

# LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

& The Vineyard Preschool

May, 2011

Volume 60, Number 5

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

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS SYNOD SWITCH, CALLS FOR ADVISORY VOTE SUNDAY, MAY 15

Good Shepherd Board of Directors Position Statement on Synod Affiliation, May 2011

Background - For many years Good Shepherd has been living and ministering in a shadow. The shadow is our synod affiliation with the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod [LCMS]. The LCMS is quite conservative in its theology and practice, while Good Shepherd is much more open.

- We welcome all to Holy Communion (Open Communion) and the LCMS restricts attendance at Holy Communion only to LCMS members.
- We participate in Ecumenical worship with other Christian churches in Gilroy and with Lutherans of other synod affiliations in our area. The LCMS does not allow its member congregations or pastors to engage in pulpit (preaching) and altar (Holy Communion) fellowship with any who are not LCMS members.
- Good Shepherd is welcoming to all people of any sexual orientation. The LCMS continues to condemn gay and lesbian persons as living in a state of sin.
- At Good Shepherd, we have welcomed women pastors to lead worship in our Pastor's absence; we believe women should be called to pastoral ministry. The LCMS believes that only men can be ordained as pastors.
- We have a more open understanding of Holy Scriptures with a wider view of how to interpret the Bible. The LCMS has a very narrow, more literalistic approach.

We have recently begun discussions of our affiliation in an open manner in our congregation. We have had visits from the LCMS District President, Robert Newton, and Evangelical Lutheran Church of America [ELCA] Bishop, Mark Holmerud in recent months. We have also heard from former LCMS Pastor (currently ELCA), Rev. Herb Schmidt, as well as our current Circuit Counselor, LCMS Pastor, Rev. Stan Abraham. We have been blessed by these visits in our discernment of the direction we need to take. We have also been encouraged by the presence of Rev. Earnest Brooks and his wife, Jo Anne, currently ELCA members, who have been helpful and supportive in our discussions.

Up to this point, the Board of Directors has not taken a position on the direction the Board believes Good Shepherd should go. It is time for the Board to lead by letting the congregation know of our position. The Board recommends that we leave the LCMS and affiliate with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America [ELCA] in an intentional and committed manner as soon as we can arrange for the necessary steps to be taken to accomplish this. The reasons for the Board's recommendation are many.

- As a matter of integrity, as a church, we need to be in agreement with our parent body. We are far out of line with the LCMS and its practices and theology.
- We firmly believe that our theology and practice are in line with Holy Scriptures, and we have no reason to abandon who we are and how we conduct ourselves.
- We are in a transition time at Good Shepherd as our congregation has continued to decline in membership, attendance and contributions. We have a core group of committed people who desire to see our congregation continue to serve this community as we do. We are dedicated to Word and

Sacrament ministry for our members. We are dedicated to our ministry of outreach expressed mainly through our Vineyard Christian Preschool. We strongly desire to see this ministry continue and expand. We hope to serve the families of the congregation and of the Vineyard Preschool in an expanding way, and we invite greater participation of these people in our congregational life.

- We have a pastor who is committed to these same principles, who has led us into greater openness in our understanding of the Christian faith lived out in inclusive and compassionate ways. We recommend that he move with us into ELCA membership and continue to serve us at Good Shepherd. We see changing synod affiliation as a way to boost our own sense of what it means to be God’s people as we have read the ELCA Model Constitution for Congregations. It outlines clearly the mission of the church and our purpose in uniting with the ELCA to serve God’s people and the wider community of the world with justice and compassion.
- We believe that the ELCA has greater resources and the ability to draw us into greater connection to other ELCA congregations at work in our area so that we compliment our work together. Our “like-mindedness” with our Lutheran sisters and brothers will only encourage us in what we do.
- When our pastor does decide to retire and step away from serving us, we firmly believe that an ELCA Pastor will better serve us in our ministry. An ELCA pastor will continue to lead us in an open and compassionate direction.

This change will not affect the way we conduct our services, our outreach, or our commitment to serve the Lord. This change will bring us into fellowship with those who believe and practice their faith as we do in a church that is open to all believers.

The Board of Directors invites the congregation to come to a time of discussion and discernment at a special meeting on Sunday, May 15, 2011 right after worship has ended on that day. We seek an advisory from the congregation in order to assure that we are in agreement on this way forward. From this meeting we hope to learn of your support. That will direct our actions in the coming weeks and months. Please plan to participate in worship on that Sunday. Please stay for the meeting.

**May Birthdays**

17, Nancy Taves 24, John Mills & Marlys Prah  
31, Esther Koch

**May Anniversaries**

23 Ben & Lisa (Stuenkel) Garosi 28 Dean & Diane Stuenkel

**May Assisting Ministers**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Coffee Time</b>	<b>Clean up</b>	<b>Acolytes</b>	<b>Lectors</b>	<b>Ushers</b>
1	Karen Spence	Karen Spence	Kyra Guerra	Steve Andrade	John Hopkins
8	Weylands	Weylands	Nicole Critzer	Carolyn Carver	Karen & Nicci Spence
15	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday Brunch	<b>Men’s Team, # 3</b>	Ben Anderson	Rozanne Koch	Mariah & James Bettencourt
22	Duane Brown	M. Bettencourt	Kyra Guerra	Patty Johansen	Steve & Debbit Andrade
29	Michelle Anderson	Debbie Andrade	Nicole Critzer	Steve Andrade	John Hopkins

**May Flowers**

1. Patti Johansen – Celebrating the birthday of her Grandson, Tyler
8. Needed
15. Sally Hammelev - In Loving Memory of her husband, Harry Hammelev
22. Stuenkel – Lisa and Ben’s Anniversary; Dean and Diane’s Anniversary
29. Needed

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>May, 2011</h1>						Flowers, Patti Johansen
<b>1</b> 9:30 am Worship  N. A. 4 pm	<b>2</b>  N.A. 6 & 8 pm	<b>3</b>  N.A. 6 pm	<b>4</b>  NO Choir N.A. 7 & 8:30 p	<b>5</b>  N.A. 8 pm	<b>6</b>  N.A. 8 pm	<b>7</b> N.A. 9:30 am Flowers - Needed N.A. 8 pm
<b>8</b> 9:30 am Worship 11:30 Confirmation N. A. 4 pm	<b>9</b>  N.A. 6 & 8 pm	<b>10</b> N.A. 6 pm Board of Directors 7:15 pm	<b>11</b> Vineyard Children's Choir 3 pm G. S. Youth Choir 4:30 N.A. 7 & 8:30	<b>12</b>  N.A. 8 pm	<b>13</b>  N.A. 8 pm	<b>14</b> N. A. 9:30 am  Flowers Sally Hammelev N.A. 8 pm
<b>15</b> 9:30 am Worship & <u>Cong. Meeting</u> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun Brunch N. A. 4 pm	<b>16</b>  N.A. 6 & 8 pm	<b>17</b>  N.A. 6 pm	<b>18</b> Vineyard Children's Choir, 3 pm G. S. Youth Choir 4:30 N.A. 7 & 8:30 p	<b>19</b>  N.A. 8 pm	<b>20</b>  N.A. 8 pm	<b>21</b> N.A. 9:30 am Flowers - Stuenkel N.A. 8 pm
<b>22</b> 9:30 am Worship 11:30 Confirmation  NA 4 pm	<b>23</b>  N.A. 6 & 8 pm	<b>24</b>  N. A. 6 pm	<b>25</b> Vineyard Children's Choir 3pm G. S. Youth Choir 4:30 pm N.A. 7 & 8:30 p	<b>26</b>  N.A. 8 pm	<b>27</b> Vineyard Graduation AM & PM  N.A. 8 pm	<b>28</b> N.A. 9:30 am  Flowers Needed  N.A. 8 pm
<b>29</b> 9:30 am Worship 11:30 Adult Forum NA 4 pm	<b>30</b>  N.A. 6 & 8 pm	<b>31</b>  N. A. 6 pm				

The Good Shepherd Lutheran Women will help with the Vineyard Preschool Mother's Day Tea on May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. They'll be behind the scenes, preparing the food. They will also help host the Vineyard Graduation receptions in the Social Hall after the morning and afternoon graduation ceremonies in the Church on May 27<sup>th</sup>. Thank you GSLW.



