

# Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

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# ACTIVITIESFORTHEWEEK

Sunday, <b>July 24</b> 10 <sup>th</sup> Sun. after Pentecost	9:00am 10:10am 10:30am 7:00pm	Holy Communion Fellowship Pastor's Cross+Gen Sunday School Damascus Growth Group
Monday, July 25	6:00pm	Car Club Meeting
Tuesday, July 26	6:00pm	Biblical Equipping Meeting
Wednesday, July 27	10:00am – 12:00pm	Giving Garden Event
Thursday, July 28	10:30am	Park Place Devotion
Friday, July 29		
Saturday, July 30		
Sunday, <b>July 31</b> 11 <sup>th</sup> Sun. after Pentecost	9:00am 10:10am 10:30am 7:00pm	Holy Communion Fellowship Pastor's Cross+Gen Sunday School Damascus Growth Group

Pastor Joe will be out of the office July 19-27. Callie will be out of the office July 21-24.

# A PASTOR'S POST: ABOUT PRAYER



Dear friends in Christ:

This Sunday, July 24, 2016, is the 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost. Two of the three Bible readings we have address the issue of prayer.

In the first reading (Genesis 18) we have Abraham and God seeming to barter over whether or not God will annihilate the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah because of "the outcry that has come before him" if some righteous people are found there. Abraham asks if God will "sweep away the righteous with the wicked." Abraham doesn't argue with God about how wicked Sodom is. His

question is a kind "what if?" "What if" there are 50, then 45, then 40 and on until "what if" there are five righteous persons in Sodom. God tells Abraham that He will not destroy Sodom even if only five righteous are found. As the story unfold in the next chapter not even five are found, only four in fact, and the two cities are annihilated in God's righteous judgment.

When people talk about God's supposed role in disasters, whether natural or human in origin, I think we sometimes ask the wrong questions. We want to know if God is being "fair?" The answer of course is, thankfully, no. God is not fair. If God were fair we would all end up like Sodom and Gomorrah.

There is no upside in disobeying God. While a part we know this, yet we are disobedient any way. The Bible says, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." I suppose if God would have "cut to the chase" with Abraham he would have come straight out and said, "Well, Abe, there just aren't any righteous people...not in Sodom or anywhere else."

As soon as we start thinking that stories about God's judgment are about other people, we are on dangerous ground. God's Law is first of all a mirror of our own souls. We are sinners one and all, and it's not about whether God is fair, but whether there are <u>any</u> righteous folks. The Biblical answer is, "no."

The only reason we all don't end up like Sodom is because God is not merely just, but also merciful. Not only righteous and holy but also gracious and kind. In the episode from Genesis 18 it should be obvious that whatever was on old Abe's mind, God was ready to listen. And that we have a God who listens is a sign of God's mercy.

The Gospel reading for this Sunday is the familiar Lord's Prayer as recorded in Luke 11 (also found in Matthew 6). In Luke Jesus is asked by his disciples, "Lord, teach us to pray." His response is the prayer we have come to know as they Lord's Prayer and that is a part of the worship of every Christian church. I think this says two things. First it says that we should always be asking our Lord to "teach us how to pray," not as if there are right or wrong words to use, not as if there are right or wrongs things for which to ask God's help and favor, but rather that we have a right attitude toward God when we pray. This is where the Lord's Prayer is priceless. In the Lord's Prayer Jesus invites us to understand that we should pray as part of a faith family. Notice it is "our" Father, not "my" Father. Second He invites us to pray in the knowledge that we are, like He is, God's beloved sons and daughters. Whether or not we had great parents we still understand the concept of a loving mother or father. We know what it is to be valued, accepted, encouraged, forgiven, and yes, even disciplined. We know what it is to be loved by God is God's greatest gift of mercy.

If you have a copy of Luther's Small Catechism, a good way to prepare for worship this Sunday is to review Luther wrote. you copy what lf vou don't can log on to an on line at http://bookofconcord.org/smallcatechism.php.

As my wife and I will be on vacation this Sunday please welcome Pastor Joel Nickel who will lead worship, preach, and give a wonderful presentation in Cross+Gen Sunday School on "The Importance of Sacred Space in a Secular Culture."

God's blessings!

Pastor Joe Hughes

Voice & text: 217-898-9063



# LECTIONARY BIBLE READINGS FOR WORSHIP: AUGUST 2016

## YOU CAN HELP SHAPE SUNDAY'S MESSAGE!

Everyone is welcome to participate in Monday **Fellowship Bible Studies**, **10:00-11:30 AM**. We read, learn about, and discuss the Bible readings for the coming Sunday. These important discussions help to shape pastor's message on the following Sundays, as well as provide a variety of ways you can get more out of your worship experience by sharing insights and questions raised during class. Want more information? Contact Pastor Joe (217-898-9063). Bring a friend! Everyone is welcome.

July 31	11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	First reading Epistle Gospel	Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-26 Colossians 3:1-11 Luke 12:13-21			
August 7	12 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	First reading Epistle Gospel	Genesis 15:1-6 Hebrews 11:1-6 Luke 12:22-40			
August 14	13 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	First reading Epistle Gospel	Jeremiah 23:16-29 Hebrews 11:17-31, 12:1-3 Luke 12:49-56			
	Holy Communion in the sanctuary, 9:00 AM					
	•	os for church picnic, 10				
	50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration picnic at the church, 4:00-6:00 PM					
August 21	14 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	First reading Epistle Gospel	Isaiah 66:18-23 Hebrews 12:4-24 Luke 13:22-30			
August 28	15 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	First reading Epistle Gospel	Proverbs 25:2-10 Hebrews 13:1-7 Luke 14:1-14			
September 4	16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	First reading Epistle Gospel	Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Philemon 1-21 Luke 14:25-35			



# ANNOUNCING CROSS+GEN SUNDAY SCHOOL TOPICS JULY 24-OCTOBER 2, 2016

- 7/24 Pastor Joel Nickel guest presenter "The Importance of Sacred Space in a Secular Culture"
- 7/31 Summer Voters Assembly Meeting Financial update Transition team update Discussion of additional communion assistants
- 8/7 Discovering Genesis on its Own Terms (the ancestral story continued) Isaac & Rebekah

# 8/14 Set up time for 50th anniversary celebration picnic

- 8/21 Discovering Genesis on its Own Terms (the ancestral story continued)Rival Brothers Jacob & Esau
- 8/28 Discovering Genesis on its Own Terms (the ancestral story continued) Iacob's Sons
- 9/4 Discovering Genesis on its Own Terms (the ancestral story continued) The Joseph Saga 1
- 9/11 Discovering Genesis on its Own Terms (the ancestral story continued) The Joseph Saga 2
- 9/18 Discovering Genesis on its Own Terms Genesis Jacob/Israel Sojourn's in Egypt, Conclusion of the ancestral story
- 9/25 How We Worship 1 Unpacking the *Lutheran Service Book*
- 10/2 How We Worship 2 Tentatively: learning a new liturgy for Shepherd of the Valley: Now the Feast & Celebration



#### **OVERVIEW OF THE INTENTIONAL INTERIM PROCESS**

#### **DEVELOPMENTAL TASKS** of the congregation:

- o Coming to terms with history, embracing the heritage of the congregation.
  - ✓ Transition team: members, expectations, job description to begin meeting Fall 2016.
  - ✓ Continued every home visitation personal visits with 35 out of 55 households as of 12/1/2015, suspended during Lent/Holy Week.
  - ✓ Organized 50th Anniversary Celebrations Team, next meeting 4/15/16 9:30 AM. There were 106 RSVP's as of 4/4/2016 for the catered brunch on 4/17. Six pastors including District President will be attending. District President is preaching. Katy Trautman will serve as MC for program after the service.
- Discovering a new identity
  - ✓ Enabling needed leadership change. New leadership in place as of 1/3/16.
  - ✓ New website went live 3/8/2016 training completed. Still need associate webmaster.
- Renewing denominational linkages
  - ✓ President Paul Linnemann was guest preacher for first 50th Anniversary Homecoming on April 17, 2016.
  - ✓ Attended interim pastors' meeting at district office 3/30/2016.
  - Participated in Lenten pulpit exchange with Pastor Jeremy Lucke (Peace, Philomath) and Deacon Larry Oliver (Immanuel, Albany).
  - ✓ Attending regular circuit pastors' conferences.
- o Commitment to new directions in congregation's ministry
  - Networking to develop initiatives in campus ministry SVLC to host LCMS campus ministry workshop with "Transforming Campus Ministry." New date: 8/27/2016, 8:30-4:30 PM.
  - Membership review and update using Shepherd's Staff summer 2016. Individual letters to be sent to lapsed members asking them if they wish to remain affiliated with the congregation. Enclosing a return post card. If no return and no response will consider those individuals to have "self-excluded" from congregational membership.
  - ✓ New website live as of 3/8/2016.
  - Continuously be asking, "Who is our audience and how shall we 'brand' ourselves to them?" How does SVLC bring value to the lives of those it hopes to engage? Requesting faith stories and brief bios.
  - Leadership Summit 1/9/2016 generated additional new directions: re-dedication to completing goals and reporting on stages leading to completion. Set goals of reconfiguring the worship space. Elders taking responsibility to create a planning team. Head elder seeking names of volunteers. Not aware of any progress as of this report.

## PROCESS TASKS of the intentional interim pastor:

- Joining the system
- o Connecting with the denomination
- WHERE WE ARE NOW: Facilitating the work of the Transition Team & preparation for call committee.
- Provide pastoral ministry during the work of the call committee
- Exiting and evaluating

#### **GOALS OF THE INTERIM**

- > Restore/recover trust in the pastoral office. **Ongoing**
- > Revision and clarification of definitions of SVLC Mission/Vision/Values for the future. In process. Ongoing
- > Increasing the flow of first time and repeat visitors visibility, encourage people to inviting others. **Onoing**
- > Increasing the involvement of children (members & non-members)- Cross+Gen Sunday School-Ongoing
- Attend to the roll of members by starting with "Shepherds Staff" database, dividing the published directory into "members and "friends" more clearly. Updating Summer 2016.

#### **ACTION ITEMS UPDATE**

- 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations team meeting to plan August 14, 2016, afternoon church picnic and outdoor service, November 6, 2-16 All Saints Sunday. Last meeting Tuesday 6/7/2016.
- > "Year at a Glance" ministry plan for April December 2016 is attached for review.
- > Church council has set dates/times for annual & quarterly voters' assembly meetings per constitution & by laws.
- Fall 2016 recruit and train transition team and complete NW District self-study; TWO MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL HAVE SUBMITTED SUGGESTED NAMES TO DATE, waiting for others. Submitted so far: Rob Durbin, Nichole Havranek, Jennifer Klammer, Jay McDougal, Sue Probus, Bill Randall

#### **CURRENT/PROCESS GOALS FOR NEXT 30 DAYS**

- After-action surveys and conversations indicate positive feedback on Advent and Christmas, esp. Christmas Eve/Day services and Lenten Midweek services, and Holy Week. Appreciation for offering both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services was expressed.
- o Resumed every home visitations. Progress slow.
- Confirmation students Ellie Hintzman and Gabriel Havranek completed their studies and were confirmed on Pentecost Sunday May 15, 2016.
- Working with Biblical Equipping Ministry Team on month long focus on Growth Groups concluding with Growth Group Sunday 6/26/2016. Cross+Gen regular sessions on Genesis will continue except for June 26 and July 24.
- Consider having quarterly voters meeting for the summer on either July 17 or 31 instead of July 24 as currently scheduled due to pastor on vacation.
- MTLs have been asked to create teams and discuss programs ongoing.
  - Pastor's Vacation July 17-28. Rev. Joel Nickel will preach and lead worship July 24 and probably lead Cross+Gen that morning on aesthetics of worship with power point slides.

#### THE IIP's LOG May 8-June 7, 2016

05/08/2016	Easter 6 preach and lead worship, teach Cross+Gen, Explorations in Genesis 1; pre & study for Fellowship Bible Study.
05/09/2016	Teach Fellowship Bible Study; 50 Anniversary Celebrations Team Lunch & meeting. Study and prep worship, write Pastor's Post for Shepherd's Voice (SV).
05/10/2016	Attend pastors' circuit conference meeting in Waldport.
05/11/2016	Office hours, 10:00-2:00 pm.
05/12/2016	Medical appointment. Play for Park Place devotions. Study and prep for worship and Cross+Gen, office hours 10:00-2:00. Hospital visit: June Bushman. Meeting with Ravi Sinha (Ba hai' Community leader).
05/13/2016	Pastor's day off.
05/14/2016	Sermon study and prep.

05/15/2016	Preach and lead worship, conduct rite of confirmation for Ellie Hintzman and Gabriel Havranek, teach Cross+Gen, Explorations in Genesis 2. Study and prep for Fellowship Bible Study.
05/16/2016	Teach Fellowship Bible Study, finalize liturgy, write pastor's post for SV, medical appointments.
05/17/2016	Pastors' weekly meeting/study group.
05/18/2016	Office hours 10:00-2:00 PM. Pastoral consultations with Ellen Schmidt and Evelyn Stephens
05/19/2016	Office hours, 1:00-2:00 PM. Pastoral visit: June Bushman.
05/20/2016	Pastor's day off.
05/21/2016	Sermon prep and Cross+Gen Bible study prep.
05/22/2016	Preach and lead worship, teach Cross+Gen Sunday School, Explorations in Genesis 3.
05/23/2016	Teach Fellowship Bible Study, write pastor's post for SV, finalize liturgy of 5/29. Office hours 10:00-2:00 PM.
05/24/2016	Pastors' weekly meeting/study group
05/25/2016	Office Hours, 10:00-2:00 pm. Pastoral visit with Cheryl Viner (suicide of great nephew)
05/26/2016	Hospital visit with Alia Orth (should surgery), office hours 10:00-2:00 pm.
05/27/2016	Pastor's day off.
05/28/2016	Sermon prep and study/prep for Cross+Gen.
05/29/2016	Preach and lead worship, teach Cross+Gen Sunday School, Explorations in Genesis.
05/30/2016	Memorial Day Holiday, office closed.
05/31/2016	Spiritual Retreat at Mt. Angel Abbey – The Authority of the Priestly Office
06/01/2016	Spiritual Retreat at Mt. Angel Abbey
06/02/2016	Office Hours, 10:00-2:00 pm.
06/03/2016	Pastor's day off
06/04/2016	sermon preps, study and prep for Cross Gen, worship planning for 6/12/2016.
06/05/2016	Preach and lead worship, teach Cross+Gen Sunday School – Explorations in Genesis.
06/06/2016	Continuing Education – Conference on Pastoral Ministry at PLU
06/07/2016	Continuing Education – Conference on Pastoral Ministry at PLU.

Respectfully submitted, Pastor Joe Hughes 6/7/2016

## **June 2016 Financial Summary**

Contributions	June		YTD		Expenses	June		YTD	
Actual	\$	11,119.36	\$	74,447.73	Actual	\$	12,373.76	\$	72,774.93
Budget	\$	12, 916.67	\$	77,500.02	Budget	\$	12,794.49	\$	76,766.94
	\$	(17,97.31)	\$	(3,052.29)		\$	(420.73)	\$	(3,992.01)

Interest Income	\$	77.36 \$	468.69
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Net Income – Monthly (*Actual Contributions – Actual Expenses*) \$11119.36 - \$12373.76 = \$ (1254.40)

Net Income – YTD (*Actual Contributions ytd – Actual Expenses ytd*) \$74447.73 - \$72774.93 = \$ 1672.80

# News from the Church Office

# WHERE WILL YOUR LOVED ONE BE ATTENDING COLLEGE THIS FALL?

Will you or someone you know be attending college this fall? As part of our emphasis on being more intentional about being in ministry with students in higher education, the church office is collecting the names and contact info on college students from Shepherd of the Valley, especially if they are attending a local institution like WOU, OSU or LBCC. We will be in touch with local students using the contact information you provide. For those attending institutions out of the area, we will forward the contact info to Lutheran Campus Ministries that are close by them. Email the information to the church office or put the information on a sheet of paper and place it in my box outside the church office. Thank you for your help! Pastor Joe

# SVLC TO HOST "SOWING CAMPUS MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES"

Shepherd of the Valley has been chosen to host a workshop called 'Sowing Campus Ministry Opportunities" on **Saturday, August 27, 9:00-4:30 PM** with former campus pastor Rev. Greg Fairow now serving as executive director of Transforming Campus Ministries. This all day, one day, event is designed to help congregations like Shepherd of the Valley explore ways they could be in mission and ministry with the campus communities in their area thanks to a grant from the Oregon District of the LWML.

As a congregation neighboring Oregon's prestigious Oregon State University it has always seemed that LC-MS congregations need to explore new ways we might see OSU as a mission field and attempt to meet the needs of any Lutheran students that are not now being met by "Lutherhouse" (a ministry of the ELCA).

To help with this event Pastor is in the process of forming a host leadership team of 3-5 people who have a passion for serving the spiritual needs of the university community and are willing to work with Greg and

Pastor Joe to explore new ways we could do that. WE NEED YOUR HELP TO HOST SO PLEASE CONTACT PASTOR JOE IF YOU ARE INTERESTED!



Here is your chance to help!! SVLC is in need of 4 more Sunday contribution

counters or two more teams of people who are willing to do one Sunday a month. At least one member of the team needs to be comfortable using a computer and spreadsheet.

# GIVING

Weekly Contribution Goal	\$3077.00
General Fund	\$3102.00
Romania Mission	\$2000.00
Anniversary Fund	\$10.00
Attendance	67

\*Thank you for all who gave so generously to the Romania Mercy Mission both in prayer and in funds!\*



**July Birthdays:** Lisa Boylan 7/10, Marla Crane 7/10, Caroline Hintzman 7/11, Ryan Taft 7/11, Sonia Randall 7/15, Bud Reger 7/16, Kari Dort 7/17, Paul Durbin 7/18, Kolomona Hunter 7/23, Katie Schmidt 7/24, Charles Taft 7/24, Aaron Taft 7/26, Ellen Schmidt 7/27, Sue Probus 7/27, Maradith Durbin 7/28.

June & July Anniversaries: Chris & Ray Fajardo 7/20, Katy Trautman & Fernando Henriques 7/20.

# +CHURCHHAPPENINGS+

ADOPT-A-STUDENT is coming up again. So if you would like to support a seminary student please indicate on your check and your envelope that you are giving toward the Seminary Student Fund. We usually give them \$500 and right now we need to raise the funds to provide this blessing to the students.

**PRAYER CHAIN:** If you would like to be added to or removed from the prayer chain please contact Nevette Orth directly at <u>nevette@orth.org</u>. If you have a prayer request please contact Nevette at the the email listed!

**KEEP SUPPORTING SVLC** by signing up through Fred Meyer Rewards or shop AmazonSmile when you shop online!

## 

Big Lake Youth Camp will be generously hosting a celebration of Brian's life on their grounds on Saturday, July 23, 2016 at 11 am. While open to friends of Brian, BLYC, and the Robak family, it is important to respect the gravity of their loss. We ask that those who are not connected with Brian, BLYC or the Robak family to please respect them by maintaining privacy and giving them space during this event.

BLYC is working hard to create a web page with this information, along with a very important RSVP TOOL so that they may get a head count as they are planning to feed everyone! Please watch for an update sometime this week with how to get to the RSVP TOOL.

People are also asking about DONATIONS. A special fund, the ROBAK COUNTRY FUND, is being established in Brian's honor. Big Lake Youth Camp will also be establishing a DONATION TOOL on their website. Please watch for an update sometime this week with how to get to the DONATION TOOL.

Brian touched many people who are looking for a way to give back. Per what Brian's family feels his wishes would be, donations to the Robak Country Fund will benefit his beloved Big Lake in a number of ways, and will include a memorial or tribute to him on the grounds themselves.

Contributions may be sent via mail to: the Robak Country Fund c/o Big Lake Youth Camp 13100 US 20 Sisters, Oregon 97759

\*\*\*IMPORTANT: Please make checks payable to Big Lake Youth Camp, and write ROBAK COUNTRY FUND in the memo. Checks made out otherwise may not be valid\*\*\*

Cards and condolences may also be directed to the Robak Family c/o Big Lake Youth Camp at the above address. Please refrain from sending flowers, food, or items that may be difficult to manage or organize.

Please DO NOT contact Big Lake Youth Camp or the Robak family with further questions. BLYC and a family representative will keep everyone up to date as they are able and the information is given to them. Blessings!



# +MISSIONS+

HEARTS ACROSS ROMANIA: For the third straight year, Fred & Dianne Taft will be traveling to Brasov, Romania, to work with orphans and at-risk children. They will be collecting supplies and cash donations (which will be used to purchase supplies). They are looking to collect the following items:

Cash · Socks · Underwear
T-shirts · Pajamas



Thank you for your continued support for this life-changing ministry.



# SUMMER CELEBRATION

50<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Picnic & BBQ

**25 Days** until August 14th *Joyfully Serving the Shepherd for 50 Years* 



# LUTHER HOUSE UPDATES

## Luther House "Welcome to Campus Gift Bags"

It's that time of year when we at Luther House prepare to welcome new students to campus and especially to Lutheran Campus Ministry. Plans are well underway to assemble free gift bags for each new student we meet. The backpacks bear the name of Luther House and contain fun treats and useful information for students new to campus. All we need is your help identifying students you know who will attend OSU, LBCC, or WOU this fall. Please send us their contact information (name, campus, email and phone number) so we can touch base with them, invite them to Luther House activities, and deliver a gift bag in person. Either email us at info@lutherhouse.org or address an envelope to Luther House, 211 NW 23rd Street, Corvallis, OR 97330. We'll take it from there. Thanks for your help!

## **Fall Football Parking**

Once again Luther House is sponsoring game day parking at the Grace Lutheran parking lot (Kings and Harrison) for all home football games starting three hours prior to kickoff. The suggested contribution is only \$10 per vehicle. Park four times with us and the fifth time you park free. Please share this news with football fans you know. All proceeds support Luther House programming for the 2016-17 academic year.

#### 90th Anniversary Homecoming Reunion Party

October 29 is OSU homecoming. It's also the day the Luther House Council has designated as the Luther House 90th Anniversary Homecoming Reunion Party. Starting three hours before game-time, join friends of Luther House for tailgate food, games, Luther House trivia, prizes, and pre-game activities – nine decades of fun rolled into one terrific event. There's no charge to attend. Parking is available at Grace Lutheran. Yeah Luther House! Go Beavs!

#### Welcome Lunch and Student Panel

The Luther House Student Leadership Team will host a preview lunch and student panelists sharing thoughts on "Priorities in College," Tuesday September 20, 10:30-noon, at Luther House. Part of the many OSU Welcome Week activities, the goal of his event is to introduce new students to Luther House, provide them a free introductory lunch, and help them learn from peers some helpful tips on navigating college life. Spread the word, especially to students you know who'll be new to campus this fall.

## Lutherfest 2017 is Coming!

Save the date February 26, 2017 for the fifth, bigger and better Luther House beer and cheese pairing event at the Boulder Falls Center (same location as last year). Highlights, details, and ticket information will be released early fall.

# +COMMUNITY+

**ABBEY BACH FESTIVAL NEXT MONTH!** Those who love great music won't want to miss the Bach Festival at Mt. Angel Abbey July 27-29. Log on to <u>https://www.mountangelabbey.org/home/</u> and click on "Abbey Bach Festival" from the menu at the bottom of the page.

**LOVE INC IS HIRING a** Ministry Operations Manager. Please let the church office know if you are interested in full description and employment application.

**PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH IN WEST SALEM** has been keeping SVLC in prayer for our interim process every week.

## Please Notify the Church Office When...

...You or a family member is going to be hospitalized. Please let the hospital know you are a

## member of Shepherd of the Valley.

...You or a member of your family is hospitalized.

- ...You have a change of address.
- ...Your phone number has changed.
- ...Your email address has changed.

...Members or you family are students attending school away from home or are living at a different address.