

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.

JANUARY 2011

2011 ALTAR FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

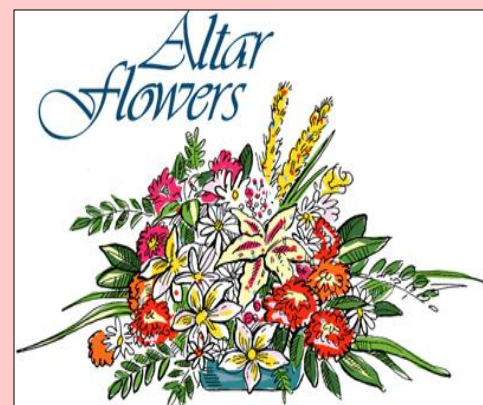
Fresh flowers add much to the beauty of our worship. Thank you for providing them. Our 2011 Flower chart is posted in the Atrium. Please sign up for any Sunday you wish. **The cost of each bouquet has increased to \$45 for 2011.** Due to the increased cost, you might consider partnering with another family for a Sunday, if you don't mind sharing the bouquet. You will get full credit in the bulletin.

If someone has already selected a Sunday and you wish to provide flowers for that same Sunday, an arrangement for the piano may be purchased for the same price, but note it on the flower chart. You can also request a favorite color if you call the church office early in the week. Please enter your name on the chart and indicate if the flowers are in honor or in memory of someone.

Then pick up an envelope from the pocket beside the chart. Please place your payment in the offering plate anytime before the Sunday you have selected. Also write ALTAR FLOWERS on your check.

Be sure to state the date of the Sunday you are paying for so we can credit each donation correctly.

Any questions? Call Joan Chevalier. Thank you!



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Youth Director

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Published monthly-
deadline the 15th of the
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

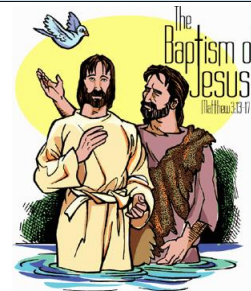
INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pastor's Message—Pr. Bob Willse	3
Mission Team —Laura Barton	4
Thank You—Gomez Family	4
Education Team—Cindy Ward Adult Education Class—Pr. Bob	5
Worship and Music Team—Pr. Bob Willse	6
What is Epiphany?—Pr. Bob Willse	6
News From Around the Parish	7
SHY/GAS/Confirmation —Youth Director, Elliott Smith	8
Outreach Team News—June Dorsey	8
Social Concerns / Fellowship Groups	9
January Birthdays and Anniversaries	9
Social Opportunities	9
January Calendar and Serving Us In January	Inserts

PASTOR'S MESSAGE *by Pr. Bob Willse*

Dear Partners:

On January 9 we celebrate “Baptism of our Lord Sunday,” and begin the Epiphany season. The gospel reading is, of course, the story of Jesus’ baptism in the Jordan by John. It is here that Jesus is revealed as the “beloved” of God, and the one who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children.



Here are three stories I gleaned from *Homiletics* magazine, that speak of the power of baptism to change us. I hope you will enjoy them as much as I did.

A woman had recently been baptized. One of her coworkers asked her what it was like to be a Christian. She was caught off guard and didn't know how to answer; but then she looked up, saw a jack-o'-lantern on the desk and answered, "It's like being a pumpkin."

The coworker asked her to explain that one. "Well," she replied, "God picks you from the patch and brings you in and washes off all the dirt on the outside that you got from being around all the other pumpkins. Then he cuts off the top and takes all the yucky stuff out from inside. He removes all those seeds of doubt, hate, greed and all that. Then he carves you a new smiling face and puts his light inside of you to shine for all to see. It is our choice to either stay outside and rot on the vine or come inside and be something new and bright."

Following the Second World War, in some of the former Communist nations of Eastern Europe, when a child was born to a Christian family, the parents had a fearsome decision to make. If they brought their child to the church for baptism, they were virtually guaranteeing that he or she would never be able to attend a university. The mere fact of having been baptized would have put the child on a government blacklist. The implications of such a decision are so far-reaching, they boggle the mind.

An apocryphal story, no doubt: A father is in church with three of his young children, including his 5-year-old daughter. As was customary, he sat in the very front row so the children could properly witness the service. During this particular service, the minister was baptizing a tiny infant. The little girl was taken by this, observing that the minister was saying something and pouring water over the infant's head.

With a quizzical look on her face, the girl turned to her father and asked, "Daddy, why is he brainwashing that baby?"

Shalom
Pastor Bob



MISSION TEAM NEWS *by Laura Barton*

Please join us for a FAIR TRADE COFFEE TASTING! Between services on Sunday, Jan. 16 you will have the opportunity to taste and/or purchase some new coffees. There will be some goodies to eat, coffee to taste, and prizes to be won! Hope to see you in the Big Room for this event.



"Thank you" goes out to Thrivent for once again providing matching funds for our Pumpkins on the Hill project. They matched \$1,000! So, \$500 of that went to Opportunity House, and \$500 will go towards our Epiphany meal program. Thank you, Thrivent, and all those busy people who helped pull it together so we could receive the matching funds.

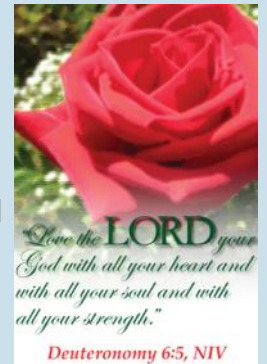
If you haven't already brought in your "Barnyard" collection boxes, you may do so on the 9th of January, and place them on the table to the right of the altar. Thank you for this special offering.



When a couple received a rose bush as a gift, they planted and cared for it, eagerly waiting for it to bloom. A few months later, a bud finally appeared. Day by day, it began to fill out. The couple's anticipation grew when they could see that the rose would be bright red.

One day, they were surprised to notice that the green around the bud had been pulled away and the flower petals were torn apart. They asked their young daughter if she knew what had happened. "I just couldn't wait any longer," she said, "so I blossomed it myself."

The psalmist tells us to "Wait for the LORD ..." (Psalm 27:14, NRSV). Instead of trying to help God along, let him bring things to fulfillment in his perfect time.



We would like to express our appreciation to all our friends and family at Shepherd of the Hills for all the prayers and acts of concern we have experienced, especially in these last couple of weeks. Greg has received a diagnosis of colorectal cancer and has begun his six months of chemotherapy. The chemo is causing Greg to not be up to his normal pace of life. He feels out of sorts trying to respond to all the phone calls and attempts to visit; thus we are asking that instead of calling him, would you please send him an email: gregcmg@comcast.net so that he can respond as he feels able.

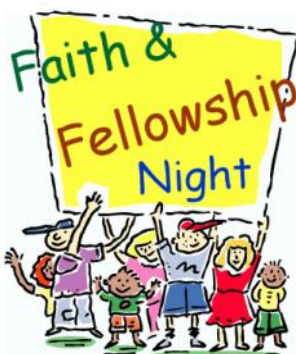
The best way to reach Michele will also be via email:

chelegmz@comcast.net

Greg and Michele Gomez

Thank You!

EDUCATION TEAM NEWS *By Cindy Ward, Team Leader*



Faith and Fellowship resumes on Wednesday, January 5th and we will be in full swing. Please come for dinner at 5:30 p.m., and then stay for the programs available for 1st graders through adults.

The younger kids (grades 1-6) will head to the worship area at 6 p.m. for time with Music Director Chris Holmes doing music and then their class room work for a new study.

At 6:00 p.m. the Confirmands will head to the Education II building for their class time with Youth Director Elliott Smith. This is the homestretch for the 7th and 8th graders as they focus their attention on stewardship and an overview of the Bible. The Wednesday night Confirmation class will conclude on March 2, one week before Ash Wednesday.



Wednesday Evening Adult Faith Formation time

Adult Education Class

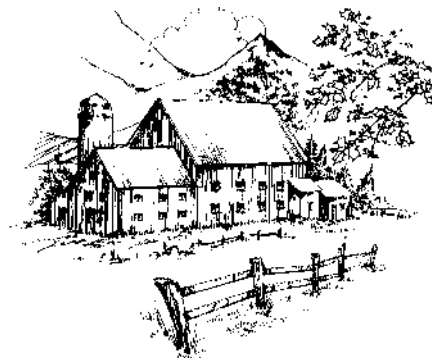
After the dinner rush (at 6:05 p.m.) the adults will gather in the “Big Room” for a two-session study (January 5 & 12) of our liturgical calendar and how this calendar drives our worship practices. After a one-week break, the adult class returns on January 26 to begin a six-week study of Luther’s Small Catechism. This study will take us to the beginning of Lent, and our Lenten sabbatical. Parents, remember Shelby Barrett is here to provide childcare for *if your child is too young for the Faith & Fellowship activities, while you are in the adult class.*

All the activities end at 7:30 p.m.

Your Education and Mission Team Leaders would like to remind everyone that the “barnyard banks” from ELCA World Hunger project are now due. Advent season and the celebration of Christmas have come to a close, and with it a new year begins. Please take the time to turn in your “BARNYARD BANKS” with the offering during the month of January. We will be looking forward to seeing what different kinds of animals we will help the ELCA buy.

Thank you for supporting this interesting project & sharing the meaning of Christmas.

Cindy Ward & Laura Barton





Worship and Music Team

READINGS FOR JANUARY

January 2 – Christmas 2

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Ephesians 1:3-14

John 1:1-18

January 23 – Epiphany 3

Isaiah 9:1-4

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Matthew 4:12-23

January 9 – Baptism of our Lord

Isaiah 42:1-9

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

January 30 – Epiphany 4

Micah 6:1-8

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12

January 16 – Epiphany 2

Isaiah 49:1-7

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42

What is Epiphany?

The third season of our church calendar is the time of Epiphany. The season begins on the Day of Epiphany which is when the Wise Men, also known as Magi, arrive to see the baby Jesus. That day is always January 6, twelve days after Christmas. The length of Epiphany varies depending on when Easter is celebrated each year. This year Epiphany will last for nine Sundays, until March 6.

The first Sunday in the Epiphany season is The Baptism of our Lord Sunday, a time when we recall Jesus beginning his earthly ministry with an announcement from God that he is the "Beloved". The season comes to a close on the Sunday of the Transfiguration, as Jesus stands between Moses and Elijah, two of the greatest Old Testament prophets. Once again the voice from heaven calls Jesus the Beloved. Jesus' baptism and transformation bookend the season.

One of my resources for worship planning offers the following about the Epiphany season:

"What did the magi ponder on their long journey home? Did they consider their astonishment at finding the king they were seeking not in Herod's palace, their first stop, but as a baby in a humble house in the little town of Bethlehem? How were they different when they arrived home? Christmas is all about disruption: lives are never the same after an encounter with the Christ child. God catapults people out of the comfortable places of their lives into a journey whose end they cannot know.

'The time after Epiphany demonstrates many different ways to respond to God's call'" (Sundays and Seasons)

Listen to the scripture readings in this season for those different ways of answering God's call; and then reflect on how you too can answer God's call to discipleship for you.



EPIPHANY

NEWS FROM AROUND THE PARISH . . .

Congratulations to **Darrel Akers!** For the seventh time in eight years, Darrel's work has been included in an edition of "Best Editorial Cartoons of the Year." We also know he does great work on 30th Anniversary invitations, as we ask only the best for our work.



Congrats to **Gary Elliott** on his promotion to the rank of Captain in the Solano County Sheriff's office.

Do you remember the cruise ship that had a fire a few months back? Well, it seems that Jack and Gayle Kelch were among the passengers. That little inconvenience has not stopped them from planning another cruise. They are real sea folks.



Big thanks to **Tamara Lee Downs** and her crew of wonderful parents and adults as they brought us the fantastic Children's Christmas production, *A Sleepover at the Stable*. What a meaningful way to share the story of Jesus' birth! Kudos also to our wonderful child actors – **Anja Popey, Tiana Lopez, Jessica Cushing, and Dominik Friedrich**. And big thanks to **Kristian Bakken** who filled in at the last moment -- a better understudy sheep we've never seen.

Our prayers for **Stan Lewis, Greg Gomez, and Michele Lee** who are undergoing chemotherapy for various types of cancer. We pray for them and their families during these trying times.



There was much rejoicing and cheering as **Dawn Geottman** walked across the stage and received her diploma from Sacramento State University last month! The day was the culmination of years of hard work and study.



“Haiku for the Heart”

Listen to your heart
For within there is an “ear”
Attuned to God's voice.

—Peggy Ferrell



YOUTH NEWS *by Elliott Smith, Youth Director*

SHY has moved the winter retreat back from January to the second weekend in February, Valentine's Day weekend.



RETREAT



Annual SHY Dinner

Also, SHY Dinner will be happening in March, a month earlier than last year, so start thinking about items you can donate this year, people!

SHY will continue to meet every Sunday in January, doors open from 6pm-7pm, SHY program from 7pm-8:30pm.

- Elliott

OUTREACH TEAM *by June Dorsey*

2010 has been an amazing year for the Outreach Team. From the successful redesign of the website, two well-attended Yard Sales, helping in Feeding the Hungry at Epiphany, delivering school supplies to Fairmont School, assisting with classes on the opening day of school, advertising and posting of signs for Pumpkins on the Hill, and ending the year with Merriment on Main. None of these events would be possible without the faithful support of the members of our congregation.



MERRIMENT ON MAIN

WAS VERY MERRY!

We, the members of the Outreach Team, wish to thank everyone for their continued support in reaching out to our community. Merriment on Main was a huge success this year. The day started at 11:00 a.m. and by 9:30 p.m. everything was delivered back to the church and stored away. Once again we relied on Paul Krause's expertise. By now Mary Meese and I have the boiling of 20 gallons of water down to a science. With the help of Don Ward and Dave Della, everything was transported to our designated location on Merchant Street. The set-up team did a great job, thanks to Paul, Don, Dave, Debbie Best and Dot Mrochinski. We had so

many wonderful volunteers and we want to extend our warm appreciation to each and everyone. The many donations of cookies and candy canes were a blessing. Who can resist stopping to listen to our awesome Worship Team, Chris, Dawn and Heather, and also enjoy the best hot chocolate in town (that's what we were told) and have all the delicious cookies you want.

Once again, thank you all so much and we wish you each a wonderful New Year from the Outreach Team, with God's Blessing:

Joan Marquand-Willse
Mary Meese
Tim Forsyth
and me, June Dorsey

Gary Craig
Dave Cushing
Don Ward



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): *Renae & Mike Barrett family (death of grandmother Rosemarie Chivello); Michelle Eaton; Greg Gomez; Michele Lee; Stan Lewis; Penny Terry's mother Peg Daniel; anyone undergoing medical tests or treatment; and*

. . . those members of our armed forces deployed for operations overseas; Terri Abner's son, Aaron Ray.



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Danielle and Dennis Medlin 01/02
Lisa and Gary Elliott 01/28



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Howard Williams 01/02
Matthew Buckley 01/03
Elda Dehnbostel 01/06
Debbie Best 01/09
Gaye Adams 01/18
Pat Alvestad 01/18
Heather Chevalier 01/19
Brian Knight 01/29
Barbara Worsham 01/29

If we have missed your celebration, we apologize. Please let us know by contacting the church office by email: sob580@sbcglobal.net or by telephone.

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.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Group meets at Burger City at 8 AM every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month for breakfast. All men are encouraged to attend.

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.

QUILTERS—MISSION IN ACTION

Meets every 1st Wednesday of the month, from 9:30 AM—noon at the church. Contact Esther Merkel for information.



First Class Postage

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

The Horn



January 2011

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 Church 20 mins. during late service

(Nursery care provided)

