

Shepherd's Voice

Volume 9 • Issue 10 A monthly newsletter of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church October 2013

Points of Interest

- 2 A Note from Socialuths
- 3 Interim Ministry Update
- 4 Council President Message
- 7 60th Anniversary Pics
- 8 Sept. Council Minutes

November Newsletter
Articles Due October 21



October

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

**Worship Schedule:
Two Service Schedule is back.
8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.**

A Message from our Interim Pastor

The 60th anniversary worship and celebration last month was joyful, energizing and Spirit-infused! Watching people bring to the altar food for those in need was moving; hearing people comment on the effort that went into the brunch was gratifying to so many who worked so hard; seeing long-time members, the brand-new members and several guests enjoying one another's company was priceless. Love and the desire to be Christ's church continues to flow in the veins of Good Shepherd, ready to sustain you for the next 60 years of faithful service!

And speaking of the future – be sure to mark your calendar for Oct. 27, which is not only Reformation Sunday, but also is the day when three young adults will make their Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation): Lauren Wardle, Erin Wardle and Jacob Mollwitz. These young people are not just the future of the church, they are part of the present and always-reforming church, and we thank God for their faith.

Faith. That is the key word in our October gospel texts, most of which are from Luke's gospel account. These verses lift up faith in Christ and thanksgiving to the One whose grace urges us to persistence in bringing heaven's justice and mercy wherever there is oppression and need on earth. We'll hear that Christ's miraculous healing is available to even the "outsider," a Samaritan who is the only one of 10 lepers cleansed who thanks Jesus. We'll hear that like a woman hounding a judge for justice, we can doggedly expect miraculous justice from God. We'll hear that with faith the size of a miniscule mustard seed, even we can work miracles.

Miracles. Back to the 60th anniversary celebration: Did you notice how many people invited someone to join them at worship that day? And did you notice how many people accepted that invitation? Statistics show that many churchgoers say they started attending worship after being invited – but statistics also show that the average Lutheran invites someone to worship once every 23 years! So did a miracle happen last month?!

And to what do we invite people, exactly? Not a Sunday-morning *show*, but an on-going *relationship*. We're inviting people to experience God's love made visible in one another. Even if someone you invite to church declines to come, or comes once and declines to return a second time, haven't you opened the door to a conversation about God and faith? Better yet, *start* with conversations about suffering, doubt, faith and grace – and *then* invite as the conversation and relationship evolves.

Continued on Page 2

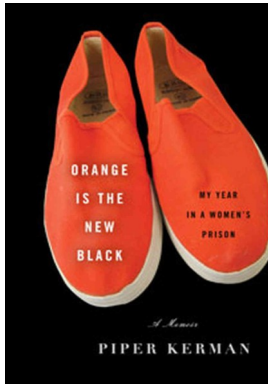
Interim Pastor Message - Continued from Page 1

May each of you feel the winds of re-formation blowing as we enter autumn energized as faithful followers of Christ's truth, which sets us and all creation free.

"If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free". (John 8:31b-32)

– Interim Pastor Lori Eickmann

ORANGE IS THE NEW BLACK – GS Book Club for November



Orange is the New Black: My Year in a Women's Prison by Piper Kerman is the November selection for the Good Shepherd Book Club. This nonfiction account is of how Piper's privileged life came apart when she was convicted of delivering a suitcase of drug money a decade earlier and she is sent to the federal prison in Danbury, CT. In her moving book, Piper recounts the stories of how and why women are sent to prison and how they cope with the experience. **Change of Date: We are moving the book club meetings to the first Tuesday of odd number months.** We'll be meeting on **November 5** at 7:30 pm in the Fireside Room. We hope you'll join us to discuss this compelling book. Questions? Contact Donna Albrecht: donna-@-albrechts.com

A Note from Socialuths

Have you ever wondered who provides the snacks on Sunday morning? In the past Mary and Ron have graciously brought donated day-old bakery items from Safeway. Safeway is no longer donating the cookies, breads, etc. and Socialuths has been using the coffee funds to buy the treats. The donations are not what they use to be and the proceeds from the giving basket do not cover the cost of the snacks.

Instead of serving only coffee we are suggesting members sign-up for a Sunday and provide the snacks for that day.

Our serving suggestion is 3 dozen assorted doughnuts, 3 to 4 dozen cookies or a variety of quick breads. The items do not need to be homemade but something from your kitchen is always appreciated.



We will have a sign-up sheet located near the coffee cart each Sunday if you would like to provide the treats.

SHARE Food Pantry Update

By Jan Harmon

First, a great big thank you from the SHARE Food Program for the donation of so many food items on September 8th. Especially now as we have just had to cut back on how often people can receive food. Instead of once every 30 days it is now every 90 days. The only exceptions are the homeless, they can still come in every 2 weeks. Again, we truly appreciate these gifts.

Secondly, we have a board member whose expertise is in researching to find grant monies and we are hopeful that we can stabilize our situation and restore our giving to at least every 60 days and eventually back to our original every 30 days.

Interim Ministry Update, October 2013

We've all thought about "leadership" – but have you ever thought about "followership"?

"Followership" plays a role in the dynamic I wrote about last month concerning reluctance to commit to classes, projects, etc. Perhaps commitment style is one reason the initial excitement over new plans ultimately disintegrates – leading first to the refrain, "We get excited for a few weeks, but then it all fizzles!" and then to the charge, "It failed because there was no leadership."

Could reluctance to commit send the message that people aren't willing to follow – and then the leader (clergy or lay) may feel left to "pull it off" alone?

Recently I shared an article on followership with the Church Council and the Call Committee, as a way of examining group dynamics while anticipating the arrival of your new pastor next year. Here is a summary of the article (which ran in *The Christian Century*, Jan. 2012):

Good followers recognize that leadership is important and difficult work. Leadership is necessary, and it doesn't happen in a vacuum. A leader can't be effective if followers aren't willing to respond, commit and take some risks.

Good followers share a commitment to the congregation's collective mission. Healthy congregations have different groups with varied interests, but they focus on their common purpose and thus prevent disruptive divisions.

Good followers cultivate relationships and trust. Polarization has become rampant in church and in the larger society; there is more focus on what "I want" versus what "we need." Followers must offer support that is not conditional – not based on whether the leader fulfills each individual's needs – but based in trust.

Good followers give feedback. Praise focuses on the person ("You are the greatest teacher ever!") while feedback focuses on action and behavior ("You helped me connect that bible story with my real life."). Praise is non-specific and can lead to non-specific criticism ("S/he's just not the right pastor for us.")

Good followers keep boundaries. Troubled congregations have a pattern of too many people treating everything as their business, their area of concern. Good followers know what tasks "have their name on it" and which ones don't.

Of course, good leadership – clergy and lay – is also vital to a well-functioning congregation. In what ways do you both lead and follow at Good Shepherd, all to the glory of God?

A correction from last month's interim update:

I've been told that your last pastor was requested as a candidate while the bishop's office was preparing your list of candidates, not after the other candidates had been dismissed. My point remains that he was requested as a candidate by folks here, as opposed to the synod choosing him as one of your candidates.

– Interim Pastor Lori Eickmann

Calling Leisure Lunchers!



Join us on Tuesday, October 15 from 12:00 to 1:30 for a festive fall luncheon! It's time to bring on the lovely fall colors and if the weather is not too hot, we'll dust off a few of our favorite soup recipes, too. Need a ride? Have any questions or just want to chat? Call Susan or Bob Ripley at 925-827-9717.

October Birthdays

Michael Morgan	04
Victoria Neely	04
Travis Fiene	05
Nathaniel Mollwitz	06
Chrystian Porter	07
Andrea Berg-LeDoux	12
Betty Jacobsen	13
Louise Cohen	14
Teresa Fassl	14
Ione Bantly	15
Chase Kreutzinger	15
Marcy Munson	20
Margie Greig	21
Faye Yarbrough	21
John Bantly	23
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



A Message from our Council President...

The 60th Anniversary was a beautiful day here at Good Shepherd. Watching people carry their canned goods down to the altar was a moving experience. You appreciated the ELCA's theme "God's Work, Our Hands." We are strong, powerful people in mind, body, and spirit and God has blessed us.

The processional cross was **made new** by artist Margaret Pederson, who was able to repair and refurbish the cross and pole. Margaret, a Lutheran who does most of her stained-glass work for churches, donated the material and cut her labor in half to be part of the 60th celebration. We appreciate all she did. Our award winning photographer, Joe Carlson, has some great pictures of the cross and many pictures of the event that are in this newsletter.

What a perfect day for baptizing and welcoming new members: Rebecca Berg, Erika Berg, Monica Berg, Andrea Berg-LeDoux, Marcos LeDoux, Jonathan and Justin Berg-Eaton, and Drew Cremisio. Have you met them?

Our Fellowship Hall was beautifully decorated for the celebration. Many volunteers were required, and to all who helped, many thanks. It could not have happened with out you. We set places for 104 people and we had 106. Comments included: "I thought it would be nice but I had no idea it would be this nice." And, "we should do this at least once a quarter." Donna Monroe brought many albums and other people brought other photos from years past for people to look at and talk about – such as photos of the organ installation and of an outdoor play of the crucifixion.

We have so much to be thankful for, and there are many more beautiful days before us. The Call Committee is working hard to finish up on the Ministry Site Profile so that we can move to the next step of reviewing the document, then submitting the document, and waiting for the list of Pastors to be given to Call Committee for review. We can see light at the end of the tunnel. Let's keep faith and be patient.

Coming up:

October 12 – A Family Fall Festival will be held in the courtyard sponsored by Thrivent to raise money for Habitat for Humanity / Thrivent Bay Point Remodel. Admittance will be \$5.00, which will pay for dinner. There will be games, crafts, and face painting, and ARF will bring several animals for the children to pet. Puppets of Praise will perform, and there will also be a silent auction and quilt raffle. We are so close to making our goal of \$13,000. We still need volunteers to work on the house; most of the work now is inside. Let Susan Metzger or me know if you can help.

Continued on next page

October 13 – Chenoa Denard, the Habitat home owner for the remodeled 5 bedroom home in Bay Point, will share her story of what it means to have a home for her twin girls, her boy, and her 16 year old sister, Cookie. Thanks to all who helped with the remodeling so far or attended the A's baseball game (100% of the money raised went to Habitat).

Lastly, as we kick off the Stewardship Drive here at Good Shepherd remember that you may direct money to GSLC. If you have an annuity or a life insurance policy with Thrivent, you may be able to receive "choice dollars" and can direct Thrivent where you want those dollars to go. Last year, \$2,111 choice dollars was received by Good Shepherd from Thrivent on behalf of congregation members. Choice dollars designations must be made this month. Churches may qualify for additional funds as a result of the campaign. For more information see Susan Metzger, me, or call the Thrivent home office 800-847-4836. God's Peace has been given to us; let's share it with others.

Peace in Christ,
Sue Hertless



Did you know?

You can view this newsletter in color! Go to gsconcord.com and go to the Newsletter tab. There you will be able to open the newsletter.

GOOD SHEPHERD INCOME STATEMENT AS OF AUGUST 31, 2013

	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER (UNDER) BUDGET
INCOME:			
Pledged	\$95,722	\$101,945	\$ (6,223)
Unpledged	16,078	17,835	(1,757)
Other (Tower, Rent, etc.)	73,587	75,749	(2,162)
TOTAL INCOME	185,387	195,529	(10,142)
LESS TOTAL EXPENSES	(175,992)	(191,909)	15,917
NET INCOME	\$ 9,395	\$ 3,620	\$ 5,775

Wedding Anniversaries

Greg and Deborah Castle
October 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

Joel and Christine Harris
October 14, 1990

Cal and Betty Fraga
October 16, 1965

Larry and Marcia Sander
October 29, 1973

Duane and Betty Peterson
October 27, 1951

A Request from our Counters

**Please use your *Offering*
envelopes when making
your contributions.
Thank you!**

**Thank you for your
Financial Support**

Would we trade a memory,
for uncertainty?

Once fall meant
Rally days and summer sloth thrown off,
the pews filling, hugs and back slaps, and “We missed
you,”
with a smile that says,
“I’m sure you had important things to do.”
Programs revving up, signing up, getting up
for one more cup of coffee,
chatting away, waiting for a reload of the chocolate
doughnut holes
and those sticky buns and powdered sugared
something,
something good.

As everything outside begins to die, green grass
brown
and the leaves of maple trees and towering oaks,
as everything outside begins to die,
the church awakes from slumber.
Oh, see the people, the children, the ushers in their
suits,
signs for the Oktoberfest, handbell practice;
see the grateful counters who count
envelopes, and loose change and visitors,
crying babies and laughing babies in the nursery,
in the arms of aunts and cousins pacing,
making faces;
see greeters with pew pads
and sharpened number-two pencils the size of
matchsticks;
see the acolytes in matching robes, eyes straight
ahead, stepping with intention,
every move a mirror of every move.

Would we trade the fall of yesterday,
even of today,
the friendly faces finding their favorite pews,
head nods, back slaps and a warm smile,
the rush of children divided and sub-divided,
hustled off as a school bell rings,
bulletin boards and sign-up lists, and everything in
place
pin-drop quiet as the doors close, the ushers holding
back

those who hit the snooze one too many times,
until the peace frowning,
you better have a jacket frowning,
shoes instead of sneakers frowning.

Would we trade a memory, for uncertainty?

For strangers?

Would we embrace the season of shortening days,
of dying light and evening chill,
and find warmth in letting go,
the Spirit eager, stretching, pulling, tugging,
tumbling, dancing, turning cartwheels of what was,
neat and in its place,
longing to be free, finding new freedom,
free beyond our memories,
free beyond imagination and expectation,
embracing the messiness of life in its full chaotic
splendor,
serendipity abounding,
would we surrender?

Would we trade a memory, for uncertainty?

For strangers,

Baptist strangers who rock and shout
and the poor,
and the smell of mothballs
and too much perfume,
and wandering children,
and people who get in line a second time for bread,
for wine,
and people who have no idea how to pronounce
Caesarea Philippi?

Would we — die for them?

Die to what was and what is, trusting in what will be
so as to live anew in the now unfolding before us.
Trusting enough to live life deep and glorious,
knowing that the life we live we live in Christ and
through Christ,
who has already led the way
through dying and death into life eternal.

Amen.

*Keith Spencer is the pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church,
an ELCA congregation in Pembroke Pines, Florida.
From “Living Lutheran, lively engagement in faith and life”*

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 60th Anniversary Celebration Sunday, September 8, 2013

Thank you to our photographer Joe Carlson



Celebrating
60 years of serving
Christ.



THE GOOD SHEPHERD EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF CONCORD, CA

Minutes of Council Meeting
September 10, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM by President Sue Hertless.

Present - Jim Olson, Linda Rodemsky, Victor Olmedo, Donna Albrecht, Emilie Patton, Pr. Lori Eickmann, Sue Hertless, and Mark Deniston.

Absent - Laura Mott, Jon Moss, Leone McCullough.

Recognitions – Sue Hertless recognized all who made the event on September 8, 2013 celebrating the 60th anniversary of the founding of Good Shepherd a great success. She included the people who worked in various positions to make the event possible, members who brought guests, and all the members who came.

The Minutes of the August meeting were approved as corrected. The corrections were: correcting the spelling of a name (from Emily to Emilie); she was appointed, not elected to the Council; rather than approving the recommended lease with the SBA Network, it was referred back to the long range committee for continuing negotiating.

Pr. Lori discussed her report and issues the Council needs to be aware of as our congregation makes progress in the call process.

Finance - Herb discussed the budget being proposed for 2014 and noted that at this time it is a deficit budget. It does not project any rise in receipts. Totals pledged will have an effect on the final budget to be presented to the congregation.

Nominating Committee – Sue advised that it is time to create a nominating committee for the 2014 Council elections. Council members suggested that the committee should mostly consist of congregational members who are not currently on the Council. Names were suggested to be on the nominating committee. Sue will contact those suggested and report back.

The Boy Scout Troop that meets at Good Shepherd has asked for permission to sell popcorn after services on October 6 and 13 to raise funds to support Troop activities. Herb moved to give them permission; Jim seconded, msc


Social Ministry – Friends Feeding Friends donated nutritious food and beverages to the firefighters working on the Morgan Fire on Mt. Diablo.

Emilie moved the meeting be adjourned; Mark seconded. msc

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 PM with a prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Albrecht, Council Secretary

October 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8:30 a.m. Worship (CH) 9:30 a.m. Refreshment 9:45 a.m. Bible Class (FR) 9:50 a.m. Choir Practice 11:00 a.m. Worship (FH) Noon Confirmation (FR) 6:00 p.m. Women NA (FH)		1 3:00 p.m. Worship / Music Comm.. (FH) 6:00 p.m. DVLC (FH)	2 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	3 9:00 a.m. Senior Food (FH) 2:00 p.m. Finance Comm. (FH) 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (Upstairs) 7:00 p.m. Property/Long Range	4 NOON Council Packet Reports due in office	5 DVLC Training 8:00 a.m. (FH)
6 Stewardship Sunday See Schedule above.	7	8 7:00 p.m. Council (FH)	9 1:00 p.m. Quilters (FH) 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	10 10:00 a.m. Ruth's Circle (FH & FR) Noon DVLC Board (FH) Noon Tabernacle School (Kirch) 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (Upstairs)	11	12 2:00 p.m. Thrivent October Fest
13 See schedule above. 1:00 Youth Group TBD	14 Columbus Day	15 Noon Leisure Lunch (FH)	16 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	17 9:00 a.m. Senior Food (FH) 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (Upstairs)	18	19 9:30 a.m. Friends Feeding Friends (Kitchen / FH))
20 See schedule above. Last Bible Class	21 Newsletter articles due today.	22	23 1:00 p.m. Quilters (FH) 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	24 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (Upstairs)	25	26
27 Reformation Confirmation See schedule above. Wear Red!	28	29	30	31 Happy Halloween! 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts Upstairs 		

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

218

Grocery bags distributed

162

Hot meals provided

14

People helped with household furnishings

12

Churches that helped FFF

9

Shelters/Agencies that referred clients to FFF

FFF needs volunteers who are willing to help deliver groceries to some of our disabled and senior friends. Contact Dana if you are interested in helping.

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

Extra special THANKS go out to our congregation for the abundant food blessings that were donated to FFF on September 8. Because of your generosity, many people will be helped. Thank you!!!

Our next FFF Lunch at the shelter is on October 19, 2013. Meet at Good Shepherd at 9:30 a.m. 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: Twin, full or queen size beds, end tables, dressers, coffee tables, new bed pillows, travel size shampoo, conditioner and lotion. We appreciate all donations!

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 friendsfeeding-friends@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 Call 211.

Worship Assistants October 6 – November 3, 2013

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.
Stewardship Sunday 10/06	8:30	Candace Bradley	Kelly Schaefer Sue Hertless	Ingrid Burns	Johnathon Berg	Lauren Wardle	Jan Harmon Pam Dietz Willajean Rogelstad Linda Mahloch	Larry and Marcia Sander	Ron Figueroa Tom Lingel	Jamie Rodemsky		Jon and Heidi Moss	Reyanne Freeman and Pam Dietz	Victor Olmedo
	11:00													
10/13	8:30	Lauren Wardle	Duane Peterson Mike Albrecht	Doug Olson	Doug Olson	Erika Berg	Laura Carlson Elizabeth Kich Sue Hertless	Kay Bennett and Jeannette Kaul	Jim and Carin Olson	Jamie Rodemsky		Ron and Kathy Price	Greg Buchholz and Nils Anderson	Jim Olson
	11:00													
10/20	8:30	Duane Peterson	Candace Bradley Kelly Schaefer	Kristi Buchholz	Justin Berg	Sam Buchholz	Ione Bantly Leone McCullough Karin Bohling	Ione Bantly	Greg Buchholz and Paul Rusch	Jamie Rodemsky	Duane Peterson	Gary and Linda Mahloch	Greg Buchholz and Nils Anderson	Linda Rodemsky
	11:00													
Reformation Sunday 10/27	8:30	Candace Bradley	Sue Hertless Susan Metzger	John Mott	Doug Olson	Ryan Kich	Dottie Davis Donna Abeyta Nancy Knapp	Kurt and Jan Harmon	Gary and Linda Mahloch	Jamie Rodemsky		Greg and Kristi Buchholz	Gordon Monroe and Paul Rusch	Linda Rodemsky
	11:00													
11/03	8:30	Kelly Schaefer	Duane Peterson Sue Hertless	Sue Hertless	Erin Wardle	Erika Berg	Kathy Price Eise Welsh Heidi Moss Cindy Rogelstad	Jauire and Eise Welsh	Jon and Heidi Moss	Jamie Rodemsky		Doug and Reyanne Freeman	Joe Carlson and Paul Rusch	Jim Olson
	11:00													

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
4000 Clayton Road
Concord, CA 94521

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Concord, CA
Permit #356

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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, Emilie Patton, 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