

THE HORN

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church 580 Trinity Drive, Vacaville, CA 95687



OUR MISSION: To proclaim the message of Christ through joyful worship,
quality education and loving service. DECEMBER 2011 / JANUARY 2012

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Sunday, December 18th, 5 p.m.

The Education Team of Shepherd of the Hills presents:

Christmas Letters: The Musical

A children's musical in letters and song based on the play by Gail Gaymer Martin,
music and lyrics by Christy Long



December 4, 11:45 a.m. Decorate the Church



Sunday, December 18, 6 p.m. Children's Christmas Program

Saturday, December 24, Christmas Eve Services



Candlelight Service

5:30 p.m. Family Service, Candlelight and Carols

7:30 p.m. Candlelight, Carols and Communion

9:30 p.m. Candlelight, Carols and Communion

Sunday, December 25th Christmas Day, One service 9:30 a.m.
Carols and Communion

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Sunday, January 1—One Service 9:30 a.m.  
*Carols and Communion*



**Shepherd of the Hills  
Lutheran Church**  
580 Trinity Drive  
Vacaville, CA

Phone 707 448-8599  
FAX: 707 448-8629

Preschool 447-6278

Email:  
soh580@sbcglobal.net  
www.discovertheshepherd.org

Robert Willse  
Pastor

Joan Strader  
Office Manager  
Horn Editor

Chris Holmes  
Music Director

Elliott Smith  
Youth Director

Kathy Webb  
Preschool Director

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previous month



**Worship Schedule**

Traditional Service  
8:30AM  
Contemporary Service  
10:30 AM  
Children's Faith Connection  
(formerly Sunday School)  
30 mins. during late worship

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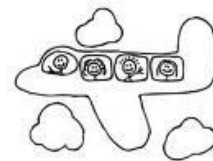
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## PASTOR'S MESSAGE *by Pr. Bob Willse*

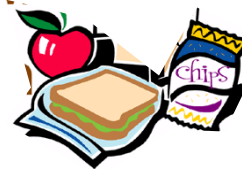
Dear Partners:

Frank was a passenger on a plane that pulled away from the gate, taxied to a remote corner of the field and stopped. You know the feeling: The plane stops and you look out the window and see that you're not on the runway and the engines wind down and your heart sinks.

The pilot came on the intercom and said, "I have some bad news and some really bad news. The bad news is there's a storm front in the West, Denver is socked in and shut down. We've looked at the alternatives and there are none. So we'll be staying here for a few hours. That's the bad news. The really bad news is that we have no food and it's lunch time." Everybody groaned. Some passengers started to complain, some became angry. But then one of the flight attendants did something amazing.



She stood up and took the intercom mic and said, "We're really sorry, folks. We didn't plan it this way and we really can't do much about it. And I know for some of you this is a big deal. Some of you are really hungry and were looking forward to a nice lunch. Some of you may have a medical condition and really need lunch. Some of you may not care one way or the other and some of you need to skip lunch. So I'll tell you what we're going to do. I have a couple of breadbaskets up here and we're going to pass them around and I'm asking everybody to put something in the basket. Some of you brought a little snack along — something to tide you over — just in case something like this happened, some peanut butter crackers, candy bars. And some of you have a few LifeSavers or chewing gum or Roloids. And if you don't have anything edible, you have a picture of your children or spouse or girlfriend/boyfriend or a bookmark or a business card. Everybody put something in and then we'll reverse the process. We'll pass the baskets around again and everybody can take out what he/she needs.



"Well," Frank said, "what happened next was amazing. The griping stopped. People started to root around in pockets and handbags, some got up and opened their suitcases stored in the overhead luggage racks and got out boxes of candy, a salami, a bottle of wine. People were laughing and talking. She had transformed a group of people who were focused on need and deprivation into a community of sharing and celebration. She had transformed scarcity into a kind of abundance."

After the flight, which eventually did proceed, Frank stopped on his way off the plane — deplaning, that is — and said to her, "Do you know there's a story in the Bible about what you did back there? It's about Jesus feeding a lot of people with very little food."

"Yes," she said. "I know that story. That's why I did what I did."

Taking a risk does not always work out this well. But if the flight attendant had not taken this risk, then who knows what might have happened inside that plane.

Our theme this year is "**Ministry is a verb . . . step off the hill**". It is about taking risks as we move off the hill and enter the ministry field. I wonder where our next ministry risk will be. And what ministry risk you might take?



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Laura Barton*

Happy Thanksgiving! Happy Advent! Merry Christmas! & Happy New Year!

The Advent season has arrived and there are many opportunities for you to prepare yourselves for the holiday season. Please check out the HORN and the weekly take home page in the bulletin to keep up with all the events. You can also check out the Power Point Announcements on Sunday morning. There are all kinds of ways to find out what is happening and how you can be a part of it. When in doubt, please ask one of the smiling faces that greet you each week and I know they will help you out.



The Steering Team is busy finishing up the final details of Keeping the Hills Alive! It has been a huge task and the finance team has done an excellent job! Thank you to all the behind the scene workers who have made it happen. Be sure to check out Bruce Smith's report for specific details.

The team leaders have been wonderful providing so many opportunities for all of us to serve, grow, and connect with each other. During the Steering Team Retreat the team selected 3 goals for this year-



Immediately they left the boat  
... and followed him.

- ✦ *Empower members to grow in faith in their "walk with Jesus".*
- ✦ *Expand loving service in our community.*
- ✦ *Create a plan for caring for our campus, planning and funding of projects.*

These goals will be a focus for all of our teams at SOTH for the coming year as we continue to grow as a healthy community here on the hill.

In addition, our theme "Ministry is a Verb, Step Off The Hill" will challenge us to put ourselves to the test and live our faith and commitment to our Lord.

Please check out all the articles in the HORN this month so you can take advantage of the opportunities to be involved and celebrate the season of our Lord

I wish a meaningful Advent season to each of you as we all prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord.



## TREASURER'S REPORT *by Bruce Smith, Treasurer 2011-2014*

The Finance Team, representing the congregation for the Steering Team, did not meet in October. We did discuss a couple of items through the month and take action where needed, but no meeting was held. We were going to start transferring Keep the Hills Alive offerings out of the main budget cash flow, the checking account, but found we had no savings account. Esther and Joan corrected that so we now have an on-line bank account that we can transfer funds between. Gene Clark has set-up our ICON CMO system, the offerings tracking program we use, to track the Keep the Hills Alive offerings and has set-up a tracking spreadsheet that tracks your offerings in relation to your pledges. We are making every attempt to be able to tell you exactly where you are in relation to the commitment you have made. Remember, Gene is the only person who has the pledge data you made. It is a freedom of information area. If you want to know where you stand please feel free to contact Gene. Don Ward, Pastor Bob, Elliott and others have been repairing the ED II building from rain damage. William Scotsman has installed a new roof. This should keep ED II water tight this rainy season. The October financial reports are posted on to the Steering Team Bulletin board in the Office hallway for your review. Our team consists of myself (Treasurer), Gene Clark (Financial Secretary), Esther Merkel (Bookkeeper), Joan Strader (Office Manager), Richard Barela (Congregational member), and Susan Gibbs (Congregational member). If you want to know about the church finances feel free to discuss it with any of us. We are there for you.

The numbers below represent where we ended the month of October and thru the fiscal year. The monthly accounting is not finished up until approximately the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month, so the reporting in the Horn articles is always one month behind.

### Financial Numbers:

| Oct 11 Income       | FYTD       | % Of Budget       | Oct 11 Expense | FYTD       | % Of Budget       | FYTD Balance       |
|---------------------|------------|-------------------|----------------|------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 33,929.57(budgeted) | 123,652.12 | 34.23 (\$363,009) | 30,313.74      | 125,118.97 | 34.51 (\$362,582) | <b>-\$1,466.85</b> |

| As of 15 Nov                | As of 15 Nov                        |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Keep the Hills Alive        | ED II Repairs                       |
| 29,952.64 (income)          | 8,191.00 (insurance income)         |
| <u>15,500.00</u> (payments) | <u>4,198.48</u> (materials expense) |
| 14,452.64                   | 3,992.52                            |



### Loan Balances as of 31 Oct 2011:

1<sup>st</sup> Mortgage Thrivent                      \$443,772.62 (1,173.39 Principal/\$1,807.61 Interest payments made)  
(FYTD Reduction \$4,665.41)

### American River Bank (AMR) Revolving

|                      |                                                                                                   |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Building Loan        | \$100,940.29                                                                                      |
| Operational Advances | <u>\$ 69,331.21</u>                                                                               |
| Total AMR            | \$170,271.50 (\$660.00 Principal/\$553.40 Interest payments made)<br>(FYTD Reduction \$ 3,350.00) |

Total Loan Balances:                      \$622,059.26 as of 31 June 2011

Total Loan Balances:                      \$614,044.12 as of 31 Oct 2011 (FY Reduction: \$8,015.41)

The Keep the Hills Alive offerings have been made starting the last week of September. Thank you for your offerings. We have been working with Thrivent Financial, American River Bank, and Old Republic Title to complete the loan transfer. The actual closing should be 2 December. All the paperwork seems to be in and now we're waiting for the title company to complete their end. Pray with us for the smooth transfer of this loan. I'll sleep better after it is complete. Thanks to your offerings we have paid down the loan balance to approximately \$157,000 (on Nov 11), the loan amount, and we'll be required to pay an additional \$8000 around December 15<sup>th</sup> per the loan contract agreement. Our first actual loan payment should be 1 January 2012. I can't say enough how important our offerings are to successfully keep paying off this new loan balance. Please remember to annotate "Keep the Hills Alive" on your offerings so we can properly track and use them correctly.

We also submitted and received an insurance settlement for rain damage to the portable, ED II. This money is being used to repair the roof and interior from this damage. Thanks to Don Ward (Operations), Pastor Bob and others who have donated their time and talents working to repair this building damage.

Thank you for your pledges, contributions, and offerings. They make the church and the ministries in our community possible.

## STEWARDSHIP TEAM *by Bob Popey*

A big Thank You for supporting the Noisy Offering, I don't have a total yet, counting the coins will be happening right after I get this article to Joan, but once again you have demonstrated your love and support of SoTH. During Advent and Christmas Seasons the Stewardship team will be asking you to think about sharing your Time and your Talents.



Pondering this, I am thinking about just what our Church is to us. Does anyone have that friend that is always having folks in? You may be getting together to play cards, watch the game on TV, maybe Jam a little. Wow, this friend throws great parties, celebrates everything! Now this same friend also will give you a call Friday night ... would you bring your truck and dolly tomorrow morning? Time to move!

Or could you lend a hand I'm renovating the bathroom and could use your help! I have several friends like this and they are great to be around, even doing the work is a lot of fun, and to top it off, I still have the Great Stories to Tell!!!!



What I've described above also Includes my Father's house, all of the things above happen at Church (well, maybe not the card game) but what great celebrations, Christmas, Epiphany, Easter. We celebrate weddings and, yes, even the lives of our friends when they pass. We get together to move that room of furniture to get ready for the Harvest Fest, we paint a room, help with the gardening, and we get together every week to jam together and to revel in the LOVE of our LORD!!!!

I wish you peace as we celebrate the start of this new Church Year, anticipating His coming in this time of Advent and the joyous birth of our Lord!



## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE TEAM *by Kristina Haugen*



**Saturday, Dec. 3, 10 am—4 pm**

**Big Room, Atrium**

**Vendors: various, great gifts for Christmas, food,**

**Souper Deal! Soup in a bread bowl!**

## SMALL GROUPS NEWS *by Small Group Leader Jacquie Smith*

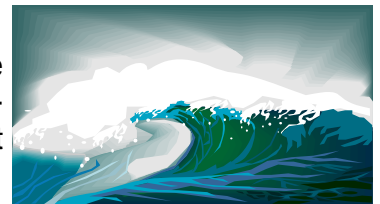
Since Bruce and I have moved to Rio Vista, it goes without saying, that I have many opportunities to drive into Vacaville during the week. While some would hate that, I actually find it therapeutic as it gives me a chance to think about things; in fact, I have worked many an issue out on the drive between one town and the other. Not surprisingly, I found myself thinking about things on my drive into Vacaville one Monday evening not long ago. You see, that is the regular night for our Small Group, White Water to meet.



Actually, it was very obvious to me that it was the month of November, since it was pitch dark at 6 PM!! That got me to thinking about the holidays—in this case Thanksgiving. And I found myself considering blessings, all the things (big and small) with which God has blessed my life. I admit, to me the list seemed long. I do not say that with pride, but with AWE. As with any one of you, not everything is perfect in my world. There are many claims on my time and cares that I would happily pass to someone else. But, God has given them to me for a reason, and somehow I will muddle through and learn the lesson HE has for me.

It became clear to me as I drove that I had to add one more blessing to my list, the Small Group \**White Water*. A Small Group I have had the pleasure of belonging to for some years now. I realized what a **BIG** blessing it is in my life. Each of us in the group is on our own faith walk, no one is in quite the same place as another. But each week we come together to study the Word, encourage each other in our faith walk, and most blessed of all, connect with God. White Water is **HUGE** in my life.

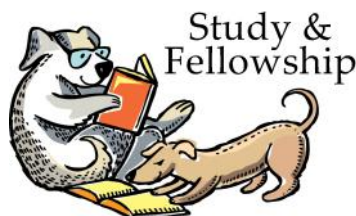
Now, I won't lie. There are times that I would just as soon stay home. The effort to make it into town seems too great. But, never once have I regretted the trip after our meeting. That time with each other, and God, has just become too important to me.



If you can't count Small Groups as one of your blessings, maybe it's time to check one out. There are several types of groups and different meeting times. For that information, you can contact Jacquie Smith, Gary Weaver, Lou Barela, and Barbara Buckley.

So, I hope your Thanksgiving holiday was wonderful and that your Christmas is blessed. Take time to count the blessings God has given you—big and small. And, think about adding Small Groups to your life, as a new blessing for the coming year.

*\* Why we call our group "White Water"— Water that is moving is fresh and dynamic and alive; water that is still is stagnant and dead; so is our faith walk—either moving and alive and dynamic OR stagnant and dead. We need to be in the Word to keep our faith fresh and alive.*





# Worship and Music Team

## READINGS FOR DECEMBER 2011

December 4 (Advent 2)

Isaiah 40:1-11  
2 Peter 3:8-15a  
Mark 1:1-8

December 24 (Christmas Eve)

Isaiah 9:2-7  
Titus 2:11-14  
Luke 2:1-20



December 11 (Advent 3)

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24  
John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 25 (Christmas Day)

Isaiah 62:6-12  
Titus 3:4-7  
John 1:1-14



December 18 (Advent 4)

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16  
Romans 16:25-27  
Luke 1:26-38

*Advent*



December is dominated by the Advent season, the four weeks prior to Christmas, as we prepare for the wonder and majesty of the birth of Christ. The blue paraments call to mind the hope of this season.

The four candles on the Advent Wreath represent themes of the season – hope, joy, peace and love.



Candlelight Service

Of course all this moves us to the Christmas celebration, which will begin on Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>. We will continue our tradition of three services that evening. The 5:30 p.m. service will be a service of Candles and Carols, the 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. services will include Candles, Carols and Communion. I hope to see you at one of these worship services.

Another note: on Christmas Day and New Year's Day (both Sundays this year) – we will hold a single worship service each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. The service will be filled with Christmas carols, and of course, Communion.

**CHRIST  
THE SAVIOR  
IS BORN!**

*You Can  
Help!*

Included in this Horn is a worship survey from the Worship & Music Team. We are asking each confirmed member of the household to complete the survey and return it to the church. You can place your survey in the bowl in the Atrium when you come for worship, or mail it back to the church office to Pastor Bob's attention. Thank you for your participation and assistance as we look to the future.

## ADULT EDUCATION OFFERINGS *by Pr. Bob Willse*

In December the Wednesday Evening Adult Faith Formation class will conclude our study of *How Lutherans Interpret the Bible*, with Dr. Mark Allen Powell. In this video series, Dr. Mark Allan Powell, Lutheran pastor and Bible professor at Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio, invites us to explore important questions about Lutherans and the Bible. He does not prescribe “the Lutheran way” to read the Bible nor does he dismiss the way you may have come to understand the Bible. Instead Dr. Powell presents a variety of Lutheran perspectives for interpreting the Bible. Through Dr. Powell’s rich discussions we will discover answers to questions we have always had about the Bible.

Join us for dinner at 5:30 p.m, or just show up for the “class” time at 6:05 p.m. We conclude at 7:30 p.m. each Wednesday night.

We will take a Christmas hiatus until January 11<sup>th</sup> when we return for a study about our life as stewards. Check out the brochure in the Atrium for details about all our Wednesday night adult offerings.



## MISSION TEAM NEWS *by Bill Pierce*

A final wrap-up of the Pumpkins on the Hill event will have to wait until the next Horn as we are still settling receipts and waiting for the matching funds from Thrivent.

Epiphany (Feeding the Hungry) is going strong we feel very blessed to be part of community that helps people in need. We are continuing to ask our congregation for help purchasing the food for this ministry. On the right hand side as you walk into church, where the old water fountain used to be, there is a photo album and barrel container. The container is clearly marked with food labels and the photo album has pictures of the items and sizes food we need. We need your help in this matter so the funds we have made will get us through this year to continue this service that is so greatly needed. I ask you to please pray about this and with your prayers we can continue this great service that we do in God’s name.



**Canned-Food**  
for Epiphany

The first congregational Mission Trip to Santa Marta is in the first stage of informational meetings.



**MISSION**

**TRIP PLANNING**

We will have another information meeting on January 29 at 9:45 in Ed II. We want everyone who is interested in going on this trip to attend one of our meetings. A final meeting will be held in March. Sign-ups for the trip will begin on March 1 and end March 31. A \$100 commitment deposit will be required by March 31.

The last item that I would like the congregation to know is that if you have any questions regarding any item that you believe the Mission Team is heading up please contact me or one of the mission team members. This would include the sign-up sheet for Epiphany or the collection container for the dry goods, which again is in the Narthex. If you are unsure as to what is needed please call one of the team members and ask us. We will do all we can to help you.

Thank you all so much for all your help and support. God Bless to all from your Mission team:

*Bill Pierce 707-447-5446 email [billandmarthapierce@gmail.com](mailto:billandmarthapierce@gmail.com)*

*Alissa Barton + Holly Gill + Jen Krause*

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE PARISH . . .

On the first day of vacation **Steve Lisec** ends up with his foot in a cast. That was either an awful break, or a clever way to not have to play tennis for a while. Glad to hear that you are recovering well.



We hear that **Dawn Geottman** has a new job. She is now an aide for special education at David Weir Elementary School in Fairfield. Congrats to you in this new area of ministry.

Our prayers ascend for **Ron Gibson**, whose favorite uncle died recently. Ron was disappointed that he was unable to travel to the memorial service.



Look Who's



Feeling Better!

**Elvin Amundsen** is well on the road to recovery after his bypass surgery early in November. Rumor has it he was trying to figure out a way to escape from the Rehab center and walk the short distance to his home. *Update: He escaped on Thanksgiving Day! Elvin is now continuing his recuperation at home.*

It was a shock for **Michele Lee** when she went to her garage and discovered her car was missing. Seems the night before she was to leave for the Women's' Retreat, someone stole her car! It was never recovered. She now has a new set of wheels.



There were shouts of celebration in the **Anderson** home when **Kyle** passed his Eagle Board of Review. Kyle attained the highest rank possible in the Boy Scouts organization. We add our congrats as well.

It is good to see **Kevin and Sue Gibbs** back from their wonderful trip to Australia. Funny, they don't sound any different after being "down under".



Speaking of traveling, **Don and Cindy Ward** headed to Candlestick Park to see the 49ers play the Arizona Cardinals. Seems like they saw a great game, at least from the home team standpoint. Just wondering whose birthday they celebrated there, and how was the parking lot BBQ?

Our recent collections were very well received. Donna from **Mission Solano** was thrilled to see all the new underwear that will now become Christmas presents for their clients. **VACA Fish** was equally excited to carry off all the food that we gathered for their Thanksgiving bags. Well done, good and faithful servants!



**Chris Holmes** earned his "caring for the sick" badge again this month. He took one of his best friends to their old haunt in Reno to watch Monday Night Football, as his buddy is preparing for lymphoma treatment.

## OUTREACH TEAM *by June Dorsey*

Wow, what a busy time of year. At this writing, the Outreach Team is busy making sure all is ready for the big move to downtown Vacaville for "Merriment on Main." The Worship Team is rehearsing, the members are baking and buying candy canes. The copier is running fliers. All the necessary AV equipment is being assembled, along with pop-ups, generator, and Christmas lights. The big pots are ready to make cocoa and warm cider. Trucks are ready to haul it all over to Merchant and Mason Sts. The sign up sheet is filling up! Blessings on all of you who help make this a huge success!



MERRIMENT ON MAIN  
WAS VERY MERRY!

I also might add, what a joy it is to enter a classroom and know that you are making a difference. Oh, and by the way, the kids love us.

We are still asking for volunteers to serve as Greeters on Sunday morning at both early and later service. After the first of the year, we plan on having an instructional class just for greeters, to better explain the duties of a greeter.



FYI: Our Annual (yes, just once a year) "Parking Lot Sale" is tentatively set for Saturday, May 19, 2012.

Wishing you a joyful Christmas, from your Outreach Team.



We want to express our appreciation to each of the seven volunteers who serve at Padan Elementary School. The teachers are so grateful for the help and support from all our volunteers.

## HARVEST FEST WRAP-UP *By CINDY WARD*



Okay, so there was no repeat for the San Francisco Giants, but Shepherd of the Hills continues to score big for the community of Vacaville. Saturday November 5<sup>th</sup> was one cool & wet day. Shepherd of the Hills was the place to be as we celebrated our annual Vacation Bible School fundraiser Harvestfest. We added a new component: Special Balloons for \$20.00 thanks to Jacquie Smith, and the Special Balloons were a home run hit. We raised \$2700.00 for our 2012 Vacation Bible School. Truly it was amazing feat.

The volunteers gave overwhelming support. To all the members who donated the supplies, food and raffle prizes, we thank you so much. To all the members who donated their time to this wonderful fall event, you are thanked as well. We wish many blessings for all of you.

So in closing this 2011 fall season, may the Lord keep each and everyone warm in the knowledge that we are his children, blessed forever.



## SHY & CONFIRMATION NEWS *by Elliott Smith*



Some quick announcements for some of the older youth for this 2011 month of December! SHY is hosting our "umpteenth" Annual Drop 'N Shop on December 3rd, so, parents, drop your kids off, ages 1 month to 11 years old, and we'll watch them for six hours so you can get some good ol' fashioned Christmas shopping finished.

Please email Elliott Smith to register if you plan on dropping any kids off. No walk-ins! We have to know by December 1st so we can plan for enough sitters! Elliott's email is: [rossesmithiii@gmail.com](mailto:rossesmithiii@gmail.com)

SHY will continue to meet on Sunday evenings for the first three weeks of December, 6pm-8:30pm in the SHY Building, as well as on the corresponding Mondays for After-School SHY, 3pm-6pm. We're running low on monies for fooodood! Any sodas (cans only), juices, water bottles or non-perishable (individually wrapped) snack items are always welcome as donations to SHY! Cup of Noodles are a particularly coveted item. :) There might be a ministry opportunity for SHY later in December, but the date and details are still to be confirmed.



Confirmation just finished a three-week study of worship! We discovered God's pretty explicit in what He asks of us! Simply, love him and love our neighbor, obey and love, obey and love, obey and love! We took a two-week break in November for Thanksgiving; but we're gearing up for a whole new section in December. We'll be meeting November 30th, December 7th and 14th, and then taking another break for the Christmas Season and picking up again in after the New Year on January 11th.

## NEWS FROM THE YOUTH TEAM *by Martha Pierce*

God's All Stars is our Youth group for kids in grades 6, 7 and 8. Adult volunteers are needed for this group, so this month, we offer the prayer below. Would you pray this with us now?

Dear Lord—How amazing and loving you are! You give gifts and talents to each one of us to use for your glory and you know what each of those gifts are. I am boldly asking you to quicken the heart of those you have gifted with working with youth. Quicken their heart so that they know you have given them this gift. Give them courage to step forward and say, "Here I am! Use me!" Guide them to trust in you to show them how to use the gifts you have given them. Lord you are the Almighty, the all loving, the all-powerful One and I thank you for the gifts you have given each one of us. Thank you for offering that prayer with us. If you have the gift of prayer, would you include this in your prayer time each day also?

The Youth Team – *Rick Barton, Nathan Christensen, Tamara Downs, Carla Jensen, Jen Krause, Martha Pierce, Bob Popey, Elliott Smith*

### **GAS News!**

We have GAS on Sunday evenings (well, usually on Sunday, exceptions noted below!) in the Ed II building beginning at 7:00. Doors open at 6:30. All 6th, 7th and 8th graders are welcome to come have GAS with us!

The schedule for December and January is:

**Sunday, December 4:** Baking for Epiphany! We'll bake cookies for Friday's dinner at Epiphany church

**Friday, December 9:** Serve at Epiphany, 4:30-6:30

**Friday, December 16:** Field Trip to Bethlehem! We'll meet at 6p to travel to New Hope Fellowship Church in Vacaville for their live program, "A Visit to Bethlehem". Afterwards, we'll have hot cocoa at Starbuck's.

**Sunday, January 8:** GAS at Church

**Friday, January 13:** Serving at Epiphany, 4:30-6:30

**Sunday, January 22:** GAS at Church



## PRESCHOOL NEWS *by Kathy Webb, Director*

Since school started in August, our calendar has been full of events. We have had our Mary's Pizza Shack/Cultive & Chevy's dinner nights out, Open House, and our cookie dough fundraiser. As busy as we have been, we know that the month of December will find us even busier. We love the Christmas month. It gives us time to spend with our families, and the joy of celebrating Jesus' birthday with the children. The children love learning about the birth of Jesus. They will do lots of art projects to help decorate the classrooms and make special gifts to bring home to their families.

### children's program



We will have our **Christmas program on Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>** in the sanctuary at 10:00 A.M. when we will get a surprise visit from Santa. This is the highlight of the event, for me. I love seeing the joy and amazement in the children's eyes as Santa first appears at the back of the sanctuary. Their eyes get so big and their mouths drop open at the first sight of Santa and until he speaks his famous lines, "Ho Ho Ho" the children just stare in awe of him. We soon relax and we all get a turn to sit and visit with him. We enjoy cookies and punch, and special time visiting with our preschool families. It is a wonderful morning to share the Christmas spirit with family and friends.



The preschool will also be participating in the **Festival of Trees** event taking place on **Thursday Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>**. Preschools from around the city gather to provide different free art projects for children to enjoy. This will take place at the skating Center from 3:30-5:00 P.M. Also on Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> we will be sponsoring a shopping night at Fresh & Easy grocery store from 4:00-8:00 P.M. Every receipt over \$20.00 we will get \$1.00 donated back to the school from Fresh & Easy. The Preschool and church will split the proceeds so please come out and support us.

The Christmas break will follow our Christmas program and preschool will be closed so that staff can spend time with their families. When we return January 9<sup>th</sup> we will learn about our bodies and our senses. A pajama party with hot chocolate and bagels will wrap up our January month.



### RANCHO SANTA MARTA CHRISTMAS PROJECT: Deadline firm! Dec. 4

Each year, members and friends of Shepherd of the Hills purchase Christmas gifts for orphans at Rancho Santa Marta in Mexico. We shop for the child(ren) whose name(s) we have selected and bring the wrapped gifts to church, (by December 4th) where they are packed for UPS to pick up in time to be delivered by Christmas.

Mary Markiewitz has received a list of children as always. They are asking for donations for the young adults that live there, approx 12. Make check to Bethesda Teaching Ministry, 8000 Shir Mar Place El Cajon, CA 92021. Please label the check "Young Adult Christmas Fund", we can collect the checks on Sundays and mail them together.

For the younger female children general gift ideas: Crafts, Dolls, girl's backpacks with one strap, nail polish, perfumes, CD Spanish music, Doll Dishes.

For the young boys: Table games, marbles, cars, models, airplanes, and balls.



## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



### DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 18 Don & Dot Mrochinski
- 29 Bill and Carmen Stitt
- 31 Kenny and Tiffani Lanting

### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 04 Sandy Gibson
- 08 Carol Holmes, Matthew Elliott
- 15 Lorraine Hillendahl, Mary Markiewicz
- 16 Richard Barela, Renae Barrett
- 17 Courtney Carlson
- 21 Jacquie Smith, Kris Cushing
- 22 Doug Weinacht, Holly Gill
- 23 Taylor Best
- 25 Chris Holmes

### JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 02 Danielle and Dennis Medlin
- 28 Lisa and Gary Elliott

### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 02 Howard Williams
- 03 Matthew Buckley
- 16 Elda Dehnbostel
- 09 Debbie Best
- 18 Gaye Adams, Pat Alvestad
- 19 Heather Chevalier
- 29 Brian Knight, Barbara Worsham



If we have missed your celebration, we apologize. Please let us know by contacting the church office by email: [sob580@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sob580@sbcglobal.net) or by telephone at 448-8599.

## CALLING ALL KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS

We are creating scarves to distribute to the homeless this winter. Hats and gloves would also be welcome. They will be distributed through Epiphany Episcopal Church, and possibly other venues.

The guidelines for scarves are:



- ♥ 5-7 inches wide
- ♥ 5-6 feet long



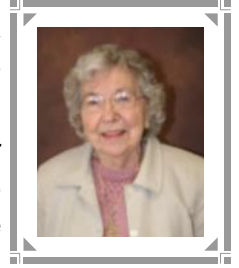
Wool and acrylic yarns are preferred over cotton; it is not as warm and is slow to dry.

Dark colors are preferred over white or beige, which show more dirt. As you complete them, you can pass them on to Cindy Allas.



## MEET OUR MEMBER . . . VERA JOHNSON

Born in Cedar Rapids, Nebraska in 1915, to a Lutheran minister and his wife, Elvira Elizabeth Neemann Johnson was the older of 2 children. Her sister Ruth Marie was born in 1917.



Vera came from a long lineage of Lutheran ministers on her mother's side. Her mother, Lydia Theresa and her aunt both married ministers, and her mother's 5 brothers were also ministers. Her father, Rev. Henry Carl Neemann was the lone pastor from his family, having 5 brothers who were all farmers.

When Vera was 8 years of age, her father accepted a call to Hope Lutheran Church in Cottage Grove, Wisconsin. She loved the beauty of the area which was surrounded by four lakes and thoroughly enjoyed all it had to offer including hunting, fishing and swimming.

At an early age, Vera's mother taught the girls how to play piano and she eventually learned how to play the Pipe organ. Her mother was the organist at Hope, and before long Vera had learned enough to often sub for her.

Ruth and Vera attended East High School in Madison and while there, she took weekly piano lessons at Wisconsin School of Music. A highlight was her study to be an accompanist to the violin as well as voice and other instruments at recitals.

Vera practiced a great deal, and took a thorough course in Sight Reading. Her practice paid off and at her graduation recital she received, in addition to her Diploma of Graduation, a Teacher certificate as well.

Throughout the coming years she had many piano students. One day she received a phone call from John Mall, Director of Music of the Lutheran Brotherhood Male Chorus and asked if she would be interested in accompanying the chorus. This included working with each voice (1<sup>st</sup> tenor, 2<sup>nd</sup> tenor, baritone and bass) at all of the rehearsals, and all the many concerts as well. Without hesitating, she immediately said, "Yes!"

Of the 65 all-male chorus, two of the members were Vera's Dad and Harold Johnson. There were many rehearsals over the next several years and during that time Vera and Harold fell in love. They were married in 1939 by Vera's father. Many of the members of the chorus and their wives attended the wedding as did 500-plus church members from Hope.

At the time Harold passed away, they had been married 3 months shy of 60 years. Their love of music brought them together and they worked as a team in many churches, wherever they lived. Wisconsin, New Jersey, New York and eventually, California. Harold was a music director and soloist - what a voice he had - and Vera was the organist.

She and Harold had 2 loving sons - Nelson and his wife Shelly and their son Stefan who live in the Bay area. Also son Garner and his wife Margaret who live in Texas. Her sister Ruth LaSchum lives in Oakwood Village East in Madison, Wisconsin (coincidentally the same place her parents lived) and they still are very much in touch.

Vera continues to bless many with her gift of music. She finds playing at SOTH early service very rewarding and also enjoys playing at Courtside Cottages and VCRC.

Vera would like to acknowledge her thanks to SOTH for providing her with many wonderful memories. And she's very grateful that she's still able to attend church.

SOTH is blessed to have Vera in our midst. She is the epitome of a good Christian woman and we will treasure her always.

## SOCIAL CONCERNS

O LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER . . .

We remember the following persons in our prayers. If you have a prayer request, please call the church office (448-8599) and you will be put on our prayer chain. If your need is over and you no longer wish to be on the prayer chain, please let us know that as well.

. . . those asking for our prayers (unless otherwise requested, names will normally appear here for a month):

. . . *Elvin Amundson; Michele & Christopher Gomez and family on the death of Greg; Jack Kelch; Delta Mae Knepper; Don Mrochinski; Don Pratt; Leslie Smith; and anyone undergoing medical tests or treatment or suffering loss; and*

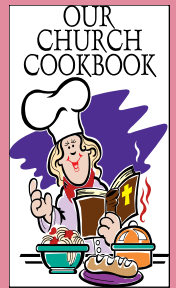
. . . those members of our armed forces deployed for operations overseas—especially Shepherd of the Hills extended family members, *Bill and Martha Pierce's son-in-law Brian; Bruce & Jacque Smith's daughter Jill; Elliot Smith's sister Jessica; Penny Terry's nephew Chris and Aleta.*



**Errata in the Shepherd of the Hills Cookbook:**

If you purchased a copy Feeding the Flock Cook Book from church, please make the following correction:

It is in the Barbeque Meatballs recipe on page 34. It should read 3 lbs of hamburger (NOT 2 lbs.)



### *We've Lost a Friend*

We deeply miss our dear friend and member Greg Gomez who died Thursday, November 24th, Thanksgiving Day. Our love and support go to Michele and Christopher, as well as the whole Gomez family and Greg's friends, who will be missing him as they face the coming holidays. May his memory be blessed among us.

A Celebration of Greg's life will be held at Shepherd of the Hills on Friday, December 2nd at 2 p.m. by this community who knew and loved him.

#### **WOMEN'S MORNING CIRCLE**

The Women's Morning Bible Study Group meets at church every 2nd Tuesday at 9:30 AM. Please contact Ari Krass (448-1482) or Wilma Rasmussen (447-9072) for more information.

#### **THE LUNCH BUNCH**

This group meets the third Monday of each month at 11:30 AM at various Vacaville restaurants. All adults are welcome to join for fellowship. For information, please call Ari Krass (448-1482). Watch bulletins for location announcements.

#### **THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

They meet each third Thursday at 1:00 PM at Wilma Rasmussen's house. They welcome newcomers who like to knit or crochet. Next Meeting: September 15th.

**SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH  
CONGREGATIONAL WORSHIP SURVEY 2011**

1. Which service do you attend?    \_\_\_ Early 8:30    \_\_\_ Late 10:30

Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

SCALE:    1                      2                      3                      4                      5  
          Not important    slightly important    so-so            important    Very important

2. How important is music to your worship experience?            1    2    3    4    5

3. Do you prefer contemporary music?            1    2    3    4    5

          traditional music?            1    2    3    4    5

          prefer both styles of music?            1    2    3    4    5

4. How important is weekly communion?            1    2    3    4    5

5. How important is the message?            1    2    3    4    5

6. How important is the nursery            1    2    3    4    5

7. How important is Children's Faith Connection            1    2    3    4    5

8. Do you feel crowded in worship?            1    2    3    4    5

9. What elements of worship have you seen elsewhere that you would like to recommend?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. How likely is it that you would attend a third service            1    2    3    4    5  
    at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday?

11. Comments:

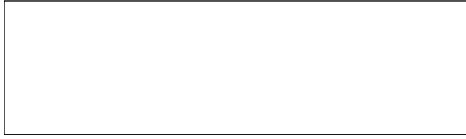
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First Class Postage

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church  
580 Trinity Drive  
Vacaville, CA 95687

# The Horn



Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

*Traditional Sunday Worship service 8:30 AM*

*Contemporary Sunday Service 10:30 AM*

*Children's Faith Connection 20 mins. during late service*

*(Nursery care provided)*

