

Shepherd's Voice

Volume 11 • Issue 11

A monthly newsletter of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

November 2015

Points of Interest

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December Newsletter
Articles due November 23

November



**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

**Jesus Christ is the same yesterday today and forever.
(Hebrews 13:8)**

These words from Hebrews should bring us great comfort. But, often we forget these words of comfort and begin asking, "How will God respond to me, how will God respond to my sin, how will God respond to my turning away?" This short verse in Hebrews is a direct reminder of how God responds to us. When we read the stories of Jesus in the Gospels, we know how God responds to humanity—with love and forgiveness. The way God responds to people, you and me, today, is the same way that Jesus responded to the Disciples. It is the same way he responded to the woman at the well, to the blind, lame, and even the sinful. Jesus loves us just as we are. His personality has not changed from two millennia ago. The same Jesus, who walked long ago, walks with us today and loves us the same. It is important for us to remember who Jesus is and how he lived, because in doing so we can grow in faith and confidence in our faith journey. It is important that we read His stories because they show us how God works among people today. Jesus, God in flesh, is the same today as he was in the stories of Old.

As God acts toward us with love through Jesus, we respond first and foremost with thanksgiving. We acknowledge that Jesus is the one able to save us and we thank him for his self-sacrifice. Our posture towards God is one of appreciation and thanksgiving for God's gifts of grace and mercy.

This month we celebrate Thanksgiving. It's a time to remember all the blessings that have been lavished on us by God; everyone has blessings. They may be different than those around us, but all we have is a gift. So, when we celebrate the national holiday of Thanksgiving, we as Christians make it our own and proclaim that it is God to whom we are thankful, because God is the one who provides.

(Continued on Page 2)

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If you don't have a tradition in your family of proclaiming what you are thankful for let me suggest one. Before your Thanksgiving meal, gather your family in a circle. Begin this time with a prayer asking to be open to God's presence. Go around the circle and each person shares with the group one thing they are thankful for from this last year. Lastly, end your time with a prayer of thanksgiving to God. We do this in my family and it is a holy time for us to recognize the day in its rightful place—in God's hands. Thanksgiving may not be a Liturgical Holiday, but that doesn't mean we can't make it holy.

Peace,

Rev. Serrano



RUTH CIRCLE Meets November 12

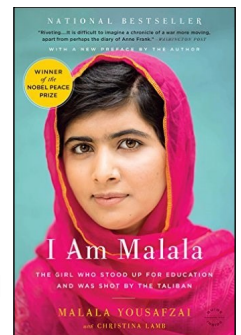
Ruth Circle meeting is Thursday Nov. 12 at 10:00.
A snack in Fellowship Hall will precede our Bible study in the Fireside Room.
All are welcome to join us for coffee, a snack and a discussion of Luke 8:15.

GOOD SHEPHERD BOOK CLUB ~ NOVEMBER 3

I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban
by Malala Yousafzai and Christina Lamb

Admit it, you've been fascinated by the real-life extraordinary experiences of this young woman. "I AM MALALA," a memoir by the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, will make you believe in the power of one person's voice to inspire change in the world.

Please join the Good Shepherd Book Club on November 3 at 7:30 pm in the Fireside Room to discuss this important work about how Malala's actions have impacted the world and brought the value of a single female voice out into the light.



MISSING TABLECLOTHS

Several of our round tablecloths are missing. We would like to have them back in time for Thanksgiving. If you have taken any home to launder, please return them as soon as possible. Thanks!

Happy Birthday Martin Luther! Born Nov. 10, 1483

A Message from our Council President

Hopefully, you have either picked up or received your Stewardship Packet by this time. As you know Sunday, November 8th is the date for turning in our pledges. I hope you will take the time and complete both the "My Pledge to Volunteer for Service & Fellowship" and the card indicating your financial support for 2016.

Again, thank you to Betty Fraga, Candace Bradley, and Linda Rodemsky for your talks on what it means to you in doing your volunteering in various church activities. Hopefully, it has spurred some of us to volunteer. We need members to be on council as well as our various committees.

Peace,
Herb



Veterans Day is November 11, 2015

GOOD SHEPHERD INCOME STATEMENT

AS OF September 30, 2015

	ACTUAL	BUDGET	Difference
INCOME:			
Pledges	\$100,959	\$109,244	(\$8,285)
Unpledged	24,232	17,381	6,851
Other (Tower, Rent, etc.)	73,245	62,327	10,918
TOTAL INCOME	198,436	188,952	9,484
LESS TOTAL EXPENSES	(180,372)	(188,591)	(8,219)
NET INCOME	\$ 18,064	\$ 361	\$ (17,703)

Thank you
for
your support!

November Birthdays

Pr. Jeremy Serrano	02
Erika Berg	06
Christopher Chaplin	06
Ron Figueroa	07
Everett Roza	07
Alexander Bohling	09
Jessica Olmedo	09
Wendy Pritchard	09
Laura Carlson	10
Daniel Johnson	13
Geralyn Koehler	14
Jon Moss	17
J.R. Oehninger	19
Ruth Lee	20
Sharon Peterson	23
Wayne Sarchett	25
Heidi Moss	27
Jessica Serrano	27
Zachary Hein-Silva	28
Joanne Erickson	29



October 2015 - Council Meeting Notes

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. on October 13 by Leone McCullough, vice president.

The Opening Prayer and Devotions were led by Donna Albrecht.

Recognitions:

Herb left a message to recognize Betty Fraga, Candace Bradley, and Linda Rodemsky for their temple talks and Lynne Davies for her past service as the congregational organist. Thanks to Laura for her work in preparing the Time, Talent and Treasure documents for this year's Stewardship campaign. Thanks to Gordon Monroe for preparing the 2016 Budget. Also, thanks to Pr. Jeremy and Sue Hertless for visiting Lois Berg, one of our shut-ins.

Pastor Jeremy thanked Jon Moss, Jamie Rodemsky, Jim Olson, Tony Rogelstad, and Greg Buchholz for cleaning up the campus. He also recognized Leone for her diligent work for making sure we have musicians for the next few months. Donna recognized Pastor Jeremy for his excellent work on building relationships for Good Shepherd using online media.

Laura recognized Jauire Welsh for his work in the office on the cell tower files.

Correspondence:

Reporting for the Long Range Planning and Property Committee, Jon said that T-Mobile wants to remove their antenna on our steeple and replace them with newer, larger ones. He is reviewing the plans. T-Mobile has asked for a letter from Good Shepherd authorizing them to draw permits for the work. The committee will also be asking Jauire Welsh to work with a company that specializes in these communication towers to ensure the project goes well.

Facility Requests:

Andrea Berg-LeDoux (member) requests use of Fellowship Hall on December 12 from 9 am to 6 pm for a "First Birthday" party. Jon moved to accept the request; Greg seconded. Msc.

Maria Martha Ibanz (non-member) requested use of Fellowship Hall on November 7 from 2 p.m. until 8 p.m. for a "16th Birthday" party. Nils moved to accept the request; Jon seconded. Msc.

Thrivent has requested to use Fellowship Hall for a Board meeting on November 21. This was advisory as they have not yet submitted a request.

Pastor's Report: During the Blessing of the Animals Liturgy on Oct. 4 at 9:30 a.m., we blessed 23 dogs, 1 chicken, 1 parrot, 3 cat photos and 1 toy ferret.

(Continued on next page.)

(Council Meeting Notes continued from previous page)

The children provided bird feeder for the service. There will be no Sunday School on October 11, and 18. On those days there will be communion education classes for youth and interested adults.

On the first Sunday of the month, Pastor will be taking youth out for lunch after Worship. We will discuss the shape of the youth ministry. Pastor and Sue Hertless have begun exploring the possibility of initiating a sister-congregation relationship with a congregation in El Salvador.

Constitution Committee:

The revised Constitution is ready to show the Council. Because it will take several hours to have it reviewed by the Council, there needs to be a special meeting for this purpose. Donna moved to hold the meeting on November 3 at 7 pm; Vicki seconded. Msc.

Council was reminded the next Healthy Start meeting will be at 7 p.m. on October 27.

Finance: The Budget for 2016 will be presented to the congregation during worship on October 18.

Stewardship: Laura Mott and Vicki Smiglewski from the Stewardship Committee will be meeting on Friday evening to prepare all the Stewardship Packets which will be handed out at church on Sunday.

Vicki moved to adjourn at 8:52 p.m.

The meeting was closed with a recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Albrecht
Council Secretary

Wedding Anniversaries

Richard and GERALYN
Koehler
November 10, 1990

Joe and Faye
Yarbrough
November 22, 1953

Wayne and Marilyn
Sarchett
November 28, 1959

Mike and Janet
Carzino
November 39, 1958

Lunch Bunch Begins November 1

Are you in Middle or High School? Do you like food? Then join the Rev for lunch on the first Sunday of the month, beginning Nov. 1.

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!

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.

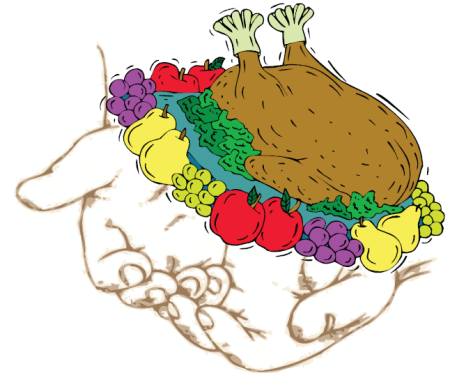
Our turkey and those we are able to help thank you!

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



FREE THANKSGIVING DINNER

Prepared Especially for You!

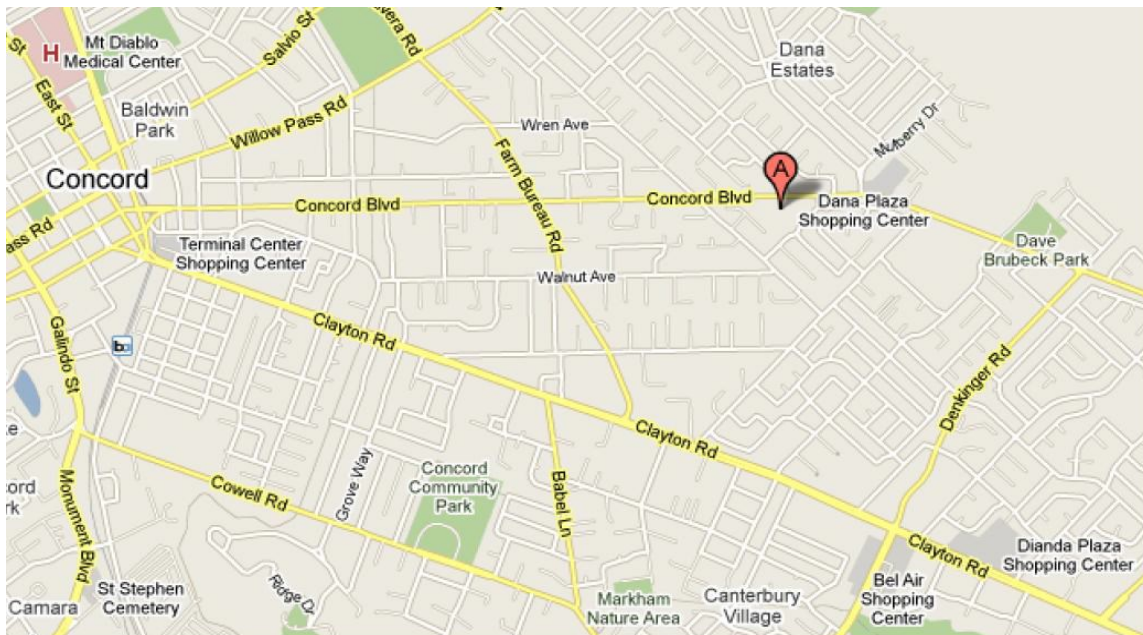


When: Thanksgiving Day November 26, 2015
Time: 11:30 am to 2:00 pm
Where: First Lutheran Church
4000 Concord Blvd., Concord

To arrange transportation in the Local Concord area contact us by:

Wednesday 11/25/2015

In English: 925-207-0035 En Español: 707- 408-1040



For More Information: GIVING THANKS at THANKSGIVING
Sponsored by several Contra Costa area churches.

Warm Blankets Needed

As the cooler weather of the fall season has begun, Pacheco/Martinez Homeless Outreach is in desperate need of blankets. They reach out to thousands of homeless throughout CC County to try to talk them into shelters. Friends Feeding Friends covers their food for distribution, and we give them many blankets and sleeping bags each year, but they need a lot more blankets.

If you can help, they are asking for donations to be dropped off at the following address. You can leave bags in front of the house: 2161 Pomona Avenue, Martinez, CA. You can also drop off donations at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church office.

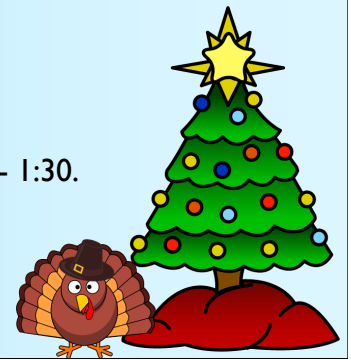
Combined Leisure Lunch, November/December

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 1st** from noon - 1:30.

Bring a favorite childhood Christmas memory to share and we'll reminisce together.

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



GSLC Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

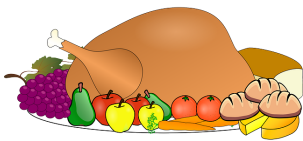
The Fellowship Committee is planning our traditional GSLC Thanksgiving Dinner to be held on Sunday Evening, November 22, at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!

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 turkey donations and help cooking.

If you can help, please contact Emilie Patton at eeyoreishappy@hotmail.com



LOOK FOR OUR SIGN UP POSTER COMING SOON!

World Community Day on Friday, November 6

Church Women United of Central Contra Costa County invites everyone to our Celebration Day held at Walnut Creek United Methodist Church, 1543 Sunnyvale Avenue, Walnut Creek. We begin at 9:30 a.m. with registration and coffee. Program begins at 10:00 a.m. through 11:15 a.m. Please call 672-1053 if you have questions.

The program will be presented by Judy Stillman, director of Winter Nights, the rotating shelter for homeless families sponsored by the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County. Ms. Stillman will focus on the many ways that lives are being improved by this compassionate service.

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 925-207-0035.

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.”



780 Grocery/Food bags distributed
766 People helped with food
148 Hot Meals served
10 People helped with household furnishings

Next FFF Lunch: November 21, 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:

- 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!!
- FFF helped youth that had aged out of the Foster Care system and ended up homeless. Once discovered, the county helped obtain transitional housing. FFF provided all the household furnishings including dishes, cookware, appliances, linens and furniture.

Items needed this month:
* Blankets and Sleeping bags (new or used) * Warm coats and Jackets * Pillows (clean, not stained)





Gary picked up 4 loads of donated furniture in one week, THANK YOU
← Gary!!!

When the Food Bank is low on food (yes, this happens), FFF purchases food for distribution. →



November 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30 a.m. Schedule See below. 	2 10:30 a.m. Quilting (FH)	3 7:00 p.m. Council - Constitution Meeting. 7:30 p.m. GSLC Book Club (FR)	4 3:00 p.m. Worship and Music (FH) 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	5 8:30 a.m. Senior Food (FH) 2:00 p.m. Finance Comm. 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (FH)	6	7 1:00 p.m. Private Event (FH)
8 8:30 a.m. Schedule See below. Commitment Sunday	9 10:30 a.m. Quilting (FH) 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting (FH)	10	11 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	12 10:00 a.m. Ruth Circle (FR) 2:00 p.m. Finance Meeting 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (FH)	13 Amerprise Service Day 10:00 a.m. DVLC Board Mtg. (FH)	14 Private Event (CH) (FH)
15 8:30 a.m. Schedule See below.	16	17	18 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	19 8:30 a.m. Senior Food (FH) 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (FH)	20	21 9:30 a.m. Friends Feeding Friends (Kitchen)
22 Christ the King 9:30 a.m. Schedule 5:30 p.m. GSLC Thanksgiving Dinner (FH)	23 Newsletter Articles Due	24	25 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	26 Church Office Closed 	27 Church Office Closed	28
29 First Sunday of Advent 8:30 a.m. Schedule	30				9:30 a.m. Sun. Schedule: 9:30 a.m. Worship (CH) 10:45 a.m. Coffee (FH) 6:00 p.m. NA Group (EH)	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 November I- November 29, 2015

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.
11/01 All Saints Day	8:30	Kelly Schaefer	Linda Rodemsky and Susan Metzger	Linda Rodemsky	Altar Guild	Caedmon Serrano	Donna Abeyta Nancy Knapp Nancy Judge Becky Berg	Kay Bennett Jeannette Kaul	Ron Figueroa Vicky Smiglewski	Jamie Rodemsky		Greg And Kristi Buchholz	Karin Bohling And Reyanne Freeman	Donna Albrecht
	11:00							Mark Deniston						
11/08	8:30	Erin Wardle	Rosemary Fassi and Candace Bradley	John Mott	Altar Guild	Sam Buchholz	Kathy Price Eise Welsh Heidi Moss Cindy Rogelstad	Jauire and Eise Welsh	Jim and Carin Olson	Jamie Rodemsky		Doug and Reyanne Freeman	Karin Bohling and Carin Olson	Herb Yonge
	11:00							Rosemary Fassi						
11/15	8:30	Duane Peterson	Susan Metzger and Sue Hertless	Nils Anderson	Altar Guild	Allie Buchholz	Jan Harman Pam Dietz Willajean Rogelstad Linda Mahloch	Willajean Rogelstad The Bibbs Family	Greg Buchholz and Sam Buchholz	Jamie Rodemsky		Jon and Heidi Moss	Nils Anderson and Carin Olson	Nils Anderson
	11:00													
11/22 Christ the King	9:30	Sue Hertless	Rosemary Fassi and Linda Rodemsky	Kristi Buchholz	Altar Guild	Doug Olson	Laura Carlson Vicki Smiglewski Elizabeth Kick Sue Hertless	Larry and Marcia Sander and Nancy Judge	Gary and Linda Mahloch	Jamie Rodemsky		Ron and Kathy Price	Herb Yonge and Tony Rogelstad	Greg Buchholz
11/29 First Sunday of Advent	8:30	Candace Bradley	Linda Rodemsky and Duane Peterson	Linda Rodemsky	Altar Guild	Caedmon Serrano	Ione Bantly Leone McCullough Karin Bohling Tracey Rentner	Kay Bennett Jeannette Kaul	Ron Figueroa and Paul Rusch	Jamie Rodemsky		Gary and Linda Mahloch	Herb Yonge and Tony Rogelstad	Leone McCullough
	11:00							Nancy Knapp						

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church *Concord, NH*

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