

Shepherd's Voice

Volume 11 • Issue 10

A monthly newsletter of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

October 2015

Points of Interest

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7 Happy 100th Birthday

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**November Newsletter
Articles due October 26**

October



**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

Since last year we've done several blessings during our celebration of the liturgy on Sundays. We've blessed bikes, chalk, backpacks, ashes, palms, people, and this month we are blessing our pets. But, that's not even the half of what we could do. The ELCA also publishes resources to bless new communion-ware, bells, organs, windows, paraments, vestments, houses, and more—there's a lot of blessing going on.

I am partial to these kinds of rites because of what it means for us to bless.

Blessing doesn't magically make something special. When we as a community bless things we are committing them to God's service. The rite of blessing is meant to be a reminder that with this chalk, or backpack, or bike, whatever it is, we are receiving it from God, and using it in God's service.

As a part of the blessing we first bring it before God with thanksgiving. We acknowledge that this person, animal, or object is a gift from God. We are saying that the blessing of God is the foundation for us in our living out our relationship with God and we are called to be a blessing to the world. When we pronounce God's blessing, we are saying that something will function for the good of creation. Ultimately, with blessing we are reminded that we live purely by God's grace, protection, and ask for favor.

Often, we think of a division between spiritual and physical. We attribute prayer, meditation and worship to the spiritual, and work, play, and service to the physical. But, those lines are only imaginary. The physical activities we do are spiritual acts; the two are intimately intertwined.

Everything we do is spiritual.

(Continued on Page 2)

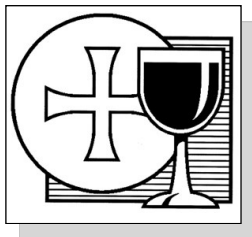
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Blessings are not sacraments, but they are a way for us to remind ourselves that there's no division between the sacred and secular for the Christian. In fact, we carry with us the sacred with us wherever we go. Blessed objects remind us of that.

Christians are called to be a blessing in the world; to remind people of God's love, to serve the marginalized, to be witnesses to grace, forgiveness, and charity. We bless so often because we need a reminder that what we do for the world must first be done in us.

Peace,
Rev. J Serrano

Communion Instruction



There will be a two-part Communion Instruction for anyone who desires instruction before receiving Communion in October.

Part One will be held on Sunday, October 11, during the Sunday School hour.

Part Two will be held on Sunday, October 18, also during the Sunday School hour.

GOOD SHEPHERD BOOK CLUB

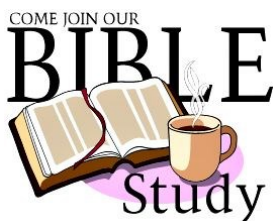
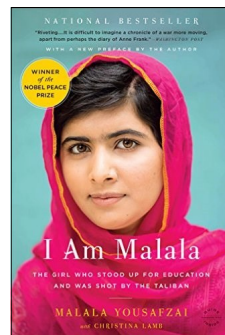
I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban

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.

Questions? Contact Donna Albrecht: donna-at-albrechts.com



RUTH CIRCLE Meets October 8

We will meet on Thursday, October 8 at 10:00 a.m.

A snack in Fellowship Hall will precede our Bible study in the Fireside Room.

We will discuss the fact that trust and grief can live side by side within us.

Psalm 13 speaks of a God that hears all our prayers.

A Message from our Council President

We are well on our way with this year's Stewardship Campaign with emphasis on Time and Talent. We have had excellent temple talks from Betty Fraga and Candace Bradley in September and on October 4th we will hear from Linda Rodemsky. Linda will tell us why she volunteers and what it means to her.

On October 18th we will hear from our Finance Committee as to the "first draft" of our 2016 budget. Also the Time, Talent and Treasure packets will be distributed on Sunday, October 18. You will have an opportunity to "nurture the tree" with your commitment of time and talent and treasure on Commitment Sunday, November 8.

We have established a Mutual Ministry Committee currently composed of our Executive Committee. This was one of the specific attention items set when Pastor Jeremy was called. Some of the benefits of such a committee are:

- develop open communication about expectations, attitudes and concerns.
- identify early warning signs of misunderstandings.
- serve as a group for pastor and staff to test new ideas.

The Mutual Ministry Committee will meet every month prior to the Council meetings.

Our next Healthy Start meeting is set for Tuesday, October 27th. This will be our fourth meeting with Pastor Mark Price along with our Council and the Call Committee.

I know we all are saddened by Lynne Davies resigning as our organist. We did give a small recognition of her service on Sunday, September 27th. Lynne will continue as our Treasurer as we look for a replacement.

Peace, Herb
GOD BLESS AMERICA

GOOD SHEPHERD INCOME STATEMENT

AS OF AUGUST 31, 2015

	ACTUAL	BUDGET	Difference
INCOME:			
Pledges	\$91,510	\$97,105	(\$5,595)
Unpledged	21,885	15,450	6,435
Other (Tower, Rent, etc.)	67,008	55,402	11,606
TOTAL INCOME	180,403	167,957	12,446
LESS TOTAL EXPENSES	(160,801)	(169,234)	(8,433)
NET INCOME	\$ 19,602	\$ (1,277)	\$ (20,879)

Thank you
for
your support!

October Birthdays

Michael Morgan	04
Victoria Neely	04
Travis Fiene	05
Nathaniel Mollwitz	06
Andrea Berg-LeDoux	12
Betty Mae Jacobsen	13
Louise Cohen	14
Teresa Fassl	14
Ione Bantly	15
Chase Kreutzinger	15
Marcy Munson	20
Faye Yarbrough	21
Dana Deniston	24
Donna Monroe	26
Diane Neely	26
Emilie Patton	26
LaVonne Busch	27
Ingrid Burns	28
Jamie Rodemsky	28
Helga Wardle	30
Greg Castle	31
Karen Maurer	31



September 2015 - Council Meeting Notes

The Opening Prayer and Devotions were led by Laura Mott.

Recognitions:

Leone thanked all who did a deep cleaning of the Sanctuary in late August including: Kristi Buchholz, Laura Carlson, Nancy Judge, Linda Mahloch, Donna Monroe, Heidi Moss, Kathy Price, Cindy Rogelstad, Marcia Sanders, Vicki Smiglewski, and Else Welsh. Herb thanked Lynne Davies and Gordon Monroe for handling the accounting issues that came up when recording the endowment funds. Laura Mott thanked Tony Rogelstad and Jon Moss for installing the security lock on the office door. Pastor recognized Jim Olson for finishing the parsonage by completing the installation of the baseboards, screen door and laundry room door.

Pastor Report:

“It is with great sadness that I have received Lynne Davies’ resignation from both her positions as Interim Organist and Treasurer. Her resignation will take effect on September 27.”

We will be offering gluten-free communion wafers in the coming month for those who are gluten-intolerant.

On September 20, Marv Abrahamson will be preaching about how our stewardship affects the global poor through the organization, Food for the Poor.

On October 4 we will return to a single service at 9:30 am for that one Sunday only. It is the Feast of St. Francis, and the service will be held outdoors to allow pets to be there and be blessed.

There will be no Sunday School for adults or children on October 11 and 18 as classes on taking first communion will be offered between services.

On October 25, there will be a single service at 9:30 a.m. to celebrate the Reformation.

In October, Rev will begin “Coffee with the Rev” on Fridays from 10:00 am until noon.

(Continued on next page.)

(Council Meeting Notes continued from previous page)

Presidents' Report: Herb thanked all who attended the Same Sex Marriage discussion on Sunday, August 30. He felt the forum went well and again demonstrated that we are a caring congregation. Council and Call Committee members met with Pastor and a facilitator for the Healthy Start program to support Jeremy as a new pastor for our congregation. Rev discussed forming a Mutual Ministry Committee to hear and facilitate successful outcomes of concerns held by Pastor and/or congregation members.

Finance:

Our congregation is currently in good shape on its current budget. Long Range Planning and Property Committee report that the carpeting in the sanctuary will soon be replaced.

Confirmation Class: Pastor is currently working on creating a new class for this fall.

Youth:

Pastor is planning to take the junior high and high school students out to lunch after worship on the first Sunday of the month.

Stewardship:

The envelopes being given out this year will include printed places on the front so people can choose "Current & Benevolence", "Coffee Fund", "Capital Expenses", and "Other".

Evangelism:

In the process of planning activities for the celebration of the Feast of St. Francis taking place on Oct. 4, there will be a banner in front of the property, fliers to be handed out at veterinarian offices and pet food stores, and a special worship service where pets and animals of all sorts will be blessed.

Wedding Anniversaries

Greg and Deborah
Castle
Oct 1, 1988

John and Laura
Mott
October 5, 1985

Jeremy and Diane
Neely
October 5, 2002

Karl and Karin
Bohling
October 11, 1980

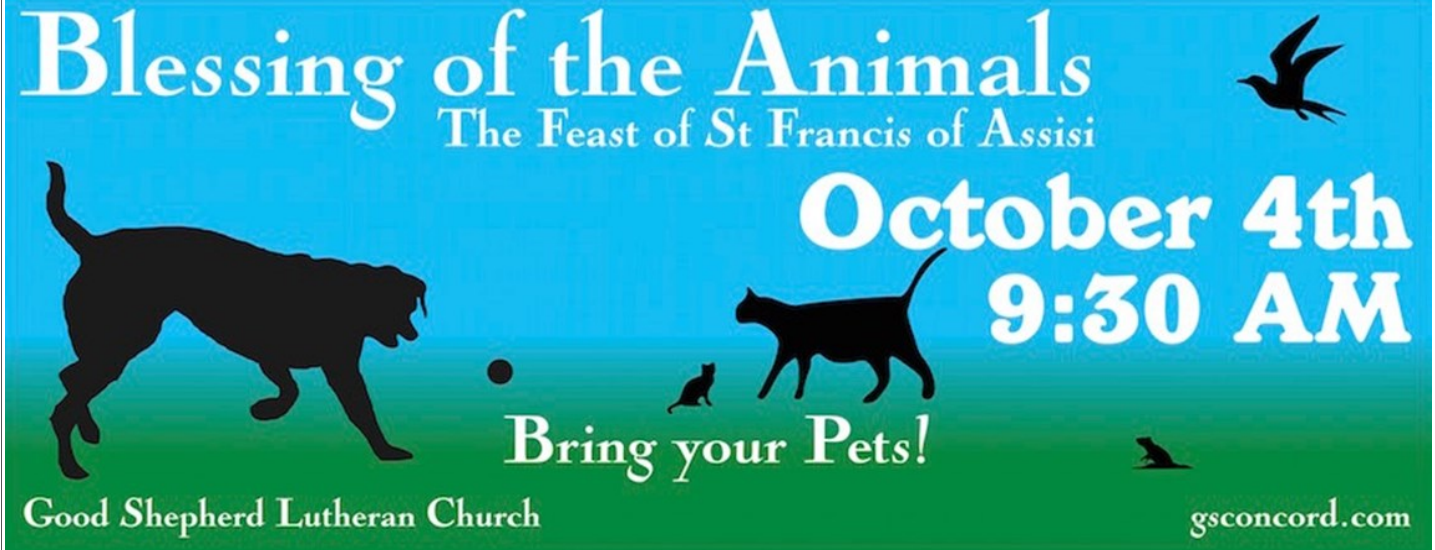
J. Brad and Helga
Wardle
October 12, 1991

Cal and Betty
Fraga
October 16, 1965

Larry and Marcia
Sander
October 20, 1973

Duane and Betty
Peterson
October 27, 1951

Good Shepherd Lutheran



Join us in continuing the ancient tradition honoring St. Francis of Assisi. All are welcome to bring their furry, feathered, and scaled friends to receive God's blessing.

Please bring your pet on a leash or in a carrier.
Photos are welcome if your pet does not do well around other animals.

We will gather in the courtyard.

*In the event of rain, we will meet in
the Fellowship Hall.*

Warm Blankets Needed

As the cooler weather of the fall season begins, 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 Pomoma Avenue, Martinez, CA. You can also drop off donations at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Office.

"Coffee with the Rev" is Back!

On Friday Oct 16, 23 and 30, I will be holding part of my office hours (10:00 AM-12:00 PM) at Starbucks Coffee, located at 4375 Clayton Rd.

I'll be scheduling half hour slots for us to meet and talk about anything you want. Please email me if you're interested in sharing a cup of joe and a good conversation.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is responsible for seeking out congregation members interested in serving on our Church Council. Would you be interested in serving on the Nominating Committee?
Want to know more? Please contact Herb Yonge.

Happy 100th Birthday to Louise Cohen on October 14

Lunch Bunch

Are you in Middle or High School? Do you like food? Then join me for lunch on the first Sunday of the month beginning in November. We'll meet after the second worship service and head to a local restaurant for some food and conversation. Please let me know if you can make it.

-Rev

LEISURE LUNCH in October

Our Leisure Lunchers will gather on Tuesday, October 20th from noon - 1:30 for our monthly luncheon. We hope you can come! If the weather is brisk we'll be serving a our Leisure Lunch soup and sandwiches. Of course, if the food, fun and fellowship are not enough, there are always fabulous prizes! Call Susan and Bob Ripley at 925-827-9717 for questions, menu requests or a ride. Looking forward to seeing you there!

2015 Fall Online Synod Gathering

October 17, 2015

9:45 am — 2 pm

The Conferences of our synod will gather for
their Fall Assemblies during the afternoon session

District A – St. Mark's, Fairfield

District B – Ascension, Citrus Heights

Districts C & D – Grace, Palo Alto

District E – Hope, Fresno



Dr. David Vasquez-Levy, President of Pacific School of Religion and rostered ELCA pastor, will be leading an online forum on cultural and immigration issues as they impact our ministry as congregations of the Sierra Pacific Synod. A description of his presentation is below:

Out of the Waters -- Whether moving to a new community for a job, across the state to pursue an education, or in search of better opportunities across the world, we live in a world that is constantly "on the move." Join us as we explore how the biblical stories of migration can shape our engagement of a world on the move. This is an especially timely presentation given ongoing immigration issues in this country and the current situation with Syrian refugees seeking asylum throughout the world.

Schedule for the day:

9 am – Registration/Fellowship

9:45 am – Worship service

10 am – Presentation: "Out of the Waters" and discussion (as a group and at individual sites)

12 noon – Lunch (will need to be planned by the conference deans of each district)

12:45 – Conference Gatherings for nominations, possible resolutions and discussion of conference reorganization 2:00 pm – On our way rejoicing!



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.”



**229
243
122
7**

**Grocery/Food bags distributed
People helped with food
Hot Meals served
People helped with household furnishings**

Next FFF Lunch: October 17, 2015: 9:00 at Good Shepherd to prep, 12:00 noon at the shelter (2047 Arnold Industrial Way, Concord) to serve. All are welcome!

Items needed this month:

- * **Blankets and Sleeping bags (new or used)**
- * **Warm coats and Jackets**

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:



- FFF finally slowed a bit giving us time to sort donations, and get organized.
- If you order from Amazon, please remember to go to Amazon Smile at <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-1564846> 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 is helping a family who lost everything in the Middletown fire. If you can help, they need clothing or gift cards to buy clothes. (Sizes needed: Boys/Youth L or 12-14, Women's 14/XL, Men's 36 pants/XL tops). FFF will help them with their household needs.

Email us at friendsfeedingfriends@yahoo.com or friendsfeedingfriendsca@gmail.com



Linda is really strong!!!

October 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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)	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 (CH) 6:00 p.m. NA (FH)			1 8:30 a.m. Senior Food (FH) 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (FH)	2	3 8:00 a.m. DVLC Fall Training (FH)
4 9:30 Schedule See above.	5 10:30 a.m. Quilting (FH)	6	7 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	8 10:00 a.m. Ruth Circle (FR) 2:00 p.m. Finance Meeting 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (FH)	9 10:00 a.m. DVLC Board Mtg. (FH)	10
11 8:30 a.m. Schedule See above. 11:00 Baptism & Reception (CH) (FH)	12  9:30 Worship and Music Comm. (FH) 7:00 Council Meeting (FH)	13	14 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	15 8:30 a.m. Senior Food (FH) 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (FH)	16 Afternoon Private Party Set-up (FH)	17 9:30 a.m. Friends Feeding Friends (Kitchen) Private Party (FH)
18 8:30 a.m. Schedule See above. **Pick up your Stewardship packet	19 10:30 a.m. Quilting (FH)	20 Noon Leisure Lunch (FH)	21 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	22 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (FH)	23	24 Figueira Memorial Service and Reception (CH) (FH)
25 Reformation 9:30 a.m. Worship Schedule See above.	26 Newsletter Articles Due	27 7:00 p.m. Healthy Start (FH)	28 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	29 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (FH)	30	31 
CH = Church		FH = Fellowship Hall		FR = Fireside Room		

Worship Assistants October 4 – November 1, 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.
10/04 Blessing of the Animals	9:30	Lauren Wardle	Leone McCullough Duane Peterson	Leone McCullough	Altar Guild	Caedmon Serrano	Kathy Price Eise Welsh Heidi Moss Cindy Rogelstad	Kay Bennett Jeannette Kaul	Ron Figueroa and Paul Rusch	Jamie Rodemsky		Jon and Heidi Moss	Jan Carzino and Betty Jacobsen	Emilie Patton
								Nancy Judge						
10/11	8:30	Sue Hertless	Susan Metzger and Linda Rodemsky	Candace Bradley	Altar Guild	Sam Buchholz	Jan Harmon Pam Dietz Willajean Rogelstad Linda Mahloch	Jauire and Eise Welsh	Jim and Carin Olson	Jamie Rodemsky		Doug and Reyenne Freeman	Reyenne Freeman and Pam Dietz	Leone McCullough
	11:00			Rosemary Fassl				Nancy Knapp						
10/18	8:30	Duane Peterson	Kelly Schaefer and Mike Albrecht	Donna Albrecht	Altar Guild	Allie Buchholz	Laura Carlson Vicki Smiglewski Elizabeth Kich Sue Hertless	Willajean Rogelstad	Greg Buchholz and Sam Buchholz	Jamie Rodemsky	Duane Peterson	Ron and Kathy Price	Reyenne Freeman and Pam Dietz	Tony Rogelstad
	11:00							Connie Summers						
10/25 Reformation Sunday	9:30	Candace Bradley	Rosemary Fassl and Susan Metzger	Ingrid Burns	Altar Guild	Doug Olson	Ione Bantly Leone McCullough Karin Bohling Tracey Rentner	Larry and Marcia Sander	Gary and Linda Mahloch	Jamie Rodemsky		Gary and Linda Mahloch	Karen Bohling and Gordon Monroe	Laura Mott
								Jay Neyenhouse						
11/01 All Saints Day	8:30	Kelly Schaefer	Linda Rodemsky and Susan Metzger	Linda Rodemsky	Altar Guild	Caedmon Serrano	Donna Abeyra Nancy Knapp Nancy Judge Becky Berg	Kay Bennett Jeannette Kaul	Ron Figueroa and Vicki Smiglewski	Jamie Rodemsky		Greg and Kristi Buchholz	Karen Bohling and Gordon Monroe	Donna Albrecht
	11:00							Mark Deniston						

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
4000 Clayton Road
Concord, CA 94521

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church *Concord, CA*

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 Patton, 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