

# Shepherd's Voice

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**

*Feeding bodies, minds and souls...*

Volume 12 • Issue 10

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*November Newsletter  
Articles  
Due October 24*

## October



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

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

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

### Rev's Reflections

"Where there is no vision, the people perish." (Proverbs 29:18)

The church council has been praying, discussing, and planning for the future of our congregation. First, we agreed on the below mission statement which offers a direction for all church ministries.

*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.*

Second, we agreed that we achieve the pursuit of service to our neighbor, in line with this mission, through our Friends Feeding Friends (FFF) ministry. The council believes that we as a congregation should support its growth wherever God leads. We trust that we are joining in God's Kingdom work through our FFF ministry.

Friends Feeding Friends provides three major areas of service. Groceries and emergency food distribution: Last year we assisted more than 8,450 households (over 9,300 people) with emergency food and groceries.

Cooking hot meals for the Concord Shelter: We provide hot cooked meals to the Concord Shelter on a monthly basis.

Furnishing homes for homeless people transitioning from shelters to housing: FFF furnished residences for over 250 people in 2015.

Although these core services are what comprise the bulk of FFF efforts there is more to be done and can be done through our ministry.

In an effort to look toward the future we have been working with the FFF leaders to identify areas of growth, potential concerns, and future needs. These dialogues have provided two key insights.

1. The building where our FFF ministry operates the furnishing side of the ministry is dilapidated and unsuitable for continued use.

(Continued on page 3)

## The Pastoral Office

Open and honest communication is foundational for healthy Christian Community. So, the church council has decided to have a time every quarter in which we examine the direction of the congregation especially focusing on my ministry as the pastor. During this time we dialogue on what is going well and then we discuss any rocky terrain we may be on or heading into. These conversations are done in love keeping in mind Luther's explanation of the 8th commandment: **"We are to fear and love God, so that we do not tell lies about our neighbors, betray or slander them, or destroy their reputations. Instead we are to come to their defense, think and speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the best possible light."** I appreciate the time we spend doing this because it makes me a better pastor. I believe Scripture when it tells us, "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17).

One concern that was brought before the council was a discussion of my lack of posted office hours. So, I want to be very clear on when I am available as your pastor.

First, for an emergency, I am available 24 hours a day. If you or a loved one are going into the hospital, dying, sick, are in spiritual/emotional distress, going into labor, or any other situation in which I can come care for you as a pastor, pray with you, and sit with you in God's presence, I am here for you anytime. My cell phone number is 925-405-5211. Call or text me 24/7. If I don't answer, I will get back to you ASAP.

Second, my "regular" hours are Tuesday-Friday 9:00am-5:00am. I am in the office during this time especially in the morning. But, there are times during these "regular" hours when I am unavailable. Like when I am in a meeting, visiting parishioners, being in the neighborhood as a public witness to Jesus, attending additional trainings, sitting in the church in prayer, writing my sermon (it's impossible to do it in the church office), or doing some dad thing like picking up my children from school—you get the idea.

I appreciate when I can connect to you when you drop in on a whim, but if we miss each other know that I am doing some other pastoral responsibility. It is impossible for me to be both inside the office and performing the full scope of my pastoral duties outside the office at the same time.

So, if you have something that's not an emergency, but you want to meet with me, the best course of action is to call the office or my cell so we can arrange a time. I want to meet with you, share our lives together, increase each others faith, and share in the Kingdom of God with the work you are doing as a disciple of Jesus. Additionally, if you have a concern about my office hours please come speak to me directly, I would love to share the intricacies of the pastoral office.

Peace,  
-Rev.

(continued from page 1)

2. The growth of our other ministries is limited because of the amount of space we need to operate FFF. (This is a good position to be in—our ministries are growing!)

In light of this, we as a council are considering options to address these concerns. One solution we are investigating and are interested in is the possibility of building a new facility in the upper parking lot large enough to house all of our Friends Feeding Friends services in one building.

We recognize there are a number of questions this will raise, and an open line of discussion will need to be maintained to address concerns as they may arise in determining a course for the future of our congregation. As a council, we will be before the congregation to discuss our plans and ask that you pray for the council and participate in helping us fully formulate a plan. Together through this process, our goal is that God will provide direction and guidance for current and future ministries in His name.

Peace,  
Rev. J. Serrano



*The Fall Season has arrived!  
Mark your calendar  
for these to dates to remember.*



- \* Oct 12: Pub(lic) Theology 7:00 p.m. at E.J. Phair, Concord
- \* Oct. 16: Stewardship Campaign Begins
- \* Oct. 18: Leisure Lunch - Noon
- \* Oct. 30: **Reformation Sunday** One Service at 9:30 a.m.
- \* Oct. 30: El Salvador Luncheon following worship
- \* Nov. 6: All Saints Sunday
- \* Nov. 20: GSLC Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner 5:00 p.m.
- \* Nov. 27: First Sunday of Advent

## October Birthdays

Michael Morgan	04
Travis Fiene	05
Nathaniel Mollwitz	06
Andrea Berg-LeDoux	12
Betty Mae Jacobsen	13
Louise Cohen	14
Teresa Fassl	14
Ione Bantly	15
Chase Kreutzinger	15
Marcy Munson	20
Faye Yarbrough	21
Dana Deniston	24
Donna Monroe	26
Emilie Patton	26
LaVonne Busch	27
Ingrid Burns	28
Jamie Rodemsky	28
Helga Wardle	30
Greg Castle	31
Karen Maurer	31



## Leisure Lunch

Mark your calendar and please join us on October 18 .  
Our November and December luncheons are combined into one date;  
December 6th.

We meet most 3rd Tuesdays of the month from Noon - 1:30 p.m.  
Anyone who is available can come;  
simply bring your appetite and enjoy some fun and fellowship!

Please call Susan or Bob Ripley at 925-827-9717 for any questions.  
We look forward to seeing you!

## Ruth Circle Bible Study

When God Forgives The Guilty. The Bible story is about the "evil eye" in the Holy Land that Jesus referred to in the Bible. The "evil eye" is the eye of envy which often occurs when we see what our neighbor has and, instead of being glad for our neighbor's sake, wish the blessing were ours instead. Jesus questions our notions of what is "fair" in our eyes and presents us with a vision of what is "right" in God's eyes. Instead we have been taught, and believe, that we will be rewarded for doing the "right" thing.

Join us on Thursday, October 13 at 10:00 a.m.  
Morning coffee, Fellowship Hall followed by Bible Study in the Fireside Rm.



## Happy 101st Birthday to Louise Cohen!

Louise will be having a special Birthday Luncheon at the  
Concord Senior Center on Tuesday, October 11.  
All are welcome to join the festivities.



## GSLC Directory News!

So, here's the plan to get the new GSLC Directory to you all, who have so patiently awaited this publication. **FIRST, WE NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE!**

1. Laura is finishing up the rough draft for information proofing.
2. Candace Bradley and Kelly Schaefer have volunteered to be at a table on Sunday, October 23 and October 30 -- so you can proof your entry and write in corrections. Very important!
3. Candace and Kelly will call those who do not proof their entries.
4. Laura will finish corrections, add pictures and print the books.

## News from the Council President

Hello everyone,

Here are some highlights from our last Church Council meeting on September 20th:

- Recognitions:
  - o Everyone who helped with the barbeque – special thanks to Bob Ripley and Jim Olson for their barbequing skills!
  - o Property committee for managing the installation of the alarm system in Fellowship Hall.
  - o Jim Olson for replacing faucets at Pioneer House.
- Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is looking for someone to volunteer to take the role of Volunteer Coordinator. This person will help coordinate the various volunteer positions to make sure that we continue to maintain coverage of all the important volunteer positions that are critical to our ongoing operations. Please contact Rev or Laura if you have any interest or questions.
- The church director is alive and will be published in the near future. Please let Laura know if there are any changes to your contact info, or if you would like to have your photo updated.
- Our next Council meeting is scheduled for October 11<sup>th</sup>. Please feel free to attend if you are interested, we love to have visitors!

Until next time...

Greg Buchholz

## Wedding Anniversaries

Greg and Deborah  
Castle  
October 1, 1988

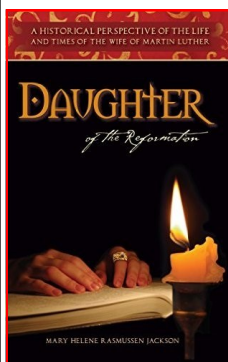
John and Laura  
Mott  
October 5, 1985

Karl and Karin  
Bohling  
October 11, 1980

Cal and Betty  
Fraga  
October 16, 1965

Larry and Marcia  
Sander  
October 20, 1973

Duane and Betty  
Peterson  
October 27, 1951



## GOOD SHEPHERD BOOK CLUB

At our next meeting, the Good Shepherd Book Club will be discussing, *Daughter of the Reformation*, the fascinating biography of Catharina von Bora, the wife of Martin Luther. The author is Mary Rasmussen Jackson tells Catharina's dramatic story with authenticity and compassion, deftly reporting what we know about von Bora and filling in the missing content with imagination, clarity, and compelling dialog. The reader is invited to walk beside Catharina, listen to her thoughts, and feel her emotions as she enters and eventually flees from the Nimschen Convent, meets and marries Martin Luther, and brings stability and grace to the Luther household even as the Reformation storm rages around them. Whether you're already a book club regular or a newbie, you'll want to be sure to come to this meeting and share in the discussion.

**We'll be meeting on November 1 at 7:30 pm in the Fireside Room.**

Questions? Contact Donna Albrecht [donna\\_at\\_albrechts.com](mailto:donna_at_albrechts.com).

To order a copy, check online or contact Susan Metzger at 686-4147. See you there!



## 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

## Friends Feeding Friends Highlights for the Past Month

<b>940</b>	<b>Bags of food distributed</b>
<b>867</b>	<b>People helped with food</b>
<b>133</b>	<b>Hot Meals served</b>

### Highlights:

- FFF provides groceries every day of the week as needed by the community.
- We accept most household donations that are in good, clean condition, that can be distributed immediately.

**Next Shelter Lunch: October 15, 2016 9:00 at Good Shepherd to prep.  
All are welcome!**

### Items needed this month:

- Hand towels and washcloths
- Spices, seasonings, salt and pepper (available at dollar stores)
- Travel size grooming supplies
- Volunteers to sort and bag linens. If you can help, please contact us via email.

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

Thanks to the food bank, FFF distributes a lot of fresh produce to our clients. The food bank provides the produce free of charge to the agencies that help distribute food to the community.



When we serve at the shelter, the county always wants us to serve the clients at the Philip Dorn Respite center first.

## San Salvador Artist and Musician, Christian Chavarria Ayala

Christian Chavarria Ayala is Good Shepherd's contact at Resurrection Lutheran in San Salvador. Sue Hertless and Betty Jacobsen were blessed to have him for their guide during their visit to El Salvador. He is a famous artist whose art work is recognized worldwide. He has painted a large cross to celebrate the Roman Catholic and Lutheran World Federation joint Eucharist in Lund, Sweden on October 31. Symbolism on the cross shows the world in God's hands and the invitation to all people to sit at Jesus' table. In addition to the large cross, Christian has been commissioned to make 10,000 small crosses which contain elements from the large cross for those attending the celebration.



Christian was humbled by being asked to design the cross and it is certainly an honor for someone who has had little formal art training. Christian began drawing at the age of eight when his family was in the refugee camp in Honduras. His mother would give away his drawings to visitors. What started as a hobby has turned into a livelihood for Christian. He uses El Salvadorian techniques in his art but has developed a style that is clearly his own.

Christian considers his art a gift from God to be shared with all people. He has painted crosses for many people around the world, including Pope Francis; the President of Finland; the Crown Princess of Norway and many archbishops including the Archbishop of Canterbury. His art has allowed Christian to travel and talk to people about the injustice in the world, the importance of faith and not using violence to solve problems.

Selling crosses in Finland allowed Christian to send his sister to high school. In total Christian has made over 80,000 crosses. He has a carpenter who cuts out the crosses and when he has a large order he sub-contracts other people to help him with some of the painting and finishing of the crosses. Christian appreciates the fact that his art can create jobs for people. One of his painters is an amputee who probably could not find work otherwise.

Besides his art, Christian has taught himself to play the piano, mainly to answer a need at Resurrection Lutheran. He currently plays the piano for the liturgy and hymns on Sunday mornings when he is in El Salvador. His latest project is to complete a hymnal for Central America's Lutheran churches. This involves translating 600 hymns and liturgies. And it's all because he believes if God gives you a gift, use it for His service and don't squander it.

Next month look for an article on Christian's faith and his desire to become a pastor.

A BIG THANK YOU to all who contributed clothing, medicine and computers for El Salvador. They were well received and will be put to good use.

Evangelism Committee

*The artistic crosses on the front cover and shown here are the art of Christian Chavarria Ayala. Both of these crosses can be seen hanging on the wall in Rev's Office.*

## STEWARDSHIP

October is, in most churches, a time to discuss Stewardship. A time to consider giving back to God, what God has so graciously and lovingly given to us.

Committees in need of volunteers for their ministries, the finance committee as they prepare to do the work of creating a budget for the year ahead, and church friends and members who fill out their pledge cards during the month of October are asked to think about their roles in practicing Stewardship. Each considering the practice of generosity, in being good stewards of both our own and others time, talents and treasurer.

The ELCA views Stewardship, “in its simplest form, as the practice of generosity. It is essential to the daily expression of our faith. As a Church that is energized by lively engagement in our faith and life, we know that understanding personal and household stewardship is crucial in responding to God’s abundant grace.

Each of us has a unique story, and we are part of a larger story that makes up the ELCA. In the Road to Emmaus story, it is at the household table where Christ is revealed and recognized, where hearts are warmed for greater sharing and generosity. Recognizing God’s story in our own story shapes our lives, identity and choices. When we join with other individuals and households in making daily decisions rooted in the stories of our loving and benevolent God, the result is our increased capacity to give generously and boldly participate in what God is up to in the world.

Congregations, like ours, have the opportunity to be a voice that teaches some very different ideas about time, talent and treasure. The practice of generosity takes the support of an entire faith community, conversation between individuals in all generations and a focus on households.

Living generously begins with the involvement of children and continues through every age and stage of life. On the ELCA.org site there are resources offered in support to help equip you and your family in becoming faith-filled, lifelong stewards.”

On Sunday, October 16, we will begin our time to pray and consider this opportunity to take time for the spiritual practice of generosity here at Good Shepherd. Soon, Stewardship packets will be available to pick up. Please fill out both the financial and time and talent pledge cards, so the work of the 2017 Budget can begin and committees can begin to plan their ministries for the coming year.

Let us all live generously with the gifts God has given us to care for all creation – our families, our church, our communities and our world!

We invite you to visit the site below and take a few minutes to do a personal spiritual assessment:

**<http://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Faith-Practices/Spiritual-Renewal/Assessment-Tools>**

– GSLC Stewardship Committee





# October 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Tuesday
8:30 a.m. Sunday Schedule: 8:30 a.m. Worship (CH) 9:45 Sunday School for all 9:45 a.m. Coffee (FH) 11:00 a.m. Worship (CH) 12:30 Lighthouse (FH)(#3) 6:00 p.m. NA Group (FH)	9:30 a.m. Sunday Schedule: 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)						I 9:00 a.m. DVLC Fall Training (FH) Part 2
2 9:30 a.m. Schedule See above.	3	4 1:30 p.m. Worship and Music Committee (FH)	5 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	6 8:30 a.m. Senior Food (FH) 6:00 p.m. Lighthouse (Rm. 3) 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (FH)	7	8	
9 8:30 a.m. Schedule See above.	10	11 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting (FH)	12 7:00 p.m. NA (FH) 7:00 p.m. (Pub)lic Theology E.J. Phair, Salvio St. Concord	13 10:00 a.m. Ruth Circle (FH) 10:00 a.m. DVLC Board (Rm 3) 6:00 p.m. Lighthouse (Rm.3) 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (FH)	14	15 9:00 a.m. Friends Feeding Friends ( Kit)	
16 8:30 a.m. Schedule See above.	17	18 Noon Leisure Lunch	19 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	20 8:30 a.m. Senior Food (FH) 6:00 p.m. Lighthouse Chu 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (FH)	21	22	
23 / 30 10/23 8:30 Schedule. 10/30 - 9:30 Schedule Reformation Sunday El Salvador Luncheon	24  Newsletter Articles Due	25 6:30 p.m. DVLC Small Group (FH)	26 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	27 6:00 p.m. Lighthouse Chu 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (FH)	28	29 10:30 a.m. Private event (CH)	
CH = Church		FH = Fellowship Hall		FR = Fireside Room			

## **Plan to Attend the El Salvadorian Luncheon and Learn More About Our Sister Parish**

You are invited to an El Salvadorian luncheon immediately following the worship service on **Reformation Sunday, October 30**. Come and enjoy an El Salvadorian lunch of pupusas, rice, beans, fruit salad and fried bananas. Sounds Yummy!!

Sue Hertless and Betty Jacobsen will be sharing their experiences when they visited San Salvador in September. You will hear about Resurrection Lutheran's celebration on their 44<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and about their school, clinic and homeless shelter. You will also hear about the contact made with Habitat for Humanity in El Salvador as Resurrection and Habitat explore the possibility of help in "raise the roof" at our sister parish.

You will see pictures that Sue and Betty took during their visit to Resurrection, to the National Cathedral, Archbishop Oscar Romero's home and the thunder and lightning storm one evening. Their presentation should take less than 30 minutes. And they have a surprise for the church. So plan to attend and learn about El Salvador, Resurrection Lutheran and of course the "surprise."

There will be a signup sheet in church on Sunday so we know how many people to plan for. Plan to attend.

Evangelism Committee



Resurrection Lutheran Church's future completed vision.

# Worship Assistants October 9, 2016 through November 6, 2016

Date	Time	Assisting Minister	Communion Assistant	Lector	Acolyte, Torchbearer	Crucifer	Altar Guild	Greeters	Ushers	Sound Ministry	Communion to Shut-Ins	Coffee Ministry	Counters	C.O.D.
10/09	8:30	Erin Wardle	Susan Metzger and Linda Rodemsky	Kelly Schaefer	Altar Guild	Caedmon Serrano	Ione Bantly Leone McCullough Karin Bohling Tracey Rentner	Ron and Mary Figueroa	Ron Figueroa Paul Rusch	Jamie Rodemsky		Jon and Heidi Moss	Karin Bohling and Gordon Monroe	Betty Jacobsen
	11:00							Mark Deniston						
10/16	8:30	Candace Bradley	Susan Metzger and Leone McCullough	John Mott	Altar Guild	Sam Buchholz	Donna Abeyta Nancy Judge Becky Berg	Willajean Rogelstad	Jim and Carin Olson	Jamie Rodemsky		Gary and Linda Mahloch	Karin Bohling and Gordon Monroe	Kelly Schaefer
	11:00							Sherry Chaplin						
10/23	8:30	Sue Hertless	Candace Bradley and Linda Rodemsky	Leone McCullough	Altar Guild	Allie Buchholz	Eise Welsh Heidi Moss Cindy Rogelstad	Ron and Mary Figueroa	Greg Buchholz and Sam Buchholz	Jamie Rodemsky		Greg and Kristi Buchholz	Carin Olson and Tony Rogelstad	Greg Buchholz
	11:00							Rosemary Fassl						
10/30	9:30	Kelly Schaefer	Susan Metzger and Linda Rodemsky	Rosemary Fassl	Altar Guild	Caedmon Serrano	Jan Harman Pam Dietz Willajean Rogelstad Linda Mahloch	Larry and Marcia Sander	Ron and Mary Figueroa	Jamie Rodemsky		Doug and Reyenne Freeman	Carin Olson and Tony Rogelstad	Nils Anderson
	11:00							Nancy Judge						
11/06	8:30	Lauren Wardle	Linda Rodemsky and Leone McCullough	Ingrid Burns	Altar Guild	Sam Buchholz	Laura Carlson Vicki Smiglewski Elizabeth Kich Sue Hertless	Kay Bennett Jeannette Kaul	Doug and Reyenne Freeman	Jamie Rodemsky		Jon and Heidi Moss	Herb Yonge and Greg Buchholz	Tony Rogelstad
	11:00							Tracey Rentner and Rosie Glenn						

## *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 - chrishe Witt@gsconcord.com  
**Bell Choir Director:** ----  
**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.