

# LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

& The Vineyard Preschool

December, 2010

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Website address: [goodshepherdgilroy.org](http://goodshepherdgilroy.org)

## KEEPING ADVENT, CHRISTMAS, AND OUR BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Our tradition at Good Shepherd is to fully observe the season of Advent. We do this intentionally so we can be in one place that honors holy waiting. We have many beautiful and meaningful Advent hymns to sing. We have deeply hopeful scriptures and prayers to share. We have beautiful blue paraments, vestments and advent wreath candles that remind us of the Blessed Virgin Mary, whose color is blue. We too, with her, await new birth and new life for ourselves and for the world. It is a good thing to prepare spiritually for the deeply spiritual event of the incarnation of God's chosen one, the bringer of salvation for the whole world.

When Christmas finally arrives, we celebrate with music, light, and beauty. Special services bring us together for the special arrival of the Good News of God with us. We attend because we honor holy celebrating. This year we have the opportunity to reflect further on the meaning of God's presence in our midst as a child with two Sundays after Christmas. Usually we get one. When our culture has put away lights and carols and announces drastic price reductions, we continue to keep Christmas and ponder with Mary all these things that have come to pass through heartfelt worship. There are more carols to sing, more scriptures to hear, more time to take in and digest the presence of God among us, and what that means for us.

As a way to mark the beginning of our new year on the church liturgical calendar, we also return to our beginnings in the life of faith: our baptism. All during Advent, we promise each week (in the words of the baptismal covenant):

- to live among God's faithful people,
- to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper,
- to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
- to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
- and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Our aim in repeating this promise is to get it into our mouths and into our hearts and into our living. This is not just some random exercise to fill up some unused space in our worship, but getting back to our roots and convictions and ultimate reasons for being part of a Christian community in a troubled and troubling world. We honor holy promise making. Praying together the Litany for Justice and Peace in all the Earth reminds us of our calling and helps us to set our priorities according to God's design, not our own. What are we here for as a congregation, as a community of the baptized, as people named by God and called into service? May our keeping of Advent, Christmas and our Baptismal Covenant remind us of these good things.

Yours for a blessed observance of these holy days,

*Pastor Koch*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>December, 2010</h1>						
			<b>1</b> Vineyard Children's Choir 3pm Children's Choir 4:30 N.A. 7 & 8:30 p	<b>2</b>  N.A. 8 pm	<b>3</b>  N.A. 8 pm	<b>4</b> N.A. 9:30 am Action Pln Ck- in meeting 10 FlowersNeeded N.A. 8 pm
<b>5</b> 9:30 am Worship Forum 11:15 GSLW Noon N. A. 4 pm Sp. Worship 6-8	<b>6</b>  N.A. 6 & 8 pm	<b>7</b>  N.A. 6 pm Board Of Directors 7:30	<b>8</b> Vineyard Children's Choir 3pm Children's Choir 4:30 N.A. 7 & 8:30 p	<b>9</b>  N.A. 8 pm	<b>10</b>  N.A. 8 pm	<b>11</b> N. A. 9:30 am FlowersNeeded  N.A. 8 pm
<b>12</b> 9:30 am Worship <u>and</u> Cong. Mtg after. N. A. 4 pm Sp. Worship 6-8	<b>13</b>  N.A. 6 & 8 pm	<b>14</b>  N.A. 6 pm	<b>15</b> Vineyard Christ. Progs. 11 & 2:00 Children's Choir 4:30 pm N.A. 7 & 8:30 p	<b>16</b> Vineyard Christ. Progs. 11 & 1:30  N.A. 8 pm	<b>17</b> Vineyard PS Christmas Holiday begins N.A. 8 pm	<b>18</b> N.A. 9:30 am Flowers: NEEDED N.A. 8 pm
<b>19</b> 9:30 Worship <b>3<sup>rd</sup> S. BRUNCH TEAM 4</b> NA 4 pm Sp. Worship 6-8	<b>20</b>  N.A. 6 & 8 pm	<b>21</b>  N. A. 6 pm	<b>22</b>  Children's Choir 4:30 pm N.A. 7 & 8:30 p	<b>23</b>  N.A. 8 pm	<b>24</b> <b>Christmas Worship at 4 pm and 9 pm.</b>  N.A. 8 pm	<b>25</b> N.A. 9:30 am Flowers: NEEDED N.A. 8 pm
<b>26</b> 9:30 Worship Forum 11:15 NA 4 pm Spanish Worship 6 - 8	<b>27</b>  N.A. 6 & 8 pm	<b>28</b>  N.A. 6 pm	<b>28</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	

#### December Birthdays

3 Amanda (Koch) Ducasse, Phil Taves      11 Fred Prahll  
16 Will Anderson      18 Ginny Larson      28 William Taves

#### December Anniversaries

17 Phil & Nancy Taves

#### December Assisting Ministers

Date	Flowers	Acolytes	Lectors	Coffee Time Set up	Clean up	Ushers
5	NEEDED	Kyra Guerra	Steve Andrade	Debbie Andrade	Weylands	Walter Worth & Lore Baur
12	NEEDED	Nicole Critzer	Rozanne Koch	Sally Hammelev	Donna Mininni	Karen & Sabrina Spence
19	NEEDED	Mikela Silacci	Patty Johansen	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun. Brunch Team 4,	Ian Hopkins	Walter Worth & Lore Baur
24	Ch Eve. 4 pm	Christopher Critzer	Michelle Anderson	No Coffee time – Evening worship		NEEDED
24	Ch Eve. 9 pm			No Coffee time – Evening worship		Steve & Debbie Andrade
26	NEEDED		Carolyn Carver	Sharon Kaekel	Debbie Andrade	Karen & Nicci Spence

**Vineyard Coffee Time** was held on November 3<sup>rd</sup> for the Monday Wednesday Friday families, and on November 16 for the Tuesday Thursday families. Several congregational members contributed cookies and other goodies as well as some wonderful coffee/tea cup sets for "fine" sipping. Headed by Debbie Andrade, the two events were wonderfully received by the Vineyard parents who sat around beautifully decorated tables in the Social Hall and enjoyed fellowship with each other and those members who served. Many commented on how nice it was and thanked the Social Hall hosts. Some even noticed our use of Fair Trade coffee and our support of the Equal Exchange - Lutheran World Relief efforts to help small coffee farmers with a market for their fine coffee. We plan to offer this kind of outreach again soon. In the meantime, please consider donating any old or unused tea/coffee cups and saucers to our growing collection. The next opportunity for you to help with the hosting is for the Vineyard Preschool Christmas Program reception in the Social Hall on December 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. We'll serve coffee and punch.

## "Where do we belong" update

Both our L-MS 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. **President Robert Newton will be with us in worship and preach on Sunday, January 16<sup>th</sup>.** He will stay for our Adult Forum time in order to answer our concerns and questions. We have been directed to the ELCA Model Constitution and Statement of Faith for Congregations, by Bishop Holmerud. We would need to adopt that Constitution before we would be received by the ELCA. We have copies of it available. It is also available on-

line for our reading through the ELCA website. Bishop Holmerud has been invited to come and speak to us as well. We will have a date set for that visit soon, with hope for a visit in March or April.

## 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 November, 2010

Average attendance for 48 Weeks: 40  
 Offering needed weekly at \$2550/week: \$122,400  
                                           Actual Offering: \$91,301  
                                           Shortfall: \$31,099  
                                           Average shortfall per week: \$648

### 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)	\$9,725
Offerings for November (+Tks)	\$9,498
	\$91,301

**Offerings** The November offering of \$9,498 averaged \$1,945 per week. **Attendance** averaged 38 per week for November.

We have 4 Sundays to go in the year plus the two special services on Christmas Eve. We have averaged \$107,000.00 in regular offerings for the past two years.

## **Litany for Justice and Peace in all the Earth**

We pray for continued blessings on all peacemakers, on leaders who value peace, and on everyone who promotes nonviolent solutions to conflict. We pray for a speedy end to all violence and warfare around the world. God of peace and gentleness,  
**Hear our prayer.**

We pray that the Holy Spirit may embrace the most vulnerable members of our society; we pray also for an end to the growing disparity between rich and poor; and for the grace and courage to strive for economic justice for all people. God of all gifts and blessings,  
**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for an end to prejudice throughout our country and the world; that we will respect all people as precious children of God; and that racism, sexism, religious intolerance and all other forms of bigotry and discrimination will be forever banished from our hearts, our society, and our laws. God of fellowship and equality,  
**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for a reverence of the earth and all creation; that we will have the tools and the will to conserve it; that we will use its bountiful resources in the service of others; and that we will become better stewards of all that has been entrusted to us. God of nature and the universe,  
**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the sick, the aged, and the infirm; and for those suffering with physical or mental disabilities; that all may have access to proper health care; and that God's loving embrace may be felt by all who suffer. God of comfort and healing,  
**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all children and families, and particularly for the orphaned, the neglected, the abused, refugees, and those who live in fear of violence or disease; that they may be relieved and protected. God of children and families,  
**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who have died as a result of violence, war, disease, or famine, and we hold up most especially those lives that were lost merely due to human blindness, neglect, or hardness of heart. God of eternal life and resurrection love,  
**Hear our prayer. Amen.**

