

Shepherd's Voice

Volume 11 • Issue 1 A monthly newsletter of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church January 2015

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February Newsletter articles
due January 20

January



Good Shepherd

Lutheran Church

4000 Clayton Road

Concord, CA 94521

925-682-8410

gsconcord.com

Regular Worship Schedule:

8:30 a.m. Traditional

11:00 a.m. Contemporary

Rev's Reflections

So, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! (2 Corinthians 5.17, NRSV)

Does anyone else really enjoy walking around office supply, hardware, and container stores? There's something about having before me all of the supplies I would need to create, build, and become organized that gets me excited. There's just so much potential waiting to be found in those aisles; I can often lose track of time or forget the one thing I came in for while meandering around the store. As a part of the New Year celebration, the whole world seems to be charged with the same feeling of potential. In the new year, there is fresh hope, new possibilities, and another chance. Forget that I've completed exactly zero of my 2014 New Year's Resolutions; 2015 is going to be a new start. Does anyone else have these same thoughts?

Starting all over again can be a wonderful thing. In our faith life we start over again whenever we come before our Gracious God with hearts full of repentance and ask for forgiveness. In scripture and liturgy, we read, "If we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive all our sins and cleanse us from unrighteousness." We are cleansed of ALL our sins when we confess. If we are truly cleansed, then we can truly start over again. There is hope and another chance with a fresh start.

To start again with a clean slate, with all our past forgiven, all our sins washed away, should be incredibly freeing. But, often we don't believe it. We hold on to our past not sure if God would forgive even "that" sin. However, we are assured in scripture that we are forgiven when we confess. The reality of forgiveness is that it is ours for the asking. How hard it is to humble ourselves and admit that we are in "bondage to sin, and cannot free ourselves." And how free we are when we humble ourselves, repent, and confess.

This New Year may you make a single resolution: resolve to live a repentant life. Turn from your sin quickly and seek the grace of God. Throw yourselves in to the good God calls us to do for each other and run from the evil we are warned against. Live daily in repentance turning away from those things that keep us from the fullness of Christ toward the open arms of Jesus our Savior, who is always willing to forgive.

Happy New Year!
Rev. Jeremy Serrano

Adults, Children and Youth Group Begins in January

Adult Sunday School

January 11, 2014

9:40-10:40 AM

Fireside Room

Do you have an idea on what you would like to study in scripture?

Let the Pastor know.

Children's Sunday School

January 11, 2014

9:40-10:40 AM

Classroom 3

Youth Group

Jr. High & High School

Games, Food, Fun, Bible Study!

Wednesday, January 28, 2014

6:45-8:00 PM

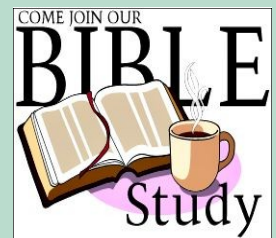


RUTH CIRCLE BIBLE STUDY

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2015, AT 10:00 A.M.
FELLOWSHIP HALL**

Following a light snack we will continue our study of Transformation and Conversion in the Fireside Room. After the story of King David's grave sins against Bathsheba, Uriah, and God, and his eventual repentance and forgiveness, we will explore forgiveness in Luke and Acts.

These passages will help us to comprehend what it means to turn our heart back to God to receive forgiveness and learn to forgive others.



CALLING ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS! ANNUAL REPORTS ARE NOW DUE.

Deadline to submit report is Jan. 15. Reports will be available in the church on Sunday, Jan. 18.

January, 2015 Leisure Lunch

Happy New Year to our Leisure Lunchers! We will gather to welcome the New Year on Tuesday, January 20th, from Noon - 1:30 p.m.. Come help us celebrate!

Feel free to share any New Year resolutions you may have. If you have any questions, special menu requests or need a ride, please call Bob and Susan Ripley at: 925-827-9717. See you there!



The 2015 Flower Chart is now available in the Narthex.



A Message from our Council President

I cannot believe I am writing an article for January. Where has the year gone? (I am writing this note before our Christmas Eve services but I am sure they will/went off just fine.)

Last year was a special year for us. We called Jeremy Serrano to be our pastor in October and things started off with a bang! "The Rev" announced we will begin Sunday School on January 11, and our Youth will gather on the last Wednesday of the month. Things are happening.

On December 13, Jeremy was ordained at his home church in San Diego. Nils Anderson attended the service. Thanks Nils for representing Good Shepherd. On January 4th Jeremy will be installed as our pastor here at Good Shepherd. One service at 11am.

The Budget for 2015 was presented by the Finance Committee to the Council at the December Council meeting. The committee developed a balanced budget taking into consideration the loss of income from one of the cell towers. To balance the budget, discretionary funds such as several Outreach programs had to be eliminated, as well as the funding of the Capital Improvements Maintenance Reserve.

In order to restore the Outreach Programs we need to have additional income. Currently, Pledges and Unpledged are projected at \$163,462 or 67% of our income. We are projected to receive \$79,153 from the towers and other rental income sources.

Of course the 2015 Budget has to be approved by the Congregation at the Annual Meeting on January 25th 2015.

Our Nominating Committee submitted their recommendations to the Council. The members to be considered by the Congregation at the Annual Meeting are: Vicki Smiglewski, Laura Mott and Tony Rogelstad. We would like one more member for Council. Nominations can be made during the meeting as long as the nominated member has given their approval to be nominated.

Happy New Year!

Herb



Where's Your Name Badge?

Everyone likes to be greeted by name! Start the new year out right and wear your name badge on Sunday mornings. If you need a new name badge or a replacement, please contact Susan Metzger or make a note on the back of your worship card. Thanks!

THE BOYS IN THE BOAT – Good Shepherd’s Book Club January Pick

For our January pick, our book club has chosen *The Boys in the Boat*, a remarkable true story about American-bred courage and commitment.

According to the Amazon.com’s review, Daniel James Brown’s *The Boys in the Boat* is the kind of nonfiction book that reads like a novel. Centered around the life of Joe Rantz—a farm boy from the Pacific Northwest who was literally abandoned as a child—and set during the Great Depression, *The Boys in the Boat* is a character-driven story with a natural crescendo that will have you racing to the finish.

Join us on January 6 at 7:30 pm in the Fireside Room for a lively discussion of this best-selling book. Questions? Contact Donna Albrecht at donna-at-albrechts.com

Finance Committee News

I would like to report a balanced budget for 2015. This was accomplished by numerous sessions of the Committee and through the efforts of Gordon Monroe and Lynne Davies and the input of Herb Yonge. Thank you all!

Our thanks to the Property Committee for their successful effort to renew one of the cell site leases for another year. Without this lease we would have had to make some drastic cuts.

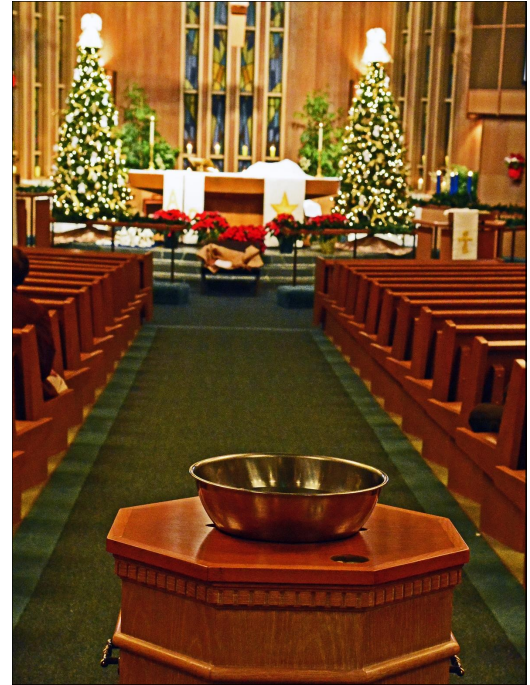
We are now earning money on our assets by moving funds from Bank of America General Checking where no interest was paid to an investment account with Vanguard where our dollars will grow.

Respectfully submitted, Nils Anderson

GOOD SHEPHERD INCOME STATEMENT			
AS OF NOVEMBER 30, 2014			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	Difference
INCOME:			
Pledges	\$127,024	\$127,008	\$16
Unpledged	21,244	26,506	(5,262)
Other (Tower, Rent, etc.)	109,207	109,749	(542)
TOTAL INCOME	257,475	263,263	(5,788)
LESS TOTAL EXPENSES	(219,566)	(264,829)	(45,263)
NET INCOME	\$ 37,909	\$ (1,566)	\$(39,475)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

Christmas 2014



Another Christmas Day has come and gone.

What do we take away from this December 25th? Do we return to the normal, the regular, and the everyday? "The Work of Christmas," a poem by civil rights leader and theologian Dr. Howard Thurman, reminds us why we stand on the side of love throughout the year:

The Work of Christmas

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:*

*To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart.*

<http://standingonthesideoflove.org/blog/the-work-of-christmas-begins/>



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
Kailey McCullough	24
Joann Rossi	25
Sherry Chaplin	26
Patricia Fiene	27
Linda Mahloch	28
Carol Beran	29
Ronald Fassl	29
Glen Bradley	30



December 2014 - Council Meeting Notes

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. on December 9, 2014, by President Herb Yonge.

Devotions were given by Herb.

Council members present: Pr. Jeremy, Drew Cremisio, Greg Buchholz, Nils Anderson, Donna Albrecht, Vicki Smiglewski, Herb Yonge, Emilie Patton, and Leone McCullough.

Council member absent: Mark Deniston
Guest: Laura Mott.

Recognitions: Herb thanked all the people who came the previous Saturday and decorated the Sanctuary for Christmas and decorated the tree in Fellowship Hall. Emilie was thanked for filling in as Choir Director while the position was open. She was also thanked for spearheading the Thanksgiving Dinner celebration in Fellowship Hall. Herb also thanked all who helped in preparing, serving, and cleaning up after the event. Larry Huddleston was thanked for moving the phone in Pastor's office to a better place.

Nils moved to accept the November Minutes as written. It was seconded by Greg. Msc.

The Pastor recommended that Good Shepherd consider a new logo for our congregation. Drew moved we designate \$200 from the "Other Professional Funds" account and have some preliminary designs created. Vicki seconded. Msc.

Pastor Jeremy expressed eagerness to begin the "Healthy Start" program for pastors new in their call. Council decided to have the initial full-day meeting on February 7, 2015 at St. Matthew's.

Pastor mentioned that member(s) had requested that Council authorize the purchase of chairs that have armrests to go with the standard chairs in Fellowship Hall. The idea will be considered by Council members and discussed more fully in January 2015.

Bob and Sue Ripley have stated that they plan to begin having the Leisure Lunch program twice a month rather than the once a month schedule now.

Pr. Jeremy suggested we think about asking the congregation to donate toward Christmas gifts for Lay Staff. The discussion concluded there wasn't enough time left to get the hoped-for response. Instead, Donna moved that year-end bonuses be given out of church funds to employees Vicki seconded the motion. It passed with one no vote.

Laura noted that the Committee reports for the Annual report are due in the office no later than January 15 for the Annual Meeting on January 25.

The residents of Pioneer House will be moving out by the end of February so Pr. Jeremy and his family can move in. Then renters have lived there since July 2011 and have been good tenants. They were given a 120 day notice. After a discussion, Emilie moved that we help them by forgoing the February rent and immediately refund their \$1,700 deposit when they move out leaving the property in good order. Greg seconded the motion. Msc.

Finance committee member Nils recommended that funds in excess of \$50,000 in Good Shepherd's General Account at the Bank of America be transferred to the Vanguard Investment Account. Greg seconded. Msc.

The high charges on our Property Tax bill discussed last month were negotiated down to half of their previous level.

Emilie moved to accept the Budget for the Church for 2015 prepared by the Finance Committee. Vicki seconded the motion. It passed with one abstention.

Worship and Music Committee member Leone thanked Marcia and Larry Sander, Herb Yonge, Tony and Cindy Rogelstad, Linda Mahloch, and Joe and Laura Carlson for decorating the Sanctuary Christmas trees. She noted that we now have a new choir director, Ondine Young, who was installed last Sunday. Pastor Jeremy will be installed at Good Shepherd on January 4 at a single service held at 11 am with a luncheon to follow.

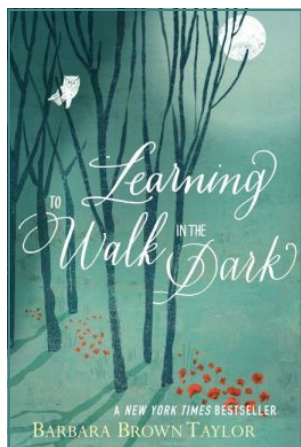
The Long Range & Property Committee announced that they have signed a new contract with Sprint.

Sunday School will begin on January 11 between services. There will be classes for adults and children.

The Social Ministry committee was recognized for managing the Care Bear program for Thanksgiving and for their support of the Thanksgiving Dinner.

The committee charged with reviewing our church constitution is making progress. They plan to meet with Pastor Jeremy before the January Council meeting.

Greg moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:24 p.m. Minutes submitted by Donna Albrecht, Council Secretary



WHAT BEGINS ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 13?

It's the Rev's Winter Read!

Beginning each week on Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. Rev will be leading a new reading group. Our first book will be:

***Learning to Walk in the Dark* by Barbara Brown Taylor.**

We will meet in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 10:30 a.m. to discuss this book that we will be reading as a group.

An elegant writer with the common touch, Taylor is always a wonderful guide to the spiritual world, and this book is no exception. Here she encourages us to turn out the lights and embrace the spiritual darkness, for it is in the dark, she maintains, that one can truly see. – Booklist

Thank You from Gordon Monroe

Many thanks for your prayers, cards, phone calls and support after my hip surgery. My recovery has been well beyond my expectations. We are so thankful to belong to such a caring congregation. I am humbled by the thoughtfulness. Thank you again and I'll see you in church!
Gordon Monroe

A Note of Thanks



During the early hours of Christmas, Good Shepherd hosted a three hour "Thanks to our First Responders" chili/tortilla soup party.

Most of the Concord Police Officers on duty did stop by and enjoyed the delicious chili made by Kathy O'Toole and the great tortilla soup prepared by Dana Deniston. Thanks to Reyanne Freeman and Tracy Rentner for loaning their crock pots!

There were cookies galore provided by our members and friends. The officers enjoyed so much the cookies, and since there was a great supply, several officers took some cookies to share with other officers back at the Concord headquarters or perhaps "one for the road", or was it two or three?

Nils, Linda, Jim, Doug, Kathy and Herb were in Fellowship Hall serving until 3:00 a.m. It was a good event and much appreciated by our Concord Police Officers.

— Herb

Hi Kathy G & Kathy B.
Thank you for the Helping Hand. We had a very nice Thanksgiving. Hope you did too. Sorry it has been so long since you have heard from US. I have been busy volunteering at the local food pantry and helping to feed the seniors lunch every week. Monday thru Friday. We are living in a motel. My Dad is helping us out with that. Richard is still working on getting Disability. Doctors appointments, Paperwork whew! Along with feeding the seniors I bring home food for Richard, Roxy and I. Hope all is good with you!
Happy Holiday's. *Kemberly*
P.S. I'm doing OK just crime in AND SAY HI AND GOT BLESS U GUYS. PLEASE SAY HI TO DANA FOR US AND THANK FOR ALL THE PR LOVE
Richard - Roxy - Roxy *woof woof*

From the couple & dog who stayed on our campus in summer.

A Note from Socialuths Sunday Morning Treats

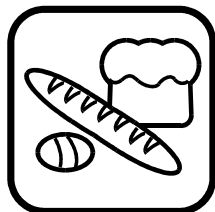
Thank you to everyone who provided coffee snacks for October, November and December. We have enjoyed a nice variety of cookies, cakes and doughnuts. We appreciate the offerings of Kay Bennett, Becky Berg, Ingrid Burns, Linda Mahloch, Laura Mott, Kathy Price, Linda and Jamie Rodemsky and Else Welsh. And, a big thank you to Pam Dietz for baking delicious cakes. There is a sign-up sheet by the coffee server if you are interested in providing a Sunday snack.

Also, thank you to the faithful group that provides coffee and tea every Sunday of the year, never missing a day. Greg and Kristi Buchholz, Reyanne and Doug Freeman, Linda and Gary Mahloch, Jon and Heidi Moss and Kathy and Ron Price.



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."



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

612 Grocery/Food bags distributed
587 People helped with food
135 Hot Meals provided
155 Christmas gifts and gift bags distributed
18 People helped with household furnishings

Thank you to all who donated Christmas gifts, gift cards, socks, scarves, blankets, household items and grooming supplies! Because of you, we can help so many more in the community.

Highlights:

- Applied for and received Holiday food assistance from the food bank.
- Distributed Thanksgiving and Christmas groceries and grocery gift cards.
- Welcomed volunteers from Good Shepherd, Tabernacle School, Carondelet High School, Valley Christian Church, Life Church, Clayton Charter School, and Tilden Prep School.
- Prepared hot food for the adult shelter and for police working on Christmas Eve.
- Distributed Care Bear gifts and gift bags containing socks, scarves and grooming supplies.
- Assisted county child and youth families with groceries and Christmas gifts.

Next FFF Lunch: January 17, 2015. 9:30 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:

- Mixing bowls and salad bowls
- Coffee makers
- Can openers
- TVs, DVD & VHS players
- Clocks and alarm clocks

* Just a reminder, FFF will no longer be accepting large sofas or any other large furniture.

Have questions, want to help or know of someone needing help? Contact Dana (925) 768-9087 or Linda (925) 864-9266 or 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


The North
Concord
Shelter:

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

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
at 211.

January 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Regular Worship Schedule 8:30 a.m. Worship (CH) 9:40 Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Coffee (FH) 11:00 a.m. Worship (CH)</p>						<p>3 11:00 a.m. Classroom 3 Work Party</p>
<p>4 Installation of Rev. Jeremy Serrano— ONE SERVICE at 11 a.m. Luncheon following. 6:00 p.m. Women's NA (FH)</p>	5	<p>6 7:30 p.m. GSLC Book Club (FR)</p>	<p>7 3:00 p.m. Worship and Music (FH) 1:00 p.m. Quilting (FH) 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)</p>	<p>8 9:00 a.m. Senior Food (FH) 10:00 a.m. Ruth Circle (FR) Noon DVLC Board (FH) 2:00 p.m. Finance 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (FH)</p>	9	10
<p>11 Sunday School Children Class Room 3 Adults (FR) See schedule above 6:00 p.m. Women's NA (FH)</p>	12	<p>13 10:30 a.m. Rev's Winter Read Group (FH) 7:00 p.m. Council (FH)</p>	<p>14 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)</p>	<p>15 9:00 a.m. Senior Food Program (FH) 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (FH) LAST DAT TO SUBMIT ANNUAL REPORTS!</p>	16	<p>17 9:30 a.m. Friends Feeding Friends (Kitchen) (FH)</p>
<p>18 See schedule above. 9:40 a.m. Sunday School for all. 6:00 p.m. Women's NA</p>	19	<p>20 10:30 a.m. Rev's Winter Read Group (FH) Noon Leisure Lunch (FH)</p>	<p>21 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)</p>	22	23	24
<p>25 Annual Meeting 9:30 One Worship Service 10:30 Annual Meeting (CH) 6 p.m. Women's NA</p>	26	<p>27 10:30 a.m. Rev's Winter Read Group (FH)</p>	<p>28 Youth Group 6:45 p.m. Youth (UP) 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)</p>	29	30	31

Worship Assistants – January 4 to February 1, 2015

Date	Time	Assisting Minister	Communion Assistant	Lector	Acolyte	Crucifer	Altar Guild	Greeters	Ushers	Sound Ministry	Communion to Shut-Ins	Coffee Ministry	Counters	C.O.D.
Install Pastor Jan 4	11:00	Susan Metzger Erika Berg	John Mott	Sam Buchholz	Doug Olson	Jan Harmon Pam Dietz Willajean Rogelstad Linda Mahloch	Jairre and Else Welsh and The Bibbs Family	Greg Buchholz and Vicki Smiglewski	Jamie Rodemsky		Jon and Heidi Moss	Gordon Monroe and Karin Bohling	Herb Yonge	
Jan 11	8:30	Linda Rodemsky Susan Metzger	Rosemary Fassl	Ryan Kich	Erika Berg	Laura Carlson Vicki Smiglewski Elizabeth Kich Sue Hertless	Willajean Rogelstad	Paul Rusch and Ron Figueroa	Jamie Rodemsky		Ron and Kathy Price	Gordon Monroe and Karin Bohling	Vicki Smiglewski	
	11:00	Please serve as you feel called					Nancy Judge	Please serve as you feel called						
Jan 18	8:30	Leone McCullough Mike Albrecht	Ingrid Burns	Lauren Wardle	Erin Wardle	Ione Bandy Leone McCullough Karin Bohling Tracy Rentner	Ron and Mary Figueroa	Doug and Reyanne Freeman	Jamie Rodemsky		Gary and Linda Mahloch	Carin Olson and Aimee Olmedo	Donna Albrecht	
	11:00	Please serve as you feel called					Nancy Knapp	Please serve as you feel called						
Annual Meeting Jan 25	9:30	Susan Metzger Duane Peterson	Kristi Buchholz	Doug Olson	Sam Buchholz	Donna Abeyta Nancy Knapp Nancy Judge Becky Berg	Larry and Marcia Sander Victor and Aimee Olmedo	Jim and Carin Olson	Jamie Rodemsky		Greg and Kristi Buchholz	Carin Olson and Aimee Olmedo	Herb Yonge	
Feb 1	8:30	Linda Rodemsky Erika Berg	Nils Anderson	Lauren Wardle	Ryan Kich	Kathy Price Else Welsh Heidi Moss Cindy Rogelstad	Kay Bennett and Jeannette Kaul	Paul Rusch and Vicki Smiglewski	Jamie Rodemsky		Doug and Reyanne Freeman	Greg Buchholz and Nils Anderson	Nils Anderson	
	11:00	Please serve as you feel called					Connie Summers	Please serve as you feel called						

2014 Executive Committee:

President: Herb Yonge, **Vice President:** Leone McCullough, **Secretary:** Donna Albrecht
Member-at-Large: Vicki Smiglewski

2014 Congregational Council

Donna Albrecht, Nils Anderson, Greg Buchholz, Drew Cremisio, Mark Deniston,
Leone McCullough, Jon Moss, Emilie Patton, Vicki Smiglewski and Herb Yonge

Ministry Staff:

Pastor: Rev. Jeremy Serrano - rev@gsconcord.com
Office Administrator: Laura Mott - lauramott@gsconcord.com
Interim Organist: Lynne Davies
Choir Director: Ondine Young
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 - lauramott@gsconcord.com

*Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Concord, CA*