

Shepherd's Voice

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Feeding bodies, minds and souls...

Volume 13 • Issue 10

3 Rev's Reflections

4 Happenings

5 Council President News

6 Evangelism / Book Club

*November Newsletter
Articles
Due October 23, 2017*

October



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

Worship Schedule:
Sundays 9:00 a.m.



*Good Shepherd
Lutheran Church*

Reformation Festival

October 29 • 11:00am-4:00pm

Carnival Games • Food • Music • Bounce House

FREE fun for the whole family!

4000 Clayton Road. Concord 94521 • GSConcord.com

Rev's Reflections

This month we celebrate 500 years since the Reformation. Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the church door in Wittenberg in 1517. When I first became Lutheran I understood it to be a theological movement because Luther's Theses were theological.

I was brought into the Lutheran Church by a pastor who said, "If you can mix your Catholic upbringing with your recent Evangelical faith, you will do well in the Lutheran Church." That pastor went on to mentor me in the Lutheran Confessions, teach me how to read scripture, show me how to think theologically, and bring me up in the Lutheran Christian faith.

So, it came as a surprise to learn that some people have combined very specific ethnic traditions with their Lutheran faith. I have now heard all kinds of ethnic insider language that was, and to a large extent still is, foreign to my experience of being Lutheran. It seems like this language usage centers around Minnesotan, Scandinavian, and German identities, all cultures with which I am not familiar.

I remember hearing my first Olly and Lena joke and needing someone to break it down piece by piece because I didn't understand. I remember my first St. Lucia festival at church, thinking I've never even heard of this. I remember my first smorgasbord, needing to have someone explain lefse and smelling lutefisk for the first time.

All of these things were explained to me as "Lutheran things", but I didn't get it because it seemed very foreign to have Lutheran things that are not theological. I didn't comprehend why it was such a big deal for people to do this in a Lutheran Church. I knew Lutheranism for something else—theology. But, for some people it is a whole cultural identity.

There has been a muddling of ethnic identity and the Lutheran theological movement. I get this. My family often mistakes Mexican-American norms for Catholic norms. But, they mostly understand what they're doing. They know that not every Catholic church has menudo after the liturgy.

The Lutheran Church has grown outside of those cultural traditions for some time. We have Lutherans on every continent in the world.

While we can uplift and celebrate different cultural traditions, let us not equate them for our faith. So, what does a Lutheran look like?

A Lutheran is a person who....

1. believes in the 3 creeds of the church.
2. understands the Augsburg Confession to be a faithful witness to scripture.
3. knows that Jesus is the lens through which we understand God.
4. reads scripture as both law and gospel.
5. receives baptism and communion as gifts of God's grace.

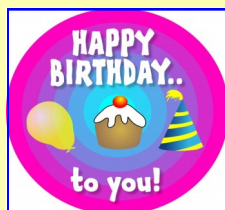
There are more I could add to this list, but this is a good start. Notice that none of these are culturally based.

As we celebrate the Reformation this month, let us remember that the Reformation of the Church was for all people, and crosses all cultures penetrating our heart and soul. Through the Reformation we became more aware of the love of God in Jesus and that transcends anything we bring with us into the church.

Peace, Rev

October Birthdays

Michael Morgan	04
Travis Fiene	05
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



Pub Theology Returns!

**Join Rev on Wed. October 11 & October 25
at 7:00 p.m.
as we discuss what it means to
be Lutheran.**

**We will meet at E.J. Phair Brewing Co.
2151 Salvio Street
Downtown Concord**

**The American Red Cross Blood Drive at Good Shepherd is Friday,
October 6, from 2 PM to 7 PM. - Fellowship Hall**

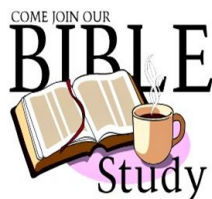
If you need assistance signing up online, please call the Red Cross at: [1-800-733-2767](tel:1-800-733-2767) or contact Candace Bradley at: [925-448-7809](tel:925-448-7809) . If we have enough participation this year, we can organize another drive for next year, and give this tremendous gift of life to others! Thank you!



– Candace Bradley, Social Ministry

Ruth Circle Bible Study Returns

We will be studying the second article of the Apostles Creed, which was developed as a teaching tool for faith. Please join us for this discussion. Coffee/tea & snacks will be shared before the study.



**WE MEET THURSDAY, October 12
FELLOWSHIP HALL AT 10:00am.
We hope you will join us.**

**CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL IS BACK. . . JOIN US!
We meet right after worship time in Classroom 3.**

Leisure Lunch in October!

Mark your calendar and please join us October 17 .

Don't forget our November and December luncheons are combined into one date; December 5
We meet 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.

Council President News

Hello everyone, here are some highlights from our Church Council meeting on September 12.

Recognitions:

- Elsie Witt for cleaning the Sunday School rooms.
- Kelly Schaefer for her years of service to Good Shepherd. She and Robert will be missed!
- Please mark your calendars for the Blood Drive on Friday, October 6. Thanks to Candace Bradley and the Social Ministry committee for arranging this event.
- We are in need of someone to take over Kelly’s position as the Chair of the Fellowship Committee.
- Please remember to put Sunday, October 29th on your calendars for our Reformation Festival!

Also, please sign up to run one of the booths. We need everyone from Good Shepherd to help out to make this a success!

A reminder that full minutes of our Council meetings are posted on the Good Shepherd website.

In God’s Peace,

Greg Buchholz
Council President



Halloween!

Wedding Anniversaries

Greg and Deborah
Castle
Oct 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

Our Annual Stewardship Drive is Coming...

500 Years of Living in Faith

What better way to start our Stewardship Drive by keeping with the Reformation Celebration?

Martin Luther said “We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it. The process is not yet finished....”

When you get your Stewardship packet search your soul and ask yourself what you would like to grow in yourself, your church and your community. We will begin our Stewardship Drive on Nov. 5.

Evangelism

Serving God by Volunteering in the Community

Are you a volunteer in an organization in the Concord area? Maybe it's volunteering at the hospital...Or the Alzheimer's Association....Caring Hands....Or at a school, or the Literacy Group here at church. Evangelism is defined as "the winning or reawakening of personal commitments to Jesus." It's using our hands for God's work as we live out our Christian faith.

The Evangelism Committee would like to develop a list of persons from Good Shepherd who volunteer at non-profit service organizations in our community. The list will be used to let others know about volunteer opportunities and a contact person from our church to ask questions. It will also be used to write articles for Shepherd's Voice.

Do you volunteer in an organization in our community? Let Betty Jacobsen know where you are volunteering. Call her at (925) 686-3895.

Big Thank You from Resurrection

Good Shepherd Lutheran received a BIG THANK YOU from Kemia Gomez, the head of the Medical and Dental Clinics at Resurrection Lutheran in El Salvador. They received \$1,000 in July from the El Salvador Fund at our church. The monies will be used to provide medicine for patients at their health clinic and a toothbrush and toothpaste for the children attending their dental clinic. Such supplies were badly needed as they often run low on medical and dental supplies. The supplies purchased will meet their needs for about three months.

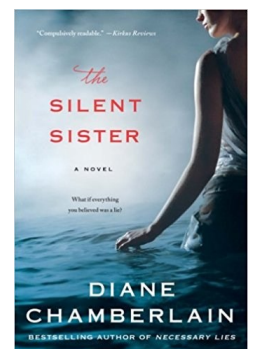


Good Shepherd Book Club November

Riley MacPherson grew up believing her older sister committed suicide. However, after her father's death, she finds proof that her sister is alive. Profound feelings of betrayal from her parents and curiosity about her sister send her on a quest to find her and uncover the truth behind the lies she'd grown up believing.

Join us on Tuesday, November 7 at 7:30 pm in the Fireside Room to discuss "**The Silent Sister**" by **Diane Chamberlain**. The Library Journal reviewed it and said, "Chamberlain's powerful story is a page-turner to the very end. A must for all mystery lovers and those who like reading about family struggles."

Questions? Contact Donna Albrecht at donna@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.”



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

- 1232 Families helped
- 1403 Bags of food distributed
- 1506 People helped with groceries
- 140 Hot Meals served

Highlights:

- In addition to distributing food and furnishing those leaving the shelters, we also picked up donations, applied for holiday assistance from the food bank, searched for housing options for clients, sorted incoming donation bags and boxes, boxed outgoing dishes and home starter boxes, bagged linens, provided coats and blankets to outreach, provided guidance on social services available in the county, steered those homeless needing medication to the CORE medical service van, and provided pantry lists to those living more than 5 miles away from GSLC.

Next Shelter Lunch: October 21, 2017: 9:00 at Good Shepherd to prep.
All are welcome!

Items needed this month:

- Travel size grooming supplies
- Small dressers and end tables
- Small dining tables

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



One blessing of FFF is that we meet and help amazing people. This is John. He was just like all of us until he was laid off from a well paying professional job and became homeless. He was the inspiration for our ELCA article in 2008. Sadly, he passed after complications from back surgery.

16 Friends Feeding Friends

domestic hunger



San Francisco, Calif.

“We want our food to be homemade and served with love.”

John had a good paying job in computers in the San Francisco Bay area—then he was laid off. As months grew into years without a new job, John sold his possessions and went hungry.

At a local park, John was served a free lunch by “Friends Feeding Friends,” a project of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Concord, Calif., and supported by a grant from ELCA World Hunger. Volunteers helped John prepare for his next several job interviews. They took him to get a haircut, grooming supplies, clothes, and stocked him with extra food so he could look and feel his best.

Six months later, John returned to the park, well-dressed and smiling. He had a job! “You believed in me when I didn’t believe in myself,” he said. He thanked the volunteers a donation, so that they could continue helping others.

When it began in 2004, “Friends Feeding Friends” served 58 people. Now, volunteers are able to prepare and serve homemade meals to 200 individuals who are low income or homeless. Project director Dana Denison said, “We want our food to be homemade and served with love.”


In addition to serving meals, they provide everything from school supplies to dog food in order to meet the specific needs of their new friends.

ELCA World Hunger fights hunger around the world and around the corner through relief, development, education, and advocacy. Your gifts support “Friends Feeding Friends” and more than 200 other domestic hunger projects.

To learn more about domestic hunger programs, visit www.elca.org/grantinghope

STORIES OF FAITH IN ACTION | 2008

October 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 a.m. Schedule See below.	2	3	4 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	5 8:30 a.m. Senior Food (FH) 5:00 p.m. Finance –Office 6:00 p.m. Lighthouse (Rm. 3) 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (FH)	6 2:00 p.m. Red Cross Blood Drive (FH)	7 9:00 a.m. DVLC Part 2 of 2 Training
8 9:00 a.m. Schedule See below. Blessing of the Animals	9	10 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting (FH)	11 7:00 p.m. NA (FH) 7:00 p.m. E.J. Phair GSLC Pub Theology 2151 Salvio, Concord	12 10:00 a.m. DVLC Board (FH) 10:00 a.m. Ruth Circle (FH) 3:45 p.m. Worship & Music 6:00 p.m. Lighthouse (Rm.3) 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (FH)	13	14
15 9:00 a.m. Schedule See below.	16	17 Noon Leisure Lunch (FH) 7:00 p.m. Long Range/Property (FH)	18 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	19 8:30 a.m. Senior Food (FH) 6:00 p.m. Lighthouse Chu 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (FH)	20	21 9:00 a.m. Friends Feeding Friends (Kit)
22 9:00 a.m. Schedule See below.	23 Newsletter Articles Due	24	25 7:00 p.m. NA (FH) 7:00 p.m. E.J. Phair GSLC Pub Theology 2151 Salvio, Concord	26 6:00 p.m. Lighthouse Chu 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (FH)	27	28 Men's Breakfast and Bible Study (Kitchen)
29 REFORMATION DAY! 9:00 a.m. Schedule See across. 11:00 a.m. Lower Lot Festival Begins!	30	31 	9:00 a.m. Sunday Schedule: 9:00 a.m. Worship (CH) 10:15 a.m. Sunday School (Rm 3) 10:45 a.m. Coffee (FH) 12:30 p.m. Lighthouse (FH) 6:00 p.m. NA Group (FH)			
CH = Church		FH = Fellowship Hall		FR = Fireside Room		

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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: Gloria Chuang
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.