

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

& The Vineyard Preschool

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WHERE DO WE GET GOOD ENERGY?

One of the characteristics of a vibrant and lively congregation is its energy. It's something that's rather intangible, but you know it when you feel it. Where do we get it? How do we get it and maintain it?

I define good energy as enthusiasm for who you are and what you do. My enthusiasm comes from different sources: some of it is innate, a matter of the attitude I got from my parents. I think I am basically an optimist, and I feel pretty lucky to be one. Other sources of good energy: the work I do, and the calling I have. I serve the Gospel, I serve the Word of God. I remember for whom I am working: not a congregation or a specific group of people, but for the One who has called me by baptism and by vocation. I am a servant of the Word to the people of God in this place.

Some days I have lots of enthusiasm, and other days maybe not so much. I don't know if it's that way for a congregation, but I would guess it holds true institutionally as well. Some days we have reasons for optimism, and other days, not so much. Nowadays churches all over the U.S. have reasons for not feeling so good. Membership is dropping as the latest group of young people is **not** seeking out church membership. Only 4% of the "millennials," also known as Gen Y, are joining churches. What energy can be brought to declining membership?

Other days we have more enthusiasm and energy. I think that you catch energy and passion for what you do; it's not anything we can buy or get from some magic program. I must report a recent surge of good energy to you. I hope it's catching. It came when I attended the Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly of the ELCA on Friday, May 13th in Burlingame, CA. The Assembly featured a visit from the Bishop of the Lutheran Church of El Salvador, Medardo Gomez. This is a sister church to the ELCA, and a sister Synod of the Sierra Pacific Synod. What a lift to hear of the work that is being done among the El Salvadoran Christians trying to rebuild after years of warfare. Assassinations and threats and imprisonment and torture have not beaten down God's people. In fact, when Bishop Gomez was arrested and tortured, he worried that the church people would flee in fear of the same fate coming upon them. When he was released, he returned to a full congregation who gathered to express solidarity with him and with all who suffer. That sense of commitment and expression of solidarity is continuing to energize the church in El Salvador to this day.

I also confess to being treated as something of a celebrity in that many folks seemed to know that I was there from Good Shepherd in Gilroy, a congregation moving toward a new affiliation with the ELCA. "I hear your congregation is in the process of changing synods." That greeting was filled with enthusiasm and good energy. There is a buzz going around about us that is a good feeling. And I must also say that I am excited about what the ELCA Sierra Pacific Synod is doing in the church and in the world. I want some of what *they* have going on for *us*. There is genuine excitement about being in ministry in the ELCA Sierra Pacific Synod, although not everything is going super well. Some congregations have closed their doors, sold their property, and grieved over the ending of a congregation's life. But they joyfully have given of the treasure that remained in order to see ministry go forward. Some congregations have left the ELCA because they disagree with the inclusion of gay and lesbian people in positions of ministry in the church. But the spirit to keep God's inclusive love strong in their midst is wonderful to see.

Do you think that their good energy might be due to a strong conviction that they have been called to serve others? Do you think it might be sustained because they love to gather around God's Word and Sacramental gifts in order to be renewed in enthusiasm? Do you believe that the people of God, passionately and energetically serving the Gospel can inspire us? Their stories are served weekly in Word and Meal and Bath and Song and loving fellowship. Come and see.

Yours for being truly inspired and passionately energized,

Pastor Koch

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>June 2011</h1>			1 Good Shepherd Youth Choir, 4:30 pm Handbells 7:30 N.A. 7 & 8:30 p	2 N.A. 8 pm	3 N.A. 8 pm	4 N.A. 9:30 am Flowers - Needed N.A. 8 pm
5 9:30 am Worship 11:15 Confirmation N. A. 4 pm	6 N.A. 6 & 8 pm	7 N.A. 6 pm Board of Directors 7:15 pm	8 Handbells 7:30 N.A. 7 & 8:30	9 N.A. 8 pm	10 N.A. 8 pm	11 N. A. 9:30 Flowers - Needed Wedd. Rcpt. 3 N.A. 8 pm
12 9:30 am Worship 11:15 am Adult Forum N. A. 4 pm	13 N.A. 6 & 8 pm	14 N.A. 6 pm	15 N.A. 7 & 8:30	16 N.A. 8 pm	17 N.A. 8 pm	18 N.A. 9:30 am Flowers - Needed N.A. 8 pm
19 9:30 am Worship NA 4 pm	20 N.A. 6 & 8 pm	21 N. A. 6 pm	22 N.A. 7 & 8:30 p	23 N.A. 8 pm	24 N.A. 8 pm	25 N.A. 9:30 am Flowers - Needed N.A. 8 pm
26 9:30 am Worship NA 4 pm	27 N.A. 6 & 8 pm	28 N. A. 6 pm	29 N.A. 7 & 8:30 p	30 N.A. 8 pm		

June Birthdays

3 Ruth Compton 10 Dean Stuenkel 23 Duane Brown
26 Lori (Stuenkel) Craig & Jenna Stuenkel 30 Michelle Anderson

June Anniversaries

14 Ron & Rozanne Koch 29 Dave and Vickie Morton

Date	Coffee Time		May Assisting Ministers	Lectors	Ushers
	<u>Set up</u>	<u>Clean up</u>	Acolytes		
5	Debbie Andrade	Weylands	Ben Anderson	Carolyn Carver	Karen & Sabrina Spence
12	Sally Hammelev	Debbie Andrade	Kyra Guerra	Rozanne Koch	Mariah Bettercourt & James
19	Karen Spence	Mariah Bettercourt	Nicole Critzer	Patty Johansen	John Hopkins
26	Michelle Anderson	Duane Brown	Ben Anderson	Carolyn Carver	Karen & Nicci Spence

Many Thanks

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - Highlights

At the MAY meeting, the Board of Directors discussed the advisory vote meeting set for Sunday, May 15 right after worship. The vote will be non-binding, but will give us feedback and direction as to the congregation's desire to change our synod affiliation.

Vice President Vic Lase is continuing to give the street sign a fresh coat of paint in the same colors already on the sign.

The Vineyard is receiving enrollment for the additional classroom to be located in the back of the Social Hall. We will increase advertising for enrollment. We will also begin to solicit bids for preparation of the classroom area. The search for a new Director/Church Worker will continue. President Steve Andrade and Financial Secretary Jack met with the Preschool Director, Renee Fortino to inform the school of the plan to unite the accounting systems of the church and preschool into one system. A sub-committee of Jack Penkethman, Herm Weyland, and Pastor Koch will meet to prepare contracts for the Vineyard staff for next year. The contract recommendations will come before the next Board of Director's meeting in June.

The parking lot is in great need of repair. We received a bid from the Frantzich company 2 years ago. Pastor Koch will contact them to re-connect and begin the re-bidding process.



+ Thanks to Vic Lase for continuing work on the church sign and landscape renewal. It looks great!

+ Thanks to Herm Weyland for hanging our Vineyard Preschool enrollment banner next to our sign.

+ Thanks to the Good Shepherd Lutheran Women, GSLW, for hosting the Vineyard graduation receptions in the Social Hall.

+ Thanks to the parents of the Good Shepherd Youth Choir for faithfully bringing their children to choir rehearsals and Sunday worship.

+ Thanks to our Vineyard staff for a wonderful year of teaching and learning. We had very near to our total enrollment capability of 84 at the Vineyard this year. Several families received tuition assistance in order to keep their children in our program. Twenty-four morning students and twenty-four afternoon students receive "graduation diplomas" on Friday, May 27th at the ceremony in the church, followed by the GSLW hosted reception in the Social Hall.

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CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ADVISORY VOTE HELD MAY 15

AT THE MEETING AFTER WORSHIP, THERE WAS A STRONG MAJORITY ADVISORY VOTE (ONLY 2 "NO" VOTES OF 30 IN ATTENDANCE) DIRECTING THE BOARD TO MOVE TOWARD ENDING OUR LCMS, LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD, AFFILIATION; AND TO MOVE AHEAD TOWARD BECOMING A CONGREGATION AND PASTOR OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA, ELCA.

THANKS TO ALL WHO ATTENDED.