

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

& The Vineyard Preschool

November, 2011

Volume 60, Number 11

Website address: goodshepherdgilroy.org

THE END OF EVERY THING

All Saints Sunday is an opportunity to look at the last things. The saints who have gone before us give us a perspective of where we are headed when our last days come. We are reassured that our destination is to be with God. We rejoice with the saints in the presence of the Creator, only we rejoice on earth, while they rejoice in the heavenly realm. In our liturgy we sing, “and so with angels and archangels, and with the whole company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn: Holy! Holy! Holy!” And we remember our loved ones as part of “the whole company of heaven” who have entered that blessed state. Moreover, on All Saints Sunday, we actually name them. We invite you to write the names of those loved ones who have died in the Book of Remembrance so that we can name them in the midst of the Assembly gathered around Word and Water, Bread and Wine, with Christ at the center. It is a good custom among us to name the faithful departed, and to keep them in mind and heart as we talk about the last things. The study of the last things is called eschatology. How will everything end?

November is the last month of the Church Year, and since it is at the end, we look at the things of our faith as it pertains to God’s holy ending. Our reading and prayers and liturgy present the Church with time to consider what it all means in the end. In a world so focused on living from day to day, moment to moment, caught up in the NOW as the most important, we go counter to the culture and ask, “What then?” We are not frivolous in our conversations, but take seriously what God says and what Scripture teaches us about “then.” The end of the Church Year is a time of reflection and a time of rededication. We look back on our lives with eyes that evaluate who we are and what we have done. We see not with our human tendency to skip over the bad parts, but we see with the eyes of faith that we have much room for improvement. From this place of spiritual awareness, we seek to rededicate our selves to doing better. We look at this time as helpful for honest evaluation, and for dedicated commitment to more faithful living into the future.

With this more serious atmosphere in our assembly, we will sing a quieter, more contemplative liturgical setting. For three Sundays we consider our place in God’s grand scheme of things with a view to the end of time, the end of life, the end of pain and suffering and injustice. We are able to see beyond all this to the beginning of our life with God in its wholeness.

Yours for blessed contemplation that enriches our lives,

Pastor Koch

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>November, 2011</h1>						
		1 N.A. 6 pm	2 Handbell Choir 7:00 pm 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 Forum 11:15 N. A. 4 pm	7 N.A. 6 & 8 pm	8 N.A. 6 pm Board Of Directors 7:30	9 Handbell Choir 7:00 N.A. 7 & 8:30 p	10 N.A. 8 pm	11 N.A. 8 pm	12 N. A. 9:30 am Flowers:Brooks N.A. 8 pm
13 9:30 am Worship Forum 11:15 GSLW Noon N. A. 4 pm	14 N.A. 6 & 8 pm	15 N.A. 6 pm	16 Handbell Choir 7:00 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 4 NA 4 pm	21 N.A. 6 & 8 pm	22 N. A. 6 pm	23 Handbell Choir 7:00 pm N.A. 7 & 8:30 p	24 <u>Thanksgiving</u> N.A. Marathon meetings all day in Soc. Hall	25 N.A. 8 pm	26 N.A. 9:30 am Flowers:Needed N.A. 8 pm
27 9:30 Worship Forum 11:15 NA 4 pm	28 N.A. 6 & 8 pm	29 N.A. 6 pm	30 Handbell Choir 7:00 pm N.A. 7 & 8:30 p			

November Birthdays

14 Ben Anderson

November Anniversaries

22 Wayne & Norma Wiedeman

24 John & Kathy Hopkins

November Assisting Ministers

Date	Coffee Time	Clean up	Acolytes	Lectors	Ushers
6	Weylands	Duane Brown	Nicole Critzer	Rozanne Koch	Karen & Nicci Spence
13	Duane Brown	Patti Johansen	Kyra Guerra	Jo Brooks	Mariah Garcia & James Guerra
20	BRUNCH - Team 2		Ben Anderson	Patti Johansen	Steve & Debbie Andrade
27	Michelle Anderson	Debbie Andrade	Nicole Critzer	Steve Andrade	John Hopkins

FLOWERS:
 November 6 NEEDED
 November 13 Jo Brooks
 November 20 NEEDED
 November 27 NEEDED

Good Shepherd “Sisterhood” Meeting

(Formerly Good Shepherd Lutheran Women)

All ladies are invited to an old fashioned Tea with a light lunch of cucumber tea sandwiches on Sunday, November 13 at noon in the Social Hall. Come and see what we’re all about!

Don’t be a turkey, buy a turkey...

“Pluck” a Turkey from their pen, to help St. Joseph’s Family Center. On November 6 and 13, turkeys will be available to purchase and donate for \$10. All proceeds will go to St. Joseph’s Family Center to help buy frozen turkeys for our community families that otherwise may not have a dinner on Thanksgiving. This year, 1,500 turkeys are needed! Thank you in advance for your caring donation to provide someone a “Happy Thanksgiving.” Look for our little “turkeys” in their free-range pen in the entryway. Take the donation tag from around the neck, (keep the turkey, if you want), put your \$10 donation in the envelope and drop it in the collection plate. Checks to Good Shepherd, please. We’ll make one large (hopefully) donation to St. Joe’s.

Coffee Social for Vineyard Parents

On November 9 and 10, Wednesday and Thursday, Good Shepherd’s “Sisterhood” will be hosting a coffee/tea for our Vineyard Parents. Parents love these events. They come a few minutes early for pick-up of their children and are able to visit with each other over a cup of coffee or tea and a snack. Come to help and get to know someone new. Help make our Vineyard Mission come alive! We are also in need of cookies for both of these days. If you can help in any way, please see Debbie Andrade or Duane Brown.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATES

Weekly Offering Needs Determined
 Our adopted budget for 2011 is \$121,310
 Total Passive Income Stream: \$-36,910
 Offerings needed: 84,400
 Offering expectation \$104,000
 (based on the last 3 years)
 Divided by 52 weeks: \$2,000.00 / week.

Stewardship Update through October, 2011

Average attendance for 44 Weeks:	31
Offering expected weekly at \$2000/week:	\$88,000
Actual Offering:	<u>\$69,930</u>
Shortfall:	\$18,070
Average shortfall per week:	\$411

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 info.

2011	2010
This Year	Last Year
1st 6 months, Jan. to June	1st 6 months
Ave. attendance: 33	Ave. Att.: 44
Ave. Offering/wk: \$1,638	Offering: \$1,875
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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
Oct. ave. attendance: 31	Oct. ave. att: 40
Oct. Offering: \$7,182	Offering: \$9,725

Attendance is the cumulative average for the year.

Good Shepherd Votes Overwhelmingly to leave the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod And to join the ELCA

At a special meeting of the voting members of Good Shepherd on October 30, 2011, the congregation voted to leave its affiliation with the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, (LC-MS) and to affiliate with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The vote was no surprise as it reflected an earlier advisory vote by the congregation taken in May of this year.

For many years, the congregation has been operating, in theology and practice, in a much more open and inclusive manner than allowed by the LCMS. Holy Communion open to all, Ecumenical and intra-Lutheran cooperation and worship, greater inclusion of women, and non-discrimination toward gay, and lesbian Christians are some of the practical ways this has become manifest. The ELCA is a more open and inclusive church body in comparison to the LCMS, so it is a natural affiliation that lines up Good Shepherd's practice with a parent body that holds beliefs in common.

In the LCMS District (region) of N. California, Nevada and Hawaii, there are about 180 congregations and 33,500 Lutherans. In the same Synod (region) of the ELCA, the Sierra Pacific Synod, there are about 200 congregations and 56,900 Lutherans.

Ahead of us is the adoption of the ELCA Model Constitution, and Pastor Koch being received as a pastor on the roster of the ELCA. While there is work ahead of us, the main decision has been made and we are on our way.

We pray God's blessing of our ministry decision at Good Shepherd. Our aim is to enhance the mission of Christ in the world through our new affiliation. We remain faithful to the Scriptures and Confessions of the Lutheran Church. We affirm that the Church is always to be reforming, in the best tradition of the spirit of Martin Luther.

A Look Ahead at the Special Worship at Good Shepherd

This Thanksgiving Pastor Koch and Rozanne and their entire family will be joining together for a family reunion in St. Louis, MO, at the home of Sarah (Koch) and Vin Capone. With Pastor out of town, the Board of Directors decided that this year **we will not have Thanksgiving Eve worship.**

We will celebrate for four Sundays the season of Advent beginning on Sunday, November 27th. This is for us a time of rededication for the coming year. We remember our baptismal covenant during Advent. We commit our congregation and ourselves to be instruments of God's work in the world. The ELCA's "God's Work, Our Hands," is an apt way for us to enter the new Church Year.

As we look ahead to December and Christmas Worship, we see that this year **Christmas Day falls on a Sunday.** We will celebrate Christmas Eve with worship at 4 and 9 pm on Saturday. We will also worship at 9:30 am on Sunday, Christmas Day, to gather and celebrate God's presence in Word, Water, Bread & Wine, and the incarnate Christ Jesus whose birthday we hold so dear.



Since Christmas falls on a Sunday, that means that **New Year's Day is also a Sunday.** For us who follow the Church Year calendar, that day is the Second Sunday of Christmas. We'll gather on Sunday morning, January 1, at 9:30 am and sing the Christmas carols we love as we continue to celebrate the birth of Jesus. We will pray for Christ to be born in our hearts, as we begin a new year in God's house and in God's name.