

MAY 2016

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Volume I, Issue I

Shepherd's Office Hours;
Mon-Thurs 7:30 - 12:30pm

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

Worship Services

8:30 a & 11:00 a

Wednesday Bible Study

10:00 a

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

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

CALLING ALL HIGH SCHOOLERS!

We are holding an interest meeting for the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston 2018. If you will be in high school during the 2018 school year you are eligible. The meeting will take place at SOV on Wednesday May 18th at 7pm. Hope to see you there =)



Interim Pastor Brian's Message

Synod Assembly Reflections
by Interim Pastor Brian Brandt



As April turned to May I spent a long weekend at Synod Assembly. The Oregon Synod gathers annually to deliberate, to set a direction for its mission, to rededicate itself as the Body of Christ. "God's work. Our hands" That's the motto of our national church, the ELCA; it's a good way to summarize this Synod Assembly.

Every Assembly includes a variety of activities. Opening and closing worship nourish the soul. There is business (passing a budget) and celebration (honoring significant achievements by churches around the synod; honoring pastors who've lasted 25 or 50 years). There were several workshops to equip people for congregational ministries. I attended two. One was about planning a multifaceted fundraising program to support the congregation's work. Another was about grant writing. I hope to do a presentation about these to a small group of SOV leaders whom I'll convene in coming weeks. Finally, we considered five resolutions, which I mentioned in my Wednesday Message on May 4. Here's the list:

- Encouraging members to take action to limit global warming and to protect the environment;
- Authorizing congregations to send an additional voting member to Synod Assembly if it is a youth member, a person of color, or a person who identifies as LGBTQIA;
- Authorizing Synod Council and staff to provide educational materials to congregations about bringing a universal, publicly funded (single-payer) health-care system to Oregon and asking congregations to encourage their members to work toward the creation of such a system;
- Resolving that the Oregon Synod declare itself a "Sanctuary Synod" ready to protect refugees and undocumented persons from arrest and deportation;
- Authorizing a new format for Synod Assembly in 2018: we will have a one-day business meeting of voting members (instead of the usual long weekend), supplemented by 4-5 regional gatherings on a different date for education, mission planning, and worship.

I discussed the 2018 Assembly item in my Wednesday Message, so I'll reflect on the others here.

First, the global warming resolution. I was struck by the absence of contentious debate. Ten years ago, Assembly discussion of such matters reflected the hostile divide among the general public. This year, consensus: global warming is real, it's here now, and God is calling the Church to rouse itself and fight global warming for the sake of the world. The vote went about 98% in favor of this resolution. Now we'll see how congregations choose to act on this (or not).

Second, additional voting members to Synod Assemblies. All congregations get to send at least two voting members plus clergy. Larger congregations get to send more. All congregations have the right to send an extra voting member to represent their teens; they may also choose to send an extra voting member to represent racial minorities. The 2016 Assembly voted to extend the same privilege to those who identify as sexual minorities, often denoted by the alphabet soup LGBTQIA. There was more debate about this measure than the previous one. But it, too, passed by a large majority. Cultural change is as real as climate change; the Church is adapting to both.

Third, advocacy for a universal, publicly funded (single-payer) health care system. I did not expect this resolution to pass. I expected a knock-down, contentious fight with most voting members passionately rejecting it. I was completely wrong. There was thoughtful, respectful debate. We heard stories about denial of care, lives lost or wrecked, filing for bankruptcy; or alternately, stories of good care provided through the Veterans Administration which functions in a manner comparable to the universal publicly funded model in the resolution. In the end, this resolution passed by about the same margin as the global warming resolution. Amazing.

Finally, the resolution about the Oregon Synod declaring itself a "Sanctuary Synod" ready to protect refugees and undocumented persons from arrest and deportation. A couple years ago, Augustana Lutheran in Portland provided sanctuary for a Salvadoran man and his family. The man was a well-known community organizer working with Spanish-speaking groups. Ultimately, immigration authorities decided not to expel him or his family. But before that came to pass, the man's 15 year old son went back to El Salvador because he was so distraught by the pressure he and his parents were under. A few months after the boy's return, he was murdered by gang members. We heard how such killings are a common occurrence in El Salvador and other Latin American countries. It's one of several factors motivating people to seek refuge in the US. Like most Assembly members, I found this testimony shocking — even though I have been aware of the general state of affairs in Latin America. After reflecting on the moral dimensions of our decision, including the question of civil disobedience, the Assembly passed this resolution by a large margin. God knows whether this was a wise thing to do.

"God's work. Our hands." Sometimes we're not sure what work is God's work. It's good to gather together with others to discuss these things, to equip ourselves to build up the body of Christ, to nurture and strengthen one another for the challenges of the Christian life. Synod Assemblies help us do these things. If you find the Spirit calling you to serve as one of SOV's voting members at next year's Synod Assembly, please talk to me or to any Council member. We'll help you explore that path of serving your Church and your Lord.

Council President Report... Submitted by Linnea H.

The Call Committee had an important, much-anticipated announcement this morning: They have received names of pastors interested in our Call. Really Exciting! Now all of their important work in preparation for this event will come into play. Remembering that this part of the process is highly confidential, please refrain from asking questions of the Committee – I know I'm as anxious as many of you to find out more. Our time will come if we are but patient!

Also, please continue to hold the Committee in your prayers as they move into the next phase of the Call process. In addition to this exciting news from the Call Committee, the Council has received exciting news from the Building Committee (some of you may not even know there is a Building Committee!). There has been unsolicited interest in the property that we planned to sell to help fund the building project. Council has given approval to the Committee to pursue listing the property again as it becomes appropriate. Since the building project has been on the "back burner" since the recession, the Committee will be hosting a town hall meeting between services on May 22. The purpose of the meeting will be to remind/inform everyone about the building project: How we got to where we are, what's been done already and what lies ahead for SOV. Council hopes you can all attend as this is an extremely important project that was planned and worked on some years ago and which holds promise for SOV in the future.

Another date to mark on your calendar is June 5. We will have one service that day followed by our Annual Meeting. At this meeting, we will, among other things, elect officers and committee members. Working on the slate to be presented for election is our Nominating Committee: Jacob Tabor, Peggy Vermaas, and Lyle Heilman. If you are interested in volunteering for one of these important positions, please reach out to one of them. Or, if you are curious about one of these committees, stop by the Committee Fair that they are holding between services and after late service on May 1, May 8, and May 15. They welcome the opportunity to talk with you and answer your questions to help determine in which capacity you might serve.

There's a lot going on at SOV right now. Your Council, and I personally, appreciate your support and continued prayers. If you have a suggestion or concern, please feel free to bring it forward. All of us are working in support of God's mission for His followers!

Ladies Dinner

Inviting all Ladies to our monthly Dinner

Tuesday, May 3rd

6:00 pm

Mazatlán Mexican Restaurant

1435 NW 185th Ave, Beaverton, OR

Please RSVP to Tammy



Men's Night

Thursday, May 5th

6:00 PM

Reedville Cafe

2947 SE 73rd Ave. Hillsboro, OR 97123.

ALL MEN INVITED FOR FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP



SCRIP SUNDAYS May 1st and 15th

NEW See's promotion! 5oz boxes of See's Peanut Brittle.

Only \$4 a box, and your group makes \$1 for each sold.

This promotion will go into June.

Scrip Card ideas as gifts for Graduation, Birthdays, or just because...

***Flowers** – Fred Meyer, Lowes, Home Depot, Safeway & New Seasons

*** Candy** – See's, Grocery Stores, Target, Walgreens & Walmart

*** Shopping Spree** – Bridgeport Village (all stores at Mall), Old Navy, Marshall's, JC Penney, Sears, Ross, REI, Columbia, Nike & Macy's,

*** Dinner out** – Stanford's, Red Robin, Claim Jumper (Landry's), Outback, Pastini, Ruby Tuesday, Olive Garden & Oswego Grill



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Baby shower for Adlyn, Monica and Subash Bomidipatti's baby daughter. May 7 at 2-4 PM
We will host a baby shower for Monica and Subash's new baby daughter Adlyn. She was born on February 26. We will have the opportunity to meet baby Adlyn and one of her grandmothers from India. Members of the Social Concern team and Fellowship team will be helping with the shower. If you are interested in helping or have questions please contact Diane Lewis or Peggy Vermaas. Gifts are optional. Come and help us welcome Adlyn to her SOV church family. Dessert, punch and coffee will be served.

May 26 will be our next monthly congregational luncheon

This is an excellent opportunity to gather for a simple lunch and fellowship time. We start at noon and it usually lasts an hour. We would love to have some more volunteers to help "host" our luncheons. It can be very simple. We have canned soup, Crystal light juice and crackers in the kitchen pantry. Other ideas are welcome and if you want to work together with someone else then we welcome your imagination and involvement. Our May 26th Luncheon will be our annual 80's and over celebration lunch. We have 3 members that will be inducted into our 80's and over group. If there are other members or friends of members that you would like to include in this lunch please invite them and let us know so that they are included in our party. Any one attending that is 80 or over will be our honored guests. Our new 80 year olds will be have special recognition during our celebration. Anyone interested in helping plan one of our lunches is encouraged to let the Fellowship team or Tammy know. We have had volunteers take a month and do the planning. Simplicity and Fellowship has been the goal. All ideas are welcome.

Graduation recognition

We will have a special Fellowship celebration between services on either June 12 or 19. Please let Tammy or anyone on the Fellowship team know of an upcoming graduate. We hope to have a little "bio" and photo of our grads.

Food, Fun, Fellowship!

New ideas and new volunteers are encouraged and welcome! We are hoping to build our Fellowship team with new ways to "Reach Up, Reach In and Reach Out". Come and be part of building our outreach through Fellowship! Give our great SOV secretary a call or email and let her know you want to be part of the fun. When we all come together and share ideas, work together and share time together we strengthen all our congregation. Please pray about where you can make a difference.

Christian
fellowship

Kids of the Kingdom Christian Preschool

Come play with us!

We will be hosting “Spring Family Day” on Saturday, May 7th from 10:00 am-12:00 pm for currently enrolled and families who are interested in experiencing our school. If you or someone you know has a preschooler, come enjoy a morning of play, art and a special snack. Contact our director, Hannah Benedict, with any questions by email kokpreschool@gmail.com or by calling the school 503-645-0236.

Come grow your parenting tools with us!



In June, Kid's of the Kingdom will be offering a special two-week “Intentional Parenting Workshop” for Parents and “Summer Fun Camp” for kids ages 1-5. Parents, come build your parenting toolbox with tools for success while your children enjoy a morning of fun. We will meet Tuesday and Thursday mornings on June 7,9,14, and 16 from 9:00am-11:00am. The cost is \$60 per family. Contact Hannah by email at kokpreschool@gmail.com to register.

We keep learning!



In our classes this month, we will be celebrating moms and families with special Mother's Day projects and a special Mother's Day Tea in our PreK and 4's Preschool Classes. Our 3's and 4's class will finish their school year with cars, trucks, and things that go! Dinosaurs will invade our 2's and PreK class.

And Celebrating!



The third week of May we will wrap up our incredible school year. Hard to believe but what a fun year of learning! We are always amazed at how our students grow over the year and want to take a moment to recognize each student. On the last day of school, each class will celebrate together by inviting their parents to a morning celebration of all that they have learned.

JUNE NEWSLETTER ARTICLES ARE DUE MAY 25TH

MAY BIRTHDAYS

02 Solveig R	15 Chase M
02 Stephanie S	17 Eric L
03 Tom B	20 Alden S
06 Bob M	21 Chase H
07 Denise M	22 Phoebe S
07 Arden T	23 Bob M
08 Thad S	24 Jim T
11 Gabriel G	28 Jeff W
13 Delores A	30 Gunnar R



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

MAY ANNIVERSARIES







Gary & Sharon Graalum
May 8th

Happy
Anniversary



JUNE NEWSLETTER ARTICLES ARE DUE MAY25TH

May 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30 & 11:00 Worship Scrip Orders 1:30 p OEC No Confirmation	2 9:00 - 1:00 p KOK Preschool	3 9:00 - 1:00 p KOK Preschool 6:00 p Ladies Dinner	4 9:00 - 1:00 p KOK Preschool 10:00 a Bible Study	5 9:00 - 1:00 p KOK Preschool 6:00 p Men's night Reedville Café 	6 9:00 - 12:00 p KOK Preschool 1:00 - 9:00 p Palmeto Piano	7 10:00 - 11:30 a SOV Choir rehearsal 10:00 - 12:00 p KOK Family Day 2:00 - 4:00 p Baby Shower
8 8:30 & 11:00 Worship 1:30 p OEC 6:00 - 7:30 p Confirmation Mother's Day	9 9:00 - 1:00 p KOK Preschool	10 9:00 - 1:00 p KOK Preschool	11 9:00 - 1:00 p KOK Preschool 10:00 a Bible Study	12 9:00 - 1:00 p KOK Preschool 7:00 p LLL	13 9:00 - 12:00 p KOK Preschool 1:00 - 9:00 p Palmeto Piano	14 10:00 - 11:30 a SOV Choir rehearsal 
15 8:30 & 11:00 Worship Scrip Orders 1:30 p OEC No Confirmation Pentecost 	16 9:00 - 1:00 p KOK Preschool	17 9:00 - 1:00 p KOK Preschool	18 9:00 - 1:00 p KOK Preschool 10:00 Bible Study 7:00 p HS Youth Mtg/ ELCA convention	19 9:00 - 1:00 p KOK Preschool 10:00 A LLL 7:00 p Council Mtg.	20 9:00 - 12:00 p KOK Preschool 1:00 - 9:00 p Palmeto Piano	21 10:00 - 11:30 a SOV Choir rehearsal
22 8:30 & 11:00 Worship 1:30 p OEC 6:00 - 7:30 p Confirmation Holy Trinity 	23 9:00 - 1:00 p KOK Preschool	24 9:00 - 1:00 p KOK Preschool	25 9:00 - 1:00 p KOK Preschool 10:00 a bible Study	26 9:00 - 1:00 p KOK Preschool 12:00 A All Church Luncheon 80th and over Birthday celebration	27 1:00 - 9:00 p Palmeto Piano 	28 10:00 - 11:30 a SOV Choir rehearsal
29 10:00 a Worship 1:30 p OEC No Confirmation	30 Memorial Day 	31 9:00 - 1:00 p KOK Preschool	<p><i>God does not give us everything we want, but He does fulfill His promises, leading us along the best and straightest paths to Himself.</i></p> <p><i>Dietrich Bonhoeffer</i></p>			