues to offer her services to help with an updated and cohesive vision for SOV. Please see the proposed color board in the narthex. The colors chosen will compliment and add continuity with the carpet, chairs, window treatments, wood work and architectural design. Helen, is gifting her services to support our success. A HUGE Thank you to Bob and Connie McFall for 9 gallons of paint, Harvey Andersen, Don & Hope Roach, Ann Smith and Rudy & Aggie Wagemann for their cash donations and our dedicated painting crew. Our goal is by spring of 2010 to have the interior paint update completed.

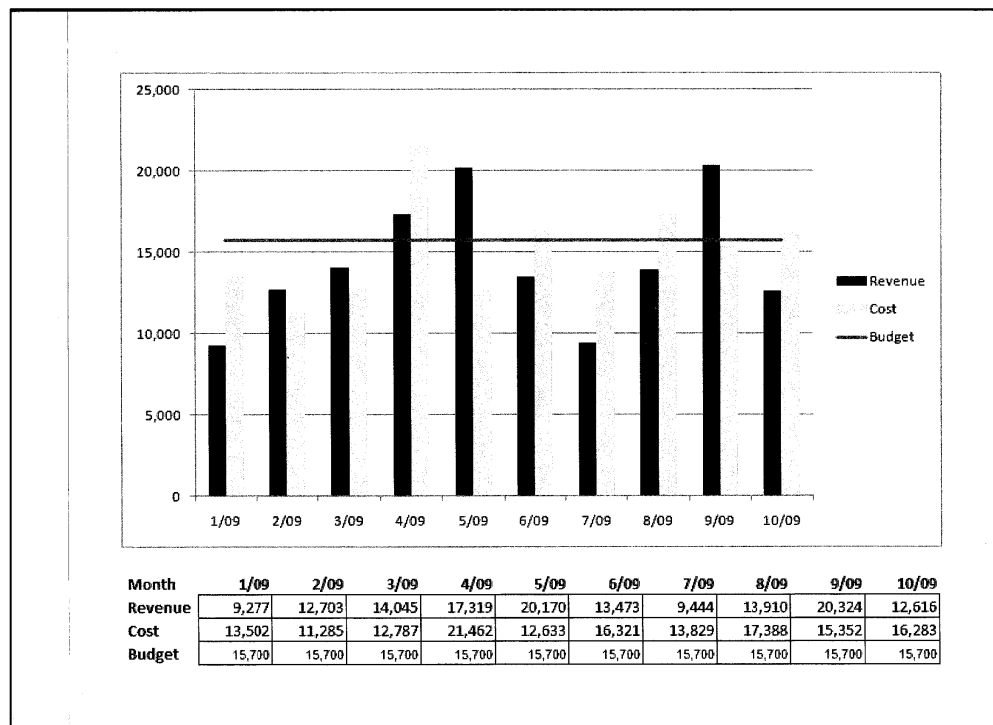


FROM THE DESK OF YOUR FINANACIAL SECRETARY

Submitted by Valsala George

"Its beginning to look a lot like Christmas" You cannot miss this fact the radio stations are playing Xmas Carols, the stores in the malls have all put out their Christmas decorations, advertisements are enticing you to enhance your life with the products they offer and you are in the mood to indulge. You are already making plans and counting shopping days, You already have some idea as what you want to get your family and friends or more precisely how much you want to spend this year for Christmas, Hold this thought!!

The Executive Committee would like to draw your attention to the following graph. We as a congregation passed a budget for \$15700 per month, This is the amount we need to pay our monthly bills. As of October 31st 2009 we are \$14000 short. In other words its like saying SOV did not receive any offerings from the congregation for a whole month!!But when we made those pledges we did so for a whole year. We are not Wall Street who will bail SOV out ?



Now go back to the thought you are holding how about adding your church to your Christmas list and when you budget for Christmas shopping this year how about budgeting for SOV too!!!

God Bless you.

Valsala George

BUILDING COMMITTEE...Submitted by Linnea Harmon

As I wrote last month, the Building Committee continues to look at projects included in Phase I of the building program that can be completed now.

The Property Management Committee recently reported at Council that the remaining galvanized pipes in our building are continuing to leak and fail. Since replacing the plumbing pipes in our current building is in the Phase I plan, the Building Committee worked with Property Management to obtain and evaluate bids for the work. I am very happy to report that we are in the process of hiring a plumber with the contract to be paid from your building funds!

Please keep the Committee in your prayers as we continue to work toward our collective goal of a new sanctuary building and Sunday School space.



Wednesday Night Advent Soup Supper

December 2, 9, and 16

Supper at 5:45 p.m.

Vespers at 6:30 p.m.

Watch for sign-up sheet in the narthex

Christmas Eve Services

6:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.

Both services with communion

NEW THIS YEAR!

Christmas Day Service at 10:00 a.m.

With communion

Poinsettias

Please look for the sign up sheet in the narthex for donations/memorials

"Giving Thanks – Living in Hope"

Submitted by John Cross

Greetings, Sisters and Brothers in Christ!

I want you to know that you have been in my thoughts and prayers! There has been so much going on over the past months – baptisms and weddings; worship and service; Bible Study and prayer; birth, death and Resurrection. Summer sunshine warmed your hearts and now the winter rains soak into the earth, keeping the grass green. People have come and gone from the faith community called **Shepherd of the Valley**. Through it all, the Lord continues to provide! I urge you to remain faithful to the gospel as you continue forward in ministry.

Your faithful giving to the general fund and to the **"Building on Christ Our Foundation"** capital campaign is a key factor in keeping **SOV** strong and vital during this time. These are difficult times for our country and for the world, with economic challenges that impact millions of lives. Remember that it is during times such as these that people need the Lord more than ever. People seek a community of faith for worship, prayer, hope and the gospel message. People need your congregation more now than in any time in your history – and you need each other!

When the Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Corinth he referred to Christians who were living in the poor country of Macedonian, north of the thriving city of Corinth. But it was not the Corinthians who were models of biblical giving. Contrary to logic, it was the Christians of Macedonian, during a time of severe affliction, who gave with generosity that could only come from God. In fact, Paul wrote that they first gave themselves to the Lord – **then** gave beyond their needs, begging earnestly for the privilege of financially supporting the Lord's work. (2 Corinthians 8: 1- 6)

Take heart, friends in Christ – the Lord is with you! Keep the faith. Pray without ceasing. Give like the Macedonians. Serve with the heart of Jesus. Be kind to one another. Rally around your mission. Give thanks even when walking through the valley. Thank your leaders. Invite someone new to worship. Pray fervently for Pastor Randy, the staff and your leaders. Be the people of God!

I look forward to being with you at worship on January 10. In the meantime, press on toward the goal!

May the Lord bless and keep you.

Your partner with Kairos,

Pastor John Cross



From the Parish Nurse-----Corrine Gilbertson

We plan to have a class course on HEARTSAVER ADULT/CHILD CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) presentation here at the church sometime in January. There are several in the community that conduct these classes as directed by the American Heart Association. They all charge a fee now and that seems to be around \$30.00 dollars per person. I will get the date set and encourage you to sign up! Its a 4-5 hr class and will be on Saturday or Sunday.



We are also in the midst of discussions on the feasibility of having an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) in place at Shepherd of the Valley . Most churches have them. The cost is coming down and they do save lives! Having just updated my CPR status at the Red Cross Center, I can attest to the fact that these new AED'S are very simple to operate! ----- and safe! The venders of this piece of medical equipment will come to our church and demonstrate their product! Please talk to me, the Councilor or Health team members if you have questions on this matter.

I am very proud of the work the Health team does, each in their own quiet way, in caring for others here at SOV. We are making plans for a church "Prayer Vigil" in January . More details will follow. There is also an organization in the community with the sponsorship of area churches that are called Compassionate clinics . We had one in a Saturday in July and one this fall. This clinic is comprised of Volunteer Medical Staff will provide care to those with no health insurance who need care. I will post the date for the next clinic date and location for this Free Clinic! What a wonderful service! I think our Lords says ----"what ere you do unto the least of my children ----you do unto Me"!

Peace,

Corrine Gilbertson, Parish Nurse



Stewardship 2010 Acting Together, Sharing Enough

Submitted by Diane Lewis

November 1, brought us together after our new Stewardship program kicked off October 4. Our year-long program is to focus on learning more about Stewardship and experience new opportunities of joy when we give back some of what God has given us.

This year all members from 5 years old on up have the opportunity to make a pledge of their time, talent and financial giving. We want to expand the experience of giving from our hearts.

We are excited to share the information from the start of our new Stewardship program for 2010. We are working together!

2008/9

Volunteer forms received: 46

Financial pledges received: 31

Special offering pledges: \$1540

Regular offering pledges: \$77,430 (\$2498 per pledge)

Regular offering budgeted that year: \$168,466

Regular offering actually received: NA

2009/10

Volunteer forms received: 71

Financial pledges received: 49

Special offering pledges: \$2285

Regular offering pledges: \$119,460 (\$2438 per pledge)

. The opportunity is always available to make a written pledge or adjust your commitments when needed. Pledge forms for financial giving and volunteer time are always welcomed. We will be planning more Stewardship activities throughout the coming year so that we can strengthen how we “act together, and learn to share enough”. It is exciting to be part of becoming better stewards of what God has given to each of us and to us as a church family.

The growth of giving from our time, talent and financial gifts is growing! We CAN make a difference as we ARE building on Christ our foundation!

Please pray for Shepherd of the Valley as we explore new opportunities and strengthen our ministries to live out being, “A caring community, touched by Christ, touching others for Christ.”

The SOV Stewardship team

Jim Allgaier, Larina Hoffbeck, Diane Lewis, Bob McFall and Deb Mueller-Kruse

Ladies Christmas Dinner...Submitted by Charleen Kuykendall

All ladies of SOV are cordially invited to our annual Christmas Dinner

Tuesday December 15th

“Crossroads Restaurant” at Embassy Suites Hotel, Washington Square

6:30 pm

Please RSVP to Charleen Kuykendall 503.629.9763 or Clara Mashek 503.5478756



DECEMBER 2009

Sun

Mon





Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		1 6:30 pm Youth Choir	2 10:00 am Bible Study w/Pastor Rebecca Circle Bible Study/b lunch Advent soup/bread supper & evening worship 5:45 pm	3 6:30 pm Men's Night @ Ken Plinkes CIVIL WAR Game KOK Christmas Program 6:30 pm	4	5
6 Worship w/ communion 8:30 & 11:00 Birthday Sunday Blood Pressure Check Confirmation Class	7 Pictures with Olan Mills for new directory 3:00- 9:30 pm 	8 6:30 pm Youth Choir	9 Advent soup/bread supper & evening worship 5:45 pm 7:00 pm Adult choir	10	11 Health Team 12:30 pm Bring Christmas snack to share	12
13 Worship w/ communion 8:30 & 11:00 Confirmation Class 10:00 am Christmas Concert 6:00 pm	14 Social Concerns Meeting 6:45 pm	15 Executive Council 6:30 pm Ladies Dinner 6:30 pm 6:30 pm Youth Choir	16 Advent soup/bread supper & evening worship 5:45 pm 7:00 pm Adult choir	17 Council Meeting 7:00 pm	18	19
20 Worship w/ communion 8:30 & 11:00 Christmas Caroling w/soup, chili supper 5:30 pm 	21	22 6:30 pm Youth Choir	23 7:00 pm Adult choir	24 Christmas Eve worship 6:00 pm & 11:00 pm w/ communion 	25 Merry Christmas Christmas Day Service 10:00 am w/ communion 	26
27 Worship w/ communion 8:30 & 11:00	28	29	30	31		

Merry Christmas