

Shepherd's Voice

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Feeding bodies, minds, and souls...

Volume 13 • Issue 5
2017 Edition

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Expansion Update

May



**Good Shepherd
Lutheran Church**
4000 Clayton Road
Concord, CA 94521
925-682-8410
gsconcord.com

**Worship Schedule:
Sundays 9:00 a.m.**

Rev's Reflections

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. (Philippians 1:4-5)

The Apostle Paul when writing to the Philippians began his letter by expressing thankfulness for the people of Philippi. Often we read this as just an introduction, but I think he is doing something more; he is teaching gratitude.

Some people use gratitude and thankfulness interchangeably, that's ok. There is only a minor difference between the two; gratitude is an inner state of being while thankfulness is the expression of that disposition.

Being grateful is an acknowledgment that what we have is a gift from God. Gratitude is a our response to the saving grace given to us in Jesus Christ and an acknowledgment that God is in control. During worship we often give thanks in prayer during worship as an articulation of our gratitude.

Gratitude is a disposition that we must constantly cultivate and we do this by expressing ourselves to God and others through thankfulness. This is a purposeful choice that we make. The Apostle Paul exhorts us to such action, *"In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you"* (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

Matthew Henry, an eighteenth century preacher was once robbed while living in England. He wrote about the incident: *"Let me be thankful, first, because I was never robbed before; second, because although they took my purse, they did not take my life; third, because although they took my all, it was not much; and fourth, because it was I who was robbed, not I who robbed."*

It may be difficult. Sometimes we may be just going through the motions, but where our body leads us our minds will follow. During this Easter season choose to cultivate gratitude. Walk through your day with eyes that looks at everything you have and are able to do as a gift.

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When you wake up with a roof over your head. When you take your first sip of coffee. When you use the restroom. When you get from one end of the room to another.

Cultivate your gratitude by expressing thanks with thank you notes. Tip well. Smile and be genuinely happy to hear from people. Compliment someone daily. Do not complain, criticize, or gossip. When you are in a bad situation look at it as a moment to learn.

Cultivating gratitude is a Spiritual Discipline and one well worth your time because it will change your life.

Peace,
Rev



Reformation 500

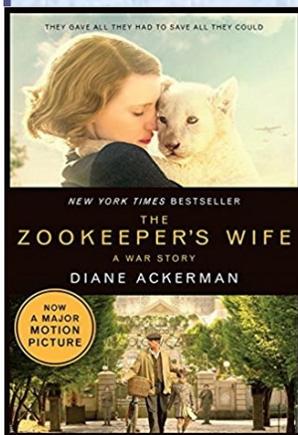
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Start with us at the beginning of what will be the
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Reformation Festival in October 2017.

The planning continues on
Sunday, May 21 at 11:00 a.m. we will meet in Fellowship Hall.

Bring your ideas and join us as we continue to plan
our 500th Anniversary of the Reformation
with neighbors and friends in our community.

GS Book Club is Reading *The Zookeeper's Wife* for July



“After their zoo was bombed, Polish zookeepers Jan and Antonina Zabinski managed to save over three hundred people from the Nazis by hiding refugees in the empty animal cages. With animal names for these "guests," and human names for the animals, it's no wonder that the zoo's code name became "The House Under a Crazy Star.”” Says Amazon.com.

We'll be discussing *The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story* by Diane Ackerman at our next Book Club meeting on **July 11 at 7:30 pm in the Fireside Room**. Please join us and talk about this very important book.

Questions? Contact Donna Albrecht donna-at-albrechts.com

Come Visit Our Sister Parish in El Salvador

It is not too late to decide to visit El Salvador and our sister parish, Resurrection Lutheran Church, this summer. You will see the progress that has been made on the church they are building, and the roof will be on. Christian, our contact in El Salvador, has found someone to donate the stained glass windows and some of them might be installed by then. You might remember that when Christian was young he wanted to know why they had such an ugly church and promised the Bishop that he would see to it that they had a beautiful church. It's taken him a while, but it looks like they will soon have that beautiful church Christian dreamed of.

We are scheduled to leave for El Salvador on Friday, July 28, 2017, where we will meet up with representatives of Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Chicago. While in El Salvador, we will be there for the Freedom Parade which will end at Resurrection Church where we dedicate "Raising the Roof." We will be staying at the Bishop's Compound or La Magnolia.

There will be time to visit some of the following:

- * The Medical and Dental Clinic of Resurrection Church.
- * Hope House, a program of our sister parish which feeds the poor.
- * Resurrection's school where education is stressed for children K-7.
- * The National Cathedral where Archbishop Oscar Romero is entombed.
- * The Iglesia El Rosario, the rainbow church. Not so pretty on the outside but on the inside you will see rainbows on the ceiling that are reflected on the floor and beautiful stations of the cross.
- * Hospital Divina Providencia and the chapel where Oscar Romero was shot while presiding at a memorial mass.
- * The Bishop's compound where Sue and Betty stayed for \$20 a day and got a meal for \$2.50.
- * Have a donut or the best fried chicken even at a large multi-plaza mall (about four or five times larger than Sun Valley Mall).
- * Other options might include a trip to the countryside to observe beautiful lush scenery, visiting a coffee plantation on the outskirts of San Salvador, a trip to the University or hiking to the top of a dormant volcano.

But most of all you will meet some beautiful people in El Salvador who because of their Christian faith are working to alleviate poverty and improve social justice for all Salvadorians. We can be proud that Good Shepherd is supporting them in this important work.

– Evangelism Team

May Birthdays

Nina Ferrando	01
Isaac Mollwitz	01
Sandra Berard	02
Lucas Castle	02
Frances Mecklenburg	03
Levi Serrano	05
Susan Ripley	07
Jay Neyenhouse	08
Alice Engel	09
Jo Carson	10
Jeannette Kaul	11
Joe Yarbrough	12
Connie Summers	16
Else Welsh	17
Doug Freeman	20
Deborah Castle	21
Andrew Smith	23
Brandon Berg-LeDoux	25
Lois Berg	27
Marilyn King	30



Take me out to the Ball Game

Come cheer with us for the Oakland A's against the New York Yankees on June 13th with members of Good Shepherd and their friends and family.

The game starts at 1:05 and we, here at Good Shepherd, are selling seats immediately behind home base. So grab your suntan lotion, wide brim hat and come enjoy the game.

This is a fund raiser for the Reformation Festival. Tickets are \$35 for adults and \$25 for children 13 and younger.

*** Deadline for purchasing tickets is Monday, May 22.**

Parking Lot Sale, June 3

We're having a parking lot sale at Good Shepherd on Saturday, June 3, from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Come purchase a space for \$35 or encourage you neighbors and friends to purchase a space.

Good Shepherd will have a space at the Parking Lot Sale and we will need items to sell, people to host our space during the sale, price items, etc. We will also have a small food area where we will be serving coffee, donuts, hot dogs and chips.

There will be a sign-up sheet at church for helpers. We will need to receive items you wish to donate, *before the parking lot sale*, so we can price items and get them ready for sale. Items can be brought to the church and stored in the choir robbing room. Please contact Sue Hertless (925-357-5033) or Betty Jacobsen (925-348-2056) if you need access to the choir robing room.

Our Aluminum Can Drive Continues

The Evangelism Committee is sponsoring an aluminum can drive to raise money for the El Salvador Church. Will you bring your empty aluminum cans to church in a plastic bag? Leave them outside the church doors on the right. Each Sunday they will be picked up after church for recycling. As always, many thanks for your support.

Blood Drive is coming – more details to be announced soon!



May Leisure Lunch

Please join our Leisure Lunchers on Tuesday,
for food, fun and fellowship
on

May 16 from Noon to 1:30 p.m.

Don't hesitate to call Bob or Susan Ripley at 925-827-9717
with any
questions or menu suggestions.

Ruth Circle Bible Study

Thursday, May 11 at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.
This meeting will be "You Are Not Alone"

This devotional is a break from the usual Bible studies to share the reflections of 10 different women sharing what it means to trust God during times of joy and struggle.

Join us in June for our Annual Luncheon at the Buttercup on Clayton Road.

With Sincere Thanks...



We would like to sincerely thank our church family for the love and support that was shown to us with the passing of my Mother. We were overwhelmed at the amount of cards, phone calls and food we received. We were surprised and pleased that the Easter Flowers were given in memory of my Mom & Marilyn Sarchett.

God Bless,
Gary and Linda
Mahloch

*Wedding
Anniversaries*

Fred and Teresa
Wagner
May 5, 1974

Kurt and Jan
Harman
May 12, 1959

Larry and Sheila
Huddleston
May 13, 1972



*Happy
Mother's Day*

**Men's
Breakfast
& Bible Study**



**We will
not be meeting
in May.**

A Note of Thankfulness

Dear Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,

I am so thankful for the amount of people who volunteered and participated with their time and talents in order to make Easter a joyful and beautiful event for the community.

First, I would like to thank Linda and Jamie Rodemsky. They faithfully cut the grass on the church property and water the plants. Our field and flowers look beautiful because of their efforts.

Second, I would like to thank all those people who came early to decorate our sanctuary, Gary Mahloch picked up the helium. Larry and Marcia Sander, along with Vicki Smiglewski, spent a weekday morning preparing the eggs for our Easter egg hunt. Justin, Johnathon, Monica and Becky Berg, Vicki Smiglewski, Doug, Carin, and Jim Olson, Ron and Mary Figueroa all came early to make sure we had butterflies in the air.

Third, Thank you to all those people who made the brunch happen. I think the Mimosas were a great touch! Our bakers were Vicki Smiglewski, Donna Albrecht, Betty Jacobson, and Kay Bennett. Emilie Patton made the delicious Peep cake.

Jean Moore, Carin Olson, Donna Albrecht, Kay Bennett, Vicki Smiglewski, Betty Jacobsen, lone Bantly, Reyanne Freeman, Rich and Sue Hertless, Jan Carzino, Ron Figueroa, and Else Welsh were all here on Saturday and Sunday setting up the room, preparing food, and cleaning up. None of this could have been done without Betty Jacobsen and Sue Hertless doing the shopping.

Last, but certainly not least, I would like to thank Laura Mott for the tireless work she does during Holy Week. We are able to have smooth worship services due to her diligence in preparing both the bulletins and slides.

There was no doubt when I decided to write this, I would miss someone. There are many secret saints in our church who work hard without me knowing. I apologize in advance if I have left your name off of this list. Know that I am thankful for you.

I was blessed to find out that over 40% of our congregation had some hand in Holy Week. This is just amazing! We are doing some wonderful things here, let's keep it up!

Peace,
Rev

Friends Feeding Friends

An outreach ministry of Good Shepherd that serves the needy in our county

Sarah Jean's
Dream at age 4

—
“So people who
are really hungry
have food.”



For we are God's
workmanship
created in Christ
Jesus to do good
works, which God
prepared in
advance for us to
do.
Ephesians 2:10

1105	Bags of food distributed
1162	People helped with groceries
120	Hot Meals served

Highlights from last month:

- We are continuing to work with the CORE homeless outreach team. They are in need of blankets and sleeping bags if you can help.
- This month for our shelter lunch, we had volunteers from Good Shepherd, Life Church, Kaiser Permanente, Tabernacle school, Valley Christian Church, and The Boys Team Charities. We appreciate all volunteers!!

Next Shelter Lunch: May 20, 2017: 9:00 at Good Shepherd to prep. All are welcome!!

Items needed this month:

- Mattresses and box springs (free of stains)
- Dressers
- Blankets and sleeping bags

You can contact us at friendsfeedingfriends@yahoo.com or friendsfeedingfriendsca@gmail.com, and we are on the church website at <http://gsconcord.com/outreach-ministries/friends-feeding-friends/>



For our April shelter lunch, we served ham, salads and fresh rolls.



Our dedicated volunteers are plating lunch for Respite clients.

Easter Brunch

The Easter Brunch this year was a successful event! There were over 100+ people who attended on this rainy Easter morning. The Fellowship volunteers did an exceptional job as always. I would like to address everyone who participated in making this event happen.

A big special thanks to Carin Olson for taking over the entire brunch set-up and preparing a wonderful meal for all to enjoy. Some big thanks for Jean Moore, Donna Albrecht, Kay Bennett, Vicki Smiglewski, Betty Jacobsen, Lone Bantly, Reyanne Freeman, Sue Hertless, Jan Carzino and Else Welsh for arriving on Saturday and Sunday to be our fantastic chefs to cook up a delicious brunch.

Thanks to Emilie Patton for the "Peep" cake she created and served for dessert. Thanks to Sue Hertless and Betty Jacobsen for the shopping for all of the food prepared to nourish our bodies for this special occasion.

Thanks to Vicki Smiglewski, Marcia and Larry Sander and those who donated candy for stuffing eggs for the children's Easter egg hunt. Thanks to Betty Jacobsen, Sue Hertless and Donna Albrecht for decorating the dining tables and Fellowship Hall. A big thanks to David and Sheila Roundtree and their Boy Scouts troop and Ron Figueroa for setting up our tables for this lovely meal.

Thanks to Michael and Donna Albrecht for supervising the Mimosa Table. Thanks to Linda and Jamie Rodemsky for mowing the grass for the egg hunt. Thanks to Ron and Mary Figueroa for supplying the ice for the refreshments. Thanks to Vicki Smiglewski, Donna Albrecht, Betty Jacobsen for making the yummy muffins and loaves of sweet bread.

Lastly, a big thanks to Pastor Jeremy and his entire family for helping in many ways to see this Easter Day become an exciting and welcoming event for everyone.

If I have forgotten anyone who participated in this event, please let me know.

Thanks!
Fellowship Leader, Kelly Schaefer



Memorial Day is Monday, May 29. The Church Campus will be closed in observance.

Friends Feeding Friends Expansion Update

It has been three months since our Annual Meeting. I was encouraged by your response as a congregation to the idea of expanding our Friends Feeding Friends Ministry. Each month since the Annual Meeting our Church Council has discussed some aspect of this project. We are slowly but surely making progress, but we are still in the programming phase. We don't have any deliverables to bring before the congregation to discuss, however we will be getting there in the foreseeable future. We plan on having a cottage meeting in order for the whole congregation to have input on the plan. In May our church council will be discussing this in depth at our Annual Retreat.

The council believes that this expansion serves several purposes. First, it will consolidate our Friends Feeding Friends Ministry to a single location. From this location we will implement our food pantry, bag give-away prep, monthly meal preparation, and home furnishings storage. Second, it will free up all our Sunday school space to use for other congregational ministries which provides the added benefit of giving us handicap accessible space. Lastly, it will provide a safe space for our volunteers and allow us to tear down Luther Hall.

As we continue to move forward, we will keep the congregation apprised of where we are so that we can transparently and confidently move forward into this next phase of our ministry to the community.

Respectfully,

Greg Buchholz, Council President

Rev. Jeremy Serrano, Pastor

May 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday Schedule: 9:00 a.m. Worship (CH) 10:15 Sunday School (Rm 3) 10:15 a.m. Coffee (FH) 12:30 Lighthouse (FH)(#3) 6:00 p.m. NA Group (FH)		2 GSLC Book Club 7:30 p.m. (FR)	3 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	4 8:30 a.m. Senior Food (FH) 6:00 Lighthouse (Rm. 3) 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (FH)	5	6
7 9:00 a.m. Schedule See above.	8	9 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting (FH)	10 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	11 10:00 a.m. Ruth Circle (FH) 1:00 p.m. DVLC Board (FH) 3:45 p.m. Worship & Music Meeting (FH) 5:00 p.m. Finance Mtg. 6:00 Lighthouse (Rm. 3) 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (FH)	12	13
14 Mother's Day 9:00 a.m. Worship	15	16 Noon Leisure Lunch (FH) 7:00p.m. Property (Kitchen)	17 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	18 8:30 a.m. Senior Food (FH) 6:00 p.m. Lighthouse (Rm 3) 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (FH)	19	20 9:30 a.m. Friends Feeding Friends (Kitchen)
21 9:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 Reformation Planning Meeting (FH) See above	22	23	24 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	25 6:00 Lighthouse (Rm. 3) 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (FH)	26	27
28 9:00 a.m. Worship	29 Church campus closed in observance of Memorial Day.	30	31 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)			
CH = Church		FH = Fellowship Hall		FR = Fireside Room		

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Concord, CA

2017 Executive Committee:

President: Greg Buchholz, **Vice President:** Sue Hertless, **Secretary:** John Mott
Member-at-Large: Adam Castle

2017 Congregational Council

Rebecca Berg, Candace Bradley, Greg Buchholz, Adam Castle, Tyler Costa,
Sue Hertless, Joseph Husary, Nancy Judge, John Mott, Tony Rogelstad, Kelly Schaefer

Ministry Staff:

Pastor: Rev. Jeremy Serrano - rev@gsconcord.com
Office Administrator: Laura Mott - lauramott@gsconcord.com
Organist: Christopher Hewitt; chrishewitt@gsconcord.com
Interim Choir Director: Emilie Patton
Contemporary Music Leader: Tom Deans Flegel - tdeans08@gmail.com
Sound/Technology: Jamie Rodemsky - jamier1263@gmail.com
Treasurer: Laura Mott - lauramott@gsconcord.com
Financial Secretary: Vicki Smiglewski

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

4000 Clayton Road

Concord, CA 94521



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church exists to **reach** out in Jesus name and **gather** in deep community, to **learn** and grow into God's Kingdom, to **serve** our neighbor and **worship** the creator.