

Shepherd's Voice

Volume 10 • Issue 2 A monthly newsletter of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church February 2014

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March Newsletter Articles
due February 24

February



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

**Worship Schedule:
Sundays 8:30 & 11:00 A.M.**

A Message from Interim Pastor Lori Eickmann February 2014

“You are the salt of the earth,” Jesus says in a series of teachings in Matthew’s gospel account that the church calls The Sermon on the Mount. *“You are the light of the world.”* (Mt. 5:13-14)

We are *salt*. We are *light*. And Jesus calls us to be *fishers of people*. (Mt. 4:19)

Recently during the children’s message we considered that just as we need equipment to catch fish – a fishing rod and bait – we also need to be equipped to speak about our faith and to show Christ’s love with our actions. We need help and inspiration to stay spicy and let our lights shine!

Bible study is an important way to stay rooted in the story of God’s love and faithfulness to humanity, so, as you know, a new three-week adult class is coming this month (see pg. 2). The story of God and God’s beloved people, revealed in sacred Scripture, is an Epiphany – it shines the light of hope throughout the world and in our hearts. We are part of the on-going story of God and God’s beloved people; we see ourselves reflected in Abraham and Sarah’s trust in God’s promises, Peter’s zeal for following Jesus *and* Peter’s lapse in courage, old Zebedee’s inability to get out of the boat, and Mary Magdalene’s faith in and witness to the Christ.

If you use home devotionals, such as “Christ in Our Home” or an online daily devotion that follows the lectionary, you’ll notice some challenging texts this month: Jesus’ teachings not only about salt and light, but about anger, adultery, divorce and loving our enemies. The challenge is to dig below the surface of Jesus’ sayings to discover neither trite moralism nor a demand for unattainable perfection – but rather, grace-filled guidance.

Bible study can comfort, challenge and inspire us. It equips us to consider the theology of popular movies or books so that we can discuss with others why we agree or disagree with the depictions of God and Christ presented. And that leads us to consider again our own actions in light of our call to follow the path of Christ.

(Continued on Pg. 2)

Continued from Page 1 -

So all are welcome to our next adventure in Bible studies! On **Feb. 9, 16 and 23**, I'm offering a class between worship services (9:45-10:45 a.m.) called "**Rediscovering Feminine Images of God in Scripture.**" We will look at Old and New Testament texts and the Judeo-Christian history of language for the Divine.

After that, one Wednesday during Lent (which begins in March), there will be a session on the **book of Job.**

An on-going women's study opportunity at Good Shepherd is the **Ruth Circle** that meets monthly (except for the summer) at 10 a.m. every second Thursday. (Is there interest in a men's study group?) Also, the **confirmation** students have been looking at Old Testament stories during their fall semester, and now we are reading from the New Testament.

We are salt. We are light. We are fishers of people. We need help to do that. Inspiration and guidance are available when we read and study the story of God together.

– Interim Pastor Lori Eickmann

GOOD SHEPHERD BOOK CLUB FOR MARCH.

If you enjoy reading a juicy memoir, join us at our March 4 meeting where we'll be discussing ***Below Stairs: The Classic Kitchen Maid's Memoir that Inspired "Upstairs, Downstairs" and "Downton Abbey"*** by Margaret Powell. The Wall Street Journal review states, "The book stands out in the tradition of literature about servants for being a true account of a life spent in domestic service, although the incidents it relates are as vividly entertaining and disturbing as anything found in fiction."

So escape the winter weather by snuggling in a cozy chair and reading **Below Stairs**. Then come to our Book Club meeting on March 4 at 7:30 pm in the Fireside room and join in the discussion. We'll love having you there. Questions? Contact Donna at donna-at-albrechts.com

You can view this newsletter in color send us your email address or visit: gsconcord.com

GOOD SHEPHERD INCOME STATEMENT			
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2013			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER (UNDER) BUDGET
INCOME:			
Pledges	\$145,816	\$152,918	\$7,102
Unpledged	28,918	26,752	(2,166)
Other (Tower, Rent, etc.)	114,049	113,624	(425)
TOTAL INCOME	288,783	293,294	4,511
LESS TOTAL EXPENSES	(264,711)	(293,194)	(28,483)
NET INCOME	\$ 24,072	\$ 100	\$ (23,972)

Thank you for your Financial support. Income was \$4,511 less than budget /Expenses were \$28,483 under budget.

A Message from our Council President

I want to thank everyone who attended our Annual Meeting, Sunday, January 26th. The fellowship and the food were great. The people behind the scenes, in the kitchen, should be thanked also. Thanks.

We want to thank the retiring Council Members: Sue, Jim, Laura, Linda and Victor. At this Sunday's service we will be dedicating an ELW Hymnal in each of their names to be placed in the sanctuary.

Welcome to our new Council Members: Vicki, Drew, Greg, and Nils. Continuing are Emilie, Jon, Mark, Donna, Leone and myself.

The Executive Committee is:
 Leone McCullough as Vice President,
 Donna Albrecht as Secretary,
 Vicki Smiglewski as Member-at-Large
 I, Herb Yonge, as President.

Our Council meetings will continue to be on the second Tuesday of the month, at 7pm. You are invited to attend. Our next meeting is February 11th. We will look at setting some goals at our February Council meeting.

This will be a good year. Our Call Committee will be interviewing pastoral candidates shortly, and our Youth Committee will be looking at opportunities to share in activities with youth of another church.

At our meeting we should have input from Stewardship indicating those of us who wish to serve on the various committees.

If you would like to participate on a specific committee(s) and did not so indicate on the Time and Talent sheets, please let the respective Council Member know or call the office.

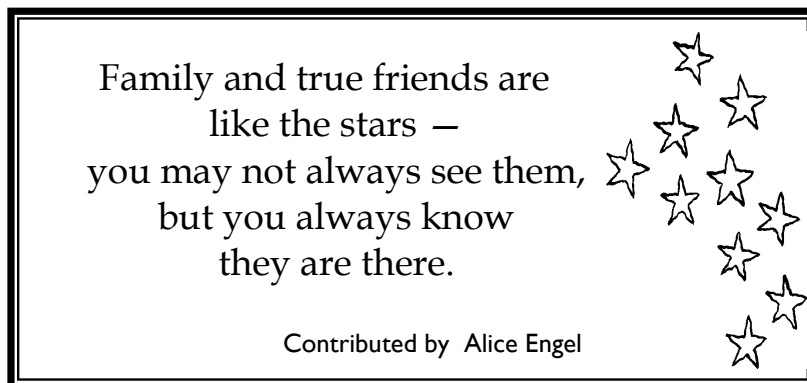
The Council members and their committees are:

Drew Cremisio	Evangelism
Mark Deniston	Stewardship
Jon Moss	Long Range Planning
Greg Buchholz	Property
Emilie Patton	Fellowship
Nils Anderson	Finance
Leone McCullough	Worship and Music
Vicki Smiglewski	Social Ministry

We would like to have a member(s) step forward who will give direction for Christian Education; also our Youth Committee. You do not have to be on Council, just provide leadership to the committee. Let me know if you have a desire to serve.

I look forward to a good year and appreciate any input/comments.

See you in church,
 Herb



February Birthdays

Stacey Contreras	01
Andrew Harris	03
Larry Huddleston	03
Jacob Mollwitz	06
Bobby Morgan	06
Eric Batchelder	11
Vincent Batchelder	12
Kaden Kreuzinger	13
Ross Deniston	15
Matthew Anagnostopoulos	17
Christian Hein-Silva	20
David Henry	20
Dorothy Davis	21
Tom Lingel	21
Doug Olson	21
Robert Schaefer	22
Paul Clausen	23
Kurt Harman	24
Milton Swenson	25
Donna Albrecht	26
Victor Olmedo	26



January 2014 Council Meeting Notes

Our Good Shepherd Council met on January 14 at 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Sue Hertless recognized and thanked the Council members who will be leaving after the congregational meeting, including Jim Olson for his work on the Property Committee, Linda Rodemsky for her work in Social Ministry, Victor Olmedo for his work with Youth and Laura Mott for her work with Evangelism and Christian Education.

Betty Jacobsen was recognized for making communion bread and especially for making enough for the two weeks she would be on vacation.

Council members approved allowing the Crisis Nursery to have their volunteer recognition dinner in Fellowship Hall on April 14 and approved Alcoholics Anonymous to hold their Unity Day in Fellowship Hall on March 1, 2014 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The United Methodist Church has hired a youth director and is talking with Council members about possible joint activities.

The Synod will hold a Social Media Workshop at St. Paul's Lutheran in Lodi on February 8, 2014. The workshop will focus on how to use social media in a church environment. If interested in participating, contact Pr. Lori.

Pastor Lori reported on problems with the computer programs used to post congregational profiles to be seen by potential applicants throughout the ELCA. Our profile was submitted on December 23. As of this date, the problem continues. Pr. Lori will discuss this at the annual meeting. (Editor's note: The problem has now been solved and the profile is now posted!)

Jon Moss closed the lease contract for the cell tower. The contract is with SBA, the tenant is to be AT&T. The lease is for thirty years.

Sue asked the members leaving the council for their advice for those remaining. Linda Rodemsky said we shouldn't lose focus. Good Shepherd is God's church and we need to focus on God, not just personal agendas. Jim Olson thanked everyone who has helped. Sue Hertless wants us to have youth on the Council to give them a voice. Laura Mott added to be open to working together and finding new ways to serve the congregation and do God's work with our hands.

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Albrecht
Council Secretary

Attention Leisure Lunchers!

Love is always in the air for our Leisure Lunchers! In February, we'll be gathering on Tuesday the 18th, and we'll celebrate the month of love.

Be prepared to share one of your favorite love stories, if you wish. It could be your own story, or one you've heard or anything you like!

Please be sure to call Bob and Susan Ripley should you need a ride.

We look forward to seeing you there!



*February
Anniversaries*

Tim and Kathy Harless

February 8, 1997



RUTH CIRCLE BIBLE STUDY

MEETING IS THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13 at 10:00 A.M.

Join us to get acquainted with the Witch of Endor in the Bible!

Our curriculum this year is a study of special women in Old Testament, New Testament and contemporary times.

All are welcome. We meet in the Fireside Room!

Leisure Lunch Potatoes

Ingredients:

1 lb. bag of frozen hash browns, thawed

8 oz. shredded cheddar cheese

1 cup diced onions

1 can cream of mushroom soup

1 stick melted butter

16 oz. sour cream

Salt and Pepper to taste

Directions:

Combine all ingredients

Sprinkle top with bread crumbs

Bake at 375 for 1 (one) hour



Enjoy!

**Sierra Pacific Synod
Congregational Life
Discipling Team**

**Tech University
February 8**

9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Lodi, CA

All are welcome to attend this day of workshops that include:

- Why Wi-Fi
- Websites 101
- Social Media 101
- Social Media 201
- Technology Talk

Interested? Registration is \$10. Ask at the church office for more info!

Interim Ministry Update February 2014

At the congregational Annual Meeting, you heard a report from your Call Committee chair, John Mott, saying that Good Shepherd's pastoral search is "live" – which means information on GSLC is available to be viewed online by pastoral candidates across the nation. In addition, Bishop's Associate Pr. Nancy Nelson previously had said she has a couple of local candidates in mind for you.

Pr. Nancy expects to have names for the Call Committee at the end of this month. I noted the basics of this process in a recent sermon, but it bears repeating: Pr. Nancy contacts local candidates who may be a good fit for you, and, in addition, she is contacted by candidates who have read your online information. She sends Good Shepherd's Ministry Site Profile to appropriate candidates, and they get two weeks to consider your profile, examine their sense of call and prayerfully discern whether they want to be a candidate for Good Shepherd.

Everyone wants to know how fast the interview process will go. I can give you an idea of the factors involved, but let me reiterate that speed isn't the goal! This is not a time to cut corners, and your Call Committee has no intention of doing so. They have been meticulous at each step and are determined to bring the same integrity to the interviewing. That said, the factors impacting how the process moves along include: how many candidates are interviewed (it takes longer to interview five people than three, of course); whether they are local or are from out of the area or even out of state (in which case, travel arrangements play a role); and whether the candidate is now serving a congregation or is between positions (if not currently serving, he or she may have a more flexible schedule).

Please support your Call Committee with your prayers, your thanks and a positive attitude. Don't forget to pray for the candidates, too. Just think – there is a pastor out there who will be praying for and about Good Shepherd at the same time you are praying for them. May the Holy Spirit bring you together in a blessed partnership!

— Pr. Lori Eickmann

Mustard Seed Faith

When the way seems long and the day is dark and we can't hear the song of the thrush or the lark, and our hearts are heavy with worry and care, and we are lost in the depths of despair, that is the time when faith alone can lead us out of the dark unknown.

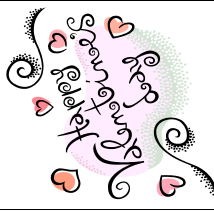
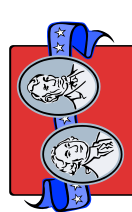
For faith to believe when the way is rough and faith to hang on when the going is tough will never fail to pull us through and bring us strength and comfort, too.

For all we really ever need is faith as a grain of a mustard seed, for all God asks is do you believe – for if you do you shall receive."

— Helen Steiner Rice

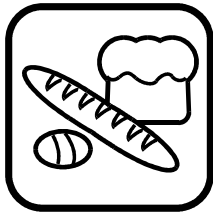


February 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8:30 a.m. Worship (CH) 9:30 a.m. Refreshment 9:50 a.m. Choir Practice 11:00 a.m. Worship (FH) 6:00 p.m. Women NA (FH)						1 9:00 a.m. DYLC Annual Meeting (FH)
2 See Schedule Above Noon Confirmation (FR)	3	4	5 3:00 p.m. Worship and Music Committee (FH) 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	6 9:00 a.m. Senior Food Program (FH) 2:00 p.m. Finance 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts #1994 (FH) 7:00 p.m. Property/Long Range (FH)	7	8
9 See Schedule Above 9:45 a.m. Bible Study (CH)	10	11 7:00 p.m. Council (FH)	12 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	13 10:00 a.m. Ruth Circle (FR) Noon DYLC (FH) 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (FH)	14 	15 9:30 a.m. Friends Feeding Friends (Kitchen) (FH)
16 See Schedule Above 9:45 a.m. Bible Study (CH)	17 Offices Closed 	18 Noon Leisure Lunch (FH)	19 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	20 9:00 a.m. Senior Food (FH) 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts #1994 (FH)	21	22
23 See Schedule Above 9:45 a.m. Bible Study (CH)	24	25	26 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	27 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts #1994 (FH)	28	
CH = Church	FH = Fellowship Hall	FR = Fireside Room				

Friends Feeding Friends


An outreach ministry that serves needy in our county



- 481 Grocery bags distributed**
- 152 Hot Meals provided**
- 8 People helped with household furnishings**
- 13 Churches that helped FFF**
- 7 Shelters/Agencies that referred clients 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

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



Major accomplishments for January:

- Sorted most of the donations FFF received in November and December
- Picked up new donations of furniture and household items
- Donated hundreds of food bags, sleeping bags, camping supplies, and blankets to Pacheco/Martinez Homeless Outreach, the only night ministry in Contra Costa County
- Prepared and Served lunch at the Concord Shelter, and provided clothes, food for later, and grooming supplies
- Provided food bags, bread, snacks and fresh fruit to the Brookside shelter
- Donated auction basket items to First Lutheran Preschool for their crab feed
- Furnished those leaving shelters transitioning to housing.
- Helped families with groceries and basic necessities

The North
 Concord
 Shelter:

 2047 Arnold
 Industrial Way,
 Concord, CA
 Parallel to
 Highway 4

Our next FFF lunch at the shelter is on February 15. Meet at Good Shepherd at 9:30 to prep, or at the shelter at noon to serve. All are welcome to help at the lunch or any other time!

Items needed this month:

- Washcloths
- Blankets and new bed pillows
- Dishwashing liquid
- Small dining tables and chairs
- Dressers and end tables
- Lamps and light bulbs
- Toasters and Microwave ovens

Have questions, want to help or know of someone needing help? Contact Dana Deniston (925)768-9087 or Linda Rodemsky (925) 864-9266 or email us at friendsfeedingfriends@yahoo.com

Good Shepherd
 Lutheran Church
 4000 Clayton Road
 Concord, CA 94521
 682-8410

Located east of the
 Salvation Army
 church between
 West Street and
 Mendocino Avenue
 Concord, CA

Loaves & Fishes
 catering kitchen:
 510 Garcia, Suite H
 Pittsburg, CA

Know of someone
 who needs help?
 Call the Homeless
 Hotlines at
 800-799-6599 or
 800-808-6444.

Call the Bay Area
 Rescue Mission at
 510-215-4868, or
 the Contra Costa
 Crisis Center
 call 211.

Worship Assistants – February 2 to March 2, 2014

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.
2/02	8:30	Kelly Schaefer	Mike Albrecht Sue Hertless	Donna Albrecht	Justin Berg	Ryan Kich	Ione Bantly Leone McCullough Karin Bohling	Willjean Rogelstad	Gary and Linda Mahloch	Jamie Rodemsky		Gary and Linda Mahloch	Herb Yonge and Paul Rusch	Donna Albrecht
	11:00		Rosemary Fassi	Rosemary Fassi				Rosemary Fassi						
2/09	8:30	Candace Bradley	Erika Berg Duane Peterson	Ingrid Burns	Erin Wardle	Sam Buchholz	Dottie Davis Donna Abeyta Nancy Knapp	Larry and Marcia Sander	Paul Rusch and Vicki Smiglewski	Jamie Rodemsky		Greg and Kristi Buchholz	Joe Carlson and Paul Rusch	Herb Yonge
	11:00			Sherry Chaplin				Victor and Aimee Olmedo						
2/16	8:30	Drew Cremisio	Kelly Schaefer Susan Metzger	Nils Anderson	Doug Olson	Erika Berg	Kathy Price Eise Welsh Heidi Moss Cindy Rogelstad	Kay Bennett and Jeannette Kaul	Doug and Reyane Freeman	Jamie Rodemsky	Duane Peterson	Doug and Reyane Freeman	Jan Carzino and Betty Jacobsen	Nils Anderson
	11:00			Linda Rodemsky				Alden Johnson						
2/23	8:30	Duane Peterson	Leone McCullough Linda Rodemsky	Doug Olson	Erin Wardle	Lauren Wardle	Jan Harmon Pam Dietz Willjean Rogelstad Linda Mahloch	Ron and Mary Figueroa	Jim and Carin Olson	Jamie Rodemsky		Jon and Heidi Moss	Betty Jacobsen and Jan Carzino	Greg Buchholz
	11:00			Sherry Chaplin				Jay Neyenhouse						
3/02	8:30	Lauren Wardle	Susan Metzger and Sue Hertless	Candace Bradley	Doug Olson	Erika Berg	Laura Carlson Vicki Smiglewski Elizabeth Kich Sue Hertless	Jaire and Eise Welsh	Greg Buchholz and Paul Rusch	Jamie Rodemsky			Reyane Freeman and Gordon Monroe	Drew Cremisio
	11:00		Rosemary Fassi	Rosemary Fassi				Connie Summers						

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church *Concord, CA*

2014 Executive Committee:
President: Herb Yonge, Vice President: Leone McCullough, Secretary: Donna Albrecht
Member-at-Large: Vicki Smiglewski

2014 Congregational Council

Donna Albrecht, Nils Anderson, Greg Buchholz, Drew Cremisio, Mark Deniston,
Leone McCullough, Jon Moss, Emilie Patton, Vicki Smiglewski and Herb Yonge

Ministry Staff:

Interim Pastor: Lori Eickmann - pastori@me.com
Office Administrator: Laura Mott - lauramott@gssconcord.com
Director of Instrumental Music: Open
Choir Director: Phoebe J. Rosquist - phobe@netzero.net
Contemporary Music Leader: Tom Deans Fiegel - tdeans08@gmail.com
Sound/Technology: Jamie Rodemsky - jamier1263@gmail.com
Treasurer: Lynne Davies - finance@gssconcord.com
Financial Secretary: Laura Mott



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Concord, CA 94521

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