



# VISTAS



† The Season of Lent, March 2017 †

## Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

Our Mission: *We are a welcoming family in Christ who serves by celebrating and sharing our many gifts.*



### Lent 2017: Strangers to Friends

*"So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are friends..." Ephesians 2:19*

One of the greatest joys in my life has been the forging and nurturing of what some might call "odd" friendships. Different skin colors, different sexual orientations, different political views, different classes, different religions...and

every one has been an absolute blessing. My best friend, in fact, others have commented: "I can't believe you guys are so close -- you're just so different." But we enrich and challenge one another with our sometimes-polar-opposite perspectives, and at the end of the day, we'd be the guardian to the other's children or give up a kidney if needed. It's hard to believe actually that once we were strangers.

Friendship may seem an odd theme for Lent, but at Shepherd of the Valley this year, we're going to gather together around this long, strange trip of moving from "strangers to friends". It doesn't just happen over night, does it? Like the 40 days of Lent, the evolution of a relationship can indeed be a sort of wilderness adventure, with some interesting twists and turns.

Our Wednesday evenings will bear this title "Strangers to Friends", and we'll hear a few different voices -- voices of possible strangers (or the voices of those who are already friends of possible strangers). A similar format as last year, our topics will include members of the human family who are Muslim, refugees, Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual-Transgender-Queer-Intersex-Allied+ (LGBTQIA+), homeless, and immigrants. Starting on March 8 and every Wednesday of Lent; potluck-style dinner at 6pm, speakers at 6:45pm, concluding with an evening song and a prayer.

Join us for listening (mostly), learning (perhaps), sharing (hopefully), eating (definitely), worshiping (prayerfully)...and perhaps even befriending (faithfully.) I am convinced that God's got something in store for us even now!

Who knows? With the Spirit's ever-present aid, maybe we'll be saying together about those who seem so different, "Wow, it's hard to believe that we were once strangers."

Pastor Dan

*Editor's note: Read more about the speakers scheduled for our Lenten series on page 3.*

### March Events

- March 1 – **Ash Wednesday**, Services at noon & 7pm
- March 5 – Spiritual Practices Workshop (see p. 6)
- March 6 – SVLC at T.A.C.O., carpool at 3pm
- March 6 – Common Ground work team @FUMC
- March 8 – SVLC Lenten Supper/Service, 6pm
- March 11 – Daylight Savings Time - Spring Forward!
- March 12 – Spiritual Practices Workshop (see p. 6)
- March 13 – SVLC at T.A.C.O., carpool at 3pm
- March 15 – SVLC Lenten Supper/Service, 6pm
- March 18 – Breakfast & Work Party 7:15am at SVLC
- March 19 – New Member class, 9:15am
- March 19 – Baptism of Emma Rose Schnurr
- March 19 – SVLC Book Club, 6pm at SVLC
- March 21 – Tuesday Morning Bible Study, 10am
- March 22 – SVLC Lenten Supper/Service, 6pm
- March 23-26 – Quilting retreat at Luther Glen
- March 26 – New Member class, 9:15am
- March 29 – SVLC Lenten Supper/Service, 6pm
- March 30 – SVLC tour of SOTI offices, 5:30pm

### Upcoming Events

- April 2 – New Members Joining SVLC
- April 5 - Food Sorting for Common Ground at FUMC
- April 13-16 - Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter
- April 23 - Chili Cook-off for Agape House
- May 11-13 - Pacifica Synod Assembly in San Diego

### SVLC Angels Among Us

- The Jordans for preparing and bringing meals to someone who needs and appreciates them
- Brent Lokensgard for all the work he continues to do to make our building project a success
- The Swansons for being our El Nido contacts and getting the apartment ready for the new family
- Robinanne Robinson for folding bulletins and preparing large print materials each week

A suggestion for this section was brought to the *Vistas* editor/church office recently. Each month *Vistas* will have a place to recognize people for doing something special and/or caring. Please send YOUR suggestions to [svlc.lamesa@gmail.com](mailto:svlc.lamesa@gmail.com) or call the church office 619-670-7656.

*Our Welcoming Family in Christ...*

**Lenten Suppers**

Recently we had to turn off our water to do some repairs. It was only for a couple of hours, but I was amazed at the number of times I went to do something only to realize I needed water for the task. I guess it's human nature not to appreciate how often we use something until it isn't available. At our last Council meeting I was giving an update on my ideas for Lenten Suppers when Pastor Dan figuratively poured a glass of water on my head when he said, "You have to remember that we won't have a kitchen." Holy moly...I had forgotten. Back to the drawing board.

As I thought through the logistics, everyone will need to do just a bit more pre-planning, but these items shouldn't be too onerous...

- 1) Bring your own dinnerware, utensils, napkins, and beverages.
- 2) Chefs, since we won't have a staging area, please bring dishes or crock pots ready to place on the table and serving utensils for your dishes.
- 3) Serving tables will be covered with plastic so they can be rolled up and tossed.

The lemonade in all this is that no one will miss the presentation and service because they are cleaning up the kitchen!

In keeping with this year's theme of "Strangers to Friends", I would like to challenge our talented chefs to prepare a dish in the following categories:

- March 8th — International Soups
- March 15th — International Noodle Dishes
- March 22nd — International Vegetarian Dishes
- March 29th — International Grain Dishes
- April 5th — International Salads

Sign up sheets will be in the Narthex.

Thank you in advance for your delicious offerings!

Dear SVLC,

*Joseph and I would like to send a huge thank you to everyone who contributed to making Emma's dress for her baptism (March 19) Your generosity means the world to us. Thank you for making my dream of Emma wearing my wedding dress come true! The dress turned out perfect, it is more beautiful than I could have imagined. We can't wait for her special day and hope you all will share it with us!*

Love, Joseph, Janelle, and Emma



Speaking of baptism...above, Isabella Carmen Smilie, baptized on February 19.

**Calling All Quilters**

WHEN: March 23-26, 2017 / WHERE: Luther Glen

WHAT: Annual Quilting Retreat

HOORAY!!! It's time for the 2017 Quilting Retreat! We have had so much fun each year, that we decided to add an extra day. This year, we will leave on THURSDAY, March 23, and stay through Sunday, March 26. This will give everyone plenty of time to work on projects and enjoy some rest and relaxation. Please let us know as soon as possible if you will be attending the retreat this year. We will need a final count by the first week of March.

Any skill level is welcome. In fact, we had a couple of people last year who had never quilted before in their lives. They left the weekend as Quilters! If you have any questions, please talk to Heather Roschke, Stephanie Jordan or Dixie Lokensgard for more details.



**Your 2017 Council Officers and ministry liaisons include:**

- President: Shaunda Jacobson
- Vice Pres. / Inreach/Fellowship Liaison: Stephanie Jordan
- Secretary / Evangelism Liaison: Melissa Roa
- Treasurer / Finance: Brent Lokensgard
- Music & Worship Arts Liaison: Phil Overlund
- Education Liaison: Joseph Schnurr
- Outreach Liaison: April Froelich
- Property Liaison: Lyle Swanson
- Stewardship & Memorials Liaison: Vern Kjonegaard

**SVLC Book Worms**

The next meeting will be March 19 at 6:00 pm, at SVLC, dinner is potluck. The book is *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman. Upcoming dates and books include:

- April 30: *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood
- May 28: *The Other Wes Moore* by Wes Moore

Please contact April Froelich to find out more (423-963-0681 or [afroelich7@gmail.com](mailto:afroelich7@gmail.com)) Hope to see you there!

*Celebrating Our Many Gifts...***"Strangers to Friends" Lenten Series**

Here's the list of speakers/facilitators/guests we'll be hosting on Wednesday evenings this Lent at SVLC:

March 8 -- Maria Garcia-Lopez from Interfaith Shelter Network, Director of El Nido. She'll be talking to us about her ministry of finding a home and healing for abused women and their families.

March 15 -- Elisa Barnett, Behavioral Health Education Training and Curriculum Coordinator at SDSU and member of SVLC, will facilitate an important and fascinating conversation about "culture, humility and curiosity".

March 22 -- Kathi Anderson, Director of Survivors of Torture International and former board member with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS), comes to share stories and information about her work on behalf of "the alien and the stranger" here in San Diego and throughout the state.

March 29 -- Daren Erisman, Lutheran pastor and Ph.D. candidate in Systematic & Philosophical Theology and Islamic Studies, joins us to reflect (as a Lutheran theologian) on commonalities he's discovered between Islam and Christianity, as well as what we might learn from each other.

April 5 -- Melissa James, Diaconal Minister in the ELCA, Mt. Helix local, and Ph.D. in Ethics and Social Theory, speaks openly with us about the LGBTQIA+ community in San Diego, and the importance of the Lutheran church's statement of welcome, including becoming a "Reconciling in Christ" congregation.

If these speakers/topics seem a little "out there", a little odd, threatening, uncomfortable, provocative -- like a bunch of "strangers" -- (or just plain intriguing to you) then we've hit the nail on the head. If these topics anger or don't interest you at all, please come be with us anyway. We need each other in this Lenten journey and always. I believe the church is in a unique place (and is even "called") to model living together with difference.

This isn't ultimately about our differences though: the real heart and center of this Lenten theme is friendship. We are indeed already friends in Christ, who binds us together and makes us one... at the foot of the cross.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Dan

**Sempre Energy Foundation VIP Grant**

We are so thankful to Kim Pisaneschi, an ABC Barn parent who brought SVLC a check for \$500 as part of Sempra Energy Foundation's VIP Program which supports the dedication of employees who contribute their time and talent to schools and charities in their communities. It means so much that you thought of us!

**An Update from Alexander James**

Hello, Life in the Bay Area continues to be a potent mixture of very difficult challenges tempered with very exciting opportunities. I have crafted my own lane at the Homeless Advocacy Project and settled into a cycle that has been successful at keeping me sane while also keeping me focused on my work. Right now I almost entirely do advocacy work for disabled people who are unable to work and are thus eligible under Title II and Title XVI to receive a small monthly income from Social Security Administration. Much of the time, this means I will meet with someone the first time they walk into our office, and build a relationship through weekly appointments until I have a comprehensive vision of their life experiences, traumas, and disabilities. I use all this as medical evidence in order to fulfill Social Security's disability listings.

What's next? Well first, I have been accepted by the Lutheran Volunteer Corps to remain in my position at Homeless Advocacy Project for another year. This means I will be remaining in my house in Oakland, and greeting a new group of housemates who will be placed in different organizations for the 2017-2018 LVC volunteer year.

Through the guidance of my supervisor Katie Danielson, I have made plans to attend a Spanish-language immersion program for two weeks in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala in late July. I will be studying with a social justice-oriented school that has an extensive history of community activism. It is called the Proyecto Linguistico Quetzalteco, and you can read more at [plqe.org](http://plqe.org). I have started this GoFundMe page to provide a way for others to support me financially. You can read more at <https://www.gofundme.com/alexander-james-in-xela-guatamala>.

I wish I could express to you all how much I have grown in the last few months. Although it's difficult to put in words, please be assured that I am constantly learning and growing and struggling and surviving. I truly feel called to my current work in SSI advocacy, and I can only hope that you all realize how instrumental you have been in the formation of my revolutionary spirit. While there's more I could say, I think I'll leave it there.

I love and miss you all terribly, but I hope you can feel the energy I am sending your way.

*Worship in the Center...*

**From “That Music Lady”  
aka Gina Seashore, SVLC Minister of Music**

**Like to Sing? SVLC Choir Rehearsals are Back!**

Choir at SVLC has been on a hiatus during Phase 1 Construction. We will resume Thursday night rehearsals on March 9 @ 7PM and will begin working on music for Lent, Palm Sunday and Easter. Looking forward to seeing long time members and new voices are welcome at anytime!

**Liturgy Changes for Lent**

I’ve enjoyed our multi-cultural liturgy pieces during Epiphany. I will even miss playing them on the accordion, which I thought was actually an appropriate accompaniment. So why do we change liturgy selections each season? Just like hymns are chosen each week to fit a particular sermon theme, liturgy pieces are chosen to reflect the spirit of the season. Lent is a time of contemplation and reflection. We’ve chosen some Celtic liturgical pieces for Lent this year to get help create a mood of reflection. Celtic pieces are known for their beautiful melodies. I hope you enjoy them!

**Good Friday: 3 Hours & 7 Last Words**



According to the Gospel of John, Christ hung on the cross from 12 o’clock to 3 o’clock. Based on that, Christians have gathered to mark those solemn 3 hours, often reflecting on the 7 last words of Jesus from the cross. We’re going to do that this year. Something new. And I want to invite you to consider joining us, at least for part of the time.

I’ve invited the *best* 7 preachers I know here in/around San Diego (including our Bishop Andy Taylor) to come and reflect on the 7 different sayings of Jesus. It’s not your typical service, and I expect worshippers to drift in and out as they are so moved, during the course of these 3 hours. In our April *Vistas*, I’ll publish the times, Jesus’ 7 last words, and the list of 7 preachers, but I wanted to put it on your radar now. Invite a friend, and save your Good Friday afternoon. Between preachers, we’ll offer time for silent prayer and the audio of J.S. Bach’s *Passion According to John*.

Because this is pretty unique to San Diego, I’ll be inviting other churches in the area and members of our community.

(We will still have our regular 7pm service on Good Friday. This is in addition to that.) - Pastor Dan

**Upcoming Readings and Themes**

March 5	Luke 10: 25-42	Good Samaritan
March 12	Luke 13: 1-9, 31-35	Lament Over Jerusalem
March 19	Luke 15: 1-32	Lost Sheep, Coin, Son
March 26	Luke 16: 19-31	Rich Man and Lazarus

“How Good, Lord, to be Here” was our Hymn of the day for Feb. 26, our first Sunday worshipping in our sanctuary again, which was occupied by the ABC Barn preschool for the past 7 months. We still have some sprucing up to do, and Phase II of construction to complete, but it’s great to be back! Many thanks to the MANY hands that helped with the move-back!



**Bible Study at SVLC**

The Monday evening Bible Study will not meet during Lent, but the *Gather* Bible Study group will meet at SVLC this month at 10am on Tuesday, March 21. Everyone welcome!

**“Turn it Over to Jesus” during Lent at SVLC**

At the last Worship and Music Arts meeting the group discussed a how we might create a hands-on activity for the congregation during Lent. What we came up with is that our Lenten cross will be wrapped with twine and small clothespins, and leaf-shaped papers will be available for writing. During Lent this year, all are invited to write something they are giving up (whether it’s a behavior, food, a burdensome attitude, resentment, worry, or unhealthy habit, or anything that distracts us from following Jesus) and **literally** take it to the cross and attach. (This can happen at any time before or after the services or during offering or communion) **Figuratively** we will ‘turn it over to Jesus’, as a symbol of our intention to fully love and fully live in Christ. Over the course of Lent we can watch the cross flourish as we turn over our burdens to Jesus.

- Jennifer Fenner (Worship & Music Arts Team)

*Serving and Sharing in Response*

**News From The Closet on 54th**

Greetings, everyone!

For the two days in February that we have been open so far, we have given out 673 articles of clothing and accessories to 80 people!

We will be open on Tuesday March 7. In order to replenish stock, we will have two sorting days on February 28 and March 1. If you want to help with that, let me know. I plan to start about 10am (if I can get there earlier I will let you know), but I expect to wrap up by 1:45 (to take care of grandma duties).

Looking ahead, here are the days and hours for March and April...looking for volunteers.

Tuesday Mar 7, 11am-2pm

Thursday Mar 16, 11am-2pm

Tuesday Mar 21, 11am-2pm (Tuesday instead of Friday because of the SVLC quilting retreat)

Tuesday Apr 4, 11am-2pm

Thursday Apr 13, 11am-2pm

Friday Apr 21, 11am-2pm

See the sign up sheet at SVLC to volunteer, or contact Leslie Atkins. ([la.atkins23@gmail.com](mailto:la.atkins23@gmail.com)) If you haven't already, please like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TheCloseton54th>

**Looking for a Coordinator**

We have won the Golden Ladle for the past two years, but with our kitchen under construction, it will be a challenge for SVLC to participate in the **Agape House Chili Cookoff and Cookie Chilloff**, on April 23 this year. Who's up for this challenge? If you have ideas and energy (space perhaps?) to make it happen, or want to plan an event, cook, or help in any way, please contact the church office. Let's go for a ThREe-PEAT!



Thank you to all who brought food for SVLC's Souper Bowl. The Final Score: Atlanta Falcons 67 /New England Patriots 65 Soup will help stock a small pantry at SVLC, at Crisis House and at Survivors of Torture International. So Everyone wins! Way to go, team!!



**Fabric Scraps and Salvage Pieces Needed**

The Salvation Army recycles all textiles, including quilting and sewing scraps which they resell to third party recyclers. These recycled textiles are used in a variety of industries and are turned into paper, yarn, insulation, audio speakers, carpet padding, upholstery / cushioning and more.

All funds generated through the sale of goods in the stores and the recycling efforts are used to fund the Salvation Army San Diego Adult Rehabilitation Center where 130 men and women participate in a 6+ month program FREE to them. They live with them, work with them and get counseling and spiritual guidance from alcohol and drug addictions. You can drop off your bags of quilting / sewing scraps or any textile rags at church, Therese Monroe will see they are taken to the donation sites. [at any of the Donation Trailers or stores which are open 7 days a week, 8:30am to 5:00pm.] You can include fabric scraps, pieces of thread from sewing, old clothing, worn out sheets and towels – any textile that can no longer be used.

The Salvation Army has calculated, that if every quilter/ sewer in San Diego County gave their scraps for a year to this program, they would generate over \$50K additional funding for this program, not to mention the fabric scraps and recycled textiles would be kept out of the landfill! So don't throw them away...give them to the Salvation Army and they will recycle them! Thank you for your generosity! And thanks to Therese as well!

**Fun Volunteer Opportunity**



The 2017 Synod Assembly is here in San Diego this year (May 11-13) and the planning team is looking for VOLUNTEERS! You may serve as few or as many hours as you're able, and choose which days and times fit in with your scheduled. You'll meet (or see again!) lots of other great people (Lutherans : ) while having lots of fun. If you'd be open to being contacted and serving as a Door Host/Hostess, Information Desk attendant, Floor Walker, Document Distributor, Office Support, or other tasks as needed, please fill out the sign-up sheet after worship or talk to Pastor Dan. Thank you.

*Learning and Growing...*

**March 12-26 at SVLC**

**Reformation 500**

BOOKSTORE

The 500th anniversary of the Reformation is fast approaching! Do you want to learn more about Martin Luther, his writings, and their impact on Christianity? Do you want to reflect on the ongoing impact of the Reformation today? Stop by our Reformation 500 Bookstore to shop for engaging books on the Reformation for readers of all ages and interests! Save up to 50% plus receive free shipping on all Bookstore titles. See the display in the Narthex, March 12-26 to get fascinating books on the Reformation for you and your family.

Our Bookstore is sponsored by Augsburg Fortress, the publishing ministry of the ELCA. The books will include bestselling biographies like Luther the Reformer as well as an atlas of the European Reformations, a graphic novel for young readers, and primary sources from The Annotated Luther series. We will choose one book as the "SVLC Reads" title and gather for discussion and dinner this summer. Also, if you would like to help with coordinating orders, etc. and receive a free book of your choice, please contact the church office or let Pastor Dan know.

**Spiritual Practices Course Continues**

Just as vegetables grow better in a garden that's well tended, so the soul flourishes with regular attention. Find ways to tend your inner garden with time-tested spiritual practices that match your personality, lifestyle, and ways God might be calling you to grow in Christ. Join Pastor Darin Johnson between Sunday services, March 5 and 12 at 9:15am in the new classroom 7.

**Support Group**

A bereavement therapeutic support group is starting Thursday, March 2 from 6:00-7:30pm, and continuing until Thursday March 30. This is a 5-week series utilizing psychotherapy, creative expression, and experiential modalities. There will be handouts and psychoeducation about the grieving process. It is designed to provide a safe place to express feelings, while receiving and giving hope to others who are also on their grief journey.

The group is facilitated by Diane Louise, MA-MFTI, who earned her master's degree at Bethel Seminary San Diego and works in private practice at the Center for Enriching Relationships ([www.enrichingrelationships.org](http://www.enrichingrelationships.org)). Cost for the group is \$20 per session, or \$80 for the entire 5-week series when paid on the first meeting. SVLC members may attend at no charge as needed. It is not required for participants to attend all 5 sessions, but maximum benefits result from continuous attendance. The group will meet next door at Foothills United Methodist Church in Pastor Jeanette's office, right near the lower parking lot. Please contact Diane for questions or concerns at 619-851-3689 or [dianelouise1103@gmail.com](mailto:dianelouise1103@gmail.com).



You're invited to attend Trinity Institute, an annual conference that takes place in New York City via webcast at Christ Lutheran Church, Pacific Beach, a partner site.

Join the water justice movement! We'll develop a deeper appreciation for water as a sacred gift, gain a thorough understanding of the relationship between water justice and climate change, and learn what we can do about water issues of access, pollution, drought, and rising tides.

DETAILS: To register for Trinity Institute at Christ Lutheran Church, Pacific Beach, Visit: <http://www.christpb.org> or call 858-483-2300, to RSVP by March 10th.

WHERE: Christ Lutheran Church, 4761 Cass Street 92109

WHEN: March 22: 3:30 pm Gathering and Welcome.  
4:00 pm Worship & Keynote Speaker, followed by dinner.

March 23: 8:30 am Gathering, 3:45 pm depart Day 2.

March 24: 8:30 am Gathering, 3:45 pm Go in Peace.

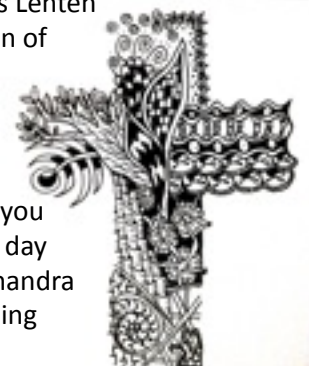
COST: \$44 includes opening dinner, lunches and snacks.

CONTACT: Chloe at [Chloe@christpb.org](mailto:Chloe@christpb.org) (858) 483-2300.

For more information about Trinity Institute's national THEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE including speaker bios, schedule, videos, and more—visit [TI2017.org](http://TI2017.org)

**Lent 2017 Devotional - Pick up Your Copy Today**

Shandra Zawacki, a member of Foothills Methodist Church next door put together the Lenten devotional booklet we have available this year. The cross on the cover is her original artwork. The introductory text reads "Lent is observed to remember the 40 days that Jesus spent in the desert. It begins Ash Wednesday and ends on the Saturday before Easter (excluding Sundays.) During Lent, many Christians fast or give something up to honor Jesus' sacrifice. Like Jesus, we prepare for Easter through reflection and prayer. This Lenten devotional booklet is a compilation of Bible verses, prayers, stories and anecdotes from the Foothills Methodist Church and Shepherd of the Valley faith communities. The devotions provide a way for you to reflect and focus on Jesus each day leading up to Easter." We thank Shandra and all the contributors for providing this wonderful resource.



*Connecting With Others in Mission for Christ...*

**TACO\* News for March**

Hello everyone, I hope that the New Year is treating you well so far. Here at the Third Avenue Charitable Organization, a busy holiday season has continued into 2017! We have been lucky to host many of you for our twice weekly meals, and appreciate all your time, interest, and donations.



Speaking of donations, we have had a record amount of clothing, hygiene items, and other items come in over the past four months. While storage is always an issue, I like to view it as a "good problem" to have. Indeed, sitting in my office right now, I am surrounded by numerous bags, boxes, and cartons of donations!

To all of you that have given, we at TACO deeply thank you. Please know that we have renewed our efforts to not only sort and organize your donations quickly, but to give them out a.s.a.p. After all, the items don't benefit anyone sitting on a shelf. If there are any requests I could make it would be for men's underwear sizes S-L and for blankets. These are especially popular/necessary during the cold damp weather, and are given out quickly.

Thank you for your time, and blessings to all of you for 2017. I hope many of you can make it to TACO soon, and I look forward to seeing you!

~ Brad Young, TACO Volunteer Coordinator

**SVLC's upcoming serving days at TACO are on Monday, March 6 and Monday, March 13**

Meet at SVLC at 3:00pm to carpool to First Lutheran downtown (corner of 3rd and Ash) All ages welcome.

\*Third Avenue Charitable Organization, serving the homeless and working poor in downtown San Diego.

**Upcoming Meals-On-Wheels Events**

March 25th, - March for Meals Event "Wiggin Out", a 5K/1mile Fun Run at Crown Point South at Mission Bay Park, to participate (walk) or sponsor, please register on the website - [www.MEALS-ON-WHEELS.ORG/REGISTER](http://www.MEALS-ON-WHEELS.ORG/REGISTER)

April 29th, MOW Annual Mad Hatter's Tea party. Tickets are \$30. RSVP early to reserve your spot. For more information, please call MOW E.Cnty office (619-447-8782)



**Common Ground News**

We are currently gearing up for the Spring Break food program which provides a box of food for families to help sustain them during the school breaks. Many of the children in our supported schools are on the free meal programs and may go hungry when school is not in session.

SVLC will collect Peanut Butter, cereal and canned tuna to add to the boxes. Bring to worship by Sunday, April 2. Sorting will take place on Wednesday, April 5 next door in the FUMC youth center where we used to worship. Contact the church office if you'd like to help. Thanks!

Common Ground continues to have a need for individuals who would like to lead one-time Teacher Appreciation events in the Spring or Fall. Also, we could use an individual to help organize our social media presence and participation.

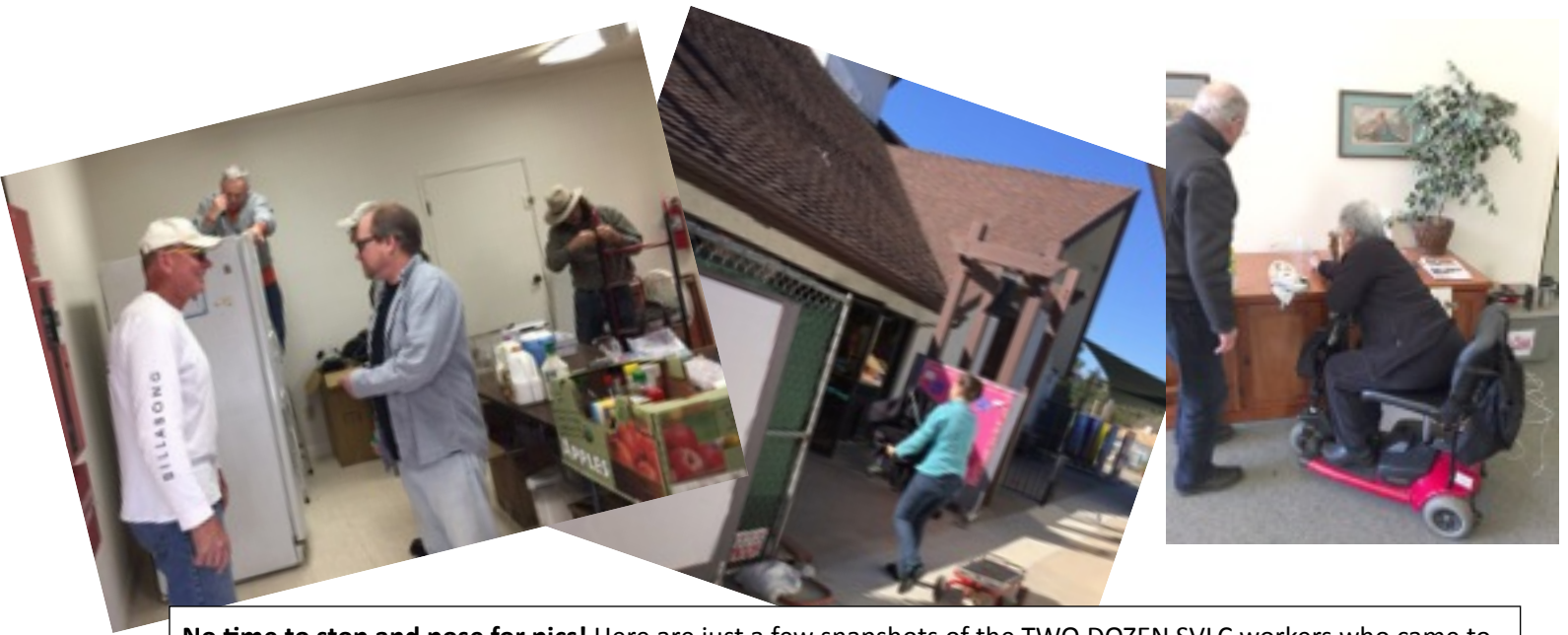
Common Ground is an ecumenical ministry of three area churches (SVLC, Foothills Methodist and Santa Sophia Catholic) that serves teachers and families in need at our local elementary schools. Please let Shaunda Jacobson, Jenny Fenner or Pastor Dan know if you are interested in helping in any capacity.



Shepherd of the Valley has been invited to participate in a tour of Survivors of Torture International. The tour will take place on March 30, 2017 at 5:30 p.m., with 20 slots available. The location is in Old Town, but the exact details will be released to those attending. If you are interested, please email me

(April Froelich, SVLC Council Outreach Liaison) at [afroelich7@gmail.com](mailto:afroelich7@gmail.com). I will also have an information sheet in the narthex at the church to sign-up.

Since 1997, SURVIVORS has cared for more than 2,000 torture survivors from over 80 countries, served more than 600 children through an after school program, and educated more than 24,000 people about torture and its consequences. With your support, SURVIVORS looks forward to many more years of serving San Diego's most vulnerable neighbors.



**No time to stop and pose for pics!** Here are just a few snapshots of the TWO DOZEN SVLC workers who came to help with the move-back on Saturday, Feb. 18 and Feb. 25. Thanks be to God for all the helpful hands!



**Wanted: Parking Lot Sale Team** It's been five years since we've had a parking lot sale at SVLC, and it might just be time to have one again. Perhaps in May, after Phase II of our construction project is completed. But before we put it on the church calendar, a team needs to come together to help gather, organize and promote the sale. If you would like to help out with any of those tasks, please contact the church office. Many hands will make light work!

**Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church**

*Our vision: Extending God's welcome to all we meet along the way.*



**SVLC Office: 670-7656 / ABC Barn Office: 670-3898 / svlc.lamesa@gmail.com**  
 Rev. Daniel E. Roschke, Pastor / pastor.dan.svlc@gmail.com  
 Ms. Gina Seashore, Minister of Music / g.seashore@earthlink.net  
 Mr. Ron Blake, ABC Barn Director / rdk3@yahoo.com  
 Ms. Tanya Quintero Campillo, ABC Barn Assistant Director / sweettwin@hotmail.com  
 Ms. Jennifer Fenner, Parish Administrator / jenny.svlc@gmail.com



**Sunday Worship services at 8:15am and 10:30am.**

**Sunday School for preschool through Grade 5 takes place after the Children's Talk at the 10:30 service.**

**MARCH PRESCHOOL CHAPEL / CURRICULUM THEMES**

- March 6 - Dr. Seuss's Birthday/Letters
- March 14 - St. Patrick's Day
- March 20 - Nutrition
- March 28 - Spring

*ABC Barn Children's Place*



Everyone welcome—not just preschool kids! Most days chapel is at 10am, but please call to double-check if you plan to attend.

**"PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS..."**

- Our ABC Barn Preschool Staff and families, especially during this challenging time of construction and transition.
- Those mourning the loss of loved ones.
- Those who are struggling with illness.
- Our 2017 Council and Building Committee.

**STEWARDSHIP NOTES:** ♪ "STORYTELLING AND STEWARDSHIP GO HAND-IN-HAND. OUR BRAINS ARE WIRED FOR STORY. WHILE A BUDGET SPREADSHEET HAS THE POWER TO CONVEY FACTS ABOUT HOW MUCH MONEY IS NEEDED TO MEET A GOAL, STORIES OF LIVED HUMAN EXPERIENCE HAVE THE POWER TO INVITE PEOPLE FULLY INTO MINISTRY AND MISSION. IN AN ERA OF GROWING CONSUMERISM AND MISTRUST OF INSTITUTIONS, THE CHURCH MORE THAN EVER NEEDS TO SHARE WITH INTENTION AND INTEGRITY THE IMPACT OF STEWARDSHIP PRACTICES THROUGH STORIES OF THE SPIRIT'S DIVERSE AND BEAUTIFUL WORK AMONG US." --ALEX BENSON, CENTER FOR STEWARDSHIP LEADERS AT LUTHER SEMINARY

Please send photos and articles for *Vistas* by the 15th of the month prior to svlc.lamesa@gmail.com