



March 2010

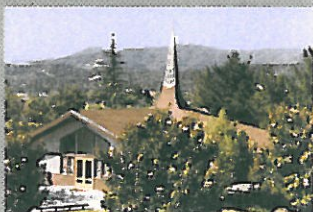
Volume 41, Issue 1

The Shepherd's Staff

A newsletter for the members
and friends of Shepherd of the Valley

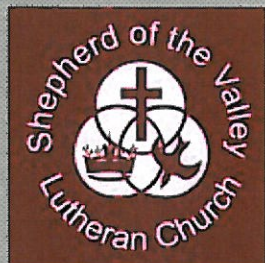
Shepherd of the Valley
Lutheran Church
LCMS

1281 Redmond Avenue
San Jose, California 95123
(408) 997-4848
www.sanjoselutheran.org



In This Issue:

Prayers	2
A Peek at	
Preschool	3
Thrivent Builds	4
Heart to Heart	5
Kid's Club	6



Abide With Me by Pastor Weller

*Abide with me! Fast falls
the eventide;
the darkness deepens;
Lord with me abide.
When other helpers fail
and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, oh,
abide with me!*

Often the greatest gift we can give someone is the gift of presence. We are simply there. Not worrying about saying exactly the right thing or fussing over person or the house. We are just there. It seems as though that comfort of presence is built into human DNA. Think back to when you were a child or a time when your own child called out to you in the middle of the night. They didn't need anything. They weren't hungry or thirsty or sick. They just needed your presence. A mom or dad in the room with them brings sleep as a parent's presence brings comfort. That need for presence doesn't really go away just because we become adults. In fact being an adult can be a very lonely walk and it isn't meant to be. God has created us to be in community. God has created us to be in one another's presence.

Indeed, "it is not good for man to be alone". (Genesis 1:18) God answers Adam's need for another's presence with Eve and community is born. This need for presence is met by God Himself. He made the promise that He would be with us always. (Matthew 28:20) His presence is so desperate to our existence, yet it is often unseen and unfelt by us. If that is so the fault lies with us, not with God's promise. Perhaps we are simply looking for God's abiding presence in our own ways rather than in the ways God provides it. Indeed He does provide it. God promises to abide with us and he does.

First, God abides with us in the Spirit that works in our hearts. "For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as son, by whom we cry, "Abba, Father!" (Romans 8:15) God has granted you His Holy Spirit. In your baptism, you were adopted by the Spirit as a child of God. He claimed you as His own. Your Father is

always with you because since your baptism the Spirit has dwelt in your heart. Your God keeps His promise. He is with you always. Your baptism is the promise and seal of that gift.

Second, God abides with us in His Word. "If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." (John 15:7) I could easily have quoted the entire chapter from John 15 about the relationship between us and God and the work that His Word does in that relationship. I chose this verse because not only does it show that God's Word is meant to abide in us, but as God's Word abides in us it moves us to ask for what we need. God's Word abiding in us leads us to prayer. In prayer God answers like a Father coming into their child's room at night to calm their fears, God answers. As we abide in God's Word it works in our minds and hearts to reveal God's will. God abides with us as His will is made known to us in His Word.

Continued on Page 2

Abide with Me, cont.

"Often the greatest gift we can give someone is the gift of presence."

Third, God abides with us in the Lord's Supper. Here the entire Words of Institution could be quoted. The Supper is Christ abiding with us for the forgiveness of our sins and the equipping of our lives to reflect his glory. This family meal we share is Christ Himself. When there are schisms in the family, they are resolved at and because of the family meal of Christ who forgives all sin. This meal is no individual act of each

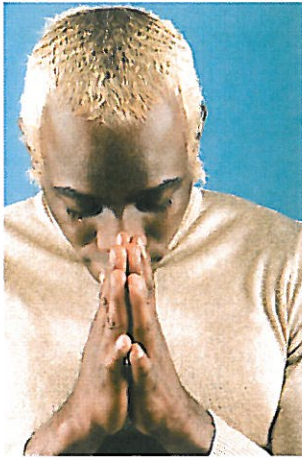
receiving Christ's Body and Blood. When you read the accounts of the meal in the Upper Room at no point does Jesus address the meal to individuals but to the disciples as His family gathered in that place. God abides with us individually, by uniting us in this meal corporately.

Finally, God abides with us through each other. God's presence is given in the sharing of the peace,

in the breaking of bread, and in baptism. However, it is given more often through handshakes, phone calls, simple conversations, and unexpected hugs. Our prayer that God would abide with us is answered abundantly in our brothers and sisters in Christ.

So the next time you are having trouble getting to sleep, instead of counting sheep, count the ways and people by which God abides with you. Amen.

Prayer Requests by Brenda Patterson



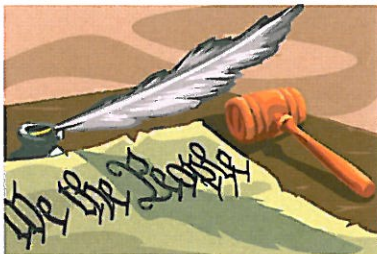
Because God has commanded us to pray, we pray. Because He wants a relationship with us, we talk with him frequently, in prayer. Because we care about those around us, we bring them to Him in prayer. And He promises to answer.

Shepherd has a faithful group of people who will pray for the requests that are given to them. Every

time a desperate situation comes us, I am so thankful that they are there, willing to pray for whatever requests come in. Prayer requests can be submitted to pastor, the office, or to Brenda Patterson via (BPatttrsn@aol.com). They are also written on the pew cards and given to an usher or placed in the box in the entry. Let us know how we can pray for you.



Constitution Revision Meeting



The church council is moving forward on work to update our existing constitution and by-laws. Our objective is to complete the work in time to present proposed changes to the general assembly in November. The process is

open to all communing members and volunteers are requested. Please contact Tim Eckert at 266-7316 if you are interested in participating.

A Peek At Preschool by Sandy Leatherman

Many fun activities are planned for the children this month. Dr. Seuss is known for his famous rhyming. The children will hear the story "Green Eggs and Ham" and have the opportunity to cook eggs and watch as they turn green. A fun week of snacks will be enjoyed by the preschool children; baked potatoes, green eggs and ham, and a special St. Patrick's Day cookie. Maybe this will be the year the children catch that quick little Leprechaun as the children celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

We have a special treat joining us during our Contemporary Service Sunday, March 14: Pastor Weller will lead the preschool children as they sing for you the chapel songs that they delight in singing repeatedly during the school week.

Children are a gift from God; they are his reward.
Psalm 127:3

Take a moment to remember that you are a child of God, created in his image.



Online Banking Simplifies Stewardship by Carol Hack

Stewardship is our management of everything we have, for God's purposes and to advance His kingdom. We owe God everything, and our loving response to His gifts to us is—gifts of our time, our talents, and our treasures to His church.

For regular financial giving to SOTV, there have been several requests to accept contributions via online banking. We have identified a way to do this, and proposed it to the church council, which has approved it.

Here is how it will work: If you would like to commit to a regular monthly contribution to the general fund from your bank account, please contact our church secretary, Marty Herzing, who will provide you with a form to fill out. This will be given to Vanco Services, who will process these donations for us. The church secretary is the only person who will see your donation amount, and she will keep this information strictly confidential. Vanco will then automatically debit your bank account on the first of each month,

moving the funds directly into the church's bank account. They will provide the church with a contribution report, which we will use for the regular giving reports that are sent to you as well as for budget tracking purposes.

There is no cost to you. Costs to the church are insignificant unless a debit is returned for insufficient funds, which is quite expensive for us. We trust that this will not happen, however!

If you would like to make additional contributions beyond your regular

giving, these may be put in your offering envelopes or in the offering baskets as usual.

You will still receive a regular report/receipt for your contributions as you do now.

We would like to emphasize that this is just an option for your convenience.

Questions? Please contact a member of the Stewardship Board: Carol Hack, Marie Mosier, David Chapman, Matthew Fricke, or Becky Elliot.

"Everyone has fun working and being together."

Sewing Group by Brenda Patterson

A loyal group of ladies meet each Thursday afternoon from 1:30-3:00 to work on quilts. Some cut squares, lay out designs, take home to sew together. Others sit at the kitchen table with a quilt in their lap and tie the quilt layers together. Everyone has fun working and being together.

This is a very productive group. We made the Christmas quilt & pillow that were raffled in December. 20 quilts were given to Project Linus in January; another group of 20 flannel baby quilts went to the CPC Community Pregnancy Center in February. A 60"x80" spring quilt (twin bed size) is in the works for an

Easter raffle. More 60x80 quilts have been started to give to LWR in October. Additionally, the Lutheran Women's convention in San Jose in April has requested tote bags which we will help make.

Anyone available on Thursday afternoons is welcome to join us.



LWML Convention Comes to Bay Area

On April 30 – May 2, 2010, women in the California-Nevada-Hawaii LWML Region III (Zones 1, 2, 7, 8, 17 & 18) will host their biennial convention. We'll welcome hundreds of women and men as they arrive at the Wyndham Hotel in San Jose.

There are a lot of projects to be done in advance, as well as volunteering during the weekend...and you can help!

DO SOMETHING YOU ENJOY... help with decorations, sew tote bags, bake cookies, help with registration, welcome

and assist guests, prepare the altar for worship, etc.

The committee chairmen are in place and are praying that **YOU** will contact them today!

For more information, please contact LaVada Terrell, 408-893-3367.

"Thrivent Build brings... the gift of home ownership to families in need."

Thrivent helps build homes in Silicon Valley

A nationwide alliance between Habitat for Humanity International and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans continues to build hope for low-income families amidst economic difficulties. Since 2005, it has given more than 2,000 families the opportunity to live in simple, decent, affordable homes. In 2010, this nationwide alliance, entitled Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity,

will contribute more than \$13 million to help build another 181 affordable homes in 37 states and the District of Columbia.

Locally, Habitat for Humanity Silicon Valley has been awarded \$125,000, or 65 percent of the funds necessary, to build a home in 2010 through this alliance. This home will be built as part of the Habitat for Humanity Silicon Valley

Morgan Hill project by area volunteers, 50 percent of which will be Lutheran. The Habitat partner families also will invest 500 hours of "sweat equity" helping to build their homes. Construction on the Thrivent Builds home has begun and will be completed by December 31, 2010.

continued on page 5

Thrivent, cont.

"This is our fourth Thrivent Builds home in the Silicon Valley," said Jennifer Simmons, executive director for Habitat for Humanity Silicon Valley. "Thrivent Builds brings individuals and groups from the community together with the common goal of giving the crucial and fundamental gift of homeownership to families in need. It's an incredible level of support, both financially and in volunteer power, and leaves such a long-lasting impact on the communities in which we build."

Building 181 homes across the country is a huge undertaking. Based on actual numbers from the four previous years of the alliance, Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity expects more than 100,000 volunteers and the home-buying partner families to work side-by-side to complete these 181 decent, affordable homes a total investment of more than 600,000 volunteer hours on the construction sites.

"I love Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity," said Joanne McDonough, financial associate for

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. "It has been a real honor to work with our home office, Habitat for Humanity Silicon Valley, and some extraordinary volunteers from Santa Clara County chapters and Lutheran churches."

Upcoming fundraising activities for Habitat for Humanity include:

Capitol Club Wine tasting on April 28, San Jose Giants game on May 15, Choir Spring Concert on May 23, Americana Festival at the Discovery Museum Meadow on July 2-4 and the Summer Music Fest at St. Timothy's on August 20.



Hymn Devotion: The Old Rugged Cross

On a hill far away
stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of
suffering and shame
And I love that old cross
where the dearest and best
For a world of lost
sinners was slain.

*So I'll cherish
the old rugged cross,
'til my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it some day
for a crown.*

O that old rugged cross,
so despised by the world,
Has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God
left His glory above
To bear it to dark Calvary.

In the old rugged cross,
stained with blood so divine,
A wondrous beauty I see;

For 'twas on that old cross
Jesus suffered and died
To pardon and sanctify me.

To the old rugged cross
I will ever be true,
Its shame and reproach
gladly bear;
Then He'll call me some day
to my home far away,
Where His glory forever I'll share.

George Bennard (1873-1958)

"The inspiration came to me one day in 1913, when I was staying in Albion, Michigan," George Bennard wrote about the composition of this hymn. "I began to write 'The Old Rugged Cross.' I completed the melody first. The words that I first wrote were imperfect. The words of the finished

hymn were put into my heart in answer to my own need. Shortly thereafter it was introduced at special meetings in Pokagon, Michigan, on June 7, 1913."

Bennard had served with the Salvation Army before being ordained in the Methodist Episcopal Church. By this time he was carrying on revival services throughout the Midwest. After its debut at Pokagon, the song was presented at an evangelistic convention in Chicago. Participants then took it back to their homes throughout the country.

"When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls." | Peter 2:23-25

The Shepherd's Staff

is brought to you by:

Douglas Peterson

Marty Herzing

Rev. Robert Weller

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.sanjoselutheran.org

Heart to Heart by LaVada Terrell

All women and teen gals are invited to join us on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. for a topical Bible Study in the little house.

In March, Carla Russell will once again be our leader and we will explore *Mary and Martha and Us* – are we followers; how

do we use our talents; are we still growing in our relationship with Christ?



LYF Easter Breakfast & Easter Egg Hunt

Easter is rapidly approaching and the LYF will be hosting the annual Easter Breakfast. The LYF is requesting donations of coffee cake, quick breads or doughnuts.

The group will also be sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt for all children through the sixth grade. This will be held following the 11:00 a.m. Easter service. Donations of plastic Easter eggs filled with small candies would

be gratefully appreciated.



Thank You for your prayers...

I would like to thank the members of SOTV for your prayers, your gifts (Girl Scout cookies) and cards for the last four years. While serving my country in the United States Marine Corp I had the opportunity to see and serve in Australia, the Philippines, Japan, Guam and Korea. It was an awesome opportunity and I have grown in many

ways because of it. Through all my travels and experiences (good and bad) I always knew you had me in your thoughts and prayers and that meant the world to me. Semper Fideles, ---Spencer Petrehn



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Greg Goebel
- 2 Zachary Devine
- John P. Leatherman
- Adam Skoglund
- 4 Katie Rowe
- 5 Valdur Koitmaa
- 7 Patrick Guise
- 9 Donna Alpers
- 10 Kylie Williams
- 11 Pastor Weller
- 13 Heino Diehl
- James Michael Guise, III
- 14 Todd Schurk
- 16 Mackenzie Herzing
- 17 Carolyn Rowe
- 19 Dee Ann Eberle
- Matthew Hanlon
- 21 Karen Jorgensen
- 22 Norma Bauman
- 23 Robert Chapman
- 24 Louise Wilson
- 25 Noel Rowe
- 30 Sue Koitmaa
- Merrill Mosier
- 31 Marie Mosier



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 13: Michael and Lilly Madorin – 6 years
- 17: Merrill and Marie Mosier - 52 years
- 19: James and Adrienne Pierre-Charles – 16 years
- 22: Curt and Dana Carney - 12 years
- 30: Bill & Debbie Seip - 13 years

Spring Cleaning Planned March 27

Saturday, March 27

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

There's lots of work to do in sanctuary, house and hall, and lots of help is needed for projects not on the janitor/gardener list.

Let's look great for Easter! We'll work hard, then relax with a hot lunch.



Missing: One Choir Member

A pair of bobble-head little choir people were given to the Shepherd Choir by the Huenergards. They have become our mascots, and we've grown quite fond of them. When we came to rehearsal on January 28,

Please! Please! Bring her back! We miss her! The little boy is just not the same without her at his side.

Anonymous Tips? Call 893-3367

Simonds Kid's Club News

The Simonds Kid's Club meets on Fridays from 3:00 – 4:15 p.m. in the school cafeteria (holiday weekends excepted.)

The current team members are:

First Grade Boys

Brenda Will & Substitute

Second Grade Boys

Andy Patterson & Bill Seip

Third Grade Boys

Tim Eckert & John Clark

Fourth & Fifth Grade Boys

Don Patterson & Bob Weber

First Grade Girls

Debbie Seip & Substitute

Second Grade Girls

Debbie Boyd and Sabrina Sarkis

Third Grade Girls

Hyeran Park & Substitute

Fourth & Fifth Grade Girls

Sandy Dominique & Sub

Substitutes

Lindsey Will & Gretchen Skoglund

Bible Lesson Presenter

Pastor Weller

Administrator

Marie Moser

Snack Helpers

John Clark, Jan Day (baked yummy cookies), Sandy Dominique (schedules snacks furnished by parents)

We are very grateful for the occasional assistance that came from parents who volunteered to help out when needed, especially Teresa Ness, Sandi Brendlen and Kelly Schnitker.

Our goal is the share the

Special Worship Services

Wednesday Lenten Services

February 15 through March 24
7:00 p.m.

Soup Suppers at 6:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday

April 1

7:30 p.m. Communion Service

Good Friday

April 2

7:30 p.m. Tenebrae Service

Easter Sunday

April 4

8:30 a.m. Traditional with Communion
11:00 a.m. Contemporary

Calling All Children! By Clara Rowe

Sunday School continues to be well-staffed by teachers. Now we are looking for all our darling children to come be a part of the classes! Please bring your children to Sunday School where they can join their own age group in Bible Study.

Class begins at 9:45 in church with a 15-minute opening. From there the children travel to class with their teachers and can be picked up in the Parish Hall at 10:45. Our middle school children have their class in the little house.

Love of Jesus with children who already know that Jesus loves them, with children who do not know how much Jesus loves them, and to teach Bible verses that provide truth & encouragement.

We request your prayers for substitute leaders and co-leaders, and for God's assurance that He will provide what is needed through various ways.

Special thanks to Thrivent for the \$700 that purchased most of our supplies for this year!

