

Shepherd's Voice

Volume 10 • Issue 1

A monthly newsletter of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

January 2014

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February Newsletter
Articles due January 27

January



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

**Worship Schedule:
Sundays 8:30 & 11:00 A.M.**

A Message from Interim Pastor Lori Eickmann January 2014

When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” (Mt. 1:38a)

What are we looking for? Clarity? Security? The discipline to keep our New Year’s resolutions? What is this congregation looking for? A new pastor, certainly. And stability? The strength and people to carry out a vision for mission?

What does it look like to, first and foremost, seek ... Jesus?

They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” (Mt. 1:38b)

Where does Jesus dwell? Are we willing to go there – to where we see, hear and experience Jesus? And what happens when we do encounter Christ – and when others encounter Christ in us?

Jesus said to them, “Come and see.” (Mt. 1:39)

Come and see. Three words of such promise and hope. What a gift it is to begin a new calendar year with gospel texts that reveal – in stages, like the pale dawn light growing to bright fullness by morning – first the identity of the child in the manger and then the dawning truth of what that identity means for the world.

First comes Epiphany, which we will observe on Jan. 5, when we see in the journey of the Magi a vision of all nations seeking and receiving the gift of Love revealed in an infant. Then in his baptism in the Jordan River, Jesus is claimed and named by God as God’s own son. And after that, Jesus’ mission and ministry begin with the call of the first disciples.

We have been called, too. We have been called to come and see what God has done for us and this world in Christ. So we look from the manger to the cross to the empty tomb, and we see the heart of God – the heart of our vulnerable, loving, forgiving, suffering, resurrecting, liberating, living God!

This new year is full of promise. We will inevitably part ways sometime in the months ahead when you call your new pastor, but may we all live this year grounded in hope that the Holy Spirit of the living Christ is calling us not simply into the future we desire in the limitations of our imaginations, but into the future God imagines for us in limitless grace.

Jesus beckons: “Come and see.”
Let’s do it! And a blessed New Year to all!

BOOK EXCHANGE RETURNS!

Earlier this year, the book club hosted a book exchange during the coffee time. And... We're Back!

On January 12, We'll have a table set up. If you have books to share, put them on the table. If you like a book on the table, take it home with you. Can't be any easier!

Questions? Contact Donna Albrecht at donna@albrechts.com



2014 Annual Meeting

January 26, 2014

GOOD SHEPHERD BOOK CLUB For January 7.

Our book club at Good Shepherd is growing! We have great reads and great fellowship. If you've ever thought of joining us, come to our meeting on January 7, 2014 at 7:30 pm in the Fireside Room.

Our choice is the incredible **Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West** by Gregory Maguire.

New York Times bestseller *Wicked* views the land of Oz, its inhabitants, its Wizard, and the Emerald City, through a darker and greener (not rosier) lens. Brilliantly inventive, *Wicked* offers us a radical new evaluation of one of the most feared and hated characters in all of literature: the much maligned Wicked Witch of the West who, as Maguire tells us, wasn't nearly as *Wicked* as we imagined.

Admit it, you're intrigued! See you there! Questions? Contact Donna Albrecht at donna-at-albrechts.com

GOOD SHEPHERD INCOME STATEMENT			
AS OF NOVEMBER 30, 2013			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER (UNDER) BUDGET
INCOME:			
Pledges	\$132,118	\$140,174	\$8,056
Unpledged	22,241	24,523	2,282
Other (Tower, Rent, etc.)	102,081	104,155	2,074
TOTAL INCOME	256,440	268,852	12,412
LESS TOTAL EXPENSES	(288,088)	(298,407)	(27,692)
NET INCOME	\$ 14,452	\$ (828)	\$ (15,280)

Interim Ministry Update - January 2014

With the Ministry Site Profile submitted to the synod, Good Shepherd has entered the final phase of this time of interim ministry: getting candidate names, interviewing, and calling your new pastor.

This congregation and your call committee and council have worked hard this past year, and it is paying off. Have you noticed the increased energy, the new leaders stepping up, and the joy that accompanied the recent dinners and projects such as Care Bears? Bless you for your dedication to learning, loving and serving in Christ's name. Well done!

So many of you were involved in the first two phases of interim ministry: 1) the initial interviews and discussion about what needed immediate attention at GSLC, and the changes to worship, education and the call process that came about as a result, and 2) the summer visioning sessions, creation of the MSP by the call committee, and the recent review of the MSP by the membership. Again, well done.

The call committee did a good job describing the strengths and challenges at GSLC in the profile. The essay they wrote at the end of the MSP is poignant in its expression of the hurt that remains from issues dating back several years (such as the choir's disagreement with a former pastor, and some lay leaders' experience of the last pastor) and the lack of closure for some over such experiences.

A process presented at the mediation class I attended in November may be helpful in allowing this community to create that closure, so I urge GSLC to consider engaging such a process. Also helpful: your council already has voted to engage the Healthy Start program when your new pastor arrives. Healthy Start is a Saturday retreat (with four brief follow-up sessions over the following 12 months) that aims to get a new pastor, lay leaders and staff on the same page from the beginning.

Please continue to thank your call committee – Nils, Candace, Greg, John and Aimee – for the work they've done so far and will continue to do as they begin interviewing candidates. Please continue to pray for them. Enjoy wondering together: What does God have in mind for Good Shepherd and this new pastor who is out there, somewhere? What ministries will flow from this new partnership? Trust that Christ is walking with you on this continuing journey!

– Interim Pastor Lori Eickmann

Local Shelters Need Donations Year Round

Friends Feeding Friends would like to remind you that all 3 of our local shelters are in need of donations all year long. Below is their wish list of items that are always needed.

You can bring donations to the Concord Adult Shelter, 2047 Arnold Industrial Way, Concord, and they can distribute to the other shelters. Or, bring to the shelter of your choice. Thank you!

Wish List:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Underwear (boxers & briefs) all sizes, men's & ladies • Nail clippers (hands & toes), emery boards, hand sanitizer • Combs, picks and brushes • Socks, Flip flops, Slippers (men's & ladies) • Tooth brushes, toothpaste, floss and mouthwash • Pocket tissues, chap stick, deodorant, sanitary products • Pocket calendars, daily planners, notebooks, pens • Belts • Sweat pants, gym pants or any with elastic or drawstring | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pajamas • Robes • Band-aids, wipes & toiletries (shampoos, conditioners, lotions, razors, Q-tips) • Magnifying Glasses • Towels & washcloths, twin size sheets & blankets & pillowcases • Gas cards, Bart cards, bus tickets • Gift cards to Safeway, Wal-Mart & Walgreens • Sleeping Bags |
|---|---|

January Birthdays

Julie Sasaoka	04
Jauire Welsh	04
Kim Christiana	05
Austin Fiene	08
Mary Figueroa	09
Candace Bradley	10
Emerson Chambers	12
Christy Dankowski	12
Ryan Kich	14
Angie Morgan	15
Samuel Poston	16
Suzanne Christensen	17
Samuel Buchholz	22
Phil Kich	22
Craig Peterson	23
Joann Rossi	25
Sherry Chaplin	26
Patricia Fiene	27
Helen Johnson	27
Linda Mahloch	28
Carol Beran	29
Ronald Fassl	29
Glen Bradley	30



December 2013 Council Meeting Highlights

On December 10, 2013, the Church Council and Call Committee did a final review of the Ministry Site Profile. Council voted to approve it and make it available to the congregation the next Sunday.

Sue Hertless, Council President, recognized everyone who has worked in all phases of the recent activities including the Thanksgiving Dinner, the Smorgasbord, Caroling and decorating the Christmas Trees and Sanctuary.

They are:

Thanksgiving and Smorgasbord Dinners:

Donna Abeyta, Nils Anderson, Ione Bantly, Kay Bennett, Ione Bantly, Greg and Sam Buchholz, Ingrid Burns, Lynne Davies, Dottie Davis, Pam Dietz, Rosemary Fassl, Ron and Mary Figueroa, Reyanne Freeman, Patrick, Chris and Jo Harvey, Betty Jacobsen, Gary and Linda Mahloch, Susan Metzger, Jean Moore, Jon and Heidi Moss, John and Laura Mott, Victor and Aimee Olmedo, Jim, Carin and Doug Olson, Emilie Patton, Jamie and Linda Rodemsky, Kelly Schaefer, Vicki Smiglewski and Else Welsh.

Christmas Tree Decorating:

Leone McCullough, Tony and Cindy Rogelstad, Vicki Smiglewski, Marcia Sander and granddaughter Maya, Jim and Doug Olson, Patty and Travis Fiene, Elizabeth and Emily Kich, and Linda Rodemsky.

Carolers:

Pastor Lori, Doug Olson, Mary and Ron Figueroa, Victor, Aimee, Kenny and Jesse Olmedo, and Erika and Justin Berg.

Council also reviewed and approved the 2014 Budget Proposal from the Finance Committee.

Pastor Lori is owed a Sunday off before the end of 2013. Rather than inconvenience the congregation during the Christmas season, she asked to postpone that day off until a Sunday in 2014 and the Council agreed, appreciating her dedication.

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Albrecht
Church Council Secretary

Smorgasbord 2013

En fantastisk kveld! (A wonderful evening!)



A Few Moments Captured from Christmas Eve 2013





Thank you to our photographer
Joe Carlson.



A Message from our Council President

This year has gone by so fast and yet the pace has brought with it so many changes. To name a few that I have personally noticed are in technology. Examples are iPad, iPhones, tablets, cars, and smart watches all synced to your computer.

Cars talk to you. They will scout traffic ahead and reroute your destination if traffic is congested. The computer in the car will tell you if you are going to be late to a meeting and ask if you would like to reschedule your appointment. The computer will locate restaurants near your location, and make reservations if necessary. The car can parallel park itself if you wish. And, my brothers and sisters, that change in technology is just with the computer and the car. Amazing, absolutely amazing!

There is hardly anything in life that is not changing. That is the way life works. My life is changing drastically, and it is with great joy and sadness that I am retiring from AT&T after 42 years. It feels as if I have finished a novel and placing the book back on the shelf and will now take a book off the shelf with blank pages, and will begin to write a new story. It is with excitement that I am looking around and asking "so God what is next, what door will I hear your knock on and open?"

As many of you know, I have been a member of Good Shepherd for 10 years and I have been on the church council for 8 of those 10. I have decided to refresh my self and to let someone else take a position on council. It feels right, healthy for all concerned. I can feel the energy change here at our church. Look at all that has been done this year i.e. electing a Call Committee (a true election), the 60 year church anniversary celebration, Christmas caroling, a Smorgasbord, receiving new members who have jumped right in with assimilation and belonging to our church, and lastly a well attended adult bible study. These are a few positive changes. There are more. And, a big change is coming soon "a new Pastor." This in itself will create change.

But for right now, I am watching and seeing little miracles every day that say "I am with you, now and forever." Happy New Year and may the Peace of the Lord be with you.

- Sue Hertless

A Prayer for the New Year

Remember us, o God;
from age to age be our comforter.
You have given us the wonder of time,
blessings in days and nights, seasons and
years.

Bless your children at the turning of the year
and fill the months ahead with the bright
hope that is ours in the coming of Christ.

You are our God, living and reigning, for ever
and ever.

Amen.

►► Attention Leisure Lunchers!

Happy New Year to the Leisure Lunchers!

Help us ring in 2014 by joining us for lunch on Tuesday, January 21st from noon - 1:30. There is old fashioned comfort food on the menu to help stave off the cold of January.

Also, we'll take a little trip back in time to look at some television clips of years past. We look forward to seeing you all there!

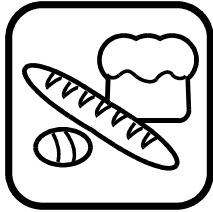
As always, please call Susan and Bob Ripley at: 925-827-9717 if you have any questions or are in need of a ride.

January 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8:30 a.m. Worship (CH) 9:30 a.m. Refreshment 9:50 a.m. Choir Practice 11:00 a.m. Worship (FH) Noon Confirmation (FR) 6:00 p.m. Women NA (FH)			1 	2 9:00 a.m. Senior Food Program (FH) 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts #1994 (FH) 7:00 p.m. Property/Long	3	4
5 See Schedule Above	6	7 7:30 p.m. GS Book Club (FR)	8 3:00 p.m. Worship and Music Committee (FH) 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	9 10:00 a.m. Ruth Circle (FR) Noon DVLC (FH) 2:00 p.m. Finance Comm. (FH) 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts #1994 (FH)	10	11 Noon Thrivent Board Meeting (FH)
12 See Schedule Above	13	14 Annual Reports Due Today! 7:00 p.m. Council (FH)	15 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	16 9:00 a.m. Senior Food Program (FH) 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts #1994 (FH)	17	18 9:30 a.m. Friends Feeding Friends (Kitchen) (FH)
19 See Schedule Above	20	21 Noon Leisure Lunch (FH)	22 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	23 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts #1994 (FH)	24	25
26 9:30 a.m. SINGLE SERVICE (CH) 10:45 a.m. Annual Mtg. (FH)	27 Newsletter Articles Due	28	29 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	30 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts #1994 (FH)	31	

Friends Feeding Friends

An outreach ministry that serves needy in our county



405	Grocery bags distributed
163	Hot Meals provided
11	People helped with household furnishings
12	Churches that helped FFF
9	Shelters/Agencies that referred clients to FFF

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

Sarah Jean's
Dream at age 4 —
"So people who are
really hungry
have food."



December was an extra busy month for FFF! In addition to our regular lunch, we furnished people transitioning to housing, picked up donations, and distributed Care Bear presents, and food.

Special thanks to all of our "Santas" who helped purchase, wrap and deliver Care Bear presents, who helped bake cookies and fill cookie tins, and who donated and packed groceries that were delivered with the Care Bear presents. Our needy friends were so touched by your generosity, and they wanted to extend their thanks for making their holidays special and for showing them people care.

FFF has expanded distribution of food, clothes and linens to include the Brookside shelter in Richmond, a county shelter. We found out that this shelter that houses as many as the Concord shelter receives no donations. We are trying to help as much as we can.

Our next FFF lunch at the shelter is on January 18, 2014. Meet at Good Shepherd at 9:30 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: Dressers, coffee tables, new bed pillows, sheet sets (twin, full and queen), small dinettes and dining chairs, travel size shampoo, conditioner and lotion, blankets, toasters, coffee makers, dish soap. 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 friendsfeedingfriends@yahoo.com

The North
Concord
Shelter:

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

Good Shepherd
Lutheran Church
4000 Clayton Road
Concord, CA 94521
682-8410

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

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, or
the Contra Costa
Crisis Center
call 211.

Worship Assistants January 5 to February 2, 2014

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.
1/05	8:30	Duane Peterson	Linda Rodemsky Susan Metzger	Linda Rodemsky	Doug Olson	Sam Buchholz	Dottie Davis Donna Abeyta Nancy Knapp	Larry and Marcia Sander	Ron and Mary Figueroa	Jamie Rodemsky		Greg and Kristi Buchholz	Joe Carlson and Tony Rogelstad	Victor Olmedo
	11:00			Sherry Chaplin				Jay Neyenhouse						
1/12	8:30	Candace Bradley	Sue Hertless Leone McCullough	Leone McCullough	Justin Berg	Ryan Kich	Kathy Price Else Welsh Heidi Moss Cindy Rogelstad	Kay Bennett and Jeanette Kaul	Jim and Carin Olson	Jamie Rodemsky		Doug and Reyanne Freeman	Joe Carlson and Tony Rogelstad	Leone McCullough
	11:00			Linda Rodemsky				Connie Summers						
1/19	8:30	Drew Cremisio	Duane Peterson Kelly Schaefer	Kristi Buchholz	Johnathon Berg	Lauren Wardle	Jan Harmon Pam Dietz Willajean Rogelstad Linda Mahloch	Ione Bantly and Laura Mott	Paul Rusch and Vicki Smiglewski	Jamie Rodemsky	Duane Peterson	Jon and Heidi Moss	Greg Buchholz and Nils Anderson	Linda Rodemsky
	11:00			Sherry Chaplin				Donna Abeyta						
1/26	830	Kelly Schaefer	Sue Hertless Rosemary Fassl	Rosemary Fassl	Erin Wardle	Erika Berg	Laura Carlson Elizabeth Kich Sue Hertless	Jauire and Else Welsh	Doug and Reyanne Freeman	Jamie Rodemsky		Kathy Price	Greg Buchholz and Nils Anderson	Sue Hertless
2/02	8:30	Erin Wardle	Mike Albrecht Susan Metzger	Donna Albrecht	Justin Berg	Ryan Kich	Ione Bantly Leone McCullough Karin Bohling	Willajean Rogelstad	Gary and Linda Mahloch	Jamie Rodemsky		Gary and Linda Mahloch	Joe Carlson and Paul Rusch	Donna Albrecht
	11:00		Rosemary Fassl	Rosemary Fassl				Connie Summers						

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
4000 Clayton Road
Concord, NH 94521

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church *Concord, NH*

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@gssconcord.com
Director of Instrumental Music: Open
Interim Organist: Lynne Davies
Choir Director: Phoebe J. Rosquist - phoebe@netzero.net
Contemporary Music Leader: Tom Deans Flegel - tdsans08@gmail.com
Sound/Technology: Jamie Rodemsky - jamier1263@gmail.com
Treasurer: Lynne Davies - finance@gssconcord.com
Financial Secretary: Laura Mott