

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

& The Vineyard Preschool

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HOW ARE WE GOING TO GET OUT OF THIS MESS

There they were, the Israelites, recently set free from slavery and on the run from Egyptian persecution. Ten plagues had been sent by God to convince the Pharaoh to let God's people go free. During each plague, the Pharaoh was willing to let them go, but as soon as it went away, the Pharaoh changed his mind and kept them in slavery. By the tenth plague the Pharaoh had finally set them free, so the Israelites were on the move back to the Promised Land.

Before them, on their way, was the Red Sea. How were they going to cross? What did God have in mind? What would Moses do? Then, from behind them rose a cloud: chariots, horsemen, and soldiers. It was the Pharaoh again. He was coming to bring them back to Egypt as slaves, reneging on his promise to let them go. They were trapped between the Red Sea and the armies of the Pharaoh. *How are we going to get out of this mess?*

As we begin a new year, our situation somewhat parallels that of the Israelites: Before us lies the unknown sea of 2011. We don't know what lies beneath the surface, what sinkholes might pull us down, what storms might overwhelm us. We don't know how we'll get past this blockade of uncertainty. What does God have in mind? What leadership will we get? Behind us lies a year that we know all too well, with its fears and problems. Will those fears and difficulties come back to define who we are and keep us from being God's people on the way to God's promised salvation for all the world?

God spoke to Moses and Aaron and the leaders of the people. Moses needed to hold his staff up over the waters, and the Red Sea parted. Dry land appeared and the people went safely across the sea with water to the left and the right, but not impeding their way. When the armies of Pharaoh came in after them, the dry land got all muddy and bogged down the chariots and horsemen and soldiers. They were not able to recapture the Israelites and bring them back into the slavery of the past. Before them, God led the way toward the promise of freedom, showing them the direction by means of a pillar of cloud in the daylight, and by a pillar of fire at nighttime.

We trust that God is with us, especially after celebrating the birth of Emmanuel (God with us) this Christmas season. We believe that God will give us direction, and leaders who will make sure we come into this new year with purpose and vision and hope. We go forward desiring the promises of God for ourselves, and promising to make those promises become realities for the salvation of the whole world. Through the waters of Holy Baptism, we are saved and called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word and share the meal in our community, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ Jesus, to serve all people following the example of Christ, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Our baptism is both our salvation and our direction.

Yours for a blessed new year in God's baptismal grace, *Pastor Roch*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
*Sunday, January 9 th is the installation of our newly elected congregational Officers. Plan to attend and show your support as we move into 2011.			<h1>January, 2011</h1>			1
2 9:30 am Worship De-deck the sanctuary	3 N.A. 6 & 8 pm	4 N.A. 6 pm	5 Vineyard Children's Choir 3pm Children's Choir 4:30 N.A. 7 & 8:30 p	6 N.A. 8 pm	7 N.A. 8 pm	8 N.A. 9:30 am FlowersNeeded N.A. 8 pm
9 * 9:30 am Worship 11:15 Confirmation N. A. 4 pm	10 N.A. 6 & 8 pm	11 N.A. 6 pm Board Of Directors 7:30	12 Vineyard Children's Choir 3pm Children's Choir 4:30 N.A. 7 & 8:30 p	13 N.A. 8 pm	14 N.A. 8 pm	15 N. A. 9:30 am FlowersNeeded N.A. 8 pm
16 9:30 am Worship 3rd S. BRUNCH TEAM 1 President's visit N. A. 4 pm	17 N.A. 6 & 8 pm	18 N.A. 6 pm	19 Vineyard Children's Choir 3pm Children's Choir 4:30 pm N.A. 7 & 8:30 p	20 N.A. 8 pm	21 N.A. 8 pm	22 N.A. 9:30 am FlowersNeeded N.A. 8 pm
23 9:30 Worship 11:15 Confirmation NA 4 pm	24 N.A. 6 & 8 pm	25 N. A. 6 pm	26 Vineyard Children's Choir 3pm Children's Choir 4:30 pm N.A. 7 & 8:30 p	27 N.A. 8 pm	28 N.A. 8 pm	29 N.A. 9:30 am FlowersNeeded N.A. 8 pm
30 9:30 Worship Forum 11:15 NA 4 pm	31 N.A. 6 & 8 pm					

January Birthdays

11 Diane Stuenkel 18 John Hopkins

January Anniversary

10 Walter Worth & Lore Baur

January Assisting Ministers

Date	Flowers	Acolytes	Lectors	Coffee Time <u>Set up</u>	<u>Clean up</u>	Ushers
2	P. Johansen	Mikaela Silacci	Steve Andrade	staff	staff	John & Ian Hopkins
9	NEEDED	Ben Anderson	Carolyn Carver	D. Mininni	Duane Brown	Karen & Sabrina Spence
16	NEEDED	Kjersten Cox	Rozanne Koch	3 rd Sunday Brunch Team 1		Ian Hopkins & Mikalea
23	NEEDED	Kyra Guerra	Patty Johansen	Michelle Anderson	Carolyn Carver	Steve & Debbie Andrade
30	NEEDED	Ben Anderson	Steve Andrade	Debbie Andrade	Sharon Kaekel	Karen & Nicci Spence

2011 Congregational Budget Accepted

At the December 12th Congregational Meeting, the 2011 Budget was adopted with no dissenting votes. The most notable part of the budget was the drop in projected spending of about \$43,000.00 as compared to 2010. That primarily is due to Pastor Koch beginning to receive his retirement benefit starting in May. In the 2012 budget, the reduction to the congregation's responsibility for the pastor's salary will be about \$72,000.

In addition to passing the 2011 budget, we resolved to continue the current provisional governance of an 8 member Board of Directors for an additional year. We elected new officers to our Board of Directors: President, Steve Andrade; Vice President, Vic Lase; Secretary, Patty Johansen; Treasurer, Herm Weyland; Vineyard Preschool Representative, Michelle Anderson and Elder, Zita Weyland. We have a vacancy in the position of Financial Secretary, but we also have willing counters until the president appoints someone willing to serve. Pastor Koch is the Board's 8th member.

The Board will be installed on Sunday, January 9th at 9:30 worship. The first Board meeting will be on Tuesday, January 11th at 7:30 pm. Thanks to all who have served in the past two years: President Jay Yothers, Secretary, Carolyn Carver, Elder John Hopkins, Preschool Rep, Lenore Penkethman, and Financial Secretary *pro tem*, Duane Brown.

District President Comes to Good Shepherd

Dr. Robert Newton, President of the California Nevada Hawaii District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, will be preaching in our worship service on January 16th. He is coming to talk to us and listen to us as we discuss our synod affiliation. After worship, we will gather in the Social Hall for 3rd Sunday Brunch, followed by a Question and Answer session with Dr. Newton. Plan to attend and bring your questions and concerns for our mutual discussion and information.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATES

Our adopted budget for 2010 was \$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 December, 2010

Average attendance for **52** Weeks: 41
Offering needed weekly at \$2550/week: \$132,615
Actual Offering: \$102,307
Shortfall: \$30,308
Average shortfall per week: \$583

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
Offerings for December		<u>\$11,006</u>
		\$102,307

Offerings The December offering of \$11,006 averaged \$2,752 per week. **Attendance** averaged 50 per week for December, including Christmas services.

The total offering for 2010 of \$102,307, is about \$5,000 under our average for the past two years (\$107,000). Weekly attendance averaged 41, including special services (Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, Thanksgiving and Christmas). In 2009 average weekly attendance was 45.

The Board of Directors predicted that we would need to borrow about \$30,000 from our own reserves in order to make the budget, and that was the exact amount we actually borrowed from our reserves. That is the amount of the shortfall listed in the Stewardship box above.

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 information.

The Charitable IRA Rollover is Back

Treasurer Herm Weyland is sharing this news from Resurrection Lutheran Church near Sacramento.

The President signed legislation extending the charitable IRA rollover for 2010 and 2011. This allows individuals 70 ½ or older to make tax-free gifts of up to \$100,000 now to qualified charitable organizations like Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, using funds transferred directly from their IRAs. If you act by January 31, 2011, you can make a gift effective for 2010—plus, you can make a second contribution for 2011 anytime between January 1 and December 21, 2011.

Your Benefits

- The transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so you will receive the benefit even if you do not itemize your tax deductions.
- The transfer may count against unsatisfied required minimum distribution.
- You'll make an immediate impact on Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, allowing you to witness the benefits of your generosity.

How It Works: An Example

Linda, aged 73, has \$200,000 in an IRA. Linda made a pledge of \$10,000 to the congregation in 2010. She had the choice of giving cash or other assets to fulfill the pledge, but Linda knew she may have another option to fund her gift. She's been waiting for the charitable IRA rollover legislation to be renewed before making her 2010 gift.

Now that the legislation has passed, Linda can transfer \$10,000 from her IRA on or before January 31, 2011, and she will avoid paying income tax on the \$10,000. She will not, however, be able to use it as a 2010 charitable deduction, make it a pure wash. Plus, Linda can make an additional gift in 2011 anytime between January 1 and December 31, 2011, allowing her to double her gift. The renewed charitable IRA

rollover gives her an easy and convenient way to benefit us with tax complications.

We hope you might consider this tax-wise opportunity to give in a way that can benefit both you and the congregation. If you have questions, need more information or would like to make a gift, please call Herm Weyland at 779-4441, or email him at hermw@charter.net. Your tax or estate planning attorney will also be a great help to you as well. Thank you very much.

