

FEBRUARY 2018

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Volume I, Issue I

Shepherd's Office Hours;
Mon-Thurs 7:00 - 12:00pm

Interim Pastor
Brian Brandt

Tues. 10:00 - 12:15 p

Wed & Thurs

10:00 - 2:00 p

And by appt.

Office phone;

503.645.4994

Sovlutheran.com

Fall Worship Services

8:30 a & 11:00 a

Sunday School

9:45 am

Wednesday Bible Study

10:00 a

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

ANNOUNCING

SOV's Silent Auction and Dinner

Saturday

February 10, 2018

5 pm

Cost \$10

This wonderful evening supports SOV's youth group and their ELCA Youth Gathering trip to Houston this summer.

If you are unable to attend you may make a donation to SOV and note "Youth Group"



**SILENT
AUCTION**



Pastor Dan's Message

Lent is soon upon us! This year the season between Christmas and Lent is short, as Easter comes rather early, on April 1. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14, which is only 3 weeks from today.

My thinking for this year's preparation for Easter focuses on "Journeys". I intend the weekly Lenten worship services to center on Jesus' and the disciple's journey in ministry by following the book of Mark as it tells the story of their lives together.



I suspect an outline will look something like this:

February 14 Ash Wednesday Traditional Focus: Piety

February 22 Lent 1 Focus: Mark 1-3

February 28 Lent 2 Focus: Mark 4-5

March 7 Lent 3 Focus: Mark 6-9

March 14 Lent 4 Focus: Mark 10-14

March 21 Lent 5 Focus: Mark 15-16

March 29 Maundy Thursday Traditional Focus: Command to Love

March 30 Good Friday Traditional Focus: Passion of John

April 1 Easter Sunday Resurrection Celebration

In addition I will be offering a ***Bible Study*** on the big Old Testament Journeys at **4:00 on Wednesday** afternoons beginning on February 22. Tentatively we will look at the Journey into the World (Creation), the Journey of Noah and his family, the Journey of Abraham and Sarah, the Journey of Jacob, and the Journey of Joseph and his family.

A life of faith is always a journey. I am reminded of this in the words of the following prayer made familiar in the LBW Evening Prayer Service:

"Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending,
by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown.

"Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go,
but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Council President...Submitted by Linnea H.

Thank you to all who were able to attend the budget discussion on January 21. Your questions and comments were appreciated. (I'm writing this before our meeting to vote on the budget on the 28th so I don't know the outcome of the vote yet.) In addition, I want to again thank Corrine for putting a voice to her concerns about SOV and the feelings she has had. It is clear that SOV and its members mean a great deal to her and she means a great deal to all of us!

She also made me realize that it has been a long time since we talked about our vision and goals. As I mentioned Sunday, this last fall the Council revisited our Strategic Plan which was developed in 2012. The feeling on Council was that the vision and goals stated and most of the action plans listed were still very appropriate. Beginning next month, we'll highlight our vision and goals in the newsletter, so everyone is aware of our plans.

There is a lot going on at SOV – maybe more than you realize. If, however, there is something missing that you either enjoyed from your past or a new idea that you would like to see us start, please reach out to me or anyone else on Council. Yes, we're probably going to ask you if you want to help carry out your idea, but that is how things get started – with an idea.

For example, as you may have heard, the youth are planning a Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, February 10. In addition to an opportunity to have some good food and fellowship, there will also be a silent auction, giving you an opportunity to bid on some wonderful items being donated by members of the congregation and by the community. Not only will it be a wonderful opportunity to support the youth with their trip to Houston for the Youth Gathering in June, but it will also be a great chance to have a fun-filled evening. As a matter of fact, invite your friends and neighbors, too, so they can see that good ole SOV hospitality!

The youth are planning another event that you won't want to miss. That is the Easter Breakfast between services on Easter Sunday, April 1. Before Easter and their wonderful breakfast, though, we will have our Wednesday evening Lenten services. Come and take the "Journeys" with Pastor Dan starting on Ash Wednesday, February 14.

We are coming out of a difficult time, but now have enjoyed the presence of Pastor Dan for six months. It takes a while for a new pastor to "get his feet wet," and it takes a while for a congregation to become acquainted with a new pastor. If you haven't already, reach out to him. Feel free to set up a meeting with him or invite him over to your house or maybe out for lunch. It's interesting to hear stories from his life before SOV and to hear his ideas for SOV.

Please continue to pray for Pastor Dan, for the leadership at SOV, and for its members and friends. Let's continue to hold hands together and fill SOV with love and laughter.

Fellowship Update...By Christine Todd

Meal Train!

Here is an opportunity to follow up on the 95 Acts of Kindness we talked about at our Reformation celebration. Shannon Heizenrader is facing surgery to remove a brain tumor on February 14. She would find it helpful to have meals provided for her family for 4-6 weeks while she is recovering. Meals will be delivered to the family as needed during that time. So as you prepare your family dinners, please consider making extra to put in the SOV freezer for the Heizenraders.

- * Make enough for four grown-ups.*
- * If your dish calls for onions or garlic, substitute onion and garlic powder.*
- * If using canned tomatoes, use crushed tomatoes.*
- * If possible, use a container that doesn't need to be returned.*
- * Bring your dish and place in the choir room freezer.*
- * Note your name and contact info on the sign-up sheet.*

Coming Attractions

*Fellowship is planning an **Art Exhibit and Gallery Opening** of artwork with Christian and liturgical themes by Larry Gross. Watch this space for details.*

*God's Work, Our Hands - A **work party** and chili feed is in the works to spruce up the church and grounds this spring.*

*In **May**, we will celebrate our 80's and Over members and friends with an all-congregation luncheon.*

Questions and suggestions? Contact Chris Todd, cgrosstodd@gmail.com.

MARCH NEWSLETTER ARTICLES ARE DUE FEBRUARY 22ND

Greetings from the Worship Team!

First I want to thank everyone who helped us decorate for Christmas and those who helped us take down the decorations when Christmas was over. Our worship is made so much richer through your efforts. Thank you also to all who set up, clean up, usher, read, sing and perform. Those who provide the goodies and make the coffee, thank you. I love being a part of this family. If you are considering volunteering in some way but are unsure because you don't know exactly what to do, get in touch and we will be happy to show you. Every contribution is appreciated. In particular, we are looking for people willing to make communion bread and people willing to clean up communion after the second service. Please let me know if you are interested.

Easter is coming quickly this year and we are already beginning our Lenten journey.

***Ash Wednesday is February 14th.** We will have two services that day, noon and 7pm.*

*Then we will begin our **Wednesday Lenten soup suppers** at 5:30pm followed by a Lenten service at 6:30pm. Please join us.*

Scrip Order Sundays; February 4th & 18th

New scrip order form is out!

Please give your order and payment to Brenda or Linnea or simply drop it in the scrip box located in the narthex anytime.



The Power of Prayer

God has given us direct communication with Him through the gift of prayer. Personal prayer and praying together and prayer teams are how God listens and works in our lives. Coming together to ask God's healing, comfort, direction or giving Him thanks is such blessing as Christians.

Our Worship team wants to encourage anyone attending our church to be aware of the different options we have for asking for prayer.

A prayer request box with printed forms is located in the narthex of SOV. Your prayer request will be added to the prayer team and given to Pastor Dan. Feel free to add your contact information on the prayer request if you would like to be contacted by Pastor Dan.

Any prayer request can also be emailed or phoned into Tammy McDonald, our church secretary or Pastor Dan. They will direct your prayer request to the SOV Prayer Team. This is a volunteer group of people that make a commitment to pray for each person.

At the time a prayer request is submitted, each person has the opportunity to ask that their prayer request be shared with the congregation by email and/or be included in our Sunday prayers or kept private.

The Prayer Team is eager to add more people to the prayer team. If you are interested in knowing more about being part of our prayer team please email please Tammy, Sandra Carasco or Pastor Dan.

As we strive to "Reach Up, Reach Out and Reach In" we hope that all people associated with Shepherd of the Valley know that we want to "Reach UP" in prayer and share the amazing gift of God's love through the Power of Prayer!

Tammy McDonald's email: secretarysov@gmail.com
Sandra Carasco: warmsandytoes@yahoo.com
Pastor Dan: pastordan.sov@gmail.com

MARCH NEWSLETTER ARTICLES ARE DUE FEBRUARY 22ND

Kids of the Kingdom Christian Preschool

December was a lot of fun! The kids had a great time at their Christmas music program.

January found the kids excited to return to school to see their friends and have enjoyed getting back into the swing of things. Our themes in January have centered around winter and Fairy Tales. Our character word for January was caring and we focused on the story of Creation.



We are now getting ready to begin enrolling for the upcoming 2018-2019 school year.

We will be offering the same classes that we have this year. If you or someone you know is interested, we would love to give you/them a tour. Please contact us at kokpreschool@gmail.com.

Parish Education

The 5th – 8th grade class is studying the Old and New Testaments with a focus on how the biblical story themes from 2K to 3K years ago are relevant to today's modern preteen/teenager. The class goal is to internalize the Bible lesson and to apply it to their world so the student can appreciate the importance of the Bible in modern life rather than consider the Bible as an irrelevant textbook of ancient history and legends.

Our group starts off with dialogue to answer a modern day situation that ties into the Bible story, then reviews a short video of the previous week's lesson to enhance retention, followed by introducing the new Bible story. Follow up discussion focuses not on reviewing the historical facts but rather the dilemmas and choices the characters face and how the characters' dilemmas are relevant in today's modern world and can affect the students' lives.

The 36 week lesson plan from Spark House Publishing covers 18 weeks of Old Testament followed by 18 weeks of New Testament. Currently our agenda is as follows:

- 7) Exodus; Moses leading the Jews from Egypt*
- 8) The Ten Commandments; the encampment at Mt. Sinai and the receipt of the Commandments*
- 9) Wandering; the many years the Jews wandered to find the Promised Land*
- 10) The Promised Land; Joshua and his people crossing into the Promised Land*
- 11) Judges; the terrible cycle of the Jews living in then rejecting God's ways*
- 12) Ruth; the widowed Moabite Ruth dedicating her life to care for her mother in-law Naomi*

New students are welcome at any time and do not require knowledge of the previous week's lesson to participate. We welcome all new comers!

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

03 Shayne J	20 Divine H
05 Nathan J	23 Jim A
08 Verna W	23 Gary G
10 Kathy T	23 Marion L
12 Dave R	29 Skylar J
17 Mitch R	
18 Bruce G	



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

Looking Ahead

Ash Wednesday

February 14th, services at noon and 7 pm

Palm Sunday

March 25th, services at 8:30 & 11:00 am

Maundy Thursday

March 29th

Good Friday









March 30th

Easter Sunday

April 1st, services at 8:30 & 11:00 am



FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<i>Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. A period of penitential preparation for Easter.</i>			1 9:00 - 12:30 p KOK preschool	2 	3
4 8:30 & 11:00 Worship 10:00 a Sunday school 1:30 p OEC	5 9:00 - 12:30 p KOK preschool	6 9:00 - 12:30 p KOK preschool 	7 7:15 a Coffee Group 9:00 - 12:30 p KOK preschool	8 9:00 - 12:30 p KOK preschool	9	10 Dinner & Silent Auction 5:00 pm/youth fundraiser
11 8:30 & 11:00 Worship 10:00 a Sunday school 1:30 p OEC 	12 9:00 - 12:30 p KOK preschool	13 9:00 - 12:30 p KOK preschool	14 7:15 a Coffee Group 9:00 - 12:30 p KOK preschool Ash Wednesday services 12 & 7 pm Valentine's Day 	15 9:00 - 12:30 p KOK preschool	16	17 
18 8:30 & 11:00 Worship 10:00 a Sunday school 1:30 p OEC	19 Presidents' Day	20 9:00 - 12:30 p KOK preschool	21 7:15 a Coffee Group 9:00 - 12:30 p KOK preschool 4:00 p Bible Study w/pastor 5:30 p Lenten Soup Supper & Service	22 9:00 - 12:30 p KOK preschool	23	24 
25 8:30 & 11:00 Worship 10:00 a Sunday school 1:30 p OEC	26 9:00 - 12:30 p KOK preschool 	27 9:00 - 12:30 p KOK preschool	28 7:15 a Coffee Group 9:00 - 12:30 p KOK preschool 4:00 p Bible Study w/pastor 5:30 p Lenten Soup Supper & Service	<div> <div>Christ</div> <div>is the center</div> <div>of our Home</div> <div>a guest at every Meal</div> <div>a silent Listener</div> <div>to every conversation</div> </div> 