

Shepherd's Voice

Volume 9 • Issue 8

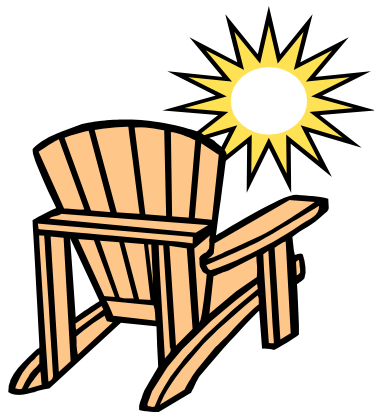
A monthly newsletter of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

August 2013

Points of Interest

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- 8 Interim Ministry Update

September Newsletter
Articles Due August 22



August

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

**Summer Worship Schedule:
One Service at 9:30 a.m.**

A Message from our Interim Pastor

At Part One of the visioning event last month, one participant was expressing frustration that whenever church members are asked about mission and vision, people tend to say the same things:

We need more members and financial stability; we need children and a Sunday School; we need a pastor who is a gifted leader.

Then another participant at the same table mused:

What if there were no “need”? What if we didn’t “need” more members because people were already here and the Sunday School had dozens of children and skilled teachers? What if we didn’t “need” to feed the homeless because all people had homes and food? What if we didn’t “need” Bible study because members knew the Word so well that it speaks in their hearts?

If there were no “need,” why would Good Shepherd exist?

Of course, we know there is enormous need – down the street, across the country, throughout the world, and in our own hearts. There is hunger, violence, and illness. People are estranged from God and from one another. Many people are estranged from church, or have never heard the biblical stories we’ll be hearing this month: the parables of the “rich fool,” Jesus’ warning about being “watchful,” or when Jesus – the Prince of Peace – says he comes not to bring peace, but “division”! These are challenging stories that speak to human needs; they challenge us to examine what we believe and what it means for how we live. But when we listen more deeply, we also hear the gospel – the good news that Christ is the one thing needed. In Christ, there is healing for the nations, and for you and me.

If there were no “need,” why would Good Shepherd exist? Would it be to revel in joyfully recounting to one another the good news that in Christ we have been healed and made whole and right with God? Would it be to be in the presence of the Holy Spirit and one another? Would it be to praise God because God is good?

We do come together to hear the gospel of Christ Jesus and praise God, but we also are formed by Holy Spirit into the body of Christ *for the sake of the world*. The church on earth exists to give thanks and praise to God by living out God’s grace and *shalom* in this world. If all humanity lived out the true peace of God, there would, indeed, be no need; it would be heaven on earth.

Continued on Page 2

Interim Pastor Message - Continued from Page 1

It is my prayer that you will have a long and blessed ministry with your next pastor, and that years from now when you are engaged in visioning as a congregation you will not need to say “the same things” again, because you will have the members and children and vision and resources that you need, and because you will always remember why Good Shepherd exists and that each participant here is an important member of the body of Christ, and Christ is all we need.

– Interim Pastor Lori Eickmann

2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly meets Aug. 12-17 in Pittsburgh

CHICAGO (ELCA) -- Members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) will gather August 12-17, 2013, in assembly at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh. The 4-million-member ELCA is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year under the theme “Always being made new,” which serves as the theme for the ELCA Churchwide Assembly -- the highest legislative authority of this church.

Underscoring the ELCA’s commitment “to care for creation” all assembly materials will be available electronically to the 952 voting members. Nearly all voting members will be using iPads equipped with an ELCA Guidebook application that contains materials to conduct business, saving an estimated 500,000 pages of paper. ELCA members and others not attending the assembly can access live video of plenary sessions at: <http://www.ELCA.org/assembly>. An assembly schedule, the Pre-Assembly Report and other resources are also available at this site.

Two key action items at the assembly include the elections for an ELCA presiding bishop and ELCA secretary. Prior to the election, members are asked to consider the document “A Conversation Regarding the Election of Churchwide Officers” which encourages conversation and discernment relating to the election of the two six-year term positions.



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

News From SHARE Food Pantry

By Jan Harmon

The Food Bank said that SHARE is rated 25th out of the 200 food pantries in the East Bay for the amount of food purchased from them. Other sources are donations from churches, Safeway, Trader Joe’s and Farmers Markets.

► *Congratulations to Donna Bauders!* She is SHARE’S Top Volunteer for this quarter. Check out SHARE’S website at: sharepantry.org

Thanks to all who leave donations in our basket in the Narthex. If you want more information or have any questions about our program, talk to Donna Bauders or Jan and Kurt Harmon.

Communion to Shut-In Ministry

Do you know anyone who is unable to come to Sunday Worship but would like to receive Communion? If so, please call Duane Peterson at 925-825-2109 or call the church office and leave a message for Duane to contact you. Currently, Communion is brought to those unable to come to church on the third Sunday of each month, but we would like to be able to bring Communion on two Sundays each month.

Can you volunteer to bring Communion to those who cannot attend church? If so, please contact Duane Peterson. We need one or two more volunteers one Sunday each month.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

To all those who shared their thoughts for Good Shepherd's vision at last month's event, I sincerely thank you. I want to share what I saw and heard concerning our strengths. We have a beautiful campus, we are debt free, and our finances are strong as we end the first half of the year. How many churches can say that? As we move forward with a new pastor, we must figure out how to get out from under the cell tower bondage and create a budget not dependent on the towers. I have some ideas and would be willing to share with finance and anyone else who is interested.

On September 8th we will be celebrating Good Shepherd's 60th Anniversary. What a beautiful gift. God has truly blessed this Church and His People who worship here. Mark your calendars and plan on attending the event "60 Years of Worshiping God and Serving our Community".

We are still in the planning stages to provide a beautiful and memorable morning for both congregation members and friends of Good Shepherd as we celebrate Good Shepherd's 60th Anniversary. It is our hope you will enjoy being together with friends and sharing one of your delicious dishes that comes from your loving hands and begs to be shared with others. You will find a sign-up sheet in the Narthex beginning on August 4.

In addition, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America has identified September 8th as "God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday". A day where all Lutheran Churches will join together doing God's work with our hands. Churches have been invited to take up a service project and show how we serve God and the Community. At Good Shepherd, we would like to ask each person to bring non-perishable food items to worship on Sunday, September 8th. We will create a time for the items to be brought up to the altar and Pastor Lori will bless our offerings. We will donate the items to the local food pantry. I hope you will support this effort to both give thanks to God and share with our community on this beautiful blessed day.

Peace in Christ,
Sue Hertless



We live in a Broken World.
Inside us there beats a Heart that has been broken more times
than we'd care to remember.
But there will always be someone to help us pick up the shattered
pieces and begin the process of repair.
Sometimes with Glue, sometimes with Love, sometimes with Miracles.
Always with God.

- Author Unknown

Contributed by Alice Engle

Reading gives us someplace to go when we have to stay where we are.

Weekly E-News!

We have begun sending
a weekly email designed to
keep you up-to-date each
Thursday.

Not receiving it yet?

Send an email to:

lauramott@gsconcord.com

August Birthdays

Emily Rossi	04
Gary Mahloch	05
Tyrone Sasaoka	06
Fred Wagner	06
Emily Kich	07
Helen Ollila	08
Kenneth Olmedo	08
Nils Anderson	10
Bob Pachelbel	10
Dave Munson	11
Sally Poston	12
Laura Anagnostopoulous	13
Kristie Gray	20
Tracey Rentner-Glen	23
Linda Rodemsky	23
Lynne Davies	24
Ray Ollila	25
Betty Peterson	25
Donna Flatness	28
Julianne Hudson	28



Minutes of Council Meeting of July 9, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by president Sue Hertless, who then offered the prayer.

Present were Sue Hertless, Laura Mott, Cindy Rogelstad (guest), Donna Albrecht, Mark Deniston, Jim Olson, Herb Yonge, Linda Rodemsky, and Victor Olmedo.

Absent were Jon Moss, Ken Robinson, Leone McCullough and Pr. Lori Eickmann.

Linda Rodemsky led the devotions.

President Hertless recognized Cindy Rogelstad as the new chair of the altar committee, replacing Vicki Smiglewski who moved to Arizona.

President Hertless also recognized Tony Rogelstad, Pam Dietz, Betty Jacobson and Karen Bohling who volunteered to become counters.

Kelly Schafer was recognized for volunteering with the American Red Cross efforts for the Colorado fire.

Lauren and Erin Wardle were recognized for their work as assistant ministers and Doug Olson was recognized for his work as lector.

The council reviewed the minutes of the meeting with Pastor Nancy Feniuk Nelson, the Bishop's Assistant. They were accepted as written. MSC

Council reviewed the minutes of the June meeting. They were accepted as written. MSC

ACTION ITEM: Laura will talk to officials of the City of Concord about the different committees and commissions so we can consider how they may be able to assist with possible future construction.

ACTION ITEM: The finance committee reported an offer of \$2,500 per month for a period of five years for the cell tower on the top level of the property. There was a discussion of a possible counter-offer from the church. Herb moved to allow our representatives to negotiate a counter proposal. The motion was passed. MSC

There was a discussion of possible ways to reach out to former and non-attending members for the 60th Anniversary of Good Shepherd celebration. A service element is being considered for the event.

A discussion was held about the use of alcohol by non-member individuals and groups renting space from Good Shepherd. Herb moved to change the wording in the contract given to non-member renters to forbid alcohol. MSC.

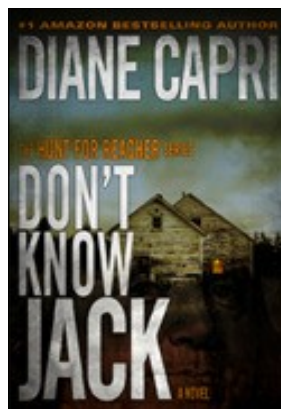
The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 pm. Respectfully submitted, Donna Albrecht

GOOD SHEPHERD BOOK CLUB

Great Summer Read for GS Book Club!

Who doesn't love taking a summer break to read a thriller? At our Good Shepherd Book Club, our summer read this year is Diane Capri's "Don't Know Jack". This "what if?" thriller takes off on the Jack Reacher character by Lee Child (with his wholehearted approval). The main characters are FBI agents sent on a quest to find Reacher so they can solve the case.

Of course, Reacher won't be found unless he wants to be... but can he help them solve the case without him?



On September 17 at 7:30 pm, join us in the Fireside Room to discuss this thrill-a-minute novel. Questions? Contact Donna at donna-at-albrechts.com

Altar Guild Meeting

Altar Guild members and persons interested in joining our Altar Guild are invited to a meeting on Sunday, September 22, between services in the Sanctuary.

Please bring your ideas and concerns to our meeting or submit them in writing and give them to Cindy Rogelstad.

Thank you,
Cindy Rogelstad
Altar Guild Chairperson

Wedding Anniversaries

Gary and Linda Mahloch
August 5, 1962

Glen and Candace Bradley
August 6, 2004

Michael and Angie Morgan
August 6, 1994

James and Kim Christiana
August 14, 1982

Mike and Donna Albrecht
August 16, 1970

Richard and Connie
Batchelder
August 16, 1969

Jim and Jo Carson
August 20, 1979

Doug and Reyanne Freeman
August 22, 1964

GOOD SHEPHERD INCOME STATEMENT AS OF June 2013

	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER (UNDER) BUDGET
INCOME:			
Pledges	\$75,405	\$76,459	\$ (1,054)
Unpledged	11,428	13,376	(1,948)
Other (Tower, Rent, etc.)	57,667	56,812	855
TOTAL INCOME	144,500	146,647	(2,147)
LESS TOTAL EXPENSES	(126,892)	(145,752)	18,860
NET INCOME	\$ 17,608	\$ 895	\$ 16,713

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

Thanks to our Counters

Thank you to all of our
counters.

A special thank you to our
newest counters:

Karin Bohling,
Pam Dietz,
Betty Jacobsen
Tony Rogelstad
for volunteering to join our
Counters group .

This is terrific and your
volunteering is much
appreciated!

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
4000 Clayton Road
Concord, CA 94521-2617
July 25, 2013

Dear Members of Good Shepherd,

As you may know, the Call Committee has begun the process of calling a new pastor. We recently held our first of two church-wide visioning events to help us develop a current profile of Good Shepherd in order to help us determine the key qualities we are seeking in our next pastor. The participants answered 6 questions to help the Call Committee identify Good Shepherd's strengths, weaknesses, and goals for the future.

Your thoughts and ideas are critical to this process, and it is very important that we have as much participation as possible. If you were not able to attend the July 21st event, this is your opportunity to have a say in the future of Good Shepherd, so please answer briefly, but thoughtfully, the 6 questions you will find below.

You may return your answers by mail, by email (CCgslc2013@gmail.com), by dropping them off at the church office, or by placing them in the offering plate at service on Sunday. ***Please return your answers as soon possible, but no later than August 11.***

We would like to invite you to our next visioning event on **Sunday, August 11 from 4:00-6:00 p.m.** We will continue this important work we are doing as a congregation while enjoying a good old-fashioned church barbecue.

Sincerely, your Good Shepherd Call Committee,
Aimee Olmedo
Candace Bradley
Greg Buchholz
John Mott
Nils Anderson

-
- 1) Who is Good Shepherd? Why are we here as a congregation?
 - 2) What are your hopes and dreams for Good Shepherd in the next 3-5 years?
 - 3) What are some outside/external obstacles that might prevent us from achieving our goals as a congregation?
 - 4) What are Good Shepherd's strengths and gifts?
 - 5) What are our weaknesses and areas to improve in?
 - 6) What kinds of programs/services will the congregation need in the next 3-5 years? What support does the local community need?

Picture Highlights Visioning Event – Part One



Visioning Event, Sunday Morning, July 21 in Fellowship Hall



Interim Ministry Update from Pastor Lori

These things struck me about Part One of the visioning event last month:

- 1 – How much thought the Call Committee put into seeking the words and ideas of the congregation for the Ministry Site Profile,
- 2 – how participants took seriously their role in being part of envisioning Good Shepherd's future,
- 3 – that in Part 2, it will be critical to specify some strategic goals for the profile, and
- 4 – that now is the time for everyone to ask (and boldly!), "What's my role?"

So first, a big thanks to the Call Committee for creating the event, and to all who participated!

Now, let's take a look at goals and roles:

Goals. Last month's event was important for finding out where people agree and disagree on the hopes, challenges, strengths, and needs of Good Shepherd. The responses will become the basis for Part Two's focus on setting strategic goals and then determining what type of pastor will fit with these goals. How will "We are welcoming," and "We are aging and need more children," and "We need a charismatic pastor" inform your *actual plans*? Only once you identify goals can you discern what skills and talents you'll need in a pastor to help you reach those goals; otherwise, your MSP will be too general, saying you need a pastor who is "dynamic, committed, good with all age groups, a visionary, musical and an excellent preacher and teacher." Who *wouldn't* want that in a pastor? But what skills will *your* next pastor need for the work of *this* particular congregation?

Roles. Some of the responses from Part One spoke to specific dynamics or realities here, such as "We are not very good at change" or "We have some very talented people here," or "Negativity is not helping us." But some participants said, "We've heard all this before." So the question is: What are you doing about it? If you think negativity is a problem, have you asked yourself, "What's *my* role in this? Am I negative? Or, have I talked with others about how their attitude affects me and GSLC?" Or if the congregation resists change, can we each ask, "What is *my* role in that? Can I help others learn to embrace change?" How will each member use his or her God-given talents for the greater good of Good Shepherd?

Your voice is needed now. Your gifts and ideas and prayers are needed *now* – not just after the new pastor comes, but every day as you live as members of this particular body of Christ called Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

– Interim Pastor Lori Eickmann

EMILIE'S PRODUCE PATCH

Bring your excess veggies and fruits from your gardens, and everyone in the congregation is welcome to take what they want!

If you're a gardener, haven't you wished you had somewhere to share your excess crops with others who would love to have them?

Emilie's Produce Patch will have a table in the Fellowship Hall during the social/coffee break after summer services.

Just look for the sign!



August 2013

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CH = Church FH = Fellowship Hall FR = Fireside Room

Friends Feeding Friends

An outreach ministry that serves the needy in our county

Sarah Jean's
Dream at age 4

—
"So people who are
really hungry
have food."



Friends Feeding Friends Highlights for the Past Month

- 353 People helped with groceries
- 146 Meals served
- 16 People furnished
- 11 Churches helped FFF
- 7 Shelters/Agencies referred clients to FFF

FFF operates exclusively on volunteer labor. Every volunteer is a blessing! We are able to help more people when we have more volunteers. FFF is a community effort!!

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

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

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

Our next FFF Lunch at the shelter is on August 17, 2013. All are welcome to help at the lunch or any other time!!

Items needed this month: Toilet paper, laundry detergent, fresh produce, twin mattresses and box springs, end tables, dining tables and chairs, recliners.

We appreciate all donations!

Have questions or want to help? Contact Dana Deniston 768-9087 or Linda Rodemsky 864-9266 or email us at friendsfeedingfriends@yahoo.com

The North
Concord
Shelter:

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

Thank you once
more to all of
our faithful
supporters.
Because of you,
we can reach so
many more!

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.
Call the Contra Costa Crisis Center at 211.

Worship Assistants August 4– September 1, 2013

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Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
4000 Clayton Road
Concord, CA 94521

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Concord, CA
Permit #356

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

save this date!



Barbeque
Sunday, Aug. 11



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

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Concord, CA

Executive Committee:

President: Sue Hertless, **Vice President:** Victor Olmedo, **Secretary:** Donna Albrecht
Member-at-Large: Laura Mott

Congregational Council

Donna Albrecht, Mark Deniston, Sue Hertless, Leone McCullough, Jon Moss, Laura Mott,
Victor Olmedo, Jim Olson, Ken Robinson, Linda Rodemsky, Herb Yonge

Ministry Staff:

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