

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

& The Vineyard Preschool

November, 2010

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A TIME TO GIVE THANKS

I was recently reminded that Thanksgiving is NOT a liturgical observance. That means that there is no specific day on the Church Year calendar for celebrating Thanksgiving. It is a secular holiday, not a religious one. Yet we have an unbroken string of Thanksgiving worship at Good Shepherd that goes back at least 33 years. Are we allowed to do that?


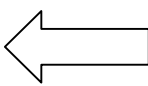
Of course we are. Even though there is no set feast day, like Christmas, for giving thanks, there are certainly lessons and prayers and hymns in our liturgy for a Day of Thanksgiving. These are the things we use when we gather together to give thanks as God's people for the many gifts God has given us. In the secular observance of Thanksgiving, we remember the Pilgrims and their successful survival of a very difficult winter so long ago, for which they gave thanks to God. They had come here for religious freedom and had no idea of the hardship they would encounter. The Native Americans helped them stave off starvation and survive the winter. Now, as they harvested the crops that would see them through another winter, they gave thanks for God's goodness.

We idealize these early settlers for a few moments and then dig in to the feast while we watch football games on TV. That about comprises a Day of National Thanksgiving these days. Meanwhile, we know that retail workers are madly preparing their stores for the onslaught of Christmas shopping that will set the trend for a prosperous holiday shopping season beginning at 12:02 am the next morning.

What I like about being a liturgical church is that there are lessons and prayers and hymns that we have for our use to make a festival of thanks to God for all of God's good gifts. We do much more in our worship than ponder Pilgrims and watch football and plan shopping trips. Our liturgical observance is deeper and more meaningful than the way our culture observes Thanksgiving. We are nourished with God's bounty in Holy Communion and partake of a holy meal that celebrates God's presence among us and the living Christ in our community, our homes and our hearts. The bread we break is communion in the Body of Christ.

Our thanksgiving is also a call to serve others and give them reasons to offer thanks to God. We pray and remember that God's goodness comes to us anew every day. We acknowledge that goodness and give thanks for God's blessings. We offer ourselves in willing service to others and pray that we might become bread for the world so that others might come to know God. "Companion" comes from *con panne*, with bread. That means that we break bread with our companions on life's way, the company of God's people gathered to give appropriate thanks to God in "community," with unity. We do more together than we can alone: *Con Dios, with God*. Plan to attend Thanksgiving Eve Worship on Wednesday, November 24th at 7:00 pm.

Yours for a blessed thanksgiving evening worship, *Pastor Koch*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>November, 2010</h1>						
Daylight Savings Time ends the 7th. Fall back 1 hr. Sat. night. 	1 N.A. 6 & 8 pm	2 N.A. 6 pm Elders 8 pm	3 Vineyard Children's Choir 3pm Children's Choir 4:30 N.A. 7 & 8:30 p	4 N.A. 8 pm	5 N.A. 8 pm	6 N.A. 9:30 am Flowers: M. Bettencourt N.A. 8 pm
7 9:30 am Worship Forum 11:15 N. A. 4 pm Spanish Worship 6-8	8 N.A. 6 & 8 pm	9 N.A. 6 pm Board Of Directors 7:30	10 Vineyard Children's Choir 3pm Children's Choir 4:30 N.A. 7 & 8:30 p	11 N.A. 8 pm	12 N.A. 8 pm	13 Yard Sale 8 am to 2 N. A. 9:30 am Flowers: NEEDED N.A. 8 pm
14 9:30 am Worship Conf. Inst. 11:15 N. A. 4 pm Spanish Worship 6-8	15 N.A. 6 & 8 pm	16 N.A. 6 pm	17 Vineyard Choir 3:05 pm Children's Choir 4:30 pm N.A. 7 & 8:30 p	18 <i>Action Plan</i> <i>Committees at</i> 4 pm, Sharon Kaekel's home N.A. 8 pm	19 N.A. 8 pm	20 N.A. 9:30 am Flowers: NEEDED N.A. 8 pm
21 9:30 Worship 3rd S. BRUNCH TEAM 3 NA 4 pm Sp. Worship 6 – 8 pm	22 N.A. 6 & 8 pm	23 N. A. 6 pm	24 Children's Choir 4:30 N.A. 7 & 8:30 p Thanksgiving Eve Worship 7 pm.	25 N.A. All Day Meeting Marathon and <u>Thanksgiving</u> <u>Day Dinner</u>	26 N.A. 8 pm	27 N.A. 9:30 am Flowers: NEEDED N.A. 8 pm
28 9:30 <u>Advent</u> Worship Conf. Inst. 11:15 NA 4 pm Spanish Worship 6 - 8	29 N.A. 6 & 8 pm	30 N.A. 6 pm		Sunday Nov 28th <u>Advent</u> Begins !		

November Birthdays

14 Ben Anderson

November Anniversaries

22 Wayne & Norma Wiedeman

24 John & Kathy Hopkins

November Assisting Ministers

Date	Flowers	Acolytes	Lectors	Coffee Time <u>Set up</u>	<u>Clean up</u>	Ushers
7	M. Bettencourt	Mikaela Silacci	Patty Johansen	Karen Spence	Weylands	Walter Worth & Lore Baur
14	NEEDED	Nicole Critzer	Rozanne Koch	Weylands	Ian Hopkins	Steve & Debbie Andrade
21	NEEDED	Kjersten Cox	Patty Johansen	3 rd Sunday Brunch Team 3		Ian Hopkins & Mikalea
24	Thnks Eve.	Ben Anderson	Sharon Kaekel	No Coffee time – Evening worship		Walter Worth & Lore Baur
28	NEEDED	Kevin Cox	Patty Johansen	Ruth Compton	Karen Spence	Karen & Sabrina Spence

Coffee time this Sunday, November 7th is a fund-raiser for two of our young people who are hoping to make an educational trip to Washington D. C. in the spring. **Sabrina Spence and Brianna Lujan**, their friends and families, have prepared the goodies for coffee time and ask for your support. We are glad that these young women continue to participate in many aspects of our life at Good Shepherd. Thank you very much.



"Where do we belong" update

On Saturday, November 6th a leadership group from Good Shepherd will attend a regional meeting of three ELCA Conferences (Monterey Bay, San Jose, and the Peninsula) at Advent Lutheran in Morgan Hill. We were invited to attend by the ELCA Bishop of the Sierra Pacific Synod in order to get acquainted. Both our District President, Robert Newton, and the ELCA Bishop, Mark Holmerud have been contacted to find out what procedures we need to follow as we continue to consider our synodical affiliation. We expect a visit from each in the next few months to help us explore this process. In the meantime, we will continue to provide a forum for ongoing discussions after worship every other Sunday (November 7th this month. No forum on November 21st due to 3rd Sunday Brunch). Bring your questions.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATES

Weekly Offering Needs Determined
 Our adopted budget for 2010 is \$164,695.
 Total Passive Income Stream: \$ 32,080
 Budget: \$164,695
 Less Passive Income - 32,080
 Offerings needed \$132,615
 Divided by 52 weeks: \$2550.00 / week.

Stewardship Update through October, 2010

Average attendance for 44 Weeks: 40
 Offering needed weekly at \$2550/week: \$112,200
 Actual Offering: \$81,803
 Shortfall: \$30,397
 Average shortfall per week: \$691

We count on your regular offerings for our church's fiscal health.

If you are not in worship, please remember that your regular offering is still needed. Use *Simply Giving* to insure that your gifts are here even if you are not. Contact Herm Weyland for info.

Offering for January:	(5 Ss)	\$9,170
Offerings for February:		\$9,623
Offerings for March:		\$7,129
Offerings for April:		\$8,965
Offering for May		\$6,965
Offering for May/June		\$5,704
Offering for June/July (5 Ss)		\$9,425
Offering for August (5 Ss)		\$7,205
Offering for September		\$7,892
Offering for October (5 Ss)		<u>\$9,725</u>
		\$81,803

Feb – Sept. Total for Consultant :	\$1,930
Matching fund contribution total:	\$4,305
October:	<u>\$ 365</u>
Consultant Grand Total:	\$6,600

Offerings The October offering of \$9,725 averaged \$1,945 per week. **Attendance** averaged 49 per week for October.

We have 8 Sundays to go in the year plus the special services on Thanksgiving and Christmas. We have averaged \$107,000.00 in regular offerings for the past two years. We need about \$12,500 per month in order to match the previous two years.

Phase 2 Action Plan Update.

About 12 people met on Saturday, October 9 with Rev. Dale in order to draw up some action plans at Good Shepherd. The group chose 5 areas of focus: Outreach to the Community, Member Outreach, Property, Church School Relationship, and Publicity. Each group formed a committee and the committee selected some activities to do in order to move forward in renewal. We met again on October 30 with Rev. Dale in order to report back about what was accomplished. Here are the committee reports.

Property Needs – Steve Andrade

As part of our work with Rev. Dale, a group was formed to assess the needs of our church property. It was noted that a request had been made to make improvements to our restrooms in order to make them more aesthetically pleasing and to improve on accessibility. The group is currently looking at how much work this would entail and how it might be funded.

Church School Relations – Lenore Penkethman
At our first workshop, we talked about finding ways to increase the interaction between Good Shepherd's congregation and the Vineyard Preschool families. With that goal in mind, we came up with several ideas to strengthen the preschool-church relationship.

First of all, Nancy Taves has agreed to be the social contact between The Vineyard and the congregation. She is uniquely qualified because she is a member of the church and a preschool Mom! Next, Debbie Andrade has organized 2 coffees for the preschool parents and any congregational members who wish to attend. The first will be held in the social hall on Wed. Nov. 3 from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM. The second will be held on Tues. Nov. 16 from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM. Coffee, tea, and baked goodies will be served. Debbie hopes to make these coffee gatherings an ongoing affair and is trying to collect a set of pretty cups and saucers to use at each coffee. If you have any cups or saucers to donate, or would like to bake cookies, brownies, etc. for either of the November coffees, please call Debbie at 847-4118.

Other ideas for future interactions include inviting Vineyard families to a church service in December to hear the Vineyard choir sing, and hosting the receptions for preschool families after The Vineyard Christmas programs.

Member Outreach – Diane Stuenkel

Good Shepherd Lutheran Women

Plans are underway to re-form and transform the Good Shepherd Lutheran Women's group. An organizational meeting is scheduled at Sharon Kaekel's home, 2620 Muirfield Way, Gilroy, at 4:00 pm on Thursday, November 18, 2010. Come hear what's new at Good Shepherd from our Property and Outreach Coordinators. Our next

meeting will be after church on December 5th. All women are invited as we formalize our group structure and designate leaders. Ideas for how our group might serve include: Prayer Chain, mission support, special projects, and fundraising. Please prayerfully consider how your talents can be used to further Christ's mission. If you are unable to make the meetings and would like to receive an update on meetings and projects, please email Diane Stuenkel: stuenkel@verizon.net

Fellowship

Debbie and Steve Andrade are our Dinner Group Captains! Please see the sign-up sheet on the clipboard in the breezeway and pencil yourself in. You will be assigned to a small group (6 - 8 people) and will take turns hosting dinner. Groups usually meet once a month at a member's home. After every family has hosted a meal, the groups are re-organized. We have had these groups in the past and found them to be a wonderful opportunity to socialize and really get to know members of our church family. Questions? Feel free to call the Andrades at: 847-4118.

Community Outreach- Sharon Kaekel

The members and friends of Good Shepherd invite your participation in our Food Drive and Giving Tree. Last year everyone was so generous and we were able to help feed many in need. The non-perishable food barrels are in the entryway for either the 2nd Harvest Food Bank, or for the St. Joseph's Family center here in Gilroy to provide food for the needy. Barrel pick-up is scheduled for Thursday, November 18th. The Giving Tree, sponsored by the Salvation Army, made 50 children very happy with gifts last year. This year the cry for help is even louder. You will notice the Giving Tree in the entryway after Thanksgiving with 75 gift tags. Choose a tag and remove it from the tree. Keep one part of the tag with the gift and the other part for your own records. Please do NOT wrap the gifts. This will be done by volunteers for the Salvation Army.

If you have questions, please contact Sharon Kaekel at 842-2178. God bless you and thank you for your participation.

News from Mark Johanson, the recipient of the church musician scholarship gift last spring.

Hi Zita,

Organ lessons are going really well. I'm working on some works by Bach (of course.. it IS Valpo..) and Langlais. Playing the organ in the Chapel is great fun, and it sometimes feels like I'm driving the earth when I'm playing the organ in there, simply because both it and the room are so big. Additionally, Dr. Brugh has been helping me with some general registration knowledge for use on Sunday mornings.... Thank you. Mark

[Lorraine Brugh is the Associate Professor of Music and Director of Chapel Music at Valparaiso University.]