

Shepherd's Voice

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Feeding bodies, minds, and souls...

Volume 13 • Issue 3

2017 Edition

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*April Newsletter Articles
Due Friday, March 24*

March



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

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

Rev's Reflections

"I am weary with moaning; every night I flood my bed with tears; I drench my couch with weeping. My eyes waste away because of grief they grow weak because of my foes. Depart from me, all you workers of evil, for the Lord has heard the sound of my weeping. The Lord has heard my supplication; the Lord accepts my prayer."
(Psalm 6:6-7a,8b-9 NRSV).

There are periods, sometimes long stretches, when all we can do is despair. We, like the psalmist, flood our bed with tears, drench our couches with weeping. We find ourselves in the mire of pain, hopelessness, and doubt about our current situation and we struggle with hope for the future. These low periods are not to be avoided. We need to enter into these places and deeply feel the pain of our circumstance. It is counterproductive to the well being our souls to cover over, push down, or ignore the darkness we're in.

Jesus himself entered into despair before his crucifixion. He asked the Father, "If it is possible, let this cup pass from me" (Matt 26:49). Jesus wanted out of his situation but in great strength acknowledged that God's will comes first. But, his submission was not without pain. Scripture tells us, "In his anguish [Jesus] prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground" (Luke 22:44).

Let us never gloss over the fact that our Lord, God in flesh, was in anguish. "He was oppressed, and he was afflicted" according to Isaiah 53:7.

But, we must not hold on there. It is not healthy for our soul, nor is it productive for the Kingdom to stay in the trenches of hurt, doubt, and despair. Jesus himself entered into the darkest of humanities terrors, but he didn't stay. He moved from death to life. His way forward is now a marked path. But, it's not of our own volition that we come out from the suffering. We cry Kyrie Eleison, Lord have mercy, and because the Lord accepts our prayers, he will lead us out of it.

The hope that Jesus offers is that it will not always be this way. There will be an end to sin and there will be an end to the pain that sin brings. In Jesus there is hope that we are not stuck but moving from death to life.

This Lenten season may you come to grips with the pain you face, and may you know that in Jesus there is home.

Peace, Rev

March Leisure Lunch

Irish people of all nationalities are welcome to our March Leisure Lunch and that's no malarkey! Please join us on Tuesday, March 20th from noon to 1:30 for our luncheon; potatoes will definitely be on the menu. Any questions or suggestions? Call Susan or Bob Ripley at: 925-827-9717. See you there!



Palm Sunday is April 9



We will be putting up palms and preparing the Sanctuary for Palm Sunday, on Saturday, April 8, beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary and you are invited to join us! If you have palms to donate please let Rev know.

If you are a gardener and have Bird of Paradise flowers you would like to donate for our sanctuary, please let Rev know.



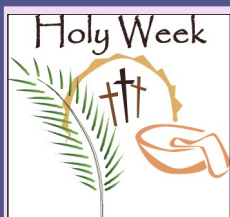
SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2017

- Have you always wanted to go to Synod Assembly but never had the time until now?
 - Do you want to learn more about the ELCA, and our Sierra Pacific Synod?
 - Would you like to represent Good Shepherd as a Lay Voting Member?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, talk to Rev about becoming one of the two Lay Voting Members for Good Shepherd, we are allotted 1 female and 1 male.

The church deadline to register is April 3.

The event will be at the Double Tree Hilton Hotel in Fresno. May 4 –6, 2017
The church pays for the hotel, meals and mileage.

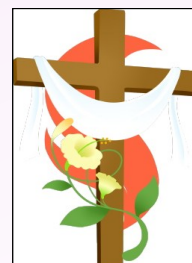


Holy Week and Easter Schedule

*Maundy Thursday: Single worship service at 7:00 p.m.
(April 13)*

*Good Friday: Noon Stations of the Cross GSLC
(April 14) 7:00 p.m., Worship Service at GSLC*

*Easter Sunday: Single worship service at 9:00 a.m.
(April 16) Immediately followed by ...
Easter Egg Hunt and Brunch*





Daylight Saving Time (United States)

Begins at 2:00 AM on March 12, 2017 ←

and will end at 2:00 AM on November 5, 2017.

The Spring Equinox is March 20!

Lenten Soup Suppers

Come down to the Fellowship Hall and join us on
Wednesday evenings during Lent
March 8, 15, 22, 29 and April 5 from 6:30-7:00 p.m. for a soup meal
followed by a prayer service from 7:00-7:30 p.m.



Men's Breakfast & Bible Study



**Saturday, March 25
8:00 a.m. in the Hall**

News From the GSLC Evangelism Team

In February, the Evangelism Team met at Mimi's to discuss goals for 2017. We will work to make the Reformation Festival successful, we will continue to strengthen our relationship with Resurrection Lutheran Church in El Salvador, and we will raise money to support both ministries. The Evangelism Team is busy planning activities to raise money for our Reformation Festival on October 29th, and ways for our congregation to have fun in the process. We would like to share with you some of the ideas we have come up with so far.

- In April, after Easter, how about a spaghetti dinner and silent auction?
- On June 3rd, a parking lot sale. You can purchase a space, and sell your items or donate items to Good Shepherd's space. Twenty-four spaces available for the public to rent.
- How about some baseball? Plan to attend on June 17th A's vs Yankees. Game time is 1:05pm with Value Deck tickets.
- Plan with us a trip to El Salvador for July 31st to meet with our Sister Parish.
- On September 23rd it's another baseball game. A's vs Rangers. Game time is 6:05pm with Plaza Level tickets. The theme is Star Wars AND there will be fireworks!

The Evangelism Team will be meeting the last Tuesday of each month in the Fireside Room at 7:00pm. We will need all the help we can get to make these and perhaps other events successful. Please join us. We keep the meeting to one hour or less.

Evangelism Team

March Birthdays

Madeline Batchelder	01
Laura Carson	01
Rachel Fassl	02
Jan Harman	02
Lisa Henry	02
Richard Batchelder	04
Sheila Huddleston	04
Kristi Buchholz	06
Johnathon Berg-Eaton	07
Justin Berg-Eaton	07
Jim Olson	07
Maria Batchelder	16
Kathleen Bennett	17
Michelle Christiana	17
Pam Dietz	17
Erin Wardle	17
Rebecca Mears	18
Keith Mecklenburg	19
Paul Rusch	21
Willajean Rogelstad	24
Nancy Knapp	25
Johnny Bantly	26
Caedmon Serrano	28
Nancy Judge	30



Much Admired in El Salvador – Roman Catholic Archbishop Oscar Romero

To go to El Salvador is to see how much Archbishop Oscar Romero is admired by his fellow countrymen. His image was embroidered on Bishop Madardo's stole, his picture was found at Hope Center, prominent in the National Cathedral, businesses, airport and even buses.

Bishop Romero was born in 1917 to a family that was well to do. He attended public school which at the time offered only grade one to three. Then he was tutored privately by a teacher until he was 13. His father wanted him to have a trade because in El Salvador studies seldom lead to employment and so he apprenticed him in carpentry. However, at a very young age the young Oscar indicated he'd like to study for the priesthood.

Romero entered a minor seminary in San Miguel at the age of 13. After graduation he enrolled in the national seminary in San Salvador and completed his seminary studies in 1941 at Gregorian University in Rome. He had to wait a year to be ordained into the priesthood because he was too young. When he was ordained in 1942 his family could not attend because of travel restriction during World War II. Romero remained in Rome and obtained a doctorate degree in theology.

In 1943 at the age of 26 he was summoned back to El Salvador by his Bishop. On the way home he stopped in Spain and Cuba. While in Cuba he and a fellow priest were detained in prison for several months because they came from fascist Italy. After several months, an illness and the help of a Cuban priest, the two were transferred to a hospital from which they were eventually released. They sailed to Mexico, than traveled overland to El Salvador. One can't help but wonder if this detention in Cuba increased Romero's concern for social justice.

Oscar Romero was first assigned as a parish priest in Anamoros and then moved to San Miguel where he worked for 20 years. He promoted various apostolic groups, started an Alcoholics Anonymous group and helped in the construction of the San Miguel Cathedral in addition to his pastoral duties. In 1966 he was chosen to be Secretary of the Bishops Conference for El Salvador. He served as director of the archbishop's newspaper and while he was editor the paper became fairly conservative. In 1970 Oscar Romero was appointed Auxiliary Bishop of San Salvador and in 1974 Bishop of the Diocese of Santiago de Maria, a poor, rural region of El Salvador.

In February, 1977, Romero became Archbishop of San Salvador, which was welcomed by the government. Progressive priest however feared his conservative reputation would negatively affect his commitment to the poor, but it never did.

In March, 1977, Rutilio Grande a Jesuit priest and personal friend of Romero who worked among the poor creating self-reliance group was assassinated. His death had a profound impact on Romero, who stated, "When I looked at Rutilio lying there dead I thought 'If they have killed him for doing what he did then I too have to walk the same path'". Romero's urged the government to investigate Rutilio's assassination but his request was ignored. In response to his friend's death, he revealed an activism that wasn't there before as he spoke out against poverty, social injustice, assassinations and torture.

In 1979, the Revolutionary Government Junta came to power amidst human rights violations and escalating violence that would become known as the Salvadoran Civil War. Archbishop Romero spoke out openly about social injustice and in February 1980 wrote to President Jimmy Carter criticizing the United States for giving military aid to the new government. He wrote that US military aid would "undoubtedly sharpen the injustice and the political repression inflicted on the organized people, whose struggle has often been for the most basic human rights." Carter ignored Romero's pleas and continued to support the military in El Salvador.

Archbishop Romero had a radio show that had the largest listenership of any program in the country at the time. His radio shows and sermons were the main source of information for many people in El Salvador, as he reported on disappearance, tortures, murders and social injustices.

On March 24, 1980, Archbishop Romero was fatally shot while celebrating mass at a memorial service. This was one day after a sermon he preached in which he had called upon Salvadoran soldiers, as Christians, to obey God's higher order and stop carrying out the government's repression and violation of human rights. To this day no one has ever been convicted of Romero's assassination.

The Archbishop's body was buried in El Salvador in a crypt beneath the National Cathedral sanctuary. His funeral was attended by more than 250,000 mourners. He was truly loved and admired by the Salvadorians, and still is. Romero was eulogized as a "beloved, peacemaking man of God" and that "his blood will give fruit to brotherhood, love and peace." The crowds outside the Cathedral during the service were met with smoke bombs and bullets. Between 20 and 50 people were killed.

In 1990 on the tenth anniversary of Romero's assassination, the sitting Archbishop of Sal Salvador appointed a postulator to prepare documentation for a cause of beautification and eventual canonization of Romero. The beautification of Archbishop Oscar Romero took place in San Salvador on May 23, 2015. Cardinal Angelo Amato officiated at the ceremony. He called Romero "a voice that continues to resonate." An estimated 250,000 people attended the beautification service, many watching on large television screens set up in the streets around the cathedral. Next step is canonization where Archbishop Oscar Romero will become a saint in the Catholic Church.

Evangelism Committee

Wedding Anniversaries

Gordon and Donna
Monroe
March 21, 1954

Duane and Patricia
Fiene
March 27, 1993



News From Our Council President

Hello everyone,

Here are some highlights from our last Church Council meeting on February 21st:

Recognitions:

- * Bob Ripley for bringing food for the Saturday, Men's Bible Study.
- * Members of the Property Committee (Tony Rogelstad, Jim Olson, Mark Deniston, Gary Mahloch) for their hard work on the January 28th work day.
- * Betty Jacobsen and Sue Hertless for hosting dinner for the new members of Council.
- * Jamie Rodemsky for washing dishes at the Annual Meeting & maintaining the Eternal Light,
- * Jamie and Linda Rodemsky for mowing the grass.

I would like to welcome the new members to our Church Council: Nancy Judge, Rebecca Berg, Joseph Husary and Tyler Costa have graciously agreed to serve and were elected during our Annual Meeting on January 29th. Thank you all!

The 2017 Executive Team was chosen during a special Council meeting which followed our Annual Meeting. This team will be Greg Buchholz - President, Sue Hertless – Vice President John Mott – Secretary, Adam Castle – Member at Large.

The 2017 Council committees will be chaired by the following members:

Property/Long Range Planning – Tony Rogelstad	Christian Education – Adam Castle
Finance – Tyler Costa	Nancy Judge – Stewardship
Worship and Music – Rebecca Berg	Kelly Schaefer – Fellowship
Evangelism – Sue Hertless	Joseph Husary – Member at Large
Social Ministry – Candace Bradley	John Mott – Secretary

Until next time...

Greg Buchholz, Council President

Prayers for Our 2017 Council Members



Saying Thank You to Council Members of 2016

Left to Right: Nils Anderson, Leone McCullough, Betty Jacobsen



Our 2017 Council from Left to Right: are: Tony Rogelstad, Candace Bradley, Adam Castle, Joseph Husary, Pastor Jeremy Serrano, Rebecca Berg, John Mott, Tyler Costa, Nancy Judge, Greg Buchholz Sue Hertless and Kelly Schaefer (not present in the photo).





Easter is Coming...Invite a Critter to Church

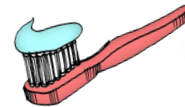
It is time for our annual "Some Bunny Loves you" project! If you would like to participate, please bring a new, stuffed "pet" of any kind with you to church. Allow them to sit anywhere in the Sanctuary and we will fill them with love, then distribute them throughout the year to the community.

Thank you.

A Social Ministry Lent Project

As we did last year, Social Ministry is collecting basic hygiene items for Friends Feeding Friends during Lent. Beginning on Sunday, March 5, (the second week of Lent) we will have a large basket available for you to place your donations next to the altar rail.

- Week 1 - Soap
- Week 2 - Toothbrushes
- Week 3 - Toothpaste
- Week 4 - Shampoo
- Week 5 - Hair combs



These items can usually be purchased at any local dollar stores. Thank you!

A Note of Thanks

Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and good thoughts.

I feel better now!

— Jeannette Kaul

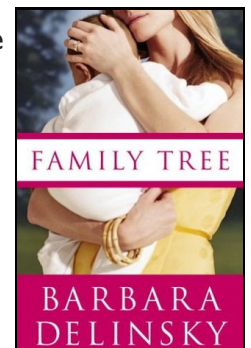
GOOD SHEPHERD BOOK CLUB

On May 2, Good Shepherd's Book Club will meet to discuss Barbara Delinsky's *FAMILY TREE*.

Publishers Weekly reported, "When Dana and Hugh Clarke's baby is born into their wealthy, white New England seaside community, the baby's unmistakably African-American features puzzle her thoroughly Anglo-looking parents. . . By the time the Clarkes have uncovered the tangled roots of their family trees, more than one skeleton has been unearthed, and the couple's relationship—not to mention their family loyalty—has been severely tested."

Even if you've never come to the book club, please join us as we discuss this fascinating story.

We'll be in the Fireside Room at 7:30 p.m. 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 cre-
ated in Christ
Jesus to do good
works, which God
prepared in
advance for us to
do.

Ephesians 2:10

1346	Bags of food distributed
1213	Households helped
1386	People helped with groceries
270	Hot Meals served

Highlights:

- Special thanks go out to Tabernacle School. As a Valentine's show of love for the community, Tabernacle families donated food and grooming supplies to FFF.
- Our Angel Bin coordinator, reports that FFF will receive a donation of \$311.40. FFF, Tabernacle school, and local athletic clubs collected athletic shoes for needy folks here in the U.S. and around the world. Shoes were turned into Angel Bins for distribution, and Angel Bins made a donation to FFF. Thanks to all who donated shoes!!

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

Items needed this month:

- Snack bars
- Ready-to-eat meals in pop-top cans (ravioli, chili, etc.)
- Lunch size canned fruit cups or dried fruit

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/>




**Donations of food and grooming
supplies from Tabernacle
← families.**

**These sweet treat dessert
bags were made for shelter
clients by 2 volunteers. →**



March 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00 a.m. Sunday Schedule: 9:00 a.m. Worship (CH) 10:15 Sunday School (Rm 3) 10:15 a.m. Coffee (FH) 12:30 Lighthouse (FH)(#3) 6:00 p.m. NA Group (FH)			1 ASH WED. SERVICE 7:00 P.M. (CH) 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	2 8:30 a.m. Senior Food (FH) 6:00 p.m. Lighthouse Rm 3 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (FH)	3	4 9:00 a.m. DVLC Spring Training Part 1
5 9:00 a.m. Schedule See above.	6	7 7:30 p.m. GSLC Book Club (FR)	8 11:00 a.m. Finance Comm. 6:30 P.M. SOUP SUPPER (FH) 7:00 p.m. NA (CH)	9 10:00 a.m. Ruth Circle (FH) 1:00 p.m. DVLC Board (FH) 6:00 Lighthouse (Rm. 3) 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (FH)	10	11 9:00 a.m. DVLC Spring Training Part 2
12 9:00 a.m. Schedule Above. Daylight Saving Time! 	13	14 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting (FH)	15 6:30 P.M. SOUP SUPPER (FH) 7:00 p.m. NA (CH)	16 8:30 a.m. Senior Food (FH) 6:00 p.m. Lighthouse (Rm 3) 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (FH)	17	18 9:30 a.m. Friends Feeding Friends (Kitchen)
19 9:00 a.m. Schedule Above.	20	21 Noon Leisure Lunch (FH) 7:00p.m. Property (Kitchen)	22 6:30 P.M. SOUP SUPPER (FH) 7:00 p.m. NA (CH)	23 6:00 Lighthouse (Rm. 3) 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (FH)	24 Newsletter Articles Due!	26 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast and Bible Study (FH)
27 9:00 a.m. Schedule Above.	28	29	30 6:30 P.M. SOUP SUPPER (FH) 7:00 p.m. NA (CH)	31 6:00 Lighthouse (Rm. 3) 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (FH)		
CH = Church		FH = Fellowship Hall		FR = Fireside Room		

Worship Assistants March 5, 2017 - April 2, 2017

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Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Concord, CA

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: Christopher Hewitt; chrishe Witt@gsconcord.com
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.