

# Shepherd's Voice

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**

*Feeding bodies, minds and souls...*

Volume 12 • Issue 7

2 Resurrection Church

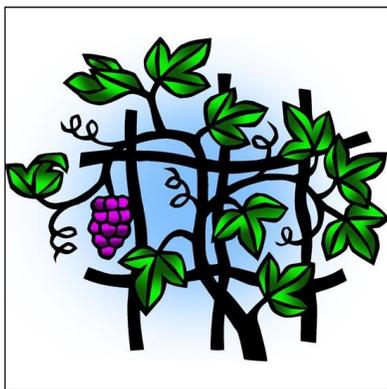
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*August Newsletter Articles  
due July 22*

**July**



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

**Regular Worship Schedule:**  
Sundays 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

**Summer Worship: 9:30 a.m.**  
Single Worship Service

## Rev's Reflections

*"Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread or sit in the seat of scoffers..." (Psalm 1:1, NRSV)*

Often I've read this psalm and thought, "Yes, I will not take the advice of the wicked, or follow sinners, or be a scoffer." I prayed earnestly that those outside influences would not lead me astray from God. But the truth is, we don't need an outside influence to lead us astray because we're both saint and sinner. We can do bad pretty well all by ourselves.

We need only the most gentle of breezes to change our course into willful sin. Mostly, and unnoticed by us, the draft in the air comes from our own breath. We fool ourselves into thinking it is a wind dragging us away from the outside, when really it comes from us blowing hard in one direction while looking in the other.

Too often we follow our own advice, rather than scripture.  
Too often we take our own sinful path, rather than the God trail.  
Too often we build our own thrones of scoffing, rather than the step ladder of encouragement.

We don't need to follow other sinners because we take our own advice, make our own way, and scoff at others.  
Because of our sin, the grace we are given in Christ is absolute and not dependent on our own willingness. It changes us from the outside in. The "saint" in the saint/sinner identity we have as Christians is solely the work of Christ; it unites us to God.

When we read the Word in scripture, or hear the Word preached, or are given the Word in communion it erodes away at the hardness of heart we cling to and reveals the hot air billowing from our lives.  
We can't boast of any righteousness because it comes from the Word; it is not our own doing. The Word does the work, we receive it; the focus is always on the one who acts (Christ), not the one who relieves (us).  
Therefore, receive the One who is acting in your life. Do not fight the change he is accomplishing in you.

Peace, Rev. J. Serrano

## Telling the Story: Our Resurrection Contact in El Salvador

Christian Ayala is Good Shepherd's contact at Resurrection Church in El Salvador. He is a talented young man who puts the needs of others before his own. People describe him as very gentle, soft spoken and a "go to" friend and family member.

He attended a Lutheran School in El Salvador during the country's civil war. When his good friend, the last in his group of young teens was killed, he was targeted by the death squads. His mother arranged for a hasty exit to Sweden where he remained for two and a half years.

When he arrived in Sweden he spent a month in a refugee camp and the immigration officials there placed him in a small apartment in Ornskoldsvik. At the time he was 15 years old and was taught how to take the bus to school and was given monies for food and transportation. It was difficult the first year. Not only did he have to learn a new language but he had to adjust to an unfamiliar country and climate.

Christian remembers spending Christmas in 1993 sitting, looking out the window, knowing everyone was enjoying the holiday and crying from loneliness. He missed his family so much (he had 12 brothers and sisters, 3 who were killed in the civil war). His only consolation was knowing his mother was probably doing the same in El Salvador. Phone calls were too expensive, so contact with his family was quite limited. While in Sweden he was "affectionately" known as the "black head demon." He didn't like being called that because even though he was proud of his black hair, he was not a demon. He told them, "I'm not a demon, I'm just a child of God like you."

Christian must have impressed the Swedish people because he was offered a scholarship in Sweden. He refused the scholarship, instead thanking them and encouraging them to find a more needy recipient. Christian still has ties to Sweden. Part of the monies to build Resurrection Church to date came from Sweden. Last month he was in Rwanda to support the Swedish people as they tried to help those in Rwanda.

Christian experienced much suffering during his youth. During the El Salvador civil war he and his family escaped to Honduras where they spent time in a refugee camp. Watch for more information next month on Christian experiencing the horrors of a civil war in his home country.



*Summer is here!  
Mark your calendar  
for these to dates to remember.*

- \* July 16 Church Kick Ball Game at Good Shepherd
- \* July 23 Facebook 101
- \* Aug. 13 Church BBQ and outdoor games
- \* Aug. 17 Pub(lic) Theology

## News from the Council President

Hello, I hope everyone is having an enjoyable summer!

As part of our monthly Church Council meetings, we have started to take time to identify the topics from the meeting that we feel will have the most interest to the congregation. Each month, I will then recap these items as part of my monthly newsletter article. The information you will find here, will replace the monthly Council Meeting Notes in the newsletter.

### Topics from our June 9<sup>th</sup> meeting include:

- \* In his Finance Committee report, Nils Anderson notes that the Congregation's total offering for the year is below what was pledged. As a friendly reminder, the pledges are what the bulk of our operating budget is based upon and it starts to become a problem if the offering does not keep up with pledges. If you are behind in your pledges, please do your best to catch up if at all possible. If you are up-to-date, my sincere thanks!
- \* There appears to be an increasing issue with doors being left unlocked. As one Council member pointed out, it is just a matter of time until someone gains entry and causes havoc. Therefore, please do your best to make sure that doors are locked and lights turned off prior to leaving. If you did not unlock the doors, please do not assume that someone will lock them. Also, we are working on having the existing alarm system in the Sanctuary made active once we install alarms in Fellowship Hall. At that point in time we will have further training on the operation of the alarm systems. It is unfortunate to go to that extreme but the instances of unlocked doors is just too great.
- \* Good Shepherd Lutheran Church has adopted a sister congregation in El Salvador! Sue Hertless gave a fantastic temple talk in the June 26<sup>th</sup> service elaborating on the conditions in El Salvador. I invite every member of the Congregation to stay tuned for more information on our sister congregation, Resurrection Lutheran, and to be open to helping them out. Sue has coordinated a Craft Fair for July 9<sup>th</sup> which will be a fund raiser for this purpose. Please do what you can to assist Sue in making this a successful event.
- \* The Evangelism Committee reports that our "Laying on of Hands Ministry" is up and running and the "Cards for the Homebound" program is continuing.
- \* Our faithful Property and Long Range Planning committees continue their work in keeping our facilities running. However, it needs to be noted that there are many cases of deferred maintenance where things need to be maintained but the money is simply not available to address them. Examples include the need to re-pave our parking lots, paint our buildings and replace our aging boiler, roofs, and deteriorating rain gutters. Please keep this in mind as we start to look ahead to next year's pledge/budget cycle.

'til next month,  
Peace!

# July Birthdays

David Batchelder	10
Jim Carson	11
Kelly Schaefer	11
Mickey Kuehner	13
Rosie Glenn	14
Betty Fraga	15
Sarah Mollwitz	15
Larry Sander	16
Regis Filibert	17
Ryan Filibert	17
Lucilleroose Fassl-Lemons	21
Amy Harris	22
Donna Abeyta	23
Mike Albrecht	24
Elizabeth Griffis	26
Patrick Carson	26
Donna Bauders	27
Sue Hertless	28
Marcia Sander	29
Khailynn Bartlett	31



# Summer at GSLC



**In June there were morning prayers offered at the BART Station and  
a fun game night on a very warm Saturday evening, complete with pizza!**



**In July . . .  
An All Church Kick Ball Game!  
July 16 at 4:00 p.m.**



### Cards for Those in our Prayers

On the 3rd Sunday of every month, there will be cards at coffee hour for you to sign!

We will be sending cards filled with our thoughts and prayers to members of the church who are homebound, have recently lost a loved one or are struggling in any other way.

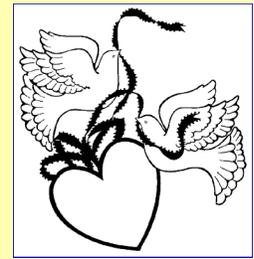
We want to make sure that these members know that they are not forgotten! The cards will be placed on a table in Fellowship Hall for the entire coffee hour, so please stop by and sign a few!

If you know of anyone in particular who should receive a card, please email Kristina Costa at [ketkva@yahoo.com](mailto:ketkva@yahoo.com). She will respond with an email confirming that a card will be made for that person.

### Wedding Anniversaries

Tyler and Kristina  
Costa  
July 18, 2015

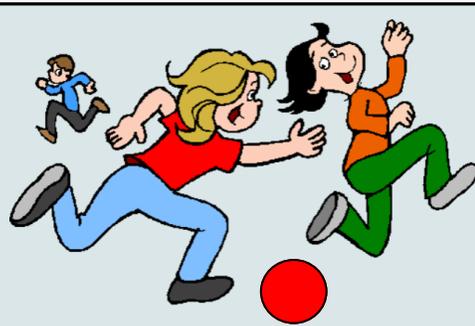
Greg and Kristi  
Buchholz  
July 31, 1993



### GSLC Directory News

Work continues on our updated church directory.

The process of updating members and friends is now in progress. In a few weeks we will have the directory proof available for each person to review their information and ensure it is correct. There will be two opportunities; dates to be announced soon. Thank you for your patience.



### ALL CHURCH KICK BALL GAME

Saturday, July 16  
4:00 p.m.

Join us at Good Shepherd  
for a great fun time!

### Facebook 101

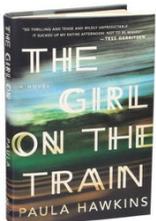
Saturday, July 23  
Fellowship Hall 10:30 am

This informative class is being offered to our congregation and will be led by Rev. Lunch is included.

Please RSVP to:  
[Rev@gsconcord.com](mailto:Rev@gsconcord.com)

### GSLC Book Club July Pick

THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN by Paula Hawkins is our next Book Club read. According to reviewer Janet Maslin at The New York Times, "The Girl on the Train has more fun with unreliable narration than any chiller since Gone Girl. . . ." Another review said it "pulls off a thriller's toughest trick: carefully assembling everything we think we know, until it reveals the one thing we didn't see coming."



Join us on July 12 at 7:30 pm in the Fireside Room to discuss this amazing Best Seller which will be a film starring Emily Blunt this fall! Questions? Contact Donna Albrecht at [donna-at-albrechts.com](mailto:donna-at-albrechts.com)

## 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.”



**Next FFF Lunch: July 16, 2016  
9:00 at Good Shepherd to prep. All are welcome!!**

Email us at: [friendsfeedingfriends@yahoo.com](mailto:friendsfeedingfriends@yahoo.com)  
OR  
[friendsfeedingfriendsca@gmail.com](mailto:friendsfeedingfriendsca@gmail.com)

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

**Items needed this month:**

- \* Kitchen towels
- \* Jams and Jelly, and canned fruit (dollar store is fine)
- \* Water glasses (We never have enough of these)

Friends Feeding Friends enjoyed a vacation in June.  
Below are a few Deniston Family Vacation photos from Nova Scotia.



**Congregational Invitation to Lunch**

**Telling the Resurrection Story**

**I would love to tell the story of Resurrection Lutheran Church in San Salvador. Hopefully, it will inspire you to share the message with others of their struggles, patience, and hope for the future. Our get together will be over lunch on Saturday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am until 1:30pm at my house. Lunch will be El Salvadorian food. Please RSVP if your are attending to: 925-357-5033.**

**I look forward to hearing from you and am excited about getting together to share the story of Our Sister Parish, Resurrection Lutheran Church and the El Salvadorian people.**

**Sue Hertless  
Evangelism Chair  
1763 Sharon Drive  
Concord, CA 94519**

# July 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><u>9:30 a.m. Sunday Schedule:</u>            9:30 a.m. Worship (CH)            10:45 a.m. Coffee (FH)            12:30 p.m. Lighthouse FH            6:00 p.m. NA Group (FH)</p>					1	2
<p><b>3</b>            9:30 a.m. Schedule See above.</p>	<p><b>4</b>  <b>HAPPY 4TH OF JULY</b>    </p>	<p><b>5</b>            3:00 p.m. Worship and Music Committee (FH)            7:00 p.m. NA (FH)</p>	<p><b>6</b>            8:30 a.m. Senior Food (FH)            2:00 p.m. Finance Comm            6:00 p.m. Lighthouse Chu (Classroom 3)            6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (FH)</p>	<p><b>7</b>            8:30 a.m. Senior Food (FH)            2:00 p.m. Finance Comm            6:00 p.m. Lighthouse Chu (Classroom 3)            6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (FH)</p>	8	9
<p><b>10</b>            9:30 a.m. Schedule See above.</p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b>            7:30 p.m. Book Club (FR)            7:00 p.m. Council Meeting (FH)</p>	<p><b>13</b>            7:00 p.m. NA (FH)</p>	<p><b>14</b>            10:00 DVLC Board (FH)            6:00 p.m. Lighthouse Chu            6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (FH)</p>	15	16 9:00 a.m. Friends Feeding Friends ( Kit) 4:00 p.m. Church Kick Ball Game
<p><b>17</b>            9:30 a.m. Schedule See above.</p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b>            7:00p.m. Property Comm. (Kitchen)</p>	<p><b>20</b>            7:00 p.m. NA (FH)</p>	<p><b>21</b>            8:30 a.m. Senior Food (FH)            6:00 p.m. Lighthouse Chu            6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (FH)</p>	22 <b>Newsletter Articles Due</b>	23 10:30 a.m. Facebook 101 (FH)
<p><b>24 / 31</b>            9:30 a.m. Schedule See above.</p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b>            7:00 p.m. DVLC Small Group Tutoring (FH)</p>	<p><b>27</b>            7:00 p.m. NA (FH)</p>	<p><b>28</b>            6:00 p.m. Lighthouse Chu            6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (FH)</p>	29	30
<p>CH = Church    FH = Fellowship Hall    FR = Fireside Room</p>						



# Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

## 2016 Executive Committee:

**President:** Greg Buchholz, **Vice President:** Leone McCullough, **Secretary:** Betty Jacobsen  
**Member-at-Large:** John Mott

## 2016 Congregational Council:

Nils Anderson, Candace Bradley, Greg Buchholz, Adam Castle, Sue Hertless,  
Betty Jacobsen, Leone McCullough, 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  
**Bell Choir Director:** Magic Jaquez  
**Choir Director:** Kathleen Flemming  
**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.