

Shepherd's Voice

Volume 11 • Issue 12

A monthly newsletter of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

December 2015

Points of Interest

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7 Care Bears are Here

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**January Newsletter
Articles due December 21**

December



**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

There are two kinds of time we as the people of God experience. The first, is Chronos, which is the Greek word from which we get our English word "chronology"; this is clock time, calendar time. Chronos is one day after another. The other kind of time we experience is "Kairos"; this is God's time that is not dependent on the calendar but on the situation. God always seems to come just in time. "Kairos" means "the appropriate time or season." God comes in "Kairos" no matter what the calendar and clock say. The Christmas seasons with all their hope and joy comes again both on time and just in time.

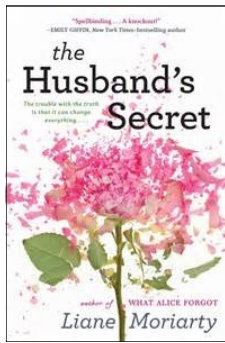
This year the Christmas Seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany are not only right on time by the calendar, but just in time. With all the news stories of terrorist attacks we really need a season of joy. This season brings joy because there is hope in Jesus. We of course are always in need of "tidings of comfort and joy," and we are always called to "repeat the sounding joy," the very "joy to the world" which comes from knowing Jesus alone. But there seems to have been so much tragic news recently, and while there has been much good news, it's often lost beneath the more prominent headlines of war and threats, fightings within and fears without.

The first Christmas was also just in time. St. Paul says, "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law" (Gal 4:4). For the whole world, this "fullness of time" had come. Time to end the reign of sin and death. Time to begin the restoration, renewal, and redemption of all God's creation. This time of restoration, renewal, and redemption began with the first Advent of Christ, and will be complete at the second Advent of Christ, when "He shall come again in glory to judge the living and the dead." Our joy is two fold; God has come into the world and will come again.

It's a blessing when this season of hope and light comes to lift our spirits from tragedy, anxiety, fear, anger, and even ungodly thoughts of revenge and hatred. Glory to God in the highest - the Christmas Seasons this year come just in time.

Peace,
Rev. Serrano

GOOD SHEPHERD BOOK CLUB ~ January 2016



THE HUSBAND'S SECRET by Liane Moriarty is the novel Good Shepherd's Book Club is reading for our Tuesday, January 5 meeting. The book asks people to consider what they would do if they found a letter written years ago by their spouse marked 'to be opened in the event of my death.' Of course, the character opens the letter, and therein lies the story.

In an Amazon review, it notes: "*Moriarty here wittily and observantly chronicles the life of middle-aged, middle-class Australian women, suburbanites who grapple with prosaic issues like marital fidelity and torturous ones like moral guilt and responsibility.*"

Start the new year by joining us at this meeting. You know you've been wanting to! We'll see you on January 5 at 7:30 pm in the Fireside Room! Contact Donna Albrecht at donna-at-albrechts.com



Cocoa, Cookies and Carols

Drop in to the Pastor's House for
Hot Cocoa, Delicious Cookies and Christmas Carols
from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on
Sunday, December 20.



THANKS TO FRIENDS FEEDING FRIENDS

Recently, I had an opportunity to be in the office with Laura when a middle aged gentleman came to door. It was raining and he was hoping we had some dry warm socks in the bin. Yes, there were some socks, plus he found a warm coat.

He asked if we had some food, which again we had in the office. He selected some of the items from one of the bags and only took what he could/would use.

It was a good feeling to see this person in need being helped because of our Friends Feeding Friends program. All of our members and friends who support this program should be thanked.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR HAPPY GRANDPARENTS!

Anne Brandt and Gary & Linda Mahloch are happy Grandparents. Why you ask? Well, Amy Brandt, Anne's granddaughter attended Hastings Law School, Christopher Hammond, Gary and Linda's grandson, attended Bolt Law School at Cal Berkeley. They took the Bar Exam on the same day and they both passed on their first try. The best news is they are both gainfully employed. Good Job!

A Message from our Council President

I understand a big THANK YOU is in order to Emilie and her fantastic group for putting on a very successful Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday, November 22. Kathy and I missed the fun event as we were in Mexico for the week enjoying the warm sunshine and did not return in time for the festivities.

December will be a busy month. Our Nominating Committee will be presenting the names of several members at the December Council meeting who have agreed to be considered for Council. It would be helpful to have a few more members willing to serve. If you are so inclined please let me know. Also, at our Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 31, 2016, nominations may be made from the floor.

Hopefully, we have all turned in our pledges of Time, Talent and Treasure for next year. Everyone's contribution is vital to our continued health as a caring congregation.

Just as soon as the information from the TT&T pledges are gathered, we will be able to provide our committee chairpersons with the names of those who have volunteered in their chosen areas of service as well as develop the final 2016 Budget.

At our December Council meeting we will have the final review of the updating of our Constitution. We should have the document ready to be voted upon at the Annual Meeting on January 31, 2016.

We will be decorating our Christmas Trees on Saturday, December 5th at 10:00 a.m.

The Diablo Valley Literacy Council will be having their annual Christmas party on Saturday, December 5th in Fellowship Hall. As I mentioned in September, they have a waiting list of students needing tutors.

Remember the Reason for the Season.
Peace, Herb

GOOD SHEPHERD INCOME STATEMENT			
AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2015			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	Difference
INCOME:			
Pledges	\$109,043	\$121,382	(\$12,339)
Unpledged	25,920	19,313	6,607
Other (Tower, Rent, etc.)	89,688	69,252	20,436
TOTAL INCOME	224,651	209,947	14,704
LESS TOTAL EXPENSE	(195,208)	(213,231)	(18,023)
NET INCOME	\$ 29,443	\$ (3,284)	\$ (32,727)
THANK YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT.			
PLEASE NOTE PLEDGES ARE UNDER BUDGET BY \$12,339.			
IS YOUR PLEDGE CURRENT?			

*Christmas Tree
Decorating
begins at
10:00 a.m.
Saturday,
December 5,
in the Sanctuary.*



December Birthdays

Elizabeth Kich	04
Richard Koehler	05
Kathy Price	05
Carter Munson-Ring	06
Wilma Seppala	08
Lori Randolph	08
Aimee Olmedo	08
Monica Berg	13
Madelyn Setchell	14
Lilah Roza	17
Carin Olson	18
Bob Ripley	19
Karl Bohling	22
Madison Berg-LeDoux	23
Dylan Magic	23
Evelyne Kingwell	24
Judy Haier	25
Allison Buchholz	31
Rosemary Fassl	31
Timothy Harless	31



November 2015 - Council Meeting Notes

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm by president Herb Yonge.

Members present: Herb Yonge, Nils Anderson, Donna Albrecht, Laura Mott, Emilie Patton, Pastor Jeremy Serrano, Vicki Smiglewski, Leone McCullough, Jon Moss, and Tony Rogelstad.

Member absent: Greg Buchholz.

Devotions were given by Herb.

Recognitions: Worship and Music through Leone recognized Ondine Young for her service leading the choir. Herb recognized the constitution review committee; Laura, Donna and Greg for their work in updating the church constitution.

Pastor recognized all who attended the latest Healthy Start meeting. Jon recognized Jamie Rodemsky, Greg Buchholz and Tony Rogelstad for their continuing efforts to maintain and improve campus lighting.

John Mott was recognized for coming to the campus late Saturday after an event to help Laura to secure the campus, making sure all doors were locked.

Pastor recognized Betty Jacobson and Wilma Seppala for making the baptismal banners and Jim Olson for making the door in frame for Reformation Sunday where members nailed their ideas.

Vicki and Laura were recognized for assembling the stewardship packets.

Emilie was thanked for stepping in as interim choir director.

Nils thanked Pastor for the way he involved the youth in their first communion experience.

Pastor's Report: Pastor requested an amendment to his previous report to indicate that Lynne Davies resigned as organist and enter the fact of the letter existence in the Minutes. Nils moved to accept Lynne's resignation letter; Leone seconded. Msc.

The positions of Treasurer, Financial Secretary and Choir Director are currently open. Donna moved to name Laura Mott as the Treasurer and Emilie Patton as Interim Choir Director. The motion was seconded by Vicki. Msc. It was moved and seconded that Vicki Smiglewski be named Financial Secretary. Msc.

(Continued on next page.)

(Council Meeting Notes continued from previous page)

Nominating Committee: The Committee met just before the Council meeting and came up with a list of people to contact as possible Council candidates for next year. The slate must be available at the next Council meeting. Council members who are leaving the council are Laura Mott, Vicki Smiglewski, Donna Albrecht, Emilie Patton, Jon Moss, and Herb Yonge.

Mutual Ministry: Members willing to serve are Nils Anderson, Greg Buchholz, Candace Bradley and John Mott. Emilie moved that the council accept those four people as the Mutual Ministry Committee; Vicki seconded. Msc.

The church directory has been delayed so that new members being accepted in January can be included.

Annual Meeting will be January 31, following a single worship service.

Worship and Music: Advent starts November 29. Emilie Patton has agreed to be our choir director until at least the end of January. Tony moved that Emilie be employed at our going rate beginning November 9, and paid as an employee. Jon seconded the motion. Msc.

Social Ministry: Vicki reminded Council that they are accepting grocery store cards for families in need. The cards will supplement the food provided by Friends Feeding Friends to allow the families to customize their meal.

Motion to adjourn made by Leone; seconded by Tony.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 pm with a prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Albrecht

Wedding Anniversaries

Ron and Mary
Figueroa
December 15, 1967

Adam and Sarah
Mollwitz
December 31, 1996



Lunch Bunch is December 6

Are you in Middle or High School? Do you like food? Then join the Rev for lunch on the first Sunday of the month, December 6.

The group will meet after the second worship service and head to a local restaurant for some food and conversation. Please let Rev know if you can make it!



*Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Christmas Eve Worship Schedule*

7:00 p.m.

&

11:00 p.m.



Silent Night, Holy Night

Care Bears Have Arrived !

Following a Good Shepherd tradition, we will help some needy folks have a little more joy this holiday season. Please check out the small Christmas tree in the Narthex. It's decorated with bears describing special wishes along with a little background information on the recipient. As you are able, choose a bear from the tree, purchase the gift, wrap it, attach the bear to the present and deliver it to church. Our Friends Feeding Friends group will sort and deliver these gifts just prior to Christmas. If you have any questions, please contact Dana Deniston at 768-9087 or Linda Rodemsky. Or email us at: friendsfeedingfriends@yahoo.com



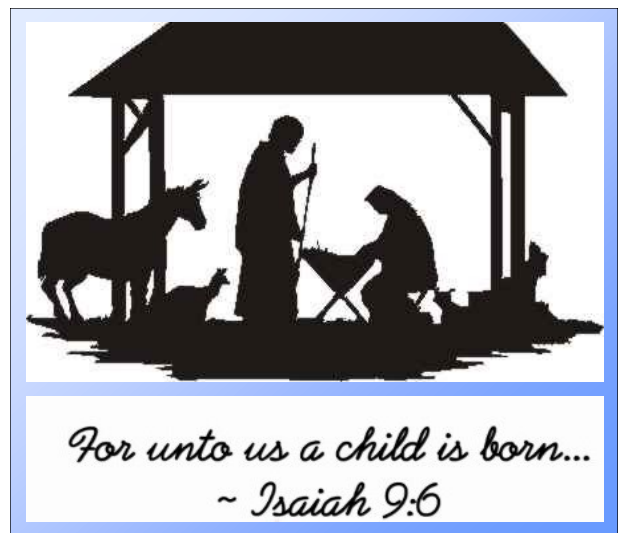
Note: Gifts must be received by December 16. Thank you!

Sunday Snacks Needed

Do you like a little cookie or a doughnut with your Sunday coffee? If your answer is yes, then please consider providing a treat to share with everyone on Sunday mornings.

Most Sundays we are serving about 30-35 folks. We usually serve about 3 to 4 dozen cookies, or 3 dozen donuts and we serve about 4 quick breads.

Thank you from the Socialuths!



Membership at GSLC

If you are considering membership at Good Shepherd Lutheran, please mark your 2016 calendar and plan on attending the following events:

- Sunday, January 17, Rev will host a new member class between services.
- Sunday, January 24, there will be a dinner for those wishing to become members at 6:00 p.m. at the church.
- January 31, new members will be received at a single worship service at 9:30 a.m.

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."



955	Grocery/Food bags distributed
1,286	People helped with food
450	Hot Meals served
16	People helped with household furnishings

Next FFF Lunch: December 19, 2015: 9:00 a.m. 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:

- Ameriprise Financial donated several hours to help FFF. They packed food and grooming supplies, and cooked and served a shelter Thanksgiving meal. Thank you, Ameriprise!!
- FFF distributed a lot of food this month, including Thanksgiving groceries. Thank you to all who donated gift cards and groceries to help make this possible!
- As you do your holiday shopping, please consider using Amazon Smile at: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-1564846>. Indicate Good Shepherd Evangelical Church in Concord as your charity, and place your order as usual. Or, tap the link on our Good Shepherd Facebook page. Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase total to FFF!!

Items needed this month:

*** Canned meals (chili, ravioli, spaghetti, stew, etc.) * Pillows (clean, not stained) * New socks**



Staff from 4 Ameriprise Financial offices donated their time to help FFF on Nov. 13.

← The work day was a blessing to all of us. Shelter residents loved the Thanksgiving meal that we prepared and served.

Ameriprise staff and their families helped pack → our Thanksgiving groceries for the community.



December 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Noon Leisure Lunch (FH)	2 3:00 p.m. Worship and Music (FH) 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	3 8:30 a.m. Senior Food (FH) 2:00 p.m. Finance Comm. 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (FH)	4	5 9:00 a.m. DVLC Christmas Party (FH) 10:00 a.m. Tree Decorating (CH)
6 8:30 a.m. Schedule See below. Second Sunday in Advent	7 10:30 a.m. Quilting (FH) 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting (FH)	8 7:00 p.m. Council - Meeting. (FH)	9 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	10 10:00 a.m. Ruth Circle 2:00 p.m. Finance Meeting 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (FH)	11 10:00 a.m. DVLC Board Mtg. (FH)	12 9:00 a.m. Private Event (FH)
13 8:30 a.m. Schedule Third Sunday in Advent	14 10:30 a.m. Quilting (FH)	15	16 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	17 8:30 a.m. Senior Food (FH) 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (FH)	18	19 9:30 a.m. Friends Feeding Friends (Kitchen)
20 8:30 a.m. Schedule Fourth Sunday in Advent 6:30 p.m. Pastor's Home Open House	21 Newsletter Articles Due	22	23 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	24 Christmas Eve Worship Times: 7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.	25 Church Office Closed	26
27 9:30 a.m. Schedule Lessons and Carols	28	29	30 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	31 New Year's Eve Church Office Closed	9:30 a.m. Sun. Schedule: 9:30 a.m. Worship (CH) 10:45 a.m. Coffee (FH) Coffee (FH) 6:00 p.m. NA Group (FH)	8:30 a.m. Sunday Schedule: 8:30 a.m. Worship (CH) 9:30 a.m. Coffee (FH) 9:40 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 6:00 p.m. NA (FH)
CH = Church		FH = Fellowship Hall		FR = Fireside Room		

Worship Assistants December 6, 2015 - January 3, 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.
12/06 Second Sunday of Advent	8:30	Kelly Schaefer	Sue Hertless and Susan Metzger	Candace Bradley	Altar Guild	Sam Buchholz	Donna Abeya Nancy Knapp Nancy Judge Becky Berg	Jauire and Else Welsh	Ron Figueroa Vicky Smiglewski	Jamie Rodemsky		Greg and Kristi Buchholz	Greg Buchholz and Nils Anderson	Donna Albrecht
	11:00							Connie Summers						
12/13 Third Sunday of Advent	8:30	Lauren Wardle	Rosemary Fassl and Candace Bradley	Rosemary Fassl	Altar Guild	Allie Buchholz	Kathy Price Else Welsh Heidi Moss Cindy Rogelstad	Willajean Rogelstad	Jim and Carin Olson	Jamie Rodemsky		Doug and Reyanne Freeman	Greg Buchholz and Nils Anderson	Herb Yonge
	11:00							Jay Neyenhouse						
12/20 Fourth Sunday of Advent	8:30	Sue Hertless	Susan Metzger and Linda Rodemsky	Nils Anderson	Altar Guild	Doug Olson	Jan Harman Pam Dietz Willajean Rogelstad Linda Mahloch	Larry and Marcia Sander	Greg Buchholz and Sam Buchholz	Jamie Rodemsky	Duane Peterson	Jon and Heidi Moss	Joe Carlson and Paul Rusch	Nils Anderson
	11:00							Mark Deniston						
12/27 One Service	9:30	Duane Peterson	Rosemary Fassl and Leone McCullough	TBD	Altar Guild	Caedmon Serrano	Laura Carlson Vicki Smiglewski Elizabeth Kick Sue Hertless	Kay Bennett and Jeannette Kaul	Gary and Linda Mahloch	Jamie Rodemsky		Ron and Kathy Price	Joe Carlson and Paul Rusch	Greg Buchholz
1/03	8:30	Kelly Schaefer	Linda Rodemsky and Duane Peterson	Linda Rodemsky	Altar Guild	Sam Buchholz	Ione Bantly Leone McCullough Karin Bohling Tracey Rentner	Jauire and Else Welsh	Ron Figueroa and Paul Rusch	Jamie Rodemsky		Gary and Linda Mahloch	Jan Carzino and Betty Jacobsen	Leone McCullough
	11:00							Rosemary Fassl						

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
4000 Clayton Road
Concord, CA 94521

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church *Concord, CA*

2015 Executive Committee:
President: Herb Yonge, **Vice President:** Leone McCullough, **Secretary:** Donna Albrecht
Member-at-Large: Vicki Smiglewski
2015 Congregational Council
Donna Albrecht, Nils Anderson, Greg Buchholz, Leone McCullough, Laura Mott,
Jon Moss, Emilie Paton, Tony Rogelstad, Vicki Smiglewski and Herb Yonge
Ministry Staff:

Pastor: Rev. Jeremy Serrano - rev@gscconcord.com
Office Administrator: Laura Mott - lauramott@gscconcord.com
Interim Organizer: Lynne Davies
Bell Choir Director: Magic Jaquez
Choir Director: Ondine Young
Contemporary Music Leader: Tom Deans Flegel - tdeans08@gmail.com
Sound/Technology: Jamie Rodemsky - jamier1263@gmail.com
Treasurer: Lynne Davies - finance@gscconcord.com
Financial Secretary: Laura Mott - lauramott@gscconcord.com