

MARCH 2017

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Volume I, Issue I

Shepherd's Office Hours:

Mon - Thurs
Hours vary

Interim Pastor

Tom Hiller

Wed. - Fri.

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

Inside this issue:

Pastor Tom's message	2
Letter from the Bishop	3-5
Council President	6
Ladies Dinner	7
Couples Night	
Scrip Order	
Lenten Schedule	8
Nominating Committee	
KOK	9
Kitchen Shower	10
Fellowship	11
Birthdays	12
Anniversaries	
Calendar	13

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

Sunday School

Preschool-5th grades reminder:

Classes will not be held March 26 or April 2 due to Spring Break for children in school.

Lessons this month are on Jesus' life up to his death and Resurrection. We are enjoying reading from the Bible, having skits and playing games which all help us learn the stories. Also, we have all memorized the Lord's Prayer.



Interim Pastor Tom's Message

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ.

There has been a region wide discussion about how we might best serve those who are homeless. I'd like to share an article with you written by Pr. Roger Fuchs, an ELCA pastor in the Oregon Synod and the former chaplain for Operation Nightwatch, a ministry to the homeless in Portland. I hope that it will be informative and insightful for you as we pray and act for the homeless.

In Jesus' Name,

Pastor Tom



Can't Those People Get Jobs? (part 1) -- by Pastor Roger Fuchs

Have mercy, cried the blacksmith, how you gonna replace human hands?

Found guilty, said the judge, for not being in demand. --J.R. Robertson & The Band, 1972

Can't those people get jobs? My mother asked that question when she was 103. It's the only question my extended family has ever asked about the ministry I do. Mom and Dad raised me on a working family farm with livestock. There was always something to do, a reason to do it well. It was not a job. It was a way of life, all my Mom ever knew.

The twentieth century decimated millions of farm families and thousands rural communities across America. Industrial grain and vegetable operations and livestock "factories" have almost totally replaced true agriculture today. Yes, there are some farm jobs but few real farmers. Left unanswered was what to do with all the labor we "saved" when farm machines got bigger and automated machines replaced industrial workers in cities. Our "information economy" exports entire industries even as we now import the products we once made here. Yet nobody I know sits down at the table to enjoy a heaping plate of "information." We still need food—and a way of life. *Everybody needs a way of living that provides sustenance, place and meaning.*

Entire segments of our population no longer have a way of life—even if they have a job now or had a job once. Ironically, employers today struggle to find capable workers even as competition pushes them to cut labor costs. So here's the 64-dollar question: **Whom would you hire?**

- A person with a car—or one who relies on the bus?
- A person with an address—or a person with no place to cook, shower or sleep?
- A person with mental illness—or none?
- A person who's done time and stayed clean—or a person with no record?
- A person who needs health insurance—or a person you can pay under the table?

If we wish homeless and poor folks would get a job, we might ask ourselves three questions:

- Doing what for whom?
- When have I given anyone a job?
- Whom would Jesus hire?

I know two men of faith who can answer those questions with names, dates and paychecks. George owns a construction business and small farm in Vancouver. Scott owns a small aviation business in Troutdale. Both have opened their doors and taken risks because the people involved were more important than the money. Their faith carried them past judgment to justice.

Speaking of justice... Take a look at <http://www.empowermentplan.org/> Watch the short video and note when Veronika Scott's coat factory in Detroit moved beyond charity to justice. Note who gave her that insight. Is this a God thing, or what? *Amen!*

Next month: Can't Those People Get Jobs? (part 2)

A Pastoral Letter on Faithful Resistance

Bp. Dave Brauer-Rieke

Oregon Synod – Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile." Matthew 5:38-48 NRSV

Resistance is Christian. Violence is not.

Welcome, hospitality, compassion and care are Christian. Walls are not.

Joy, hope, anticipation and confidence are Christian. Depression disengagement and spiritual desinigration and not.

Christians around the world are reading Jesus' 'Sermon on the Mount' this month. Sunday, February 19, 2017 many of us will reflect on these words: "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer..."

The notion of "turning the other cheek" is often understood as pointless passivity. Nothing could be further from the truth. "Turning the other cheek" is active resistance to abusive powers in a social/political context of violence and military occupation. If this doesn't sound familiar to you, you might find "The True Meaning of Turning the Other Cheek" by Marcus Borg interest-

A Pastoral Letter on Faithful Resistance Contd.

ing. This article is a simple, one page, reflection on these words. Borg's article rests on the work of Walter Wink in his 1992 book *Engaging the Powers*. A 1998 article by Wink, "Jesus' Third Way" gives you more than Borg, but less than the whole book if you wish to pursue this further.

Resistance is Christian. Violence is not.

Christians often call the work of speaking truth to power, laying the consequences of oppression bare, and political/social commentary "prophetic." The work of the prophet is hard. It is generally misunderstood or resisted, often resented, and usually deadly. Jesus was a prophet, and he was killed for it. Mahatma Gandhi was a prophet. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a prophet.

Christians also call our proclamation of hope, salvation, life and love "the Gospel." "Gospel" is a Greek word which means "good new." Jesus proclaimed the good news of God's love for all people in a world that privileged a few. We are called to do the same. And Jesus died for bringing light to the darkness. That is confusing, but Christians must remember even the good we would do can put us, and others, at risk.

These past few weeks, pastors and church goers have asked me as their bishop "How should we now be?" We have seen marches, Facebook in flames, and executive orders from President Trump. We have fled the news, laughed at Saturday Night Live satire, prayed, and hungered for insight and sanity.

President Trump's January 27, 2017 executive order banning immigration from seven predominantly Muslim nations has been found to be unconstitutional by federal judges. ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has issued a pastoral letter questioning this action in light of our Lutheran/Christian values and commitments. Other faith leaders have done the same. Even a four month ban on immigration has devastating effects on non-profit organizations and church institutions that seek to help oppressed peoples. The ban, first of all, hurts those most in need. As a side consequence, it costs the jobs of those who do this work and deeply weakens our capacity, long term, to do it. That, and apparently, it's just plain wrong.

Bishop Eaton's letter is one way we "turn the other cheek." It unmask the broader consequences of an ill-conceived action and demands deeper engagement.

Offering sanctuary is a way some congregations (and cities) now prepare to "give their cloak" as their coat is demanded of them. We will do more than demanded, and through word and deed live into our faith and commitments.

February 9 was Faith Advocacy Day at the capitol in Salem. Twice the number of people showed up than what we have seen in the past. People are already "going the extra mile."

Meanwhile, we are watchful around issues of health care, education, environmental stewardship and deportation of sisters and brothers who live and work side by side with us in our churches, fields and forests. There are reasons for legitimate concern.

I commend to you a recent op-ed piece by David Brooks, published in the February 14, 2017 issue of the New York Times. It is entitled, "How Should One Resist the Trump Administration?" I understand that not everybody agrees that the Trump Administration needs to be resisted. However, we in the Church see much that is happening contrary to our Christian values and resistance, as I suggest, is indeed Christian. We resisted much in the Obama Administration as well.

Brooks, a Republican voice, suggests three model of resistance which are appropriate to different kinds of crises. He references Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the Benedictine tradition and the leadership for President Gerald Ford who assumed leadership following the Nixon years. I find Brooks helpful as we all grapple with "how to be" in these contentious times.

In Advent Christians prayed that God's Spirit might "Stir us up," teaching all to be watchful. Our nation is now stirred and we are fully awake!

Christmas offered us an unimagined gift of Grace and love in Jesus. Let our hearts remain open to all that is holy.

During this season of Epiphany, we have focused on Jesus' 'Sermon on the Mount' speaking of light and darkness, discipleship, formation and new life. We are learning again, in Jesus' words, to let our "Yes by Yes and our No be No."

And in a few weeks, we will set out on our annual Lenten Journey to fully invest ourselves and contemplate once again in the cost of true discipleship.

How should we be in these days? We should be as we have always been. Hopeful, watchful, worshipful, humble, faithful, resistant, engaged, welcoming and unwavering. As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. reminds us:

"The arc of the moral universe is long but it bends towards justice.
We shall overcome because Carlyle is right: "No lie can live forever."
We shall overcome because William Cullen Bryant is right: "Truth crushed to earth will rise again." We shall overcome because James Russell Lowell is right: "Truth forever on the scaffold, wrong forever on the throne. Yet, that scaffold sways the future and behind the dim unknown standeth God within the shadow, keeping watch above his own." With this faith we will be able to hue out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood."

Sermon at Temple Israel of Hollywood, February 26, 1965

Shalom, Salam, Peace be with you!

Bp. Dave Brauer-Rieke
Oregon Synod – Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
February 16, 2017

Council President...Submitted by Linnea H.

As I sit here writing this, I can't help but think of that childhood rhyme: Rain, rain, go away; come again another day – like maybe next October! That couple of days of sunshine we had felt so good. I'm ready for a couple more.

Pastor Tom seems to be settling in nicely, and it is so wonderful to have him on board. He attended his first Council meeting earlier this month, and survived just fine. He brings a point of view and ideas to Council that will enrich us all. I know he's working to get to know everyone, and the name badges at Sunday service will certainly help him with our names. When you get the chance, share some information about yourself so he can really get to know you. Remember, too, to listen for that joke at the start of the sermon each week.

As you may have heard, your Building Committee has been approached by a party interested in our parcel of land that is for sale. The Committee is working with Council and through our broker to find out if this "interest" might result in an offer we would consider. There is a lot of preliminary work for both parties to do, however. Putting together a commercial deal is much more complicated than a home. Stay tuned for more information and updates as we get them.

Cal Sugiyama, Corinne Gilbertson and Diane Lewis have agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee this year, and I want to thank them for taking on this task. There is always room for more, though, if you are interested in joining that team. Please contact one of them or contact me to add your name. The team will be reaching out soon to identify individuals interested in serving next year on one or more of our committees and on the Executive Committee. Feel free to make their work easier, though, by reaching out to one of them first to express your interest. Elections will be held early in June at our Annual Congregational meeting. More details to follow.

Please remember the Call Committee in your prayers. They continue their work of reviewing resumes, conducting interviews and contacting references. It is incredibly important work, and their dedication is truly a blessing to us all.

Thank you all for your support and your continued dedication to SOV, too. SOV has often been described as a family, and all in our family are important.

Blessings to you,
Linnea Harmon
Council President

APRIL NEWSLETTER ARTICLES ARE DUE MARCH 22ND

Ladies Dinner

Tuesday, March 7, 2017

6:00 pm

Spaghetti Factory in Tanasbourne

Please RSVP to Tammy



Couples Night

(Formerly Men's Night)

Thursday, March 2, 2017

6:00 PM

Lil' Cooperstown

2947 SE 73rd Ave, Hillsboro, OR 97123

ALL COUPLES INVITED FOR FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP



Scrip Order Sunday's in March

March 5th and 19th

See's Candies

Easter Egg's

Order now for Easter \$5 each , Chocolate Butter, Peanut Butter, Bordeaux or Marshmallow
Also Bunny Delight Box \$6

Visa® Prepaid Card

There is no activation fee and your organization will earn **1.5%** on each card sold.
It is accepted everywhere Visa debit cards are.



Lenten Schedule

Ash Wednesday ; March 1

March 1st, Service at 11:30 & 7:00 pm

Lenten Wednesdays; March 8, 15, 22, 29 & April 5

Soup Supper 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Devotion 6:30 - 7:00 pm

Palm Sunday; April 9

April 9th, services at 8:30 & 11:00 am

Maundy Thursday ; April 13

April 13th, Services at 12:00 & 7:00 pm

Good Friday; April 14

April 14th, Services at 12:00 & 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday; April 16

April 16th, services at 8:30 & 11:00 am



Reaching up, Reaching Out and Reaching In.....

Spring is near and we have begun our season of Lent. It's a time for new beginnings and preparing for Easter. It is also the time for the SOV nominating committee to work with our congregation to prepare to fill vacant positions on council and build and re-energize our committees.

As we move forward in planning, developing ideas to strengthen our programs and add new opportunities your nominating committee is asking to prayerfully consider how each of us can share our time and talents with the Lord by volunteering. Participating helps build enthusiasm, gives us an opportunity to share ideas for new programs, stimulates growth and brings us together to share Christ. Please feel free to share ideas with your nominating committee.

Together in Christ.

SOV Nominating Committee

Diane Lewis, Corrine Gilbertson and Cal Sugiyama

Kids of the Kingdom Christian Preschool

We are Learning About People in Our Community

We are wrapping up our lessons on people in our community with some special events. During the last week of February, a police officer will visit our classes to share more about their job. This is a great opportunity for children to become familiar with police officers and how they keep us safe.

On Friday, March 10th, our Prek class will be visiting the Hillsboro School District Bus barn for a tour and to learn more about school bus safety. They will enjoy a tour, a special video about bus safety and get to ride a school bus. The bus ride will be a highlight for the students!

“Loving Our Friends”

As we learn about our community, we want to be part of loving the people who in our world. During the month of February, families in our school collected items to donate for the Easter Baskets for GEM ministries. What a privilege to be part of loving others.

Dr. Seuss “Read-a-thon” Fundraiser

In March we will celebrate Dr. Seuss with a school-wide “Read-a-thon.” Students will keep track of the books they read with their families at home for the first two weeks of the month. Prizes will be awarded for participating and an extra special prize for the family who reads the most. The “Read-a-thon” is also a fundraiser for the school. Children will earn \$.50 for the school for every book they read.

Dr. Seuss Read-a-thon



Register for 2017-18 School Year

Registration for the 2017-18 school year has begun. If you are someone you know is interested in our class offerings and finding out more information, you can call the school at 503-645-0236 or email Hannah at kokpreschool@gmail.com



KITCHEN SHOWER

YES! Spring is coming!

So is our SOV's Kitchen and GEM ministry Shower!

Starting on March 5 through Sunday April 9, the congregation is invited to participate in our annual "Spring Kitchen and GEM Shower". All the donations will go to support both our Fellowship ministry and our Social Concerns GEM ministry.

Fellowship items that are needed are:

Toilet paper, paper towels, Crystal light, frozen lemonade or Hawaiian juices, liquid flavored creamers, tall kitchen plastic garbage bags, Dawn dishwashing liquid, liquid hand soap, glass cleaner, Comet cleaner, coffee or decaf coffee, large kitchen garbage bags (30 or more gallon) and 10 oz. hot beverage cups. We can also use monetary gifts that can be earmarked for GEM or Kitchen shower.

GEM is asking for:

(GEM ministry items support families in need with household and personal hygiene items that are not covered by Food Stamps. The Social Concern's committee receives requests from members and non members.)

Hand lotion, Laundry detergent, Dish soap and toilet cleaners.

This congregational effort is an opportunity for everyone to help make a difference and support these SOV ministries. These donations also support our Shepherd of the Valley general operating budget and our dedication to "Reach Up, Reach Out and Reach In"!

Remember too that if you turn in your receipts to our Financial Secretary, Christine Edgar, that your donations are tax deductible. On Palm Sunday, April 9, we will ask God's blessings on all that is donated for these ministries.

Please leave a note with your donations that these are for the Spring Shower and can be put into the kitchen or in the narthex. If you have questions please contact Lisa Ramsey Barnes, Christine Edgar, Diane Lewis or Rachel Roetman.

This is a wonderful opportunity to put God's love into Action!

Baby Shower for John and Christina Pedapalli!

March 18, at SOV! 1 to 3 PM!

John and Christina Pedapalli are expecting their first baby, Joshua Emmanuel, in early April. We are excited to help them prepare for the arrival of their new baby boy with a SOV congregational baby shower at our church on March 18 from 1 PM to 3 PM. Our church family will have the opportunity to get to know John and Christina who have been members for about 3 years and attend late service. We will also be able to help welcome Christina's Mother who arrives from India earlier that week.

Members of the Social Concern team and Fellowship team will be helping host the baby shower. Christina's favorite color "blue" will be used to decorate the nursery. Please bring some fun parenting ideas to share with Christina and John. Gifts are optional but if anyone would like to be part of a group gift or have any questions regarding what they might need please contact Tammy, Diane Lewis, Peggy Vermaas or Christine Edgar. We also welcome anyone that would like to volunteer.



We will be serving a light lunch of both East Indian and American food, dessert, punch, coffee and tea.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this fun party for Christina and John and help welcome baby Joshua Emmanuel to our SOV family.

2017 Sunday Fellowship Sign Ups are now available!

Help share Christ through the special gift of hospitality.

Sunday Fellowship time after each service is an opportunity to connect with each other, meet new visitors and have "family time" each Sunday. We have sign-up sheets for March, April and May on the Fellowship easel. Prayerfully consider how you can help our SOV Fellowship time be a reality each Sunday. Consider sharing a Sunday with a couple of friends and share the fun of helping host a Sunday. If you attend our 8:30 AM worship service why not consider teaming up with someone from 11 AM service or choose 1 of at least 5 Sunday's when we have only one service? If you haven't ever volunteered with Sunday Fellowship time we have ideas posted in the kitchen or members of our Fellowship team would be glad to answer questions. Everyone is welcome to be creative and share their own style for hosting Sunday Fellowship. Questions or ideas are always welcome! Thank you for prayerfully considering being part of "Reaching Out, Reaching Up and Reaching In for Christ" through our SOV hospitality!

SOV Fellowship team: Peggy Vermaas, Sharon Graalum, Diane Lewis, Ginny Adamo, Rachel Roetman and Amber Kotvis.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

9 Mark A	20 Chelsea P
9 Judith HD	24 Japhety N
10 Jameson T	24 Kristi R
12 Matthew V	28 Darin H
14 Deirdre A	30 Hope R
16 Michael J	



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

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES



*Ron & Judy Farnsworth
March 4th*

*Arden & Erin Tarum
March 17th*

*Randy & Choice Schutt
March 30th*



March 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>"Each and every one of us has a special talent, a gift if you will. It is our personal responsibility to find and use our God given talents to help others. After all, a gift is not a gift until you give it away."</i></p>			<p>1</p> <p>9:00 - 1:00 pm KOK Preschool/chapel 10:00 am Bible Study</p> <p>Ash Wednesday†</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9:00 - 1:00 pm KOK Preschool</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:00 - 12:00 pm KOK Preschool</p> 	<p>4</p> <p>9:30 - 11:30 am SOV Choir Rehearsal</p>
<p>5</p> <p>Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am 9:45 Sunday School</p> <p>1:30 pm OEC</p> <p><i>Daylight Saving Time</i></p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:00 - 1:00 pm KOK Preschool</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:00 - 1:00 pm KOK Preschool</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:00 - 1:00 pm KOK Preschool/chapel 10:00 am Bible Study 5:30 - 6:30 pm Lenten Soup Supper 6:30 pm Lenten Devotion</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9:00 - 1:00 pm KOK Preschool 7:00 pm LLL</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:00 - 12:00 pm KOK Preschool</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:30 - 11:30 am SOV Choir Rehearsal</p> 
<p>12</p> <p>Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am 9:45 Sunday School</p> <p>1:30 pm OEC</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:00 - 1:00 pm KOK Preschool</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:00 - 1:00 pm KOK Preschool</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9:00 - 1:00 pm KOK Preschool/chapel 10:00 am Bible Study 5:30 - 6:30 pm Lenten Soup Supper 6:30 pm Lenten Devotion</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9:00 - 1:00 pm KOK Preschool 7:00 pm Council Meeting</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:00 - 12:00 pm KOK Preschool</p> 	<p>18</p> <p>9:30 - 11:30 am SOV Choir Rehearsal</p>
<p>19</p> <p>Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am 9:45 Sunday School</p> <p>1:30 pm OEC</p>	<p>20</p> 	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>10:00 am Bible Study 5:30 - 6:30 pm Lenten Soup Supper 6:30 pm Lenten Devotion</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9:30 - 11:30 am SOV Choir Rehearsal</p>
<p>26</p> <p>Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am No Sunday School</p> <p>1:30 pm OEC</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:00 - 1:00 pm KOK Preschool</p> 	<p>28</p> <p>9:00 - 1:00 pm KOK Preschool</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9:00 - 1:00 pm KOK Preschool/chapel 10:00 am Bible Study 5:30 - 6:30 pm Lenten Soup Supper 6:30 pm Lenten Devotion</p>	<p>30</p> <p>9:00 - 1:00 pm KOK Preschool</p>	<p>31</p> <p>9:00 - 12:00 pm KOK Preschool</p> 	