

# Oregon Circuit

## June 2015

**Amazing Grace in Oak Grove, Oregon (Portland area)** is served by Pastor Joe Johnson

### **Beautiful Savior in Corvallis, Oregon**

Pastor Vanselow has served Beautiful Savior for 37 years. He has announced his retirement will come at the end of November. He reports: this year our congregation had two adult confirmands. We received a bequest of nearly \$28,000. Our congregation is planning to use some of it to fix some of the parsonage's problems for the new pastor they will call.

### **Beautiful Savior in Hillsboro, Oregon**

Pastor Scott Mews serves Beautiful Savior. Our congregation continues to worship in rented facilities in an up and growing area west of Portland. In the past year we have grown by 24 new members. Three of these were by adult confirmation with two adult baptisms. Please join us in thanking God for all his blessings!

**Gethsemane in Tigard, Oregon** is served by Pastor Dan Moll

**Grace in Portland, Oregon** is served by Pastor Thad Bitter

### **Immanuel in Salem, Oregon**

Pastor Craig Wasser serves Immanuel in Salem. The past year brought about new challenges. The revolving door of our school ministry continues to turn. After five blessed years the Lord has led Mr. Jeff Dolan to accept the call to serve at Manitowoc Lutheran High School. His wife Andrea who previously taught our 1st and 2nd grade and our Preschool before becoming a full time stay at home mom, will be missed as she served as our Prayer team leader, Worship team and Organist coordinator, and pre-school outreach coordinator. The Lord blessed us with the Dolans and they will be missed. Our school continues to grow and we are looking at an all time high enrollment.

On the other side of our ministry though, our church attendance has slipped almost 20 after peaking at an all time high of 132 per Sunday. This change in attendance does not have its roots in any one cause, but it has opened our eyes to the opportunity to refocus our outreach and in-reach efforts. We are looking to use the CCC's self evaluation process as part of this. We are also looking at an opportunity to be a part of a multi-site ministry. This will be over the next several weeks in connection with the self-evaluation and planning. We are blessed with a solid core and look forward to the plans God has for us in the future.

**Peace in Vancouver, Washington**

Peace is served by Gary Kraklow, going on year 35. We tried afternoon Lenten services this year for the last 4 services. Even though we did not have an organist, attendance stayed at 13 - 18 and we didn't lose any of our 28 - 32 regulars in the evening services. We are having VBS in June this year to see if it makes any difference in attendance from the decades of having it in mid August.

We installed new fencing around the church property in May and we will put a new roof on the fellowship hall this August – which is why we switched the dates for VBS. We will confirm three young people at the end of June.

**Trinity in Eugene, Oregon**

Pastor Blum is wrapping up his final weeks of ministry after serving there 31 years. His replacement— Benjamin Zuberbier, a 2015 graduate of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary— will be onsite in July. His ordination and installation is scheduled for August 2. Trinity went through a productive self-evaluation process in preparation for issuing a Divine Call. We observed some good things about ourselves and our congregation; and noted areas in our ministry where a younger hand, under God's blessings, might lead us in future days. We are looking forward with excitement for the arrival of our new pastor.