

Shepherd's Voice

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Feeding bodies, minds and souls.

Volume 12 • Issue 5

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*June Newsletter Articles due
May 21*

May



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

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

Rev's Reflections

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

– Philippians 4:6-7

May I confess something? Here it goes: planning for the future makes me anxious. Often I am paralyzed by the vast amount of possibilities that are before us as a congregation. At the same time, I am thankful to be in partnership with a Church Council who wants to make decisions. The Council is committed to moving forward in our ministries and using our property to its fullest potential. We have been discussing what we will do to provide the material resources that our Friends Feeding Friends Ministry needs. But, we need help. We need your prayers.

There is a precedent in scripture for this appeal. The prophet Nehemiah was tasked with rebuilding the outer wall of Jerusalem. At every step in the process he went before God in fasting and in prayer. Prayer literally guided his way.

So, I am calling on you to put on the same mind as Nehemiah. Will you please prayer for our congregation every day? Will you pray for our church council? Specifically pray that God will give clarity in the direction we should go, the unity of Spirit among us all to complete God's will, and the resources we need to complete the task.

What we all agree on is that our Friends Feeding Friends Ministry is in need. We need more space, we need more usable space, and we need to continue to fully support what our ministry does for the community.

I chose the Philippians scripture above because it is both a commandment and a promise. It commands us to not be anxious (I'm still working on that), and it promises that God's peace will guard us. We can be sure that God will guard our decisions and give us peace. We have exciting opportunities in front of us. Let us pray that God opens us up to see God's will for Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and move us forward together.

Peace, Rev. J. Serrano

Winter Nights' Thank you!

by Sue Hertless

Amazing Grace is what we saw and felt and how sweet it was to experience God's love for all of his children, as we joined with United Methodist Church for Winter Nights. This is a program of the Contra Costa Interfaith Council that helps homeless families transition into homes. We joined with families in the program by praying together, eating together, and playing together. Thank you to the volunteers: Elsie, Marcia, Maya, Marcus, Vickie, Kay, Nancy, Betty, Karen, Diane, Paul, David, and Pastor Jeremy who provided meals, play time and a feeling of comfort and care to our Winter Night guests. It was a job well done and they gave us a big shout out and "thank you card" which is hanging on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Take a few minutes to read it when you are in the Church on Sunday.

Seven families (totaling 30 people) were with us. There were 14 adults and 16 children. Eight children were between 1 and 5 years of age. This year was unique; the culture was diverse and stretched across God's kingdom from Chile, Samoa, Mexico, Middle East, and US. They were easy to please and loved the food we prepared each day. How do we know? There were no leftovers!!!!

We have already started planning for next year, our 12th year of working with Winter Nights. Nancy Judge had some great ideas. She suggested we meet with our guest one week before it is our turn to serve. Ask them if there was something special they would like for dinner? So, next year, we could be in for multicultural dinners and a challenge to our cooking skills.

Additionally, Nancy suggested for age appropriate children they might like to bake cookies from scratch. So next year could be different for our Winter Nights guest. Plan to join us next year to share your spiritual gifts and skills with those less fortunate. Our week is March 20th through March 26th, 2017.

The Evangelism Team



*While it may be Spring right now . . .
Summer is right around the corner.*

Here are some dates to remember.

- * May 8 Mother's Day, one worship at 9:30 a.m.
- * May 21 Movie night at Solano Drive-in, 7:00 p.m.
- * June 12 Summer Worship begins - one worship at 9:30 a.m.
- * June 18 Church Board Game Night in Fellowship Hall
- * July 16 Church Kick Ball Game at Good Shepherd
- * Aug. 13 Church BBQ and outdoor games

News From Our Council President

Hello Everyone,
Spring has arrived and we welcome the fantastic weather!

Recognitions:

I would like to thank the members of the Property and Long Range Planning committees who participated in the clean up day on April 16th. Everyone worked hard to clean up trash around the campus and trim back trees and shrubs to make it more attractive to all, but less attractive to those who want to camp out. Thanks to Tony Rogelstad, Jim Olson, Mark Deniston, Jon Moss, Linda and Jamie Rodemsky and Pastor Jeremy for all of their hard work.

I would also like to thank Sue Hertless and Betty Jacobsen for hosting a new member's dinner with the members of Council. This was a fantastic evening and really helped everyone become better acquainted.

Council Retreat:

The church Council participated in a retreat at GSLC on Sunday, April 3rd. Pastor led us in an interesting discussion of how the Christian 'Church' has had a history of major change about every 500 years, possibly brought on by changes in technology. Are we in the midst of such a change now? Has technology (internet, etc.) led this change? In the recent past churches were 'attractational' – if you build it they will come. Now the focus has shifted to 'missional' churches where the focus is outward, rather than inward. The modern church needs to train people to be disciples to tell the story of Christ and invite them into Christ's community.

We further discussed the purpose of the church and we took a closer look at the Ten Commandments.

Basically, each of the commandments can be broken into one of the following categories:

Fellowship – baptized into the fellowship of faith, not just coffee hour

Learning – teach to obey commandments, learn to become disciples

Outreach – telling the good story – 'go and make disciples...'

Worship – love the Lord, your God

Service – love thy neighbor as thyself

This led to a discussion on the purpose of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and what our vision is. A vision being defined as a clear mental image of what could be with a committed effort. A lot of the discussion involved what we can do with our physical campus. Other discussion involved what we can do to make GSLC more fun and desirable.

Lastly, we briefly discussed the Friends Feeding Friends ministry and our need to better define where we want to see this ministry in the future. FFF has a dire need for more/better space, as well as better broad support within the congregation. This is my number one goal for our Council – define where we want to be, and what needs to be done to get there. This will be a topic in upcoming Council meetings.

In Christ's Peace,
Greg Buchholz

Good Shepherd to Receive a Lutheran Sister Parish in El Salvador

by Sue Hertless

At their March meeting the Council agreed to support a Sister Parish relationship with an El Salvadorian Lutheran Church. What does such a relationship mean? I hope overtime it will mean that the church in El Salvador and Good Shepherd embrace each other's challenges and strengths and together find new ways to reconcile poverty, and social injustices. For now let's go slow in building that relationship.

First, we must be assigned a Sister Parish. An email has been sent to Merdardo Gomez, the Lutheran Bishop in Central America asking to be assigned a Lutheran church in El Salvador. The email included information about Good Shepherd, pastor, so Bishop Gomez can assign an appropriate church for us. Once assigned, we will receive a local contact in El Salvador.

As soon as we are notified of our Sister Parish, you will know about it; because we will do an email blast, Shepherd's Voice article, give a Temple Talk, place our Sister Parish on our prayer lists, and pray for them every Sunday morning.

While we are waiting to hear from Bishop Merdardo Gomez, let us pray for him and the Sister Parish he will be sending us.

Once personal contact has been made we can begin exchanging emails, letters, pictures, and stories. We will work together through any language barrier. Do not say "I don't speak Spanish." This can be worked out. Our prayer is anyone who wishes to build a relationship with a child or family from our Sister Parish will have an opportunity to do so.

As we better understand the struggles and needs of our Sister Parish Community, we may want to donate money for a specific cause. For example: the church community we are assigned may say they need a well as currently they walk 2 miles each day to get water. A line item would be added to our budget stating El Salvador – well. Any one wishing to donate to build a well could do so. This is just an example.

Because El Salvador was not in the budget for 2016 the Evangelism team may be fund raising to offset expenses that may incur. This is especially true if we want to dream really big and sponsor some young or adult church members to go to El Salvador next year to meet our brothers and sisters in Christ. Oops I said we would start slow. So for now lets pray about how a Sister Parish could fit into God's plan for Good Shepherd. Lets make this relationship something our church can embrace and give thanks to God.

The Evangelism Team



By Linda Rodemsky

Good Shepherd has been recently blessed with the addition of some awesome new members. Yes, they've been introduced in worship and had their photos posted in the Narthex, but the Evangelism Committee suggested that the monthly 'Shepherd's Voice' include a little bio on our newest members, bringing our 'family' even closer. This month, we're introducing the Bartlett Family, and Elsie Witt.

Sandra Bartlett, grand-daughter Krystle, and 2 great-grandchildren joined Good Shepherd in January. This family is big on traditions, love, and closeness. Sandra says our friendliness helped them feel like this is where they belonged. She jumped right in and joined the Evangelism Committee. If you miss Church for 3 weeks, Sandra's the one who'll be checking to see if you're ok! Sandra cherishes family time, cares for her great-grandchildren regularly, and loves scrapbooking, ceramics, and sewing.

Grand-daughter Krystle echoes Sandra's sentiments about family. She works for Wells Fargo, but especially enjoys hangin' with family. Krystle was raised going to Church, has Jesus in her heart, and wishes her children to learn the same. Attending Church together gives Sandra and Krystle some special time together. Great-grandchildren are in Pre-School and 1st grade, and are already active in Sunday School.

New member **Elsie Witt** isn't exactly a 'new' member. She belonged to Good Shepherd years ago when her 3 children were younger, but changed churches so that her children could have Confirmation and Youth Activities with their friends from school. Returning now, Elsie is enjoying reconnecting with old friends and making a lot of new ones. She says the New Member class was exactly what she needed to rejuvenate her Lutheran roots. Elsie has a degree in Early Childhood Education and Curriculum Development; so naturally, she followed her passion and became involved with teaching Sunday School even before she was a member! Her hope is that more adults will step up to assist, allowing Sunday School to grow and thrive.

Here's a heartfelt welcome to some delightful new members!

May Birthdays

Nina Ferrando	01
Isaac Mollwitz	01
Marilyn Sarchett	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



Mother's Day is May 8

**Join us for a Single Worship
at 9:30 a.m.**



Social Media and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Did you know Good Shepherd is on social media?

Check us out on: Facebook
Twitter
Instagram

You can find the links to all of these through our webpage at:
gsconcord.com

Deadlines

We all have deadlines, don't we? Church starts at 8:30 a.m. (or 11:00), your hiking club keeps calling about your report due last Tuesday. Is your budget done yet? We all have them and really, not too many of us like them. Yet, we all understand the reasons behind deadlines.

The newsletter you are reading right now has a deadline, too. Effective with the June newsletter, articles must be in the office by the 21st of each month! If not, an article may not be published in the month you intended.

As Walt Disney said, *Everyone needs deadlines.* Even church newsletters!

Church Women United Presents... Celebrating God's Gift of Friendship, Friday, May 6, 2016

- * Congregational Church of Christ, 1225 Court Street, Martinez
- * There will be a Coffee Fellowship at 10:30 a.m.
Program begins at 11:00 a.m.
- * Pot Luck Salad Luncheon begins at Noon. Join us!



Let's All Go to the Drive-In!

Join our church family for a movie. We will be seeing the first showing of Captain America Civil War at the **Solano Drive-in on Saturday May 21**. Bring your own food and snacks—It's a DRIVE IN! It can get cold, so make sure you bring some warm clothes and even blankets.

Let Rev. know if you are planning on coming so he can look out for you. If you have any questions call Rev. 925-405-5211.



Event info: Solano Drive-In at 7:00 p.m.
 1611 Solano Way, Concord, Ca 94520
 Prices: \$8.00 per adult and \$2.00 per child

May 22 / Free Concert in Concord

On Sunday, May 22, at 6:00 p.m. **Psalm 100** will be appearing at Sanctuary Ministries, 2250 Commerce Avenue, Suite D, Concord, CA For info call: 925-827-9637.

Ruth Circle Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Thursday, May 12

Join us for coffee at 10:00 a.m. and then enjoy a discussion on "Mary and Elizabeth" from Luke, regarding "Sisters across the generations." To help to help us to understand one another across the generations as supportive sisters.

Everyone is welcome!

May Leisure Lunch

Please join our Leisure Lunchers on Tuesday, May 17, from Noon to 1:30 p.m.

It's a celebration of mothers!
 Leisure Lunchers will gather on Tuesday, May 17th from noon - 1:30. We'll be sharing "Mother" stories in honor of Mother's Day. Call Susan and Bob Ripley for any questions: 925-827-9717.

come and celebrate mothers!

Wedding Anniversaries

Fred and Teresa
 Wagner
 May 5, 1974

Mike and Lisa
 Henry
 May 7, 1983

John and Holly
 Pereira
 May 10, 1975

Kurt and Jan
 Harman
 May 12, 1959

Larry and Sheila
 Huddleston
 May 13, 1972



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."



566 Grocery/Food bags distributed
577 People helped with food bags
230 Hot Meals served

Next FFF Lunch: May 21, 2016
9:00 at Good Shepherd to prep. All are welcome!!

Email us at: friendsfeedingfriends@yahoo.com OR
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

Highlights of the past month:

All the stuffed critters that we collected during Lent are now in the care of Concord Police. They will be put into each patrol car so officers can use them to comfort kids in crisis. Thank you!!

FFF recently furnished a couple who are in their 70s. They lost their house, and all their furniture when their business declined and they ended up bankrupt. Please keep them in your prayers.

- Items needed this month:**
- * Washcloths and hand towels
 - * Kitchen towels
 - * Can openers, potato peelers
 - * Pot holders
 - * Water glasses (we never have enough of these)



FFF also distributes pet food. If hungry people don't have pet food, they tend to feed their pets before feeding themselves



FFF purchases most food through the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano. We are thankful to be an approved pantry. By buying at reduced cost, we are able to help many more people now. This food goes into our small shelf stable bags.

Help Us Spread the Word...ESL Group Tutoring for Adults!



**WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPROVE YOUR ENGLISH?
IF SO, COME TO OUR FREE GROUP ESL TUTORING**

- Lessons are **FREE**— you will enjoy them too!
- You may be a **Beginner, Intermediate, or Advanced** English learner
- You may **drop in**— you do not have to commit to attending further lessons
- You must be **18 years or older**

ESL Group Tutoring for Adults

Presented by Diablo Valley Literacy Council

Group Tutoring Location
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at
4000 Clayton Rd., Concord, CA 94521

Dates and Times

Tues. May 24, 2016 7:00 pm—8:30 pm
Tues. June 28, 2016 7:00 pm—8:30 pm
Tues. July 26, 2016 7:00 pm—8:30 pm
Tues. August 23, 2016 7:00 pm—8:30 pm

To request information

Please call the message line at (925) 685-3881 or
e-mail us at DVLC4ESL@gmail.com
Visit our website at dvlc.tripod.com

Several tutors will be on hand



We continue to offer one-on-one tutoring in addition to a new program--**ESL Group Tutoring**--that starts in May and continues through August.

The first "group" tutor session is open Tuesday, May 24, from 7-8:30 p.m. at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in the Fellowship Hall.

The program welcomes any level of Proficiency --beginners, intermediates and advanced learners. We encourage folks to come as they are and just drop by and come in any time (between 7- 8:30 p.m.). DVLC group tutors will prepare all learning materials and activities to help learners improve their English--this is an opportunity for all interests and abilities.

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

Ministry Staff:

Pastor: Rev. Jeremy Serrano - rev@gsconcord.com
Office Administrator: Laura Mott - lauramott@gsconcord.com
Organist: Christopher Hewitt
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.