

Shepherd's Voice

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Feeding bodies, minds and souls...

Volume 13 • Issue 11

November 2017

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December Newsletter
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November



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

Worship Schedule:
Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

Rev's Reflections

It's November! Soon we will be celebrating Thanksgiving. Though this is a National holiday and not a Christian holiday, I still appreciate that it's a time in which we pause to give thanks to God and each other.

I spend every Thanksgiving in Arizona with my wife's side of the family. I often joke that the few days they spend together at Thanksgiving is so sacred that my involvement was written in our prenuptial agreement. I have been going on this trip for 17 years and it has become sacred to me as well. I enjoy the time that we spend together and I appreciate one tradition that we do without fail. Before we pray over our meal, we each give thanks for something in our lives. This isn't an uncommon tradition. If you don't already do it, I hope you try it this year and that it becomes a holy moment during the holiday. There is something encouraging about voicing in public with others those things we are thankful for.

The Psalmist declares, "I will give thanks to you, God, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds" Psalm 9:1.

When we are thankful to God for all that we have, our outlook on the world is facing in the right direction. As we give thanks to God for our family, friends, life, daily bread and everything else, we are acknowledging that all of these are a gift from God.

When I reflect on my family, ministry, and our congregation, I have much to be thankful for.

On Nov 3, 2017, I celebrated the 3 year anniversary of my call to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. I am thankful that you as a congregation have welcomed me to be your pastor.

I am thankful for you, the people of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. I appreciate the way you took the idea to have a celebration of the Reformation and turned that into a Festival for the community.

I am thankful that as a community we reach out to those who are homeless, hungry, and in need because God calls us to serve our neighbor.

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I am thankful that we are globally minded and have reached beyond our borders to Resurrection Lutheran Church in El Salvador. I appreciate that we have a sister parish relationship with them that we continue to explore and define.

Lastly, I am thankful for the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ that I see evident in the lives of you parishioners.

So, as we pass through Thanksgiving, into the Advent Season and Christmas, May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Peace,
- Rev

Thank you

There will be a "Thank You" Lunch for everyone who worked on the Reformation Festival. The lunch will be held here at Good Shepherd in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, November 12 at 1:00 p.m. There is a sign up sheet today in the Narthex. Please sign up so we know how many to expect.

Second Chance Boutique

Betty Jacobsen volunteers once a week at Second Chance, a boutique that sells new and slightly used clothing and accessories for women, men and children. Proceeds from the boutique support the California Reentry Institute (CRI), which is a pre and post release program at San Quentin. If a prisoner goes thru the program as an inmate and is paroled a member of CRI meets the parolee at the prison gate and supports them outside the prison walls. This can involve helping them find jobs, medical service, transportation, giving them cell phones (to communicate with family and parole officer) and much more. Roland House supports parolees at a cost of about \$6,000 per person compared to about \$64,000 to incarcerate. That's a saving of \$58,000 per man.

Collette (who developed the CRI program) has worked with prisoners at San Quentin for 17 years; she started CRI and the first class began in January, 2014. She has never had someone that she worked with that was granted parole who has return to prison. That's a 100% success rate. And that doesn't mean no one was paroled. In planning a reunion of parolees she'd helped, there are over 20 just in our area and more in Southern California. It's a wonderful program and that's why Betty volunteers at Second Chance. It is a privilege to volunteer and get to know Collette, the other volunteers and even some ex-cons.

CRI is a two year program at San Quentin. The first 12 months is spent on Emotions, which is followed up with understanding and learning to avoid Criminal and Addictive thinking. The program is designed to help men in prison understand the causative factors of their crime.

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A Message from our Council President

Hello everyone,

First off, I would like to thank everyone who helped make the Reformation Festival such a success! As always, our congregation came together, worked hard and made the event a special one for all who attended. In particular, Pastor Jeremy and Sue Hertless put in countless hours over this past year in planning and coordinating the event.

Here are some highlights from our Church Council meeting on October 10th.

- Recognitions:
 - o Kay Bennett and Connie Batchelder for passing out Reformation Festival flyers.
 - o Laura Mott and Pastor Jeremy for their help with the blood drive.
 - o Laura Mott for all the help with the Stewardship Drive preparation.
- The blood drive on October 6th was a success! Thanks to Candace Bradley for coordinating the event. 33 people joined us at Good Shepherd to donate blood!
- We are still in need of someone to take over Kelly's position as the Chair of Fellowship. My thanks to Carin Olson for volunteering to coordinate the GSLC Thanksgiving Dinner!
- Pastor Jeremy has been working with several other local churches to establish an ecumenical youth group. You will be hearing more on this in the upcoming months.
- Lastly, a reminder that full minutes of our Council meetings are posted on the Good Shepherd web site.

In God's Peace,
Greg Buchholz
Council President

FREE THANKSGIVING DINNER Prepared Especially for You!

When: Thanksgiving Day November 23
Time: 11:30 am to 2:00 pm
Where: First Lutheran Church
4000 Concord Blvd., Concord



To arrange for transportation or to volunteer please call: 925-483-4913

GIVING THANKS at THANKSGIVING - Sponsored by several Contra Costa Bay

November Birthdays

Pr. Jeremy Serrano	02
Erika Berg	06
Christopher Chaplin	06
Ron Figueroa	07
Everett Roza	07
Alexander Bohling	09
Wendy Pritchard	09
Laura Carlson	10
Daniel Johnson	13
Geralyn Koehler	14
Jon Moss	17
J.R. Oehninger	19
Sharon Peterson	23
Wayne Sarchett	25
Heidi Moss	27
Jessica Serrano	27
Zachary Hein-Silva	28



Help Our Turkey Lose His Feathers before Thanksgiving

Pluck a feather in the narthex, attach a grocery gift card for any amount and bring the card and feather to the church office during the week.

Friends Feeding Friends will distribute the gift cards with Thanksgiving groceries to those in need. Your turkey and those we are able to help thank you!



Questions: Contact Dana Deniston, Linda Rodemsky or friendsfeedingfriends@yahoo.com

Wanted! S B C & G's That's Socks, Blankets/Sleeping Bags, Coats and Gloves



We are seeking **new** crew socks (all sizes), and **new** or **gently used** blankets, sleeping bags, and coats (all sizes), and gloves, to share with people who need some help keeping warm. These items will be distributed at the “*Giving Thanks at Thanksgiving*” dinner offered at First Lutheran Church on Thanksgiving Day. Monetary donations are also appreciated.

Please bring your donations to:
First Lutheran Church
4000 Concord Boulevard, Concord.
If you have any questions, call 925-671-9942

THANK YOU !

Our blood drive was very successful – 33 people donated! We had a great donation response through the Red Cross website and drop-ins!

Your Social Ministry team hopes to sponsor a blood drive annually . . . and, who knows, maybe twice a year!

Candace Bradley
Social Ministry Chair

**Serving God by Volunteering in the Community.**

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 our church newsletter. Read Betty Jacobsen’s volunteer story beginning on Page 2 of this newsletter.

*Wedding
Anniversaries*

Richard and GERALYN
Koehler
November 10, 1990

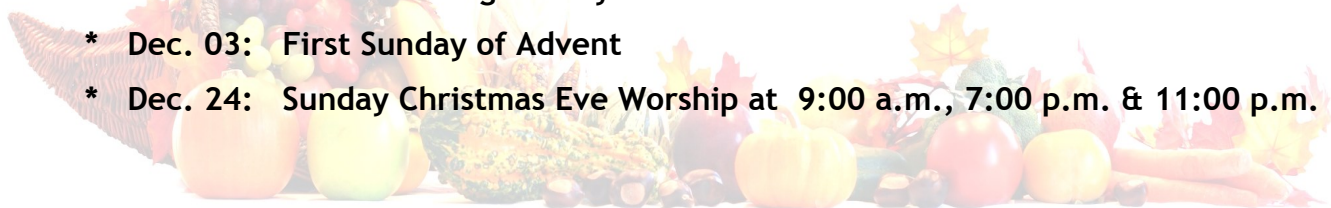
Joe and Faye
Yarbrough
November 22, 1953

Mike and Janet
Carzino
November 30, 1958

All men are invited to join Rev in the kitchen for hot coffee, breakfast and a Bible study. We will meet on **Saturday, Nov. 18 at 8:00 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall.

The Fall Season has arrived! Soon the Holiday Season will begin. Mark your calendar for these important dates to remember.

- * Nov. 05: All Saints Sunday
- * Nov. 19: GSLC Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner 5:00 p.m.
- * Nov. 23: Thanksgiving Day
- * Nov. 23 / 24: Church Office closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
- * Nov. 26: Christ the King Sunday
- * Dec. 03: First Sunday of Advent
- * Dec. 24: Sunday Christmas Eve Worship at 9:00 a.m., 7:00 p.m. & 11:00 p.m.



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They need to understand what lead them down the path to criminal behavior. CRI believes that there is truth in the saying “Hurt people, Hurt people” and that if people can understand their hurts and learn to care, especially about themselves, then they will care about other people and their property. From there the CRI program goes on to Life Skills, this includes Relationships, Occupation, Education, Technology and Freedom then what?

CRI believes that prisoners thru hard work, introspection and applying the tools that CRI provides can indeed change before our very eyes. As proof, following is feedback from two of the men who recently finished the first year of the program on Emotions.

“I came to CRI a man lost, ;having no understanding of feelings, emotions, not knowing the meaning of empathy. Not caring about anyone or anything. I now realize how lost I was because a man that has given up on life has nothing to offer. I have gone through this program, I am now full of life. The 40 year I have been incarcerated is not a waste. I want nothing more than to have the opportunity to give back what has been given me.” Arthur - Class of 2018 and graduate of the Class of 2016 (requested to repeat).

I like it (CRI program) more than I can say. I had no idea how lost I was and how much work that I needed. I also had very little hope of ever getting out of prison, until I got here to SQ and entered CRI. All I ever knew was that I don't like prison and I don't want to come back. Now I know that I WILL NOT come back. The fact that there are people that come in here to teach us and help us through life is unbelievable. I didn't think that anyone cared what we went through. I have so much hope and faith now that I can't wait to share with others. Thank you for all of your help to and for all of us. Thanks to everyone that supports CRI. No name given, Class of 2018.

I knows there are people who do not believe it is possible to rehabilitate prisoners, but I do because of the power of forgiveness and the grace of God. Without rehabilitation the recidivism rate of paroled prisoners is about 70% (compared to Collette, knock on wood, 0% recidivism rate). I'm not so naive that I believe every prisoner can be rehabilitated but I think Collette has somehow, with God's help, found at least one way to successfully rehabilitate some prisoners. I'm glad to be a support to her program, even though it's with ironing, pricing items, dusting shelves, etc.

By the way my conversations with Collette has helped me tremendously as I am trying to support a grandson in recovery from drug addiction. I personally think God led me to volunteer at Second Chance so Collette could help me gain insight into understanding addiction. Addicts often use drugs because they are hurting. Hurting people really do hurt people; I know my grandson did when he was in active addiction. Just like the prisoners at San Quentin, an addict needs to recognize and learn skills to deal with those hurts and reach out to a Higher Power (that's God to us Christians) and find strength and forgiveness. That's what the 12 step program in AA and NA is all about.

Second Chance Boutique is located at 4305 Clayton Road, in the shopping center on Treat with Buttercup and Safeway. If you are in the area stop by, if it's open you might even find me there as I volunteer (they are closed Mondays and mornings). If you have new or slightly used clothing to donate, you might consider Second Chance.

A commentary by Betty Jacobsen

Combined Leisure Lunch, November/December

The holiday season is a busy time for all so the Leisure Lunchers combine the November and December luncheons into one event.

Please join us for our holiday luncheon on **Tuesday, December 5** from Noon - 1:30.

Call Susan and Bob Ripley at 925-827-9717 for any questions.

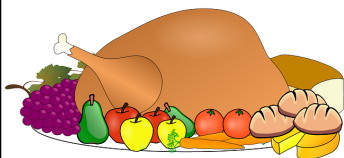
Anyone who is available is most welcome to come;
Simply bring your appetite and enjoy some holiday fun and fellowship!



GSLC Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

The Fellowship Committee is planning our traditional GSLC Thanksgiving Dinner to be held on Sunday Evening, November 19, at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!

Our menu will be a traditional Thanksgiving dinner, including turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, plus all of the trimmings! Mark your calendar and join us.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

We need help cooking.

If you can help, please contact Carin Olson at: carinmom@hotmail.com

LOOK FOR OUR SIGN UP POSTER IN THE NARTHEX

500 Years of Living in Faith

Martin Luther said about the Church, “Anyone who is to find Christ must first find the church. How could anyone know where Christ is and what faith is in him unless he knew where his believers are?”

As we kick off the Stewardship Drive let us be proud to belong to such a beautiful church that also gives so much back to the community. We have had some firsts this year with our participation in the Concord 4th of July parade and the Reformation Festival. Let us not only continue to offer our services to the community but also find new ways to invite new members to our wonderful church where his believers are.

- > *Stewardship Packets will be available on Sunday, Nov. 19*
- > *Please return your Volunteer & Pledge cards by Sunday, Dec. 3*

– Nancy Judge, Stewardship Chair

Sunday, October 29, 2017

Reformation Festival Memories




Friends Feeding Friends

An outreach ministry of Good Shepherd that serves the needy in our county

Friends Feeding Friends Highlights for the Past Month

Sarah Jean's
Dream at age 4
—
"So people who
are really hungry
have food."



- 1289 Families helped**
- 1480 Bags of food distributed**
- 1656 People helped with groceries**
- 166 Hot Meals served**

Highlights:

- **Twice a month, FFF provides bread, pastries, and produce to the our Senior Food program here at GSLC.**
- **For our last shelter lunch, we welcomed volunteers from Tabernacle school, Boys Team Charity, Clayton Valley Charter High School, Valley Christian Church, Life Church, Clayton Valley Church, Clayton Community Church, and GSLC.**

Next Shelter Lunch: November 18, 2017: 9:00 at Good Shepherd to prep. All are welcome!!

Items needed this month:

- **Canned ready-to-eat meals with pop-tops (ravioli, spaghetti & meatballs, pork & beans)**
- **Twin, Full and Queen size beds and bed frames**

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

If you order on Amazon, don't forget to go to smile.amazon.com first and specify The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Concord. Amazon will make a contribution to FFF.



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



FFF needs your help!!

If you can help with donations of canned pop-top ready-to-eat meals, we would appreciate any donations. This time of year, the food bank is depleted of sorted donated foods for agency's like ours to purchase. Dollar store items are perfectly acceptable and appreciated.

November 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>9:00 a.m. Worship 1015 a.m. Sunday School all 9:45 a.m. Coffee (FH) 12:30 Lighthouse (FH)(#3) 6:00 p.m. NA Group (FH)</p>			1	<p>2 8:30 a.m. Senior Food (FH) 6:00 p.m. Lighthouse (Rm. 3) 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (FH)</p>	3	4 9:00 a.m. PLTS Installation and Reception (CH) (FH)
<p>5 9:00 a.m. Worship</p>  <p>All Saints' Day</p>	6	7 7:30 p.m. GSLC Book Club (FR)	8 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	9 10:00 a.m. Ruth Circle (FR) 10:00 a.m. DVLC (RM 3) 3:45 p.m. Worship & Music 6:00 p.m. Lighthouse (Rm. 3) 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (FH)	10	11  <p>Veteran's Day</p> 10:00 a.m. DVLC Check-in meeting (FH)
12 9:00 a.m. Worship	13 5:00 p.m. Finance Meeting	14 7:00 p.m. Council	15 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	16 8:30 a.m. Senior Food (FH) 6:00 p.m. Lighthouse (Rm. 3) 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (FH)	17	18 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast & Bible 9:30 a.m. Friends Feeding Friends (Kitchen)
19 Christ the King 9:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m. GSLC Thanksgiving Dinner (FH)	20	21 7:00 p.m. Property & Long Range (FH)	22 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	23 Church Office Closed <i>Happy Thanksgiving</i>	24 Church Office Closed	25
26 First Sunday of Advent 9:00 a.m. Schedule	27 Newsletter Articles Due	28	29	30		
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

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.