

Shepherd's Voice

Volume 12 • Issue 4

A monthly newsletter of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

April 2016

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*May Newsletter Articles due
April 22*

April



**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

"Every church is driven by something. There is a guiding force, a controlling assumption, a directing conviction behind everything that happens. It may be unspoken. It may be unknown to many. Most likely it's never officially been voted on. But it is there, influencing every aspect of the church's life."

I think Rick Warren is correct, every church is driven by something including ours. Thanks be to God that what has driven our congregation in the past has brought us this far. We have done some great things. At the same time, we are in an ever changing society and need to re-orient ourselves so that we have a renewed focus on our purpose as a church.

Our congregation will be driven into the future with two scriptures at the wheel: Matthew 22:37-40 and Matthew 28:19-20.

Matthew 22:37-40 reads, *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"*

Matthew 28:19-20 reads, *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

These two scriptures teach us of the five purposes of the Church.

I. Worship- "Love the Lord your God."

Worship is the first thing we do as a community of faith in Jesus. Worship is celebrating God's presence and honoring God with our whole lives. This happens on Sundays and the time between Sundays.

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2. **Service-** “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Service is caring for our neighbors with acts of generosity, love, and grace. It's meeting needs with love. Our Friends Feeding Friends ministry has been a foundational ministry of this congregation for years, through it we serve our neighbor.

3. **Outreach-** “Go and make disciples.”

Outreach is reaching out to those who do not know Jesus and those who need to be reminded of God's love by sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. It's another word for Evangelism; when we tell the story of Jesus to those who haven't heard it or need a reminder.

4. **Fellowship-** “Baptizing them.”

Gather is our word for fellowship. It's when people are known by each other, cared for, held accountable in Christian community, and encouraged by other Christians on their spiritual journey. This is more than events that we have, it's a space for us to get to know each other in our hopes, fears, our joys, and our troubles because we are the one body of Christ here.

4. **Learn-** “Teaching them to obey.”

Learn is understanding and following the Word of God integrating its message of God's love, forgiveness, and hope into our thinking and action. Learning means that we are continuing to strive in faithfulness to God and following in the way of Jesus.

Because these are the five purposes of the church that we will be living by as a community we now have a statement that reminds us of this. This will be the purpose statement of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church which means it will inform everything we do.

Here is our new purpose statement:

*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.*

Peace,
Rev.



PLEASE NOTE: Council Meeting Notes will return in our May Newsletter.

News From Our Council President

Hello everyone,

What a wonderful Easter season! I would like to extend my thanks to everyone who helped make it such a success!

A few of the highlights include: Ashes to Go on Ash Wednesday, the soup suppers/Lenten services, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday service, Good Friday service, Easter service (with butterflies, of course!) capped off by the Easter Brunch and egg hunt. It took an amazing amount of time and effort but everyone pitched in to make it a meaningful and enjoyable experience.

The church Council met the afternoon of April 3rd for a retreat. The goal of the retreat was to discuss our goals and aspirations for the upcoming year. I would like to thank all the members of Council for their time and heartfelt input. I will have a more detailed summary of our discussions in next month's newsletter.

Our next Council meeting is Tuesday, April 19th at 7:00 pm. Visitors are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Thank you and God Bless!

Greg Buchholz

GOOD SHEPHERD INCOME STATEMENT AS OF FEBRUARY 2016			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	Difference
INCOME:			
Pledges	\$20,190.00	22,285.90	\$2,095.90
Unpledged	5,415.81	5,738.40	322.59
Other (Tower, Rent, etc.)	18,217.24	17,054.60	1,162.64
TOTAL INCOME	44,017.05	45,435.40	1,418.35
LESS TOTAL EXPENSES	(46,877.56)	(43,443.70)	(3,443.86)
NET INCOME	\$ 2,860.51	\$ 1,991.70	\$ (4,852.21)

March 31 was the end of the first quarter of 2016. Please check and see if you are up-to-date on your pledge.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

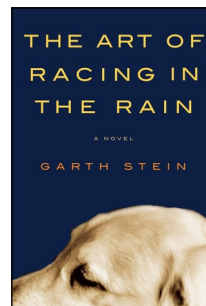
April Birthdays

Ann Brandt	02
Leone McCullough	04
Rebecca Berg	05
Edythe Marshall	09
Susan Metzger	09
Vince Mahon	13
Mark Deniston	14
Teresa Wagner	14
Lloy Blevins	16
Cal Fraga	16
Melissa Henry	18
Evelyn Hidy	18
Gordon Monroe	18
Krystle Bartlett	19
Connie Batchelder	20
Mike Carzino	20
Duane Peterson	20
Cathy Setchell	20
Vicki Smiglewski	20
Herb Yonge	21
Mark Poston	22
Mike Henry	27
John Mott	28



GOOD SHEPHERD BOOK CLUB

For our next meeting, we're reading Christopher Evan Welch's "The Art of Racing in the Rain." Amazon says, "A heart-wrenching but deeply funny Enzo knows he is different from other dogs: a philosopher with a nearly human soul (and an obsession with opposable thumbs), he has educated himself by watching television extensively, and by listening very closely to the words of his master, Denny Swift, an up-and-coming race car driver."



A heart-wrenching but deeply funny and ultimately uplifting story of family, love, loyalty, and hope, *The Art of Racing in the Rain* is a beautifully crafted and captivating look at the wonders and absurdities of human life . . . as only a dog could tell it." Join us as we discuss this best-selling novel.

► **DATE CHANGE:** Our regular May meeting will be held on **APRIL 26** at 7:30 pm in the Fireside Room. Questions? Contact Donna Albrecht at: donna-at-albrechts.com

Family Movie Night

Saturday, April 23

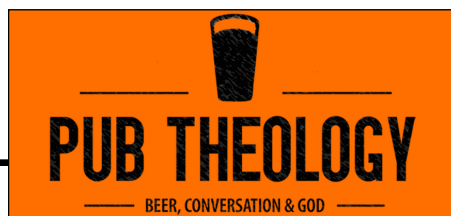
6:00 p.m.

Join us in Fellowship Hall for a family fun night!

Our movie is: *The Good Dinosaur*

(Pub)lic Theology with Rev

Do you like beer? Are you interested in talking about God? Join the Rev at E.J. Phair Brewing Company, located at 2151 Salvio Street, Concord. We will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 27, and bring a friend.



CHURCH CAMPUS CLEAN-UP DAY



All are invited on Saturday, April 16 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to join us for a work party!

This work party is for general campus clean-up (trash, pruning, homeless debris, etc.), and all are invited.

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!

SAVE THE DATE

On Sunday, May 22, at 6:00 p.m. **Psalm 100** will be appearing at Sanctuary Ministries, 2250 Commerce Avenue, suite D, concord, CA 94552. For tickets /info call: 925-827-9637.

Psalm 100 has over 30 years of service, blending audio, visual, special effects and live performances into a presentation that uplifts God's Holy Name.

Ruth Circle Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Thursday, April 14

Join us for coffee at 10:00 a.m. and then enjoy an interesting study of Paul's Letter to the Philippians in which Paul asks us to "keep on keeping on." The passages remark on "Witnessing in a worried world," and then asks us, if this passage especially speaks to us today.

Try us! You'll be surprised how good the coffee is and the discussion, too!

April Leisure Lunch

Please join our Leisure Lunchers on Tuesday,
April 19th from Noon to 1:30 p.m.



The menu is sure to be the start of a spring thaw! Don't hesitate to call Bob or Susan Ripley at: 925-827-9717 with any questions or menu suggestions.

Looking forward to seeing you soon!

Wedding Anniversaries

Mark and Sally
Poston
April 5, 2003

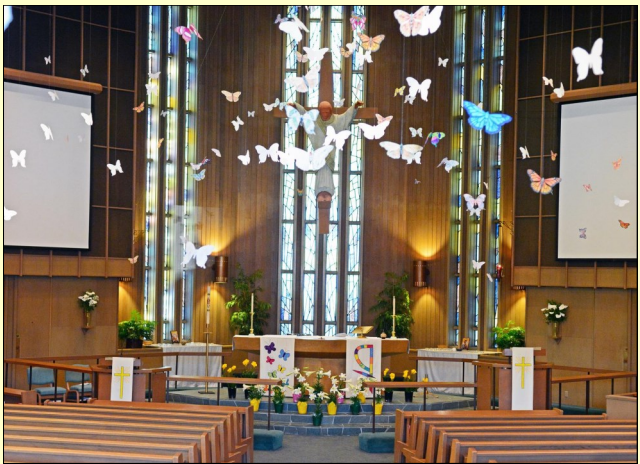
Paul and Susan
Brodley
April 16, 1981

Phil and Elizabeth
Kich
April 22, 1990



Easter Day 2016





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."



304 Grocery/Food bags distributed
395 People helped with food bags
56 Hot Meals served

**Next FFF Lunch: April 16, 2016 at
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:

- Pacheco/Martinez Homeless Outreach will cease operations soon. FFF has provided food, blankets, coats, etc. for many years. Doug's team has covered the entire county at night. They would convince homeless to go into shelters, sought medical help when needed, and sent many folks home to be with their families. Their services will be greatly missed! We wish Doug and his family well as they move to Arizona and start a new chapter of their lives.
- We picked up 2 more truck loads and 2 more van loads of furniture and household items from the Oakland Museum White Elephant sale. Thank you for the donations!!!

Items needed this month: * Washcloths and hand towels * Kitchen towels



Client Dave (on rt.) picked up furniture for his studio apartment with a friend from church.



Gary is a true master at maximizing the amount of furniture his truck can hold. Thank you Gary for helping us pick up furniture from the Oakland Museum White Elephant Sale!!

April 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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)	9:30 a.m. Sunday Schedule: 9:30 a.m. Worship (CH) 10:45 a.m. Coffee (FH) 6:00 p.m. NA Group (FH)				1 	2 10:00 a.m. DVLC Check-in Meeting (FH)
3 8:30 a.m. Schedule See above.	4 9:30 a.m. Quilting (FH)	5 	6 3:00 p.m. Worship and Music (FH) 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	7 8:30 a.m. Senior Food (FH) 2:00 p.m. Finance Comm. 1:00 p.m. DVLC Board (FH) 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (FH) 7:00 p.m. Evangelism Comm (FR)	8 	9
10 8:30 a.m. Schedule See above.	11 9:30 a.m. Quilting (FH) 3:30 p.m. BACN Volunteer Dinner (FH)	12 	13 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	14 10:00 a.m. Ruth Circle (FH) 10:00 a.m. (Classroom) 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (FH)	15 	16 9:30 a.m. Friends Feeding Friends (Kit) 9:00 a.m. All Church Work Party
17 8:30 a.m. Schedule See above.	18 	19 Noon Leisure Lunch (FH) 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting (FH)	20 7:00 p.m. NA (FH) 7:00p.m. Property Long Range Comm. (Kitchen)	21 8:30 a.m. Senior Food (FH) 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (FH)	22 Newsletter Articles Due!	23 6pm Church Movie Night (FH)
24 8:30 a.m. Schedule See above.	25 	26 7:30 p.m. GSLC Book Club (FR)	27 7:00 p.m. NA (FH) 7:00 p.m. Pub Theology	28 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (FH)	29 	30
CH = Church		FH = Fellowship Hall		FR = Fireside Room		

Worship Assistants April 10, 2016 - May 8, 2016

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Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
4000 Clayton Road
Concord, CA 94521

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church *Concord, CA*

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@gscconcord.com
Office Administrator: Laura Mott - lauramott@gscconcord.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@gscconcord.com

Financial Secretary: Vicki Smiglewski



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.