

DECEMBER 2014

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Volume I, Issue I

Shepherd's Office Hours;
Mon-Thurs 6:45 - 10:45 a

Pastor Randy's Office

Hours; Mon & Fri

Temporary Pastor

Brian Brandt

Tues — Thurs

10:00 - 2:00 p

And by appt.

Office phone;

503.645.4994

Sovlutheran.com

Worship Services

8:30 a & 11:00 a

9:45 a Sunday School

Advent Wednesday's

5:30 p Soup

6:30 p Devotion

Inside this issue:

| | |
|------------------------|----|
| Pastor Brian's message | 2 |
| Council President | 3 |
| Red Cross | 4 |
| Parish Education | |
| Kids of the Kingdom | 5 |
| KOK Contd. | 6 |
| Worship News | |
| Fellowship | 7 |
| Fellowship cont. | 8 |
| Birthdays | 9 |
| Anniversaries | |
| Prayer Shawl | 10 |
| Ladies Dinner | 11 |
| Men's Night | |
| Scrip | |
| Calendar | 12 |

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

Youth Group News



Mitch

Amber

Jean

Amanda

Jonathan

Taylor

Anita

Emily

•
•
**Youth group is open to all 6-12th
grade students!**



**YOUTH
GROUP**
★ News ★

Pastor Brian's Message

A bunch of “firsts” are coming up for me in December. It will be my first Advent and Christmas at SOV. It will be my first Christmas program here — kids & choir — delightful! My first New Year's Brunch after the single service on December 28. December also brings my first vacation at SOV, and my first Sunday off since I came to you on Palm Sunday last April.

Not that I'm eager to get away. I enjoy being with God's people at SOV. But everybody needs time off now and then. Taking a break early in December will help prepare me for the flurry of joyful celebration coming later.

While I'm away, you'll have a familiar and beloved shepherd: Pastor Randy. He'll be in the office during that first week of December. He'll lead worship and preach at both services on December 7, as well as leading adult Sunday School. Aside from my week of vacation, Pastor Randy will also be carrying out other ministry duties during December. He'll continue to lead the Wednesday Bible Study at 10:00 a.m. He'll also lead devotions at the Advent Wednesday soup suppers, which start at 5:30 p.m. And Pastor Randy will lead Christmas morning worship, something dear to him. I'm very grateful for Pastor Randy's leadership and for his partnership in ministry at Shepherd of the Valley. May God continue to bless our work together.

This week of vacation in December makes it possible for me to attend some events I might not otherwise. My spouse and I will go to a holiday party with the local chapter of Friends of Sabeel. Sabeel is a center for theological education in Jerusalem that supports Palestinian Christians in their ongoing struggle to practice their faith while under occupation by the Israeli military. We'll also get to attend an Advent party at the other church I hang out with when I'm not at SOV, namely, Mission of the Atonement on Scholls Ferry Road in Beaverton — a unique congregation of both Lutherans and Roman Catholics. We'll also attend a play (“Twist Your Dickens”) at Portland Center Stage. And I'll have time to enjoy the fact that I'm alive and well in God's amazing world, with all the beauty of Portland, its rivers and mountains all around. What a gift!

Thank you for your generosity making it possible for your clergy to have vacations. I'll enjoy myself while I'm away, but I'll be glad to get back so we can watch for the Messiah together in Advent and then celebrate the feast of the Incarnation for Christmas. God bless us, everyone!

JANUARY NEWSLETTER ARTICLES ARE DUE DECEMBER 22ND

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT...Submitted by Jim T

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas!

We are very blessed here at Shepherd of the Valley! Pastor Brian continues to lead us here as our Pastor in residence for the near future. We also have many good people sharing Christ's love throughout our community and within our church. Thank you to all of the committees and their members for continuing to work hard to keep SOV running smoothly.

We hope you had a fabulous Thanksgiving and loving times with your families. Christmas is coming SOON and there will be many opportunities to prepare for the coming of our messiah. There will be Advent Wednesday evening soup beginning at 5:30 pm followed by services. The evenings are December 3rd, 10th and 17th with Pastor Randy presiding.

Thanks to Social Concerns and all of the volunteers for funding, researching, shopping and preparing the 39 "baskets" (actually BIG boxes) for the HopeSpring women and children. There were as many as 150 people who were provided with food for this long Thanksgiving week. What an inspiring group of volunteers who showed Christ's love through action and the Holy Spirit.

The Facts from Lutheran Community Services and HopeSpring website:

Over 4000 children are homeless in Washington County each year.

Most homeless women and children have been victims of domestic violence.

Adequate education, support and financial assistance are necessary to break the cycle of poverty, violence, and homelessness.

Giving Thanks was a huge success! Again thanks to all the volunteers and Fellowship Committee for their efforts. We can't give Lyle a big enough thank you for all he provided! From the German sausage to the accordion playing we were well fed and serenaded with true hospitality.

One month at a time for Pastor Randy. He has returned at 20% of Full time or 8 hours a week (as recommended from his doctor) beginning November. He preached for two Sundays and adult bible studies between services along with Adult Bible studies on Wednesday. During December he will be preaching on Dec 7th, and Christmas morning at 10 am and continuing with Adult Bible studies during December. Executive council would appreciate your feedback on how he is doing. Pastor Brian will be presiding over December 14th, 21st and Christmas Eve Services and December 28th services.

Council business: 37 pledges were received for 2015 so far. Thanks to those who have made pledges for next year and Stewardship for their efforts. Elaine Kingston, Treasurer and council will be finalizing the budget for 2015 soon so your pledges help us to more accurately anticipate 2015 offertory giving's.

Bulletin inputs for Sunday Bulletins need to be to Tammy by 8 am Tuesday. This includes all announcements from committees and individuals.

Council Presidents Report Cont..... Submitted by Jim T

There is an ad hoc committee reviewing and preparing our Constitution that we will submit to the Oregon Synod in 2015. Also we are still receiving input on the Media Policy for SOV and seek to find a workable policy to implement.

Christmas Programs: Caroling December 7th meet at SOV and we will car pool to various sites.

Children's Christmas Program/Choir Concert – Sunday, Dec.21st

Christmas Eve Services: 4pm, 6pm and 11pm and Christmas Day Service at 10 am

May we take time to stop, take a deep breath and reflect on all the many blessings we have received this past year! Thank you, God for all of our blessings and for sending your son, Jesus, so we may live our lives knowing we are saved by your grace.

Shepherd of the Valley is proudly sponsoring an American Red Cross blood drive Friday, December 19th 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.



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. **Walk - in's Welcome**

PARISH ED...Submitted by Stacie S

This month we will be practicing for our Christmas program. Our youth has offered to help direct the program this year and we welcome the additional help! Rehearsals will begin Nov 30th during Sunday school (9:45-10:45)

The performance will be December 21 at 6:30pm.

Important dates:

Nov 30th - Dec 21 Christmas program rehearsals during Sunday school

No Sunday School December 28th or Jan 4th.



Kids of the Kingdom Christian Preschool and Kindergarten

Christmas Program



Family and friends are invited to our school Christmas Program December 16, Tuesday, at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary. This is a wonderful celebration of the birth of Jesus, our Savior. Each class will sing songs and then the whole group will wish a very Merry Christmas to all.

Christmas Break

Last day of classes is December 19, 2014. Then we will have a two week break and classes will resume on January 5, 2015.

K-Pre-K News

Mrs. Rasmussen

In November, we learned about the fruits of the Spirit and talked about what it means to be thankful. We made scarecrows and turkeys and talked about harvest and all the fruits and vegetables that God has provided for us. We prepared fruit salad and cornbread pudding to share with our families at our Thanksgiving Family Feast. We made turkey hats, pumpkin pockets to hold pictures of what we are thankful for, and sang songs about turkeys and being thankful on that special day. We had a snow day in anticipation of a big storm that didn't come. We made lots of books and practiced reading and writing our sight words. We cut, glued and drew as we worked on our alphabet books. We collected data, and worked with numbers, graphing, and patterning in math. We watched the weather and the change of seasons. We played outside and enjoyed the world God has created for us because we know the cold, rainy winter days will be here soon.

December brings us Advent and the birth of Baby Jesus. We will fill our days preparing for the birth of our Savior by listening to stories and responding to them with words and pictures. We will also be as busy as the elves in Santa's workshop making gifts for our families. We will continue learning about patterns, shapes, and deconstructing numbers to 10. We will keep practicing writing our numbers and counting to 100. We will celebrate our 50th day of school with special activities and a treat from our friend Zero the Hero. We will be practicing reading word family words, cvc words, and writing and reading our sight words. We will learn new songs and poems and practice for our Christmas program on Tuesday, December 16th. We will have a special Christmas party on December 18th to wish Jesus a happy birthday.

Preschool 4's News

Ms. Benedict

The Preschool 4s class celebrated Thanksgiving together with a family feast. We are thankful for our families and for our friends at school.

In December, we look forward to celebrating Jesus' birthday. We will make a special take-home book about the Christmas story, decorate our classroom tree, conduct candy cane experiments, and make a special gift to give our parents. Amidst all the fun, we will continue learning our letters, practice counting, and learn some special songs for our Christmas performance.

Preschool 3's News

Mrs. Sandow

This month the 3's class learned about comparing large and small. We compared objects, shapes, colors and even used puppets! The kids enjoyed acting out "The Mitten" with our puppet animals. We finished the month with our Thanksgiving feast and learned about how to share God's love with others. We made special gifts for each of our classmates to learn about the joy of giving.

In December, we will explore God's love for us. We will read about the Nativity story and create gifts for our family and friends. Music will be a large focus for this month as we prepare for the Christmas program.

Two's Time

Mrs. Roeder

The month of November brought us leaves, spiders, bats, baby Moses, Giving Thanks and Fruits of the Spirit. We learned about shapes with spider cards, threw bean bags, played with play dough, scooped rice and fruit, did many art activities and sang the ABC's and Wheels on the Bus. We are very busy and really try to sit at circle but are still working on that. We had a Thanksgiving feast and took home our Turkey Handprint Placemats. We love to say goodbye at the end of class with bubbles and will be back in January for more class time.

Upcoming events in December

Advent mid-week services will be held on Wednesday Evenings. Potluck Soup Supper will start at 5:30 followed by a short service lead by Pastor Randy at 6:00 pm



Christmas Caroling will be held on December 7. We will be meeting at SOV at 4:45 and to carpool, returning to SOV for potluck chili/soup afterwards. Pastor Randy will be joining us.

Children's Christmas Program and Choir Concert will be held Sunday, December 21 from 6:00 – 8:00 PM with Christmas cookies and cider following the show. Please bring a plate of your favorite Christmas cookies to share.

Christmas Eve Services will be lead by Pastor Brian

4:00 & 6:00 PM Child-friendly, candle light services with the choir and communion.

11:00 PM Contemplative candle light service with communion, no choir.

Christmas Day, 10:00 AM: A traditional service, lead by Pastor Randy, with carol singing and communion, no choir.

It's the Season of Giving....

Our church staff does an amazing job keeping Shepherd of the Valley functioning all year long – physically, operationally and spiritually! This Christmas season is a great time to thank Pastor Brian, Pastor Randy, Tammy and Jameson with a little something extra. If you want to contribute to our staff Christmas gifts, please put your donations in the offering plate anytime in December, marked “Staff Christmas Gifts” or drop your contribution off at the office. The Executive Committee will make sure your contributions get to our staff with a hearty thank you and a wish for a Joyous Christmas and a wonderful New Year. If you have questions, please contact Elaine Kingston at TreasurerSOV@gmail.com or 317-448-7762.



Fellowship News ...Submitted by Diane L

Oktoberfest-Giving Thanks Dinner Celebration!

Thank you to all of you that attended and helped with our Giving Thanks dinner. Over 80 people gathered to give God thanks for all God blesses us with in our lives and in the life of SOV.

This year's Oktoberfest theme included the gift of Lyle's wonderful homemade German sausage AND his gift of authentic Oktoberfest music. The donated dance floor provide for the event added the opportunity to incorporate the “Chicken Dance” and “Hokey Pokey” into our evening. All ages got up to help us get the dance floor warmed up! We even had a few get up and make up their own version of the “polka”!

Our SOV youth were fantastic volunteers in helping set up, serve, help with the younger children, clean up and put our sanctuary back in order. Those attending donated over \$500 to help our SOV youth go to the national Lutheran Youth convention in Detroit, Michigan in July 2015.

This was truly a multigenerational and “all congregational” event! The food, fun and fellowship that was shared in this event has already put plans into action for next years “Oktoberfest. Thanks again Lyle! Our own SOV German sausage maker and

SOV's Annual Christmas Caroling and Soup or Chili evening.

Sunday, December 7! 4:45 PM to 7:30 PM Everyone is invited to join in our annual Christmas caroling event. We will meet at the church at 4:45 PM. We plan to carpool and start out our caroling at Rock Creek Retirement Center at 5:30PM. We will make Bethany Avamere our next stop as we go caroling. Wear your jingle bells, Christmas sweaters, Santa or Elf hats and join in the fun of singing and sharing Christmas caroling.

We return to SOV, turn on the Christmas lights and let the fellowship continue with a dinner of chili, soup and bread. We will have a sign up for those that would like to donate a pot of soup

Fellowship News Contd...Submitted by Diane L

or chili. All ages, voices and jingle bells are welcome! Bring the kids, (all ages) and be part of sharing the joy! If you don't feel like going out on our caroling tour then consider being one of our "Elves" and help set up for our soup and bread dinner.

For more information ask anyone on the Fellowship team, Pastor Randy or Tammy.

Words and music will be provided. It's beginning to feel like Christmas!

Shepherd of the Valley's Christmas Children's program & Music event! Sunday, December 21, 6PM!

The SOV children's Christmas program, including the music of our Wee Lambs choir will begin at 6 PM Sunday, December 21. The second half of our Christmas music event will include our SOV band and choir Christmas concert as well as leading our congregational Christmas carol Sing-A-long. Of course this will include other favorite holiday tunes. We are excited to have the opportunity to incorporate more entertainers into our Christmas music event. We encourage our congregation to "reach out", "reach up" and "reach in" and invite your friends, neighbors and family to share in a special event. It's always a blessing to prepare for the miracle and gift of the Christ child through the eyes of our children and special Christmas music! Our special event will end with fellowship time. Hot cider, punch, coffee and tea will be provided. Please consider bringing a plate of your favorite Christmas goodies to share. Make this evening a wonderful opportunity share in the Christmas Spirit.

Christmas-NewYearsBrunch!Sunday,December28!

We will share food and fellowship time together between Christmas and New Years for our annual Christmas-New Year's Brunch following our one service at 10:00 AM.

Our tradition has been to provide the breakfast casserole and anyone that would like to contribute fruit, breakfast breads or any other side dish is welcome to bring something to add to our menu. If you are interested in helping provide one of the breakfast hot dishes please contact one of us on the Fellowship team. We hope to have 6 volunteers for our breakfast casseroles. Coffee, milk, juice and tea will also be provided.

This has been a fun and relaxed opportunity to share a meal and time together as we celebrate Christ's birth and the blessings of this year and go forward into 2015!

Our friends from the OEC church have been invited to join us and we encourage you to bring any of your visiting family and friends to church to share in this special time together. This has been a relaxed and fun opportunity to continue the celebration and JOY of Jesus' birth. It's a wonderful opportunity to continue our Christmas celebration as a family of Christ at Shepherd of the Valley! Contact Diane Lewis or Tammy to let us know if you would like to volunteer for a breakfast casserole.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|--------------|-------------|
| 04 Rich M | 18 Kevin H |
| 04 Aimable N | 20 Lisa R |
| 08 Lorna H | 22 Terry W |
| 08 Tommy W | 23 Orion S |
| 09 Sabrina H | 23 Linda R |
| 09 Hayden P | 24 Ron F |
| 10 Jessley B | 24 Elaine K |
| 12 Prosper H | 25 Desire H |
| 14 Nidhi K | 29 Sheila V |
| 14 Aaron S | 31 Trevor M |



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

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Matt & Theresa Kotvis

December 30th



happy anniversary

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



Feel free to continue knitting and crocheting at home.

Thank you for your continued handiwork!

Precious Gift

*Celebrate this Christmas
The birth of God's Holy Son
Give praise and thanks
For all that God has done
The miracles at this time
Are all too often hard to see
All of our time is spent
Buying presents for under the tree
Don't forget the reason
Behind this glorious day*

*Was a babe born in a manger
On that blessed Christmas Day
His life was laid down for us
Christ, he gave us his all
To suffer our sins for us
In hopes that no one would fall
Our sins have been forgiven
All that's asked is we believe
There are no words to express
The love he has for us*



Ladies Annual Christmas Dinner

Inviting all Ladies to our annual Christmas Dinner

Tuesday, December 2nd

5:30 pm

Stanford's Restaurant

2770 NW 188th Ave, Hillsboro, OR 97124

Please RSVP to Tammy or Deann (feel free to invite a guest)

Ladies Dinner Group



MEN'S NIGHT (back to Thursday)

Thursday, December 4th

6:30 PM @ Cruise In Country Diner



ALL MEN INVITED FOR FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP












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While You Shop!™



JANUARY NEWSLETTER ARTICLES ARE DUE DECEMBER 22ND

December 2014

|  | 1 9:00 - 1:00 p KOK Christmas Decorating | 2 9:00 - 1:00 p KOK 5:30 p Ladies Christmas Dinner @ Stanford's | 3 9:00 - 1:00 p KOK 5:30 p Advent Soup 6:30 p Devotion | 4 9:00 - 1:00 p KOK 6:30 p Men's Night @ Cruise In Diner  | 5 9:00 - 11:30 a KOK 1:00 p Palmeter Piano Studio | 6 10:00 - 11:30 a SOV Choir Rehearsal  |
|---|---|--|---|---|--|---|
| 7 8:30 & 11:00 Worship Scrip, Birthday, Blood pressure 4:45 p Caroling and Soup Supper 1:30 OEC  | 8 9:00 - 1:00 p KOK | 9 9:00 - 1:00 p KOK  | 10 9:00 - 1:00 p KOK 5:30 p Advent Soup 6:30 p Devotion | 11 9:00 - 1:00 p KOK | 12 9:00 - 11:30 a KOK 1:00 p Palmeter Piano Studio  | 13 10:00 - 11:30 a SOV Choir Rehearsal 1:30 - 3:30 p Palmeter Piano Recital |
| 14 8:30 & 11:00 Worship Scrip 1:30 OEC | 15 9:00 - 1:00 p KOK  | 16 9:00 - 1:00 p KOK 6:00 - 7:30 p KOK Christmas Program | 17 9:00 - 1:00 p KOK 5:30 p Advent Soup 6:30 p Devotion | 18 9:00 - 1:00 p KOK 7:00 p Council Mtg | 19 9:00 - 11:30 a KOK 1:00 p Palmeter Piano Studio 1:30 - 7:00 p Red Cross Blood Drive | 20 10:00 - 11:30 a SOV Choir Rehearsal  |
| 21 8:30 & 11:00 Worship 6:00 p Christmas Concert/Program 1:30 OEC Winter Begins  <i>Sounds of the Season</i> | 22 | 23  | 24 4:00 p, 6:00 p, & 11:00 p Christmas Eve Worship | 25 10:00 a Christmas Day Worship Christmas | 26  | 27 |
| 28 8:30 & 11:00 Worship 10:00 a New Years Brunch 1:30 OEC | 29 | 30 | 31 | <p><i>God of love, Father of all, the darkness that covered the earth has given way to the bright dawn of your Word made flesh. Make us a people of this light. Make us faithful to your Word, that we may bring your life to the waiting world. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.</i></p>  | | |