

Shepherd's Voice

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Feeding bodies, minds, and souls...

Volume 14 • Issue 2

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*March
Newsletter Articles
Due February 22, 2018*

February



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

Sunday Worship at 9:00 a.m.

**Refreshments and
Sunday School for children
begins at 10:15 a.m.**

Rev's Reflections

*"Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life?
You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes" James 4:14*

I am still young. Yet, with each passing year I recognize that I will not be on this earth forever. As I talk to parishioners, they too can feel the weight of their limited time. This is not a new phenomena. In fact, the Church has created a way for us to face our death as a part of the Christian Year.

We are trained for our departure from this world every Ash Wednesday. As a part of the liturgy, you come forward and I put ashes on your forehead and I say, "Dust you are, and to dust you shall return." Then you respond "Amen." But, your response is more than just an ending to the little ritual. "Amen" here should not lose it's meaning. We get the word Amen from Hebrew, it's a Hebrew word that we've just transliterated. Amen means "so be it" or, more loosely "may it be as you've said." As a part of the liturgy, I am reminding you that your time here is temporary and you are saying "so be it."

Our whole lives are fleeting. Time passes quickly. In the book of James, the author reminds us that we are like mist, here for a little while, then gone. For some, this may lead to a nihilism about their existence. But, for the Christian, I believe this should inspire an urgency to how we live in the world.

Lent is the yearly training ground for how we are called to live. During this time we focus on practicing three disciplines: Fasting, Prayer, and Almsgiving.

Fasting because the world is always telling us that we need more; more money, more food, more things, more, more, more. We deliberately fast to remind ourselves that God gives us our daily bread. We have exactly what we need.

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Evangelism Committee Plans for 2018

The Bible calls us to reach out in Jesus' name and be his disciples. Part of Good Shepherd's Mission Statement includes reaching out to others. The Evangelism Committee has made plans to reach out to those in our community and internationally in 2018:

Evangelism Committee plans for community activities include:

- † Continuing to send out Cards of Caring to shut-ins in our congregation.
- † Co-hosting Winter Nights with United Methodist (February 26 to March 11). This involved working with other Lutheran congregations in providing meals and activities for those in Winter Nights.
- † Participate in distributing ashes at the BART station on Ash Wednesday.
- † Tentative plans are to invite Bishop Medardo Gomez, pastor at our sister parish, to an activity at Good Shepherd if he accepts the Synod's invitation to attend the Synod's Senate Assembly. We will keep you posted on this one as it would be great for our church to be able to meet Bishop Gomez.
- † Hold Vacation Bible School from June 25 to 29 for children in our congregation and the community. Title of Bible School will be "Ship Wreck" an Augsburg Fortress fully developed program that Pastor Jeremy has done before but we will need 10 -12 volunteers to help with this activity.
- † Go Christmas Caroling to families on our prayer list and give each of them an assortment of Christmas cookies.
- † Write monthly articles on our committee work and our sister parish.

Evangelism Committee plans our Sister Parish, Resurrection Lutheran, El Salvador:

- † Plan to visit our sister parish in El Salvador from July 21 to August 9. Plans tentatively include spending one week in San Salvador with our sister parish where we will take part in a Peace Walk and one week with Habitat for Humanity building homes in the rural area. We will be collecting clothing from our congregation to take to El Salvador.
- † The committee will continue to make paraments for the noisy offering Sundays to help reflect the El Salvadorian Lutheran culture and spirit on "Noisy Offering" Sundays.

Planned Fund Raisers to support our community and outreach activities:

- † Continue collecting aluminum cans and plastic bottles for Resurrection Church each Sunday.
- † Hold a "Noisy Offering" the last Sunday of each month to support our sister parish.
- † Plan a "Little Lots of Loots" parking lot sale on May 1 to support Resurrection Lutheran in

(Continued from Page 1)

Prayer because we cannot remain spiritually healthy without our connection to God. The world tells us that there is no God and that we have to get by on our own. Prayer changes us by aligning our wills to God's will. It helps us to focus on the things of God and live as Christ in the world.

Almsgiving because how we spend our money matters. We give generously and intentionally to the church. Giving 10% of our money is a spiritual discipline. It reminds us that we are only temporary stewards of God's gifts and all we have comes from God, which includes money. In turn, the church uses that money to serve the poor, the hungry, and those in need.

So, during this Lenten season may you be reminded of your mortality. May you be trained in living for this world. May you not lose hope because Easter is coming.

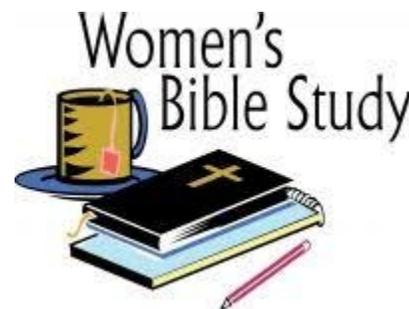
Peace,
Rev. J. Serrano

**RUTH CIRCLE BIBLE STUDY
MEETS THE SECOND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH**

Please join us for this discussion on "Multiple Meanings in the Bible."

Coffee / Tea and snacks will be enjoyed before our study.

Mark your calendar for Thursday, February 8 and join a group of terrific women in Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m.



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- † Organizing four baseball fund raisers with the Oakland A's: Games include: June 16 vs. Los Angeles Angels, August 18 vs. Houston Astros; September 1 vs. Seattle Mariners (fireworks night) and September 9 vs. Texas Rangers.
- † Pumpkin Patch from October 1 to 31. This activity will support Friends Feeding Friends (and we will need members of the congregation to help with this one as they support Friends Feeding Friends).

The Evangelism Committee meets on the Last Tuesday of the month in the Fireside Room at 7:00 p.m. Questions? Contact Sue Hertless at 925-767-6711.

Remember, it is always a good idea if Lone Range can't help you to call Tonto. But Tonto does not know as much about things as the Lone Ranger.

Evangelism

 The logo for Evangelism consists of the word "Evangelism" in a teal, sans-serif font. Below the text are three stylized fish icons in a golden-yellow color, arranged in a slightly overlapping pattern.

February Birthdays

Stacey Fassl	01
Andrew Harris	03
Larry Huddleston	03
Bobby Morgan	06
Eric Batchelder	11
Vincent Batchelder	12
Kaden Kreuzinger	13
Benjamin Serrano	13
Ross Deniston	15
Kristina Costa	19
Christian Hein-Silva	20
David Henry	20
Dorothy Davis	21
Doug Olson	21
Robert Schaefer	22
Paul Clausen	23
Kurt Harman	24
Donna Albrecht	26



What the World Needs Now . . .

Most every week I enjoy turning on my computer and reading the Sierra Pacific Synod Weekly Newsletter on Tuesday mornings. Each week one of the Bishop's Assistants, and the Bishop as well, take a turn at writing their thoughts on a timely topic. These writings can be found at spselca.org.

On January 23, Pastor Kathryn Gulbranson, wrote a piece that I thought would be worth sharing with all of you as we approach Valentine's Day and the Season of Lent. I hope you find Kathryn's writing as thoughtful as I did:

. . . When our Kristian Harry was eight years old. (He's almost twenty-one years old now) His third-grade class sang the chorus for the song, "What the World Needs Now". For the verses, his teacher asked three children to step forward and read their answer to the question: "If you could change one thing in our world, what would you change?" Our sweet boy was one of the ones chosen! I don't recall what he said, but I'm certain our hearts were bursting!!

Can you think of a few things yourself - that you would change in our world?

I remember people wiping their eyes. Twelve years ago - our world, our country, our churches, and our homes needed love. Just like now. Just like now.

*What the world needs now is love, sweet love
It's the only thing that there's just too little of
What the world needs now is love, sweet love,
No not just for some but for everyone.*
- Jackie DeShannon

Sisters and brothers in Christ, may you continue in your ministry of spreading the love of God!

In Christ's Love, Pr. Kathryn- Assistant to the Bishop

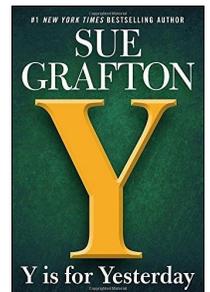


GOOD SHEPHERD BOOK CLUB

It's 1989 and one of the perpetrators of a vicious rape, Fritz McCabe, has been released from prison. A tape of the assault had disappeared before the trial, and the person suspected by her peers of having the tape is found murdered. Moody, unrepentant, and angry, Fritz is a virtual prisoner of his ever-watchful parents — until a copy of the missing tape of the crime arrives with a ransom demand. This is the 25th novel in her Alphabet Mystery series. Sadly, Grafton died on December 28, 2017.

Join us on **TUESDAY, March 6, 7:30 p.m., in the Fireside Room** to discuss this amazing novel by a master of her craft.

Questions? Contact Donna Albrecht at donna@albrechts.com



News from the Council President

Hello everyone,

Here are some highlights from our Church Council meeting from Tuesday, January 9. Our meeting was mainly focused on discussing topics associated with the upcoming Annual Meeting.

- ◇ Recognitions:
 - ◆ Rebecca Berg for her time and dedication to the church Council this past year! Becky has decided to not run for reelection to church Council, and we will all miss her participation and her great positive demeanor!
 - ◆ Everyone who helps out with Friends Feeding Friends.
 - ◆ Everyone who helped out with all of the Christmas activities.
- ◇ 2018 Church Council – As mentioned in last month's newsletter, we have two members willing to join Council this year. Also, I was remiss in not indicating the entire slate as we have two Council members whose terms are up and will be on the ballot for reelection. These members are Nancy Judge and Tony Rogelstad.
- ◇ Lastly, we are a bit behind in posting the minutes of our monthly Council meetings on our website. Please bear with us ~ they will be updated shortly after our next Council meeting on February 13.

In God's Peace,
Greg Buchholz

Wedding Anniversaries

Happy
Valentine's
Day



**If you know
someone in our
military who would
like us to pray for
them as a
congregation,
please send their
name to the church
office for our
weekly prayers.**

**Ash Wednesday is February 14, our service will begin
at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.**

***Lenten Soup Suppers* will begin on February 21 and
continue on February 28 and March 7, 14, 21
from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.**

This year we will have a sign-up poster in the Narthex and we are inviting YOU to sign up to make a soup.

We will need 2 soups each week during the 5
Wednesdays in Lent.

Next
Men's Breakfast and
Bible Study is 8:00 a.m.
on Saturday, February 24



All men are welcome, we
meet in the Fellowship Hall.

Winter Nights 2018

“As you do to the least of mine, you do to me.” Why not help with Winter Nights at Concord United Methodist Church February 26 to March 11? Winter Nights is a program of the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County that helps homeless families transition to a home. Helping will give you an opportunity to serve those less fortunate, and to better understand poverty and homelessness by talking to parents and children in the homeless community.

There will be a sign-up sheet at church on Sunday morning. You can volunteer individually or maybe as a group. Ways to help include:

- * Preparing and serving food or snacks
- * Tutoring children
- * Storytelling, leading crafts
- * Staying overnight

Other tasks include helping purchase food, laundry, cleaning up after the event, or making homemade cookies for lunches.

Winter Nights is truly an ecumenical outreach program. Please sign up at church if you would like to help. Sue Hertless and Betty Jacobsen are coordinating this activity with Concord United Methodist.

Evangelism Committee



Come be a part of an exciting new monthly ecumenical program for children & youth!

All Youth K-12th grades are welcome to attend!



We meet on the first Sunday of every month from 4:00-6:00 pm (Unless it is Super Bowl Sunday)



We meet at several different churches. There is a different theme each month. There will be games, discussion, pizza, and worship!

Should you have any questions, please contact Rev.

In February we meet on Feb. 11 at Concord United Methodist!

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.”



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

Friends Feeding Friends

1,304 Families helped
1,779 Bags of food distributed
1,484 People helped with groceries
183 Hot Meals served

Highlights:

- **Special thanks to all who contributed to our Facebook fundraiser and our Angel Bins athletic shoe drive. The shoes have been shipped off to Angel Bins where they will be refurbished before blessing others around the world.**
- **FFF works with many churches, many organizations, and many agencies, so collectively, we can help others in need. Sometimes, it takes a village.**

**Next Shelter Lunch: February 17, 2018, 9 a.m., at Good Shepherd to prep.
All are welcome!!**

Items needed this month:

- **Drinking Glasses (no alcohol-related glassware please)**
- **Blankets**
- **Washcloths, bath towels, and hand towels**
- **Rain ponchos**

You can contact us at friendsfeedingfriends@yahoo.com or friendsfeedingfriend-sca@gmail.com, and we are on the church website at <http://gsconcord.com/outreach-ministries/friends-feeding-friends/>

If you order on Amazon, don't forget to go to smile.amazon.com first and specify The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Concord.

Amazon will make a contribution to FFF.



In this picture, FFF are loading the County truck to help furnish a young, single dad and his 7-year-old son. When they were found by the County, they were sleeping outside on the ground. FFF fully furnished their two-bedroom apartment, and provided a good supply of groceries and basic necessities.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

2018 Executive Committee:

President: Greg Buchholz, **Vice President:** Mark Deniston, **Secretary:** John Mott
Member-at-Large: Candace Bradley

2018 Congregational Council

Candace Bradley, Greg Buchholz, Adam Castle, Tyler Costa,
Mark Deniston, Sue Hertless, Nancy Judge, John Mott, Tony Rogelstad

Ministry Staff:

Pastor: Rev. Jeremy Serrano - rev@gsconcord.com
Office Administrator: Laura Mott - lauramott@gsconcord.com
Organist: Gloria Chuang
Interim Choir Director: Emilie Patton
Contemporary Music Leader: Tom Deans Flegel - tdeans08@gmail.com
Sound/Technology: Jamie Rodemsky - jamier1263@gmail.com
Treasurer: Laura Mott - lauramott@gsconcord.com
Financial Secretary: Vicki Smiglewski

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

*4000 Clayton Road
Concord, CA 94521*



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church exists to **reach** out in Jesus name and **gather** in deep community, to **learn** and grow into God's Kingdom, to **serve** our neighbor and **worship** the creator.