

**FEBRUARY  
2008**

# SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY NEWSLETTER



**Sunday School News**  
By Linda Rasmussen

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January has gone by quickly! We had great fun learning about the rules God gave to Moses on Mt. Sinai. We learned that the 10 Commandments teach us to always keep God first in our lives and then live in a way we can help support and care for our neighbors. We learned that these are such important things to do that Jesus also told us to love God and love others. We learned new songs to praise and thank God courtesy of Larina and her guitar. We played new games and made some crafts to help remind us of the 10 Commandments. We also spent time reading the commandments out of the Bible and some classes were able to watch part of the 10 Commandments movie with Charlton Heston. Our unit culminated in an ice cream party where we wandered in the desert, found Mt. Sinai, read a commandment and explained a positive way to live it. Average attendance for January was 23 children. We collected \$53.17 for the Global Barnyard and 13 items for the Shepherd's Storehouse.

In February, we begin a new unit called Following Jesus' Way. We will be learning about discipleship, focusing on the stories of Paul, Lydia, and the jailer in Acts 16. These early Christians provide living examples of people who dared to follow in Jesus' way. Like Jesus, they chose to follow Jesus' way, showing their faith through actions; offering forgiveness, welcome, compassion, and freedom. February is peanut butter and jelly month for the Shepherd's Storehouse. We are still dedicating our weekly offering to the ELCA's global barnyard. Sunday School is also continuing to collect SOCKS for Care to Share. We will be collecting these through Lent. We are striving to share Christ's love and faithfulness with one another and our neighbors throughout our community and the larger world.

Two SPECIAL ACTIVITIES to watch for in February are Souper Bowl Sunday and our Valentine's Day Service Project. Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> is Souper Bowl Sunday! We are asking children to bring an offering of some type of soup for the Shepherd's Storehouse. Sunday School children will also be collecting money after both services to give to a hunger relief agency in the metro area. We will also be listening to the story Stone Soup and sampling some soup as well. We will be doing an activity and learning how we can "feed" our neighbors physically, emotionally and spiritually. Our Valentine's Day Service Project occurs on Sunday, February 10<sup>th</sup>. The children will have the opportunity to make Valentines for community members and decorate treats for the fellowship table. We will be talking about love and relationship with God and our neighbors.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

FEB 3

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY ACTIVITY

Feb 10 Valentine's Day Service Project

Feb 17 Following Jesus' Way

Feb 24 Following Jesus' Way

Mar 2 Following Jesus' Way

Mar 9 Following Jesus' Way

Mar 16 Palm Sunday Egg Hunt

Mar 23 Easter **Christ Is Risen!** NO CLASS

MAR 30

PENTECOST, WIND & FIRE

Apr 6 Pentecost, Wind & Fire

Apr 13 Pentecost, Wind & Fire

Apr 20 Earth Day Activity

Apr 27 Pentecost, Wind & Fire

May 4 Pentecost, Wind & Fire

May 11 Mother's Day Ruth & Naomi Revisited

May 18 End of Year Celebration!

FEBRUARY IS PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY MONTH FOR  
THE SHEPHERD'S STOREHOUSE!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**SOUPER BOWL** Sunday February 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Sunday School children will be collecting money for a local hunger agency after both services. Sunday School is also asking that children bring an offering of canned or packaged soup to class.

**All members of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church are invited!**

**LIVING THE VISION MARCH 8, 2008, 9:30 AM-2:30 PM** SUBMITTED BY DIANE LEWIS

**PURPOSE:** An opportunity to come together to strengthen our leadership, deepen our faith and extend the mission of our congregation.

**WHAT:** A seminar for congregations that are growing in their knowledge and ability in funding God's mission through whole life stewardship and education. Includes opportunities to assess our stewardship ministry and learn how endowments can strengthen the missions of our congregation, the Oregon Synod and the ELCA.

**WHO SHOULD ATTEND:** Any member of SOV, especially those in present leadership or potential members in any level of leadership involvement.

**WHERE:** Our Savior's Lutheran Church

1770 Baxter RD. SE, Salem, Oregon

As we look towards expanding our ministry at SOV, this is a good time to continue how we can be good stewards of all the resources that God gives us individually as well as a congregation.

We are in the process of developing our first big Capital Campaign Appeal since we built our church over 33 years ago. This seminar is timely for the life of our congregation as we work towards creating new and exciting opportunities to build a new sanctuary, remodel our building, develop new programs to enrich our ministry and help guide the mission of Shepherd of the Valley. "A caring community touched by Christ, touching others for Christ".

The church will cover the \$15 registration fee that includes all who would like to attend this event. Carpooling will be optional. For more information or directions to Our Savior's Lutheran please contact Peggy Vermaas, Diane Lewis or Pastor Michelle.

**Love, love, love. That's what it's all about!**

Happy Valentines Day! February is love month! Maybe it is just a good reminder that we need to focus on love. We just celebrated Christmas when God loved His people so much that He sent his only Son into our world. Soon we will begin Lent and grow towards Easter when God's son dies to give us eternal life. Love and promise from God for all people.

I am reminded of a children's song that's simple and profound. If you know the tune you can sing it in your head or out loud. If you don't know the tune just say it out loud. The message is simple and profound yet sometimes we forget how important it is to live.

***"Love, love, love that's what it's all about! 'Cause God loves us we love each other. Mother, Father, Sister, Brother! Everyone sing and SHOUT, 'cause that's what it's all about. It's about love, love, love. It's about love, love, love!"***

## LIVING THE VISION CONTINUED

Our congregation life is busy! The Call committee is busy compiling all the surveys, doing more gathering of information to complete the survey and getting ready to have cottage meetings; the budget is ready to discuss and vote on for 2008; the Capital Campaign Appeal committee will be started soon; the building committee is still working on marketing our property and working with the city of Beaverton to get all the zoning issues resolved; the church council is sponsoring a church retreat for leadership, restructuring our committees and working to build more congregational involvement; the confirmation class is busy preparing for their confirmation of faith; Sunday School has faithful staff leading all age groups; committees are preparing our church activities; a new office area upstairs for Kevin is being completed; our Parish nurse is busy with families in our congregation with special life changing needs; records for our church are being sorted and organized and the list goes on and on! For a congregation our size this could bring feelings of anxiety instead of love. Sometimes as President it is overwhelming to think of all that is happening, what our needs are and what is being planned by our congregation!

I found this through Pastor Willem at St. Mark Lutheran in Salem. It is originally from "Contemplative Youth Ministry: Practicing the Presence of Jesus" by Mark Yaconelli. It has helped me keep focused on the importance of love vs. anxiety as we work in so many directions to build God's church at Shepherd of the Valley.

Anxiety seeks <b>control.</b>	Love seeks <b>contemplation.</b>
Anxiety seeks <b>professionals.</b>	Love seeks <b>processes.</b>
Anxiety wants <b>products.</b>	Love desires <b>presence.</b>
Anxiety lifts up <b>gurus.</b>	Love relies on <b>guides.</b>
Anxiety seeks <b>conformity.</b>	Love rests in <b>relationships.</b>
Anxiety rests in <b>results.</b>	Love rests in <b>relationships.</b>
Anxiety seeks <b>conformity.</b>	Love brings out <b>creativity.</b>
Anxiety wants <b>activity.</b>	Love brings <b>awareness.</b>
Anxiety seeks <b>answers.</b>	Love seeks <b>questions.</b>

The author also writes: "We cannot undergo this transformation by the sheer strength of our will or intellect. Only by yielding can we even begin to embody the freedom of God. We have to let go and allow God to transform our anxiety into love. We have to allow God to show us a new way of being in the world, a new way of engaging in relationships with all ages of people. We have to allow the Holy Spirit to teach us how to live from the heart instead of the head."

It is hard sometimes to get through the processes of all that is going on and is being planned for our congregation. It can cause anxiety in different ways.

In all the hopes, dreams and commitments we have for our congregation let's focus on connecting to our membership, our community, focus on all that is being accomplished at SOV in many areas of our ministry and to share the wonderful love of God through His son Jesus Christ with everyone.

He taught us that love is really what it is all about! If you haven't found an area to connect with your family of Christ at SOV this is a great time to discover how you can share God's love and blessings that are uniquely your own, make a difference and new friends at the same time!

Through the love and power of the Holy Spirit we will achieve God's vision and mission for Shepherd of the Valley as we focus on His love and eternal promise. Blessings, love and thanksgiving to each of you within the family of Christ at Shepherd of the Valley!

**Love is what it's all about!**

## SOCIAL CONCERNS NEWS AND THANKS...SUBMITTED BY MERT WARNEKING

### OUTREACH FOR DECEMBER:

We had 95 hrs. and 975 miles. Christmas baskets were 30 hrs., 210 miles and valued at \$2,800. Clothing, furniture, etc. given us is valued at \$1,100. We gave weekly food baskets and spent \$156 and were given \$185 in donated food. We spent \$406 on refugees.

Desire and Prosper thanked the congregation at the 4:00 pm service on Christmas Eve. Since there were 2 other services, we are including a copy of their thank you (see letter below).

We are talking about having some English speaking classes for the refugees. If anyone is interested in helping, please call Mert at 645-1942. Even though the children have ESL classes in school, they need all the help they can get.

We are talking about helping the people in Vernonia instead of having the food baskets that we moved from Christmas to this spring. Pastor Michelle found out that several congregations are having a planning meeting on January 24th at St. Matthew. If this sounds like an interesting project to you, please call Mert at (503) 645-1942.

### THANK YOU FROM DESIRE AND PROSPER'S FAMILIES

“This is to thank you for every things you did for us.

On this Christmas opportunity we should offer some gifts but we don't have some thing to give. Just thakings, no more.

When coming from Tanzania, we didn't know that we could have friends, neighbors and parteners. We didn't know that we could get solutions to our problems; help to our needs and welcome to the community.

Now we feel OK. Thank you for that.

Specially, thank you Mert Warneking. You well coordinate our life, our health and our needs....We know, you can't sleep because of us, unless you are sure that everything is OK to us.

Seing your age you could take rest, but you are everyday tired because of us. We are sorry for that.

Thank you James. You are close to our families. You help us in many things. You are tired because of us to.

Thank you Marc having evening Englisg teaching initiative.

Finally, thank Lisa, thank Tom, thank you Church.

Thank you all of you who helped us closely or from a distance.

We wish you MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR 2008.

May GOD bless you.”

**Notation: See next page for an article on these two refugee families.**

## A Tale of Two Families – Their First Christmas in America by James Graham

Christmas this year was unique for me and began early in the season. It all started with a request from Mert to drive members of a family to church each Sunday. She was driving one half of the family in her van. I was to drive the other half, as neither family had a license to drive but one owned a van.

Now, having spent every Sunday but one since with some if not all of the fourteen family members, I find myself blessed in ways I could not have foretold:

We all have new jobs!

Christmas Carols are known by many in many languages.

Please everyone keep praying for a licensed driver!

Oh and there is some really good African Gospel music on the internet.

Here, in the mist of English as a second language, driving lesson's, cultural diversity, and job hunting for four of us (including myself), comes Christmas.

I have new friends and we have done some fun stuff like take the Max to 4th street and Christmas shop. But the wildest excursion by far was the trip with all fourteen to Target to register for SOV Christmas gifts. With my wife and best friends the Ramsey-Barnes family, we made nineteen, with two scanners trying on clothes and picking toys for ten children (Jonathan was a great help in the toy department).

Well, weeks go by (and did I mention we got jobs!!), and English improves dramatically as Christmas approaches. The gifts flow steady from the SOV congregation into Nancy's office, then into my car, arriving eventually at the Ramsey-Barnes living room to be sorted and listed and re-sorted and lists checked and you know the drill.

Christmas Eve arrives and the full sleigh (the Ramsey-Barnes van with all non-essential seats removed) meets me at Desire's apartment we haul this outpouring of Christmas cheer up the stairs. Wild joy ensues as gifts are distributed and unwrapped. I had preloaded a couple dozen AA batteries into trucks and cars and miniature FM radios for immediate play; trucks start buzzing and radio earphones start murmuring music.

Then we loaded Desire's family into his van and the sleigh followed us to Prosper's apartment. A second haul up the stairs of Christmas cheer this time to parent's bedroom for distribution on Christmas morning.

Now all fourteen are laughing and playing with all sorts of fun things like trucks and dolls or a game or a watch. Here I am in the midst of this almost Dr. Suess kind of frolicking as there are two infant boys and five other boys under the age of nine (wow what a kick!). The three girls have formed a circle with Barbies and makeup and such girlish delights. The adults for the most part seem so peaceful most of time, I get the feeling that it is like a big sigh of relief after a huge ordeal. But not the normal ordeals of the season like shopping and food prep and where to put everyone who is staying this year. No, this was a unique Christmas.

I once asked Dersire what it was like to be in America and he said it was like harvest. From dirt floors and no running water, I can only imagine the feeling of harvest he must have in being here today.

Thanks to the ongoing efforts of SOV and their generosity this Christmas, the babies have chew toys and musical bears (this helps a lot on the Sunday drive and I thank you), the children have extra blankets, towels, clothes, and pillows (the list is long), the "speak and spells" are going round the clock, trucks are rolling and they have games to play!

Now, when I arrive for the Sunday trek, the first ones ready for church play "Connect Four" and other games with me. We have learned the Lord's Prayer in English so now on to the Creed! So many smiling faces happy to be able to recite in church again. The blessings just keep flowing like a baby napping in your arms.

Happy New Year!

James

## Blessings in abundance!

Last fall we hired Kairos, a Lutheran based capital campaign company to lead us in our education, organization and direction for our Capital Campaign Appeal that will happen this year. All the costs for this campaign contract would have come from the money raised in our Capital Campaign Appeal and from the building account. This was researched, discussed, prayed about and voted on by your council with a faith based decision. The contract was signed; the first payment came from the building money and then--at the end of the year—we had a wonderful surprise: Our congregation was given an anonymous gift to pay off our balance! Now we can start our new campaign free and clear to go forward with God's mission for our congregation!

We also received several other big gifts towards our building fund at the end of 2007! The dream is a working dream that is being lifted up by special giving of time, talents and financial gifting!

We have blessings in abundance that are being given through God to continue this exciting process to build a new sanctuary and remodel our existing building! Thanks be to God for the many gifts that are given in so many ways for the work of this family of Christ at Shepherd of the Valley!

## HOW ABOUT ANOTHER RUMMAGE SALE? SUBMITTED BY ANN SMITH

There will be an informal meeting between services on Sunday, February 10th to discuss a rummage sale. Anyone interested, please come. We are looking at August 22nd-23rd for the sale. Some suggestions for this sale have already been made.

1. Expand the food sales
2. Have a craft area or table



If you have any ideas, please come and share on February 10th. Start now to gather up your items.

## Evangelism and Outreach- Short time commitment opportunity! SUBMITTED BY DIANE LEWIS

The need for transportation to church and other appointments has increased within our congregation. We are still working to develop a list of volunteers that would be willing to help with transportation on Sunday and during the week. This can be an "on call" list and we would try to schedule any transportation needs ahead of time. If this is an areas of service that you would interest you, please contact James Graham at 503 9169492 or email Nancy at [secretarysov@gmail.com](mailto:secretarysov@gmail.com).

## BENEFITS OF VOLUNTEERING.....SUBMITTED BY GINNY ADAMO

### BENEFITS OF VOLUNTEERING.....

Life sometimes seems so busy that it is hard to do everything that needs to be done. Often, it feels like 24 hrs. in a day just isn't enough time, so finding time to volunteer may seem nearly impossible. But before you say "No", think about the benefits of volunteering. It is actually a gift that keeps on giving.

### VOLUNTEERING:

\*Makes you feel good about yourself.      \*Is a great way to meet new people and form new contacts and friendships.

\*Shows others that you are church/community minded.      \*Helps you learn new skills.      \* Improves your health.

\*Gives you experience that looks good on your resume.      \*Is a wonderful way to make a difference in someone else's life.

## FEBRUARY 2008 CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Souper Bowl</b> <b>Sunday, FEB. 3rd</b>					1	2 10:00a— 2:00p— Leadership Retreat
<b>3</b> 8:30 & 11:00 a Worship  9:45a—S.School & Confirmation  10:00a—Adult Class	<b>4</b>  6:30p—Men's Group—Old Chicago Pizza	<b>5</b> 9:00a—KOK Chapel  6:00p Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner	<b>6</b> 11:00a— LeBon Service  7:00p—Ash Wednesday Service 	<b>7</b> 11:15a— Rebecca Circle brown bag lunch— studying the Beatitudes	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 10:00a— New To You  2:30p—8:00p Cub Scout Pinewood Derby
<b>10</b> 8:30 & 11:00 Worship 9:45a— S.School & Confirmation 10:00a—Adult Class  Rummage Sale Planning Mtg. between services	<b>11</b>  6:45p—Social Concerns Mtg.  7:00p—Call Comm. Presentation	<b>12</b> 9:00a— KOK Chapel  6:30p—Jr. Choir  6:45p—Social Concerns	<b>13</b>  6:00p—Soup Supper  6:30p—Service  7:00p—Choir Practice	<b>14</b>  Valentine's Day 	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 8:30 & 11:00 a Worship  9:45a—S.School & Confirmation  10:00a—Adult Class	<b>18</b> President's Day  6:30p—Exec. Council	<b>19</b> 9:00a—KOK Chapel 6:30p—Jr. Choir 6:30p—SOV Women's Dinner at Newport Bay Restaurant	<b>20</b>  6:00p—Soup Supper  6:30p—Service  7:00p—Choir Practice	<b>21</b>  7:00p— Church Council Mtg.	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  2:00p—Helen Steele Memorial Srv.
<b>24</b> 8:30 & 11:00 a Worship  9:45a—S.School & Confirmation  10:00a—Adult Class	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 9:00a— KOK Chapel  6:30p—Jr. Choir	<b>27</b>  6:00p—Soup Supper 6:30p—Service  7:00p—Choir Practice	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  <b>LEAP DAY</b>	



## ***CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMING TO SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY***

After interviewing five Resource Development firms the Executive Council of Shepherd of the Valley voted to move forward with our capital fund appeal. Campaign executive directors Bob R McFall and (to be named) have agreed to provide leadership for this vital ministry. Through an anonymous donation of funds as well as the down payment for this program coming from the building fund the contract with Kairos is fully funded.

We realize that this effort will address the critical building needs of our immediate future, but many of us have expressed that this campaign is not just for us -- it is for our children and for our grandchildren - it is vital to our very vision as a congregation. We are accepting this challenge so that we can insure that Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church will remain a vital congregation for the next several generations.

Pastor John Cross, of Christian Resource Development firm **Kairos**, is working in partnership with us and will make regular visits here over the next several months. **Kairos** is a Greek word meaning "the right time, a special time, God's time". In the fullness of time, God sent Jesus. And God's spirit is at work in the world creating the right time and the right opportunities for God's work to continue!

Leaders from our congregation will work with John to help clarify our mission and vision, place that mission into achievable goals and gather the human and financial resources necessary to realize those goals. Through a number of events that will include sound, biblical principles, each person will be invited and encouraged to grow in a deeper personal understanding of the nature of the Christian's response to the love of God in Jesus Christ. Our congregation will experience renewal and unity as well as significantly increasing our financial support in order to meet our financial needs as we continue to carry out and expand our ministry in this community.

We are in the process of calling the campaign leadership team into service. John Cross will be meeting with all of the team directors and giving them the information that they will need to carry out their ministry tasks. Teams will work on a wide variety of functions including overseeing the entire appeal ("**Executive-Team**"), producing printed and media materials to inform and inspire all of us ("**Communication Team**"), providing opportunities for spiritual growth and prayer ("**Spiritual Life Team**"), involving the young people of our congregation and teaching them about stewardship ("**Children and Youth Team**"), planning special services ("**Worship Team**"), hosting educational and fun events ("**Mission Focus Team**"), providing an opportunity for campaign directors and team members to gather, plan and pray ("**Leadership Team**"), contacting people for advance gifts ("**Advance Giving Team**"), providing thorough follow-up ("**Grand Finale Team**") and much more!

“As part of the appeal we will be seeking “faith stories” from our own congregation...”

Most of the Bible Studies and special events will be held from mid-April through the end of May. As part of the appeal we will be seeking "faith stories" from our own congregation to be submitted this month for publication in a Faith Stories Booklet that will be ready after Easter. We ask that all of us remain open to the Spirit during this time of preparation.

## ***CAPITAL CAMPAIGN (CONT.)***

The culmination of our fund appeal will be a special Appeal Worship and Festival during which all of us will be given the opportunity to make our three-year financial commitments of support to the building program.

Please watch for further information in upcoming bulletins, newsletters, special mailings and emails. And please begin today to pray for God's presence and guidance for the leaders and members of Shepherd of the Valley as we undertake this challenging opportunity for growth in our ministry together.

If God is calling you to participate in this appeal, please contact one of the Executive Team members listed below:

### **The Executive Team Members:**

Executive Director: Bob R. McFall Email:  
Thxbob1@comcast.net  
Home Ph. **503-642-3761**  
Cell Ph. **503-407-9762**

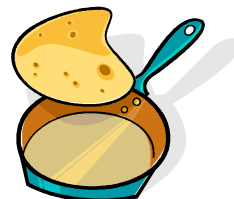
### **Executive Team Members:**

Tammy McDonald Email: [tm816@aol.com](mailto:tm816@aol.com)  
Home Phone: **503-642-4987**  
Cell Phone: **503-789-1878**

## ***AN INVITATION...SHROVE TUESDAY***

Submitted by Mindy Ott

The confirmation class will "FLIP FOR YOU!" Pancakes, that is! Come celebrate Shrove Tuesday with the confirmation class on Tuesday, February 5 from 6pm until 8pm. We will be serving up pancakes and sausages and the youth choir will perform. You can buy tickets in advance from any member of the confirmation class: Harvey Andersen, Nidhi George, Joseph Gilbertson, Sarah Hurd or Aaron Sugiyama. The price is \$3 per person or \$10 per family.



## MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MICHELLE

February 2008

Dear Friends in Christ,

Since our last newsletter, we've celebrated Christmas and Epiphany here at Shepherd of the Valley. Once again, I'd like to thank the many people who pitched in to make our worship and fellowship experiences meaningful. As I said before, each service had a special component: the baptism of Riley Kathryn Mitlehner at 4 pm, the youth choir at 6 pm, and Holy Communion at 11 pm. It was wonderful to have 269 people worshipping with us on Christmas Eve! Although relatively small in terms of numbers attending, the Epiphany evening celebration was greatly appreciated by those who participated. As many of you probably know, this event was tricky to plan, since some people wanted to focus more on remembering Pastor Kurt on the one-year anniversary of his death, while others didn't feel as comfortable with that focus. Those of us involved in planning tried to steer a middle course, and most of the feedback we've received indicates that we offered just the right mix of remembering Pastor Kurt without dwelling too much on the past.

As I write this, we are nearing the end of the season of Epiphany, a time when the rhythm of worship has allowed us to "catch our breath" a bit before we move into the busy season of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>. Lent is probably my favorite season of the church year because of its reflective nature. As we journey with our Lord toward the cross, we are called to examine our lives and our relationships in light of what really matters: what God has done for us through Jesus Christ.

In earlier times, the church mandated that Christians give up certain foods and other things during the forty days of Lent (not counting Sundays, which are always regarded as "little Easters"). More recently, it has been traditional for Christians to voluntarily "give up" something they enjoy—like cheeseburgers or chocolate or lattes, for example. This tradition is a form of "fasting" or denying oneself something. The idea is that each time you deny yourself, you will be prompted to focus on your relationship with God and neighbor. It is common for people to take the extra step of donating to the poor the money they would normally spend on treats. However, rather than GIVING UP something for Lent, some people decide to ADD a discipline to their lives: One person might decide to take the names of church members and pray for everyone on the list. Another might decide to donate a couple of hours of time each week to a person or an agency in need of help.... The beauty of this discipline is that you can tailor it to fit who you are, and no matter who you are, it's guaranteed to help you grow in some way! I highly recommend this practice for all of us "practicing Christians!"

Even as we enter the reflective season of Lent, I'm aware that many aspects of congregational life here at SOV are moving forward at a quick pace—with scarcely a chance to catch one's breath! You have some very dynamic, dedicated leaders here at Shepherd of the Valley, and it's my privilege to work with many of them. We should all make an effort to be more aware of the big picture of ministry here at SOV, so that we can encourage one another in our service. To that end, I'd like to highlight a few of these ministries below.

Did you know that your Call Committee has been working diligently and is getting close to having a finished congregational profile to present to the council and then the congregation?! Sometime soon the committee hopes to host meetings where congregational members will be able to share additional feedback with committee members. After any corrections have been made to the document, it will be submitted to the synod office. The bishop will match the profile's contents with the resumes of qualified pastoral candidates and will bring the names of several candidates to the Call Committee for consideration.

Did you know that your Building Committee meets almost every week—and has been doing so for the past couple of years?! Their expertise and diligence has led SOV to the "edge of the Promised Land": a new addition and

## PASTOR MICHELLE'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

a renovated building are now within sight. True, much remains to be done before you can enter into the final stage of the promise, but you are well on the way. As an important corollary of this process, a consultant has been engaged, and a Capital Campaign will be kicked off in the near future.

Did you know that your Kids of the Kingdom Board is working very hard to strengthen the ministry of your childcare center? The members of the committee work closely with the director and other staff of KOK to help support administrative tasks, facility matters, curriculum development, and relationships between the many people who are a part of KOK. Currently, the Board is preparing an annual review of the director's position and is working on ways to educate the congregation of SOV about KOK's vital ministry to the wider community.

Once again, I'd like to invite you to attend the adult education hour from 10-10:45 on Sundays. (Perhaps this could be your Lenten discipline! J) The class will be based on Jim Wallis's books, God's Politics: Why the Right Gets It Wrong and the Left Doesn't Get It and The Great Awakening: Reviving Faith and Politics in a Post-Religious Right America. I have heard from other Lutheran pastors who have used Wallis's book God's Politics that this should make for some lively and meaningful conversation. I'm sure this will be especially true in the middle of primary season! Part of the goal in teaching this course is to allow us to intentionally think about and practice how we listen and how we speak to one another when we do not agree on important issues.

I want all of you to know that I appreciate your talents and your dedication to the ministry of Shepherd of the Valley. It is a privilege to work with you. I encourage any of you who are interested to attend the council's leadership retreat on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. This will be an excellent chance for all of us to reflect on where God is leading SOV and how we may use our gifts in living out our baptismal vocation. The retreat will also offer us the opportunity to define roles, streamline administrative and committee structures, and improve congregational communication.

In Christ's Service,

*Pastor Michelle Manicke*

## SOV Leadership Retreat February 2, 2008

The SOV Council is holding a leadership retreat on Saturday, February 2, from 10 AM to 2 PM at the church. A continental breakfast will be served at 9:30 AM. The cost of lunch will be \$5.00.

This is an opportunity for anyone in leadership or is interested in leadership to meet with the council to work through new descriptions for our committee structure, gain more insight to the workings of our council and help develop new ideas as we go forward into a new year.

For more information please contact Diane Lewis, Peggy Vermaas, Pastor Michelle or any council member.

## **Greasers hit Century High in February! Still time reserve your tickets!**

Hey, SOV members, do you still have your bobby socks? Are you ready to rock? Come join Halie Tracewell (Cha-Cha) and Shayne Johnson (Vince Fontaine) as they rock n' roll at Rydell High in the play "Grease".

Dates: February 7-9th and 14-16th

Time: 7:30pm

Matinees: Feb. 9th and 16th

Time: 1:30pm

**Tickets are available by calling the school box office!**

Price: \$10.00 all seats

All tickets are reserved--Contact the school @ 503 848-6500 push 5#, then 4110# to reserve the date and # of seats you want. No tickets will be sold at the door--just pay for your reserved seats (cash or check only) when you come to the performance.

For more information contact: Shayne Johnson or Halie Tracewell.

## **COLORS USED IN WORSHIP...SUBMITTED BY ANN SMITH**

We have 6 main colors used to represent different events and times in our church calendar.

- **Blue:** means hope and is used for advent
- **Green:** means growth in our faith, epiphany, pentecost
- **Purple:** represents royalty. We use it on Ash Wednesday and Lent
- **Red:** represents masters celebration, passion, blood. We use it on Palm Sunday, Holy Week, Maundy Sunday, Pentecost and Reformation
- **Gold:** stands for God Reigns, heaven, used at Easter
- **White:** stands for purity, God Reigns in Heaven, used at Christmas, Easter, Holy Trinity, All Saints Sunday, Christ the King

We use these colors on our altar and pastors use the colors in their stoles.



## NOTES FROM THE DESK OF ANN SMTIH



### Many folks want to serve God BUT only as Advisors

Rebecca Circle met on Thursday, Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup> for our brown bag lunch Bible study.

We read about blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be filled. We are getting pretty good at this brown bagging it, not only are we doing some Bible studies but we are enjoying our time together.

January 15<sup>th</sup>, fourteen women met for dinner at Bugatties. You all know that is Nancy's favorite place!

I was going through some old Christmas decorations in the attic at home. Some were wrapped in old newspapers. One I found was 1935. What fun! Campbell's Tomato Soup was 30 cents for 3 cans. Crisco was 20 cents per one pound can. Sanka coffee was 46 cents for a one pound can. Butter was 40 cents a pound. I could have shopped all day but I could not find the store.

We owe Tammy McDonald a thank you for helping transport the Rebecca Circle ladies to the Christmas concert. Don't ask me how that I missed saying "thank you". I have no excuse. So Tammy, THANK YOU.

We had our last baptism for year 2007 on Christmas Eve. for Riley Mitlehner. What a beautiful service for a beautiful little girl. Sunday brunch on Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> between services. Once again those Lutheran came through. What a variety of items and wow – how good it all tasted.

Did all of you take notice of the potted poinsettia's throughout the church. Everything did look beautiful. There must have been 35 to 40 plants. Stunning!

The youth choir sang for us at the Christmas Eve service. Thanks girls, keep up the singing.

When I looked at the Nov. 2001 newsletter, it said we had 7 baptisms!

Advice for our farmers. If you are having trouble with raccoons, sprinkle powdered detergent or ground cayenne peppers in the dirt around your sweet corn. Does that help any of you?

Do we have any good Norwegian ladies here at SOV? I listened to a tape made by a group of ladies from Minnesota. It was all about being Lutheran. You betcha, I laughed and laughed. Marlene Loftus loaned it to me. I think she was sharing our heritage.

"New to You". We made \$120.00 during December. We will plan on going again during the second weekend of Feb on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Remember all items must be like new, clean and on a hanger and of course in season. If you are interested in making the trip call Peggy @ 503-646-6882. You can bring your item to the church and put them in the narthex in the closet.

Our former Pastor, Al Solmonson, was here for a visit. He did get up and say a few words after some prodding from the people sitting around him. He is on vacation going to Florida and Minnesota. He is doing an interim pastorship in Petersburg, Alaska for 15 months. He did have a motto for SOV and that was "together you can."

Sandeep returned from his trip to visit with his family for the Christmas holidays. He brought several trays of goodies to share with us at fellowship time. What a treat. Thanks for remembering us.

Amy Sugiyama returned home for the Christmas holidays. She is going to nursing school in Hawaii and will graduate in Dec. 2008. Cal and Karen had a big surprise on Christmas when Dan Silvery (Amy's boyfriend) came to them and asked for Amy's hand in marriage. He is currently a special education teach in Gresham. You all know Cal...after some smart remarks (I'm sure) they said yes. So Dan proposed to Amy on New Year's eve and presented her with his mother's wedding ring. They will make their wedding plans after Amy graduates. Congratulations!

On January 6<sup>th</sup> we had our first Epiphany Celebration here at SOV. It started at 5:00 pm and the theme was "Following the Light". Salad, lasagna and spaghetti were served and there was frosting to put on the star cookies. It was a nice evening. OK Fellowship you got the job!

After church on January 6<sup>th</sup>, the McDonald family, Eric Lewis, Peggy and Staff got together and took down the Christmas decorations and boxed them up and stored them out in the old scouts storeroom. Then on Monday morning Rudy and Larry took down the tree and cut it up and took down the Christmas Eve sign. What workers we do have here!

McDonald family made a trip to Sacramento. They went to the jelly bean factory. Tammy said they got plenty of samples to bring home. Marty gave them away. Now can you believe he would do a thing like that to us.

On Sunday, Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> we had a real treat at second service. The youth choir was there all decked out in their new blue shirts.

Carman sang her first solo. She did a lovely job. We all enjoyed seeing Kevin wearing his blue director shirt.

Sunday School for the adults was very interesting. Debbie Johnson (a former member of SOV) brought in her slides and shared info she had gathered while making a trip to Palestine and Bethlehem. Our thanks Debbie!

## NOTES FROM THE DESK OF ANN SMTIH CONT.

I had quite an experience this week. I changed to Verizon for TV viewing. I got a 4 pg. directory of channels to watch. There must be 900 of them. So far all I have done is change channels. They are even color coded, pink, green, yellow, blue, etc. I may never have time to watch a program again. It does take a lot of time to look at each channel before I decide what I want to watch.

Some really good news to share. Rod & Betty Stoltenburg are not going to move to Fargo, N.D. Rod will start back at INTEL on Feb. 19th. Welcome back you two!

## LENT/EASTER SCHEDULE...SUBMITTED BY ANN SALLFELD

### 1. Ash Wednesday –

February 6 - 7:00 pm service

### Wednesday Night Lent Soup Supper and Service

- February 13, 20, 27, March 5, 12
- 6:00 pm - Supper
- 6:30 pm - Service

### Palm Sunday

- March 16

### Maundy Thursday

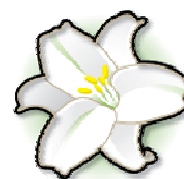
- March 20 - more information will follow

### Good Friday

- March 21 with Stations of the Cross
- 12:00 to 6:00pm - Quiet meditation available in the Sanctuary
- 7:00pm - Service

### Easter

- March 23
- Service times - 8:30am and 11:00am



## EASTER BREAKFAST

With Easter falling on March 23, which is at the beginning of Spring Break this year, we are looking at putting together a group of people that would like to help organize the Easter breakfast. We want to keep the youth involved in this

tradition for our congregation and continue the opportunity to use this great fellowship time on Easter morning to help fund our youth's activities and share time together.

If you are interested in helping with this event

please contact Peggy Vermaas, Diane Lewis or Mindy Ott. This is an opportunity to help with a fun project and commit to limited investment of your time. What a fun way to be involved in the life of SOV!