

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

& The Vineyard Preschool

October, 2011

Volume 60, Number 10

Website address: goodshepherdgilroy.org

THE TIME TO VOTE HAS COME

It is not an election year. It is not even November, but the Board of Directors has set Sunday, October 30th as the day we will cast an important vote that will be very significant in the life of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. We will have before us the decision to leave the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, and to affiliate instead with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

In May of this year we held an advisory, non-binding vote to give our Board of Directors some direction before we went through all the effort to make the synod affiliation change. There were only two dissenting advisory votes, so what you told the Board of Directors is that we are ready to move ahead and change our affiliation from the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This is not a great surprise, considering our history at Good Shepherd. We have been out of step with many practices of the LC-MS for decades. Our openness to all Lutherans and all Christians has come naturally, being the only Lutheran church in Gilroy. We have served Lutherans of all brands, and have welcomed all the faithful of any Christian expression.

What follows is a brief history of our move toward the ELCA. One year ago in the Newsletter I wrote about where we belong in terms of our practices and the differences between the LC-MS and the ELCA. I pointed out how we need to be true to whom we are, and that as a matter of integrity, we would align far better with the ELCA. I also mentioned that the ELCA is a larger church body than the LC-MS, and that our opportunities for growth would be better. We have found that when LC-MS visitors attend Good Shepherd, they are typically disappointed that we are not like other LC-MS congregations. Furthermore, most ELCA people won't even give us a visit because they assume we are like all the other LC-MS congregations they have heard about or experienced. I wrote that it is time for us to talk about changing synod affiliation for the sake of integrity and our future growth.

In October, Rev. Herb Schmidt preached and presided, then led an Adult Forum on the topic of changing synods. He was an LC-MS pastor who changed to the ELCA during his ministry and has a great deal of experience in both churches. In January we had President Robert Newton, LC-MS District President, come and preach for worship, then stay for an open forum during an extended coffee time in the Social Hall. President Newton affirmed that we needed to do what we thought was best for the mission of the Church in our circumstances here in Gilroy. In February we had Rev. Stan Abraham, our LC-MS Circuit Counselor, preach and preside, then lead an Adult Forum on changing synods. In April, we invited ELCA Bishop Mark Holmerud to preach for our worship and meet with us in an extended coffee time in the Social Hall to answer our questions. In the May Newsletter, the Board of Directors presented their reasons for us to change synod affiliation. Finally, we took the advisory vote in mid-May giving us direction to make the change.

After a busy summer of finding a new Preschool Director and preparing our new classroom for a larger enrollment potential, and after all the work leading up to our 60th anniversary celebration, it is time to move on this issue in an official manner. We will meet after worship on Sunday, October 30, Reformation Sunday, by the way. At the October Board of Directors meeting we will formulate the resolutions for action. We will distribute these by email later this month. May our actions, undertaken with care and prayer, prove a blessing to our mission and ministry in Gilroy. May "God's Work, Our Hands" become our call to action as Good Shepherd reaches out in ministry in the coming years.

May **God's Rich Blessings** continue to abound in the next 60 years!

Pastor Koch

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>October 2011</h1>						1 N.A. 9:30 am FlowersPatti Johansen N.A. 8 pm
2 9:30 am Worship Anniversary Celebrations N. A. 4 pm	3 N.A. 6 & 8 pm	4 N.A. 6 pm	5 N.A. 7 & 8:30	6 N.A. 8 pm	7 N.A. 8 pm	8 N. A. 9:30 FlowersNeeded N.A. 8 pm
9 9:30 am Worship Adult Forum At 11:15 N. A. 4 pm	10 N.A. 6 & 8 pm	11 N.A. 6 pm Board of Directors 7:30 pm	12 N.A. 7 & 8:30	13 N.A. 8 pm	14 Girl Scouts 3:15 – 6:15 N.A. 8 pm	15 N.A. 9:30 am FlowersNeeded N.A. 8 pm
16 9:30 am Worship 3 rd Sunday Brunch NA 4 pm	17 N.A. 6 & 8 pm	18 N. A. 6 pm	19 N.A. 7 & 8:30 p	20 N.A. 8 pm	21 N.A. 8 pm	22 N.A. 9:30 FlowersNeeded N.A. 8 pm
23 9:30 am Worship Adult Forum At 11:15 NA 4 pm	24 N.A. 6 & 8 pm	25 N. A. 6 pm	26 Youth and Adult Handbell & Handchimes 4:30 pm N.A. 7 & 8:30 p	27 N.A. 8 pm	28 Girl Scouts 3:15 – 6:15 N.A. 8 pm	29 N.A. 9:30 FlowersNeeded N.A. 8 pm
30 9:30 am Worship Voters Meeting on Synod affiliation. NA 4 pm	31 N.A. 6 & 8 pm					

October Birthdays

11 Vivian Yothers 20 Kevin Cox 23 Jennifer Taves
25 Wayne Wiedeman 27 Wendy (Yothers) Stiles 31 Ervin Heinrich & Alex Taves

October Anniversaries

4 Jack and Norma Rymers

October Assisting Ministers

Date	Coffee Time		Acolytes	Lectors	Ushers
	<u>Set up</u>	<u>Clean up</u>			
2	Anniversary Banquet- no coffee time		Kyra Guerra	Rozanne Koch	John Hopkins
9	Amy Low Critzer Duane Brown		Ben Anderson	Patti Johansen	Karne & Nicci Spence
16	Brunch - Team 1		Nicole Critzer	Jo Brooks	Mariah Garcia & James Guerra
	Team 1 Members: Michelle Anderson, Zita Weyland, Lenore Penkethman, Debbie Andrade, and Sharon Kaekel				
23	Karen Spence Debbie Andrade		Kyra Guerra	Steve Andrade	Steve and Debbie Andrade
30	Patti Johansen Ruth Compton		Ben Anderson	Carolyn Carver	John Hopkins

Flowers for October

2 - Patti Johansen
9 - NEEDED
16 - NEEDED
23 - NEEDED
30 - NEEDED *No one has signed up for flowers for the balance of 2011.*

REMEMBER, IF YOU CANNOT MAKE YOUR
YOUR SCHEDULED DATE, PLEASE ARRANGE
TO SWITCH WITH ANOTHER PERSON.
AND LET THE OFFICE KNOW. 842-2713

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.

Stewardship Update through September, 2011

Average attendance for 39 Weeks: 30
Offering expected weekly at \$2,000/week: \$78,000
Actual Offering: \$62,748
Shortfall: \$15,252
Average shortfall per week: \$391

2011	2010
This Year	Last Year
1st 6 months	1st 6 months
Ave. attendance: 33	Ave. Att.: 44
Ave. Offering/wk: \$1,638	Offering: \$1,875
July ave. attendance: 31	July ave. Att.: 40
July Offering: \$8,068	Offering: \$9,623
Aug. ave. attendance: 31	Aug. ave. Att: 40
Aug. Offering: \$5,793	Offering: \$7,205
Sept. ave. attendance: 30	Sept. ave att: 39
Sept. Offering: \$6,289	Offering: \$7,892

Attendance is the cumulative average for the year.

Voting Membership

Eligible voting members are those who have attended worship and Holy Communion at least once in the past year, and who have made a contribution of record in the past year. If you do not see your name here, it may be that our records are incorrect or not current. Please contact Pastor Koch or Elder Zita Weyland, to provide correct information by October 23rd. The Board of Directors will be providing this list and have voting members sign in on October 30.

As of September 30, 2011, according to our records, the following is the list of members eligible to vote on October 30, 2011.

Michelle Anderson
Steve Andrade
Debbie Andrade

Casey Bettencourt
Mariah Garcia
Frank Garcia
Hertha Bielfeldt
Duane Brown
Carolyn Carver
Ruth Compton
Jim Critzer
Cynthia Gonzales
Sally Hammelev
Sharon Hammelev Paula
Jake Hammelev Paula
John Hopkins
Patti Johansen
Sharon Kaekel
Ron Koch
Rozanne Koch
Victor Lase
John Mills
Victoria Morton
Jack Penkethman
Lenore Penkethman
Fred Prahl
Marlys Prahl
Bea Reimer
Jack Rymers
Norma Rymers
Rod Spence
Karen Spence
Dean Stuenkel
Diane Stuenkel
Lori Thompson
Herm Weyland
Zita Weyland
Wayne Wiedeman
Norma Wiedeman
Bill Workman
Elinor Workman
Jay Yothers
Vivian Yothers



Anniversary Celebration Recap

60th and 37th Anniversary Worship

One hundred and two people attended our festival anniversary worship on October 2nd. The worship was rich and festive as our Church Musician, Zita Weyland, played a stirring prelude setting of *In Thee Is Gladness*, composed by Lutheran Church musician, Michael Burkhardt. The last line is, “We shout for gladness, triumph o’er sadness, love him and praise him and still shall raise him glad hymns forever: Alleluia!” We used our very cheerful liturgy, A New Song, and the singing was heartwarming. Pastor Koch led the Vineyard Children’s Choir in singing “Who Made the Sky So Bright and Blue,” accompanied by Zita Weyland on the organ. They children sang in a beautiful tone and got all the motions right as well. We heard the lessons about God’s rich blessings for God’s people as Death is swallowed up and the shroud of sorrow is removed for all time. The people feast on God’s abundance. The theme of eating from God’s rich store continued in the Holy Gospel account of the King’s great banquet for his child’s wedding. All are welcome and invited to the feast, and all need to take seriously their calling, being sure to wear their “Wedding Garment.” Pastor Koch said he thought that meant the garment of Holy Baptism, for in Baptism we “put on Christ.” Our Vineyard Preschool ministry is a ministry of forming the little ones of our community into Godly people. St. Paul’s words from Philippians are a fitting way for us to go forward. “Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.” Philippians 4: 8 – 9.

After singing “The Church’s One Foundation,” we installed our new Vineyard Preschool Director, Denise Higuera, and then recognized and gave thanks for the ministry of our Vineyard Preschool staff. Our Hand Bell ringers prepared us for the service of the Meal. 71 came to the table and received the wondrous meal from Jesus, while many others came and received God’s blessing, “You are God’s child; Jesus loves you.” After worship, we all were sent on our way as we sang, “Thank the Lord.”

THANK YOU TO ALL

60th and 37th Anniversary Luncheon

Debbie Andrade and Lenore Penkethman co-chaired our congregational 60th Anniversary festival meal on after worship. The menu was tri-tip and chicken barbeque, plus all the fixings. Many were asked to bring their favorite potato salad, but others brought many things to add to the delicious meal. Steve Andrade and his crew of Rod Andrade, Tim Andrade, Rev. Earnest Brooks and Rod Spence make the best barbequed meat. The Social Hall was beautifully decorated and looked especially great because of all the work to paint the walls and strip and wax the floor. Ten tables of eight were not enough to seat the crowd as we set up an extra table in the Vineyard playground area for the overflow. Most of the worshippers stayed for lunch, so our resources were tested to the max. And we managed just fine. It is a nice “problem” to have when more come than planned. We thank Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for help with the cost of the food and ongoing congregational support

The tables were set in a banquet style with decorations, plates and tableware welcoming each guest. We took our places and gave thanks for the food and the bounty of God’s goodness, and each table was invited to pass through the buffet. Red and white wine for beef and chicken were available as well. For dessert, we offered cupcakes and coffee, with a champagne toast to the goodness of God and the next 60 years of blessing at Good Shepherd

60th and 37th Anniversary Program

Pastor Koch said he was overwhelmed by the response to his request for people to send in their significant memory of life as a member of Good Shepherd. We soon learned what he meant: Overwhelmed by the complete lack of response. So Pastor reached deep into meditation to come up with true fiction accounts that the members somehow “beamed” to him. It turned out to be some light-hearted jokes that left almost no one untouched by a punch line. Between stories, many door prizes were drawn, from Gilroy Garden tickets to honey and beeswax candles. Thanks to Debbie Andrade for her connections and thoughtful provision of the door prizes. Thanks to all who stayed for the clean-up of the Social Hall.

WHO CONTRIBUTED