

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

& The Vineyard Preschool

February, 2011

Volume 60, Number 2

Website address: goodshepherdgilroy.org

HELPFUL REASONS FOR CHANGING OUR SYNOD AFFILIATION

Last October I wrote about where we belong in terms of our synod affiliation. Mostly I outlined how our current practices and theological thinking are out of line with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod [LC-MS]. Our welcome to all for Holy Communion, our ecumenical relationships with other Lutherans and other denominations in Gilroy, and our policy of involving women in our ministries means that we are out of line with LC-MS teaching. Our openness to gay and lesbian people, and our full welcome of them to be part of our community are also contrary to LC-MS teaching. Right now, all we do is disappoint LC-MS visitors because we don't look like what they are used to in an LC-MS church, are we are not even considered by ELCA people because they think we will not welcome them to Holy Communion.

Those issues mostly reflect the downside of continuing our affiliation with the LC-MS. I'd like to focus on some very positive reasons for affiliation with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America [ELCA]. First, we will be at one in practice and theology with a parent denomination. That means we would have integrity. Who we say we are will line up with the policies and theology of our parent denomination. Second, as we look to the future, our eventual need for a new pastor will be met far better in the ELCA than in the LC-MS. Most young seminary graduates in the LC-MS have been trained in a manner that would set them up to be at odds with our theology and practice. This is not a very healthy way to begin a new pastorate. We need someone who is in line with who we are and what we do. Ministry is difficult enough as it is, with the expectations congregations have for pastors to be agents of transformation and spiritual vitality, not to mention coming to a parish that is out of line with what they have been taught is the truth. Third, the ELCA is about 2 times as large as the LC-MS. That means that we are likely to attract more people seeking a Lutheran church in our community by being affiliated with the ELCA.

I believe that the ELCA is more supportive of its congregations working together, and we certainly need that. The ELCA speaks out on issues of social justice in a way that fits our Biblical understanding and practice of outreach ministry. We are undergoing a process of rejuvenation and transformation to revitalize our congregation and help us grow healthier. I believe that ELCA synod affiliation can be a very supportive part of the renewal we need. As we continue to develop a new sense of purpose and enthusiasm, I believe that the ELCA is another piece of the picture, which will spur us on to greater participation and energy.

I recently read an article by Rev. Peter Steinke of the Alban Institute in *The Christian Century* magazine. It was on congregations undergoing transformation and revitalization. The most important thing, he said, is the need to be in mission outreach. That keeps congregations on track for successful transformation. The ELCA slogan: God's Work, Our Hands. A good fit for us.

Yours for making that a reality at Good Shepherd, *Pastor Koch*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>February, 2011</h1>						
		1 N.A. 6 pm	2 Vineyard Children's Choir 3pm G. S. Youth Choir 4:30 N.A. 7 & 8:30 p	3 N.A. 8 pm	4 N.A. 8 pm	5 N.A. 9:30 am Flowers Needed N.A. 8 pm
6 9:30 am Worship 11:15 Confirmation N. A. 2 & 4 pm	7 N.A. 6 & 8 pm	8 N.A. 6 pm	9 Vineyard Children's Choir 3pm G. S. Youth Choir 4:30 N.A. 7 & 8:30 p	10 N.A. 8 pm	11 N.A. 8 pm	12 N. A. 9:30 am Flowers Needed N.A. 8 pm
13 9:30 am Worship; 11:15 Confirmation GSLW Bake* sale/coffee time N. A. 2 & 4 pm	14 Vineyard Parents Coffee 11 – 12:30 N.A. 6 & 8 pm Board of Directors 7:30	15 Vineyard Parents Coffee 11:00 to 12:30 N.A. 6 pm	16 Vineyard Children's Choir 3pm G. S. Youth Choir 4:30 pm N.A. 7 & 8:30 p	17 N.A. 8 pm	18 N.A. 8 pm	19 N.A. 9:30 am Flowers Needed N.A. 8 pm
20 9:30 Worship 3rd S. Brunch TEAM 2 NA 2 & 4 pm	21 N.A. 6 & 8 pm	22 N. A. 6 pm	23 N.A. 7 & 8:30 p	24 N.A. 8 pm	25 N.A. 8 pm	26 N.A. 9:30 am Flowers Needed N.A. 8 pm
27 9:30 Worship Forum 11:15 with Rev. Stan Abraham NA 2 & 4 pm	28 N.A. 6 & 8 pm					

* Good Shepherd Lutheran Women will have a baked goods sale on Sunday, February 13 during coffee time. The fund-raiser will benefit the project GSLW adopted to purchase a new fair linen for our altar. We hope to have it in place by Easter. The current fair linen has been spliced to fit the smaller altar and needs to be replaced.

February Birthdays

7 Norma Wiedeman 10 Herm Weyland 12 Sarah Penkethman
22 Jack Rymers 27 Sarah (Koch) Capone

February Anniversary

11 Ervin & Ellen Heinrich

February Assisting Ministers

Date	Flowers	Acolytes	Lectors	Coffee Time	Set up	Clean up	Ushers
6	NEEDED	Nicole Critzer	Carolyn Carver	Weylands	Weylands		John & Ian Hopkins
13	Weyland	Mikaela Silacci	Sharon Kaekel	Karen Spence	Ian Hopkins		Steve & Debbie Andrade
20	NEEDED	James Guerra	Rozanne Koch	3 rd Sunday Brunch Team 2			Karen & Sabrina Spence
27	NEEDED	Kevin Cox	Patty Johansen	Ruth Compton	Sharon Kaekel		Ian Hopkins & Mikaela Silacci

David Cox to Visit Good Shepherd

By Sharon Kaekel

Imagine this! It's 9 am on a winter morning and you're cold and hungry. Worst of all you are standing in a line of 300 people who are all feeling the same way. You are standing in this line because you are waiting your turn to receive a hand-out of groceries. Sound like a nightmare? I watched from a distance until I found I was needed to help these people to keep the line moving quickly. These groceries consist of all donated fresh foods.

On this day the food items consisted of onions, potatoes, squash, celery, cabbage, oranges, mushrooms, specialty breads, cookies, muffins, English muffins and bagels, even pies. Nope... now it sounds more like a blessing. This is all being done by the organizers and volunteers of St. Josephs Family Center. Come and hear more about this great group of devoted workers. All doing God's work because they like what they do and they see a need. Come listen to what David Cox has to say about this organization, and how we can help. On February 20 after worship during 3rd Sunday Brunch, you can visit with David, ask him questions, and hear how we can help do God's work.

* * * * *

The Director of St. Josephs' Family ministries in Gilroy will be our guest on Sunday, February 20th to address our outreach ministry to the community through St. Josephs. **Mr. David Cox** will speak to us on how we can make the most of our assistance ministry to the less fortunate and needy in Gilroy. He is committed to making the assistance that St. Josephs offers the most healthful to the poor. He will speak to us during our 3rd Sunday Brunch event after worship. Plan to attend and find out how you can get involved.

President Newton's Visit to Good Shepherd

Dr. Robert Newton, President of the California Nevada Hawaii District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, preached in our January 16th worship service and stayed for our 3rd Sunday Brunch to field our questions and concerns about our synod affiliation. The Q and A with Dr. Newton took up issues like open and closed communion, Ecumenical relationships with other churches in our community, and his role as ecclesiastical supervisor in our district. With the election of a new National President last summer, Dr. Newton was uncertain as to how strictly the Synod Handbook would be enforced in the Districts. What was most impressive was his support for our decision based on what we believe is in the best interest of us being in mission in Gilroy. He was very sympathetic to our concerns that the Missouri Synod restrictions on Communion and Ecumenism would be a hindrance to us as we plan to revitalize and grow.



STEWARDSHIP UPDATES

Our adopted budget for 2011 is \$ 121,310

Total Passive Income Stream: \$ -36,910

Offerings needed \$ 84,400

Offering expectation \$104,000 (based on last 3 years)

Divided by 52 weeks: \$2,000.00 / week.

The difference between expected offerings of \$104,000 and the actual needed amount is \$19,600, which we will use to begin to restore our reserves to previous levels.

Stewardship Update through January, 2011

Average attendance for 5 Weeks: 30

Offering expected weekly at \$2,000/week: \$10,000

Actual Offering: \$6,851

Shortfall: \$3,149

Average shortfall per week: \$630

**Rev. Stan Abraham, Circuit Counselor,
to visit Good Shepherd.**

The national church body of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod is divided into districts across the country. The California Nevada Hawaii District is our district area with about 185 congregations. Each District is divided into Circuits with about 7 to 15 congregations per circuit. Our Monterey Bay Circuit consists of 7 congregations from Monterey to Santa Cruz. The Circuit Counselor for our area is Rev. Stan Abraham. He is the pastor of Mt. Calvary in Soquel, and Trinity in Watsonville as well as being circuit counselor. Rev. Stan has expressed a desire to come to lead our worship and then talk with us about congregational life. He will visit and lead worship on **February 27th**, and then meet with the congregation during Adult Forum time after coffee. He will also address our current concern of synod affiliation as we contemplate leaving the LC-MS to affiliate with the ELCA.

In August, 1951, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church was organized and held its first worship service. That was nearly 60 years ago. It's our 60th year of serving Jesus in this community this fall. What do you think we should do to mark and celebrate this event in the life of our congregation? Share your ideas with a member of the Board of Directors. We are seeking input from you.

ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Minutes by Duane Brown

Held on January 13th at Vic Lace's home. Included delicious dinner and fellowship. 13 people attended.

(1) CHURCH PROPERTY AND PUBLICITY: Focused on sign area - need to clean up and make it more presentable. Need to paint sign - possibly, royal blue background, would be compatible with what is already there. Lenore cautioned about Vineyard sign as it was especially painted with Vineyard school logo and each grape has a little face. Different lighting was discussed so it would stand out

better. Talked again of a community garden on church property. Bathroom renovations should be decided by church board. There's been more of an effort to greet worshipers and any new people who give their address or phone number are acknowledged by a card or call.

(2) MEMBER OUTREACH: Cards are being sent out for special occasions, sickness and encouragement. An E-mail "prayer chain" has been started for individuals mentioned at worship. Help with dinners for Yother's family during chemotherapy. Gift cards given out during Christmas. Newly-formed women's group has taken responsibility for kitchen supplies.

(3) COMMUNITY OUTREACH: Food barrels filled and taken to St. Josephs Center and collected by 2nd Harvest, during Christmas. Salvation Army Christmas Giving Tree was set up in breeze-way. To be able to continue this kind of mission work with needy families, Sharon talked to David Cox, director of St. Joseph Center about how our church can best help throughout the year. He offered to come to our church and speak. We will invite him to one of our third Sunday brunches. There is a continuous need for fresh food and it was suggested we could get more involved by helping on food distribution days. Sundries such as toothpaste, diapers, lotion could be collected besides food in our barrels, even bagging up those "hotel samples" we have stashed away. Also suggested we might have a competition between guys and gals to see who could bring in more "sundries on Sundays".

(4) CHURCH - VINEYARD SCHOOL RELATIONS: Helping to host reception after Christmas programs was a huge success. Lenore suggested that help will be needed for after graduation reception, also at Mother's Day Tea in May. Another coffee-tea gathering for parents will be held on the 14th and 15th of February.

A Year of Generosity

As you contemplate good Christian stewardship of God's gifts to you, please keep Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in mind. Your contributions are needed for everything from special programs to basic operating expenses, and both are deserving of your gift. We are all blessed so please be as generous as you can in the year ahead. For the convenience of church members, we offer Simply Giving (electronic giving). Contact Herm Weyland to enroll or to change your current Simply Giving contribution. This program saves on checks (saves paper), there are no fees charged to you for the service, and it provides for consistent giving even when you can't attend church. In addition to all these benefits, it makes the job of financial secretary much easier and less time consuming and provides some peace of mind for the church treasurer, who pays the bills every month, to know approximately how much income we have coming in each month. Please consider this program for this year. **"TRY IT YOU WILL LIKE IT"**

Herm Weyland, Church Treasurer

The Charitable IRA Rollover is Back

Congregational 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.

