



WEEKLY NEWS for the

Flock

DOUBLE ISSUE: December 24, 2011 - January 1, 2012

Welcome! Whether you're a visitor or a member, we are joyful you are with us today to Gather, Grow and Give in Christ!

Tanzania Scholarship Update



Saalome, a secondary school student

We're very close to our goal of providing 125 secondary scholarships and 15 university scholarships for our Tanzanian partners. Thank you so much for your generosity! The new school year begins in January, and we are hopeful a few more donations will allow us to honor our commitment. Just \$1 a day or \$360 per year provides tuition, room and board for one student. Gifts made before December 31 are tax deductible for 2011 (see below for tax details). Write checks payable to SOTV with "TZ scholarship" in the memo, use Simply Giving or make a secure online payment at www.sotv.org/givenow. Questions? Contact Kirsten.Levorson@sotv.org.

Important Information Regarding Year-End Charitable Donations

Shepherd of the Valley's office will close at **6:30 PM** on **Saturday, December 31, 2011**, following our regular Saturday worship service at 5:00 PM.

Please keep this in mind when planning year-end donations to SOTV and its ministries. All gifts must be received by the church or postmarked **on or before** December 31, 2011. Any gifts received/postmarked after that date will be considered a 2012 donation.

Charitable tax statements

will be mailed in January 2012 to those who contributed monetarily to SOTV in the 2011 calendar year. If you would like to receive current giving information, please contact Dawn Della Paolera at (952) 985-7315, or email Dawn.Dellapaolera@sotv.org.

Pledges for 2012

Thank you to the many generous individuals who have made a 2012 financial pledge to our shared mission and ministry. We ask that completed pledge cards be returned to the church by December 31, 2011 if possible.

Pledge cards were mailed in early November along with our publication *Wonders*. Copies of both documents are available at the Welcome Center, church entrances and online at www.sotv.org.

Wonders was created to celebrate and share the ministry milestones of 2011 that are only possible with the gifts of time and finances that we receive. Every gift can do wonders. May *Wonders* inspire you to make a difference in the year to come. Thank you for your generosity!



Christmas Eve Worship

Saturday, December 24

Family Services: 11:00 AM & 1:00 PM

Candlelight: 2:30, 3:45, 5:00, 6:15 & 8:00 PM

Candlelight (with Communion): 9:30 & 11:00 PM

Shuttle service from Falcon Ridge M.S. from 2:00 - 7:30 PM

Christmas Day Worship

Sunday, December 25, 10:00 AM

December 31 & January 1

Regular weekend schedule resumes:

Celebration Worship (Sanctuary)

Saturday: 5:00 PM

Sunday: 8:30, 9:45, & 11:00 AM

The Table (Great Hall)

Sunday: 9:45 & 11:00 AM



Support Youth and Adults Traveling to Haiti this Summer

Fundraising Dinner and Silent Auction Saturday, January 14, 6:00 PM

Register online at www.sotv.org/events.

Adults: \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door.

Children (12 and under): \$7. \$30 max/family.

Purchase SOTV Merchandise January 14 - February 1

Wear your church with pride! SOTV hooded sweatshirts, "Deeply Rooted" long and short-sleeved shirts, water bottles, and mugs will be available for purchase soon.

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, ELCA | Christopher Smith, Senior Pastor
12650 Johnny Cake Ridge Road | Apple Valley, MN 55124 | www.sotv.org
Main office: (952) 432-6351 | Children, Youth & Family office: (952) 432-6385
Working *bega kwa bega* in partnership with Tungamalenga Parish, Tanzania

New Member Classes

Tuesdays, January 3, 10, and 17
7:00 - 8:00 PM

Would you like to become a member of our church or simply investigate it further? Join us for information about our mission and opportunities for involvement.

No registration is necessary and childcare is provided. Questions? Please e-mail Lori.Bullock@sotv.org.

2012 Preschool Registrations

Registration starts January 3, 2012 for the 2012-13 school year with classes for 3 & 4 year olds, 4 & 5 year olds and a High Five class. Registration forms at www.sotv.org/preschool.

All-Church Serve Together

Saturday, January 14, 9:00 - 11:00 AM

After the rush of the holiday season, join together with others to make a positive impact in our community.

- Make sandwiches for the homeless
- Tie fleece blankets for military personnel
- Sort donations at Arc's Value Village (Age 8+)
- Housework at LSS My House (Age 13+)
- Activities & games at Martin Luther Care Center or Trinity Care Center
- Serve brunch, help with chores and child care at Lewis House (Age 13+)

Sign up at sotv.org/events or the Welcome Center. Contact Lori.Bullock@sotv.org for more information.

Need a Ride to Church?

We have trained drivers who are willing to pick you up at your home and bring you to worship. Riders must be ambulatory; we cannot handle wheel chairs. If you'd like a ride or more information about this ministry, contact Wally Mahlum at (952) 431-0630.

Position Available

Interim Program Coordinator, PK-Kindergarten Part-time

Application deadline: **January 6, 2012**

Full job description at: www.sotv.org/jobs. Please contact Jennifer Maxwell if you are interested at (952) 985-7313 or Jennifer.Maxwell@sotv.org.

Study & Enrichment

Sunday Adult Forum

Sundays at 9:45 AM in the Chapel // Resumes January 8, 2012 with Walter Sundberg, Professor at Luther Seminary

The Divine Drama: "Our Narrative"

Monday evenings, 6:30 - 8:00 PM // January 9 - April 9
No class March 26 or April 9 // Cost: \$20 for the half year
KidCare: \$42 // Led by Mark & Carrie Gamm

Bible Basics

Tuesdays, 6:30 - 8:00 PM // Jan. 17 - Feb 28 (No class Feb. 14)
Led by Mark Gilligan // Cost: \$10 // KidCare: \$18/child

The Gospel of Mark

Thursday evenings, 7:00 - 8:30 PM // Jan. 26 - Mar. 15
Led by Pastor Duane Paetznick // Cost: \$12

Beth Moore's "Mercy Triumphs"

TWO CLASS OPTIONS:

- **Tuesdays evenings, 6:30 - 8:30 PM** // Eight weeks, Jan. 10 - Mar. 6, no class Feb. 14 // Cost: \$20 // KidCare: \$32/child
- **Tuesday Mornings, 9:30 - 11:30 AM** // 15 weeks, Jan. 10 - Apr. 24, no class Mar. 27 // Cost: \$20 // KidCare: \$60/child

Books That Matter

The Cross Under the Acacia Tree

January 21 at 9:30 AM // Facilitated by Pastor Diane Sponheim
Books available for \$12 at Welcome Center

Financial Peace University

Mondays, 7:00 - 9:00 PM // January 9 - April 9 // Cost: \$113
KidCare: \$52 per child

Free Financial Workshop for Couples

"From Me to We" 

Thursday, January 19, 6:30 - 8:30 PM // Led by Chris Sipe

Fellowship

Women's January Breakfast

Saturday, January 28, 2012
9:00 - 11:00 AM // Cost: \$10/person.
KidCare: \$4/child

The breakfast's theme is "Don't Miss Your Boat: Living Your Life with Purpose in the Real World." Stories, humor and lessons learned will remind us we were created for a divine purpose and our lives matter. Bring a donation to support "Birthday Bag" outreach.

Men's February Breakfast

Saturday, February 4 // 8:00 - 10:00 AM
\$5 suggested donation

Charlie Ruud, former St. Paul Saints player and current associate pastor reflects upon the experience of playing professional baseball while attending seminary.

Annual Coffee House

Saturday, January 21, 2012 // 6:00 - 8:30 PM
Cost: \$10/individual or \$20/couple // KidCare: \$5/child

Men's "Theology on Tap"

3rd Tuesday of each month // Next date: January 17
Discussion: 7:00 PM // Fellowship: 8:00 PM
Old Chicago Restaurant, Apple Valley


Manifold Greatness

The Creation and Afterlife of the King James Bible
Saturday, February 4 // 9:00 AM - Noon // Meet at SOTV, carpool to The Wilson Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis

Love and Laughter Valentine's Event

A Couples' Evening Featuring Comedian Bob Stromberg
Saturday, February 11 // 7:00 - 9:00 PM // Cost: \$25 per couple
KidCare: \$4 per child

O.K.'s (Older Kids)

Dr. Chuck Lutz 
Monday, January 16
12 noon luncheon
Cost: \$5

WINK (Women in New Konnections)

For women who attend church alone to connect with others. Join us each Sunday at 10:45 near the Welcome Center. Next event: Women's January Breakfast, Sat, Jan. 28.

Care & Support

GriefShare

Tuesdays, 6:30 – 8:00 PM // Jan. 24 - Mar. 20
Video session and support group discussion time.
Optional workbook is \$15.

DivorceCare

Tuesdays, 6:30 – 8:30 PM // Feb. 7 - May. 15
Cost: \$15, includes new workbook
Video session and support group discussion time.
Scholarships are available.

NAMI Parent Resource Groups

Every second and fourth Thursday of the month // 6:00 - 8:00 PM // at SOTV

NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, presents an opportunity for parents and caregivers of children with challenging behaviors to get together to share similar experiences, discover resources and learn coping skills. Pizza and childcare is available. Contact NAMI Minnesota at (651) 645-2948 for more information.

Depression Support Weekly Meetings

Prince of Peace, 13901 Fairview Drive, Burnsville
Christian Life Center

For family members and loved ones of those with depression: Tuesday evenings, 6:30 PM, Room 160
Contact: Randy Goeke, (952) 240-2754

For individuals with depression:
Tuesday evenings, 6:30 PM, Room 160
or Wednesday mornings, 10:00 AM, Room 110
Contact: Richard Erickson, (651) 788-0275

Depression Support Monthly Speakers

Monday, February 6, 7:00 – 8:30 PM at SOTV
"The Whole-Person Approach to Treating Depression/Anxiety" Kim Bushman, PhD, LP

ADHD, Autism, & Other Disabilities on the Spectrum

Monday, January 23, 2012
"Beyond the Label: Practical Tools & Resources"
Linda Vettrus, Special Education Teacher
Cost: \$10/individual or \$15/family. Pre-registration and payment is required for KidCare only — \$5/child.

Suicide Survivor Support Group

2nd Tuesdays and 4th Thursdays, 7:00 – 8:30 PM
Mary Mother of the Church, 3333 Cliff Road, Burnsville, Park in West parking lot, enter main door, look for sign.

See the rightmost sidebar for more support groups.

Giving Opportunities



Our Daily Bread Food Shelf

Most needed items: Mac and cheese, pasta, refried beans, spaghetti sauce and cereal. Thank you!

Clothing Collection for Pine Ridge Indian Reservation

We are collecting new or gently used children's clothing and winter outerwear (coats, hats, mittens and scarves) throughout the month of December. It is very expensive to ship clothing to North Dakota, so we ask that you be selective in what you plan to donate. Thank you so much for helping these families in need!

Winter Outerwear Collections

Please bring gently used children's winter coats, snow pants, boots, mittens/gloves, hats and scarves to the collection box in the Narthex.

Please bring new mittens, hats, scarves or socks to our Mitten Tree by the Welcome Center. These items will keep local adults and children warm and cozy during the new year.

Thank You, Bell Ringers!

Volunteers bell ringers at Cub Foods in Eagan on December 10 raised over \$300 for the Salvation Army. Thank you! Your work will make a difference in the lives of people in need in our community.

SOTV Red Cross Blood Drive Tuesday, February 7, 12:30 - 6:30 PM

You are eligible to donate if you are in good health, 16 yrs. or older and have not donated since 12/13/11. Double red appointments will be available. Online registration is available at www.redcrossblood.org, or at the Welcome Center. If you are interested in volunteering to make appointments, greet, serve snacks, or help with set up/clean up, please sign up at the Welcome Center or call Lisa Loher at (651) 683-9127. Thank you!

Christmas Gift Giving

All of the shopping programs are over at this time. You can still give monetary donations for programs including: Dakota Woodlands, Heifer International, Military Families, and Our Daily Bread Food Shelf. More information is at the Welcome Center. Thank you to everyone who has given so generously.

January Shoe Collection

Over a million people in Ethiopia and other countries are affected by diseases from contaminated soil. All that is needed is a good pair of shoes. In January, we will be collecting the following types of new or gently used shoes in the narthex: running, athletic, sandals, work boots, cleats, and flip flops. Thanks!

 Register at www.sotv.org/events or at the Welcome Center

Ongoing...

Knitters & Crocheters

Want to make Prayer Shawls?
Contact: Jill.Johnson@sotv.org
or (952) 985-7381.

Shepherd Quilters

Mondays, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Meetings resume January 9.

Faith Partners: Promoting Chemical Health

If you or someone you know is affected by chemical abuse, please contact Karen (952) 201-6193 or Scott (952) 431-2566.

CBC (Challenged by Cancer)

For women living with cancer to gather and support each other.
2nd Tuesdays, 7:00 - 9:00 PM.
Contact: Cher Nelson, Parish Nurse, (612) 209-1404, cher.nelson@sotv.org

Compassionate Friends South of the River

3rd Tuesdays at 7:00 PM.
For parents grieving the loss of a child of any age from any cause.
Contact: Susan Ferber, (651) 683-9236, susan@ferbers.us.

Sarah Circle Bible Study

2nd Saturdays, 8:30 - 9:30 AM
Contact: Judy Anderson
(651) 207-8407

Shalom Circle Bible Study

3rd Thursdays, 1:30 - 3:30 PM
Next meeting: January 19

Wednesday Coffee for Men

Wednesdays at 9:00 AM in Atrium

Men's Bible Studies

Tuesday Mornings: 6:00 - 7:00 AM

Wednesday Evenings: 6:00 - 7:15 PM

Friday Mornings: 6:30 - 8:00 AM

Contact: Pastor Chris Steubing
(952) 985-7306

Job Connections Group

"Attitude Adjustment Workshop"
Tuesday, January 3, 6:30 - 8:15 PM

No meeting Tuesday, December 27

Prince of Peace, Burnsville, MN

More info: (952) 898-9388

www.princeofpeaceonline.org/jcg



Children, Youth and Family (CYF)

News & Events | December 24- January 1, 2011 CYF office: (952) 432-6385

No GodZone or Confirmation between Dec 21 & Jan 1.
Classes resume on Wednesday, Jan. 4 and Sunday, Jan. 8.
Blessings for memorable and meaningful family time.

ONGOING CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH MINISTRIES...

GodZone (PK - Grade 5)

Sundays and Wednesdays
Call for available times

GodZone is our fun and engaging Christian Education program for Preschool through Grade 5. Children can join any time throughout the year. To register, visit the Welcome Center or our website www.sotv.org/children/godzone.shtml. Call the Children, Youth and Family (CYF) office if you have any questions: (952) 432-6385

Confirmation (Grades 6-9)

Wednesday nights
Call for available times

Confirmation for 2010-2011 is underway, although kids can join any time throughout the year. Call Barb Schulz in the Children, Youth and Family (CYF) office if you have any questions or to register for a small group. (952) 985-7351

High School (Grades 9-12)

URL (Unwind, Recharge and Learn)

Wednesdays 8:00 - 9:15 PM
Shepherd Room

Informal youth gatherings to connect with friends and meet new people.

PBS (Panera Before School)

Mondays at 6:30 AM
Apple Valley Panera,
off Cedar & County 42

Jumpstart your week with faith friends, scripture, and prayer (not to mention a tasty breakfast!).

Sunday Night Dive-In

5:00 - 7:00 PM
Shepherd Room
Session III: Jan 8 + 15

"Dive in" to your burning questions using the Bible, video, music, and other exciting activities.

GodZone (PK - Grade 5)

2011 Christmas Program

Special thanks to all the GodZone children who made the words of the angel Gabriel to Mary come alive in the sanctuary last weekend! We appreciated their expressions of faith through word and song! Kudos to the GodZone Crew Leaders and Lori Friend, Marnie Kittelson and Heidi Setterlund.

Delightful video recordings of all four programs are available at www.sotv.org/godzone. DVD copies are also available for a suggested donation of \$5. To order, please e-mail Jeanne.Mikulski@sotv.org and specify which service time you would like. Order forms are also available at the Welcome Center.

GodZone Goes to Worship

Grades 1-3, Sunday, January 8:

Children will observe a baptism and remember their own. They will return to GodZone to celebrate what it means to be a part of God's family. Wednesday sessions are invited to attend worship with their families and join Sunday Crews, on cue.

PK-K, Sunday, January 22:

Children will participate in a special "Good News for Kids" (Children's Time) and provide special music. All Sunday Crews will go together during their GodZone sessions and Wednesday children are invited to sit with their parents and participate as directed.

All Youth (Grades 1-12)

God & Country Program

For Boy and Girl Scouts. Starts Jan 22, 2012

- Grades 1-3: God and Me
- Grades 4-5: God and Family
- Grades 6-8: God and Church
- Grades 9-12: God and Life

Please visit www.sotv.org/scouts for information.

Summer Camp registration is open!

There are amazing opportunities for growing in faith and experiencing the joy of Christian community for Grades 2 & 3 (weekend Seeds camp) all the way through Grade 12! For more information and to register, pick up a packet in the Children's, Youth & Family (CYF) office or at the Welcome Center. Registrations are due March 15. Questions? Contact Barb Schulz at (952) 985-7351.

Summer Trips (Grades 6-12)

Youth in Grades 6-12 can still sign up for a Summer 2012 Service Trip! Space is limited, and unfilled spots will be released back to the organizations on January 15, so register today! Adult leader volunteers are also still needed. Contact Brandon Newton at (952) 985-7361.

Middle School (Grades 6-8)

Middle School Ski Retreat

Friday-Sunday, January 20-22 at Welch Village

Cost varies based on rental needs and whether you have a season pass. \$75 deposit holds your spot. Limited to 25 girls and 25 boys.

High School (Grades 9-12)

High School Jam Session

Wednesday, December 28, 10:00 - 11:30 AM

Get the guitar out of the closet and come play familiar songs and maybe try some new ones. This is open to all levels of ability!

Magi(cal) Mystery Tour

Friday, January 20, 5:00 PM - 12:00 midnight

Where will this Magi(cal) Mystery Tour take you? Meet at SOTV, but don't expect to stay there! Cost is \$20. We will be done when the clock strikes 12! Register online at www.sotv.org/events.

Post High School/College

College/Young Adult Brunch

Tuesday, December 27, 10:30 AM - 12 PM,
Brunch provided in the Great Hall!

Join us whether you're home from college or just want to connect with friends from SOTV!

Family Snow Tubing (All Ages!)

Friday, February 10, 7:00-10:30 PM

Green Acres (Lake Elmo)

Cost varies (\$5-\$15) based on age and height; see the registration form (available at the Welcome Center and CYF office) for details.