

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

& The Vineyard Preschool

February, 2012, Volume 61, Number 2

Website address: goodshepherdgilroy.org

THE ROAD AHEAD FOR GOOD SHEPHERD IN 2012

January brought good news to our congregation in relationship to our change to become a congregation and pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. On January 6, I was interviewed by a three-member panel of the ELCA Candidacy Committee. They had before them my application with an essay on why I wanted to become an ELCA Pastor, a recent sermon, the recommendation of our current District President, Robert Newton, and the recommendation of our future Bishop, Mark Holmerud. In addition they had the results of my background check and psychological evaluation that I completed in November of last year. After our 90-minute interview, they recommended that I be admitted to the ELCA Candidacy Process, and the entire Candidacy Committee voted unanimously to receive me as a candidate. It is a bit strange to be going through all of this after I have been ordained for over 39 years and serving in parish ministry during that time. However, I do appreciate the sincere desire on the part of the church to be filled with care about who their pastors are. And it is a welcome affirmation to be received into the Candidacy Process. My next step is an interview with the Theological Review Panel on March 23rd, again for about a 90-minute session in which we will talk theology. The Theological Review Panel is made up of two seminary professors, and the Region 2 Coordinator for Ministry Leadership, Margy Schmitt Ajer. She talked with me after the interview on January 6th, and assured me that this interview should present no issues since we are all Lutherans. If that's the case, they will recommend to the Candidacy Committee that I be approved as a candidate for a call into the pastoral ministry of the ELCA. The Candidacy Committee meets next in April.

In the meantime, our Model Constitution has been submitted to the Sierra Pacific Synod Council for approval. Last November, a group of Good Shepherd members sat down to modify the ELCA Model Constitution so that it becomes suitable for our congregation. We sent that document to the Sierra Pacific Synod secretary, Pat Cash. She reviewed what we had sent, and found it to be acceptable, so she recommended that the Synod Council, accept it. At the Synod Council meeting the last weekend of January, they accepted our submission. Now they will send it back to us so that we can vote to adopt it. Once we have done that, we will have completed what we need to do to become a congregation of the ELCA. The next Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly is scheduled for May 18 – 20 in San Jose. It is there that we will be officially received into the ELCA as Pastor and Congregation.

We have frequently said that not much will change about what we do at Good Shepherd once we join the ELCA because we do so much already that makes us look like an ELCA congregation to visitors. However, I think that some things will change, and some things need to change. The new constitution mentions several times that the congregations of the ELCA will give financial support to the work of the church at large. That means we will need to designate a portion, or a percentage of our offerings for that purpose. The new constitution also says that we will participate in Synod wide and Church wide events and activities. That will be new for us, and beneficial for us as we seek to become better at outreach to our community and, with other congregations, to the whole world.

One long-range goal in changing synod affiliation is to rejuvenate our congregation by greater involvement with a parent organization that supports us, and what we do. We also hope to become more visible to more Lutherans as an ELCA congregation. There are almost twice as many ELCA members as LC-MS members in our District and Synod region. Lent is beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd.

Lent is often described as a journey of rejuvenation with Jesus into the wilderness, into ministry, into Jerusalem, and onto the cross. That requires discipleship from us, a commitment to follow Jesus in our thinking, living, giving and compassion. We do that in our congregation, the local expression of the Church. That discipleship part of the journey we need to work on. In Lent God's Spirit directs our hearts and lives to become followers of our Savior. May this year's Lenten journey change us, renew us, and draw out of us the commitment we need to be God's people here in Gilroy.

Your Pastor & Friend, *Ronald E. Koch*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>February, 2012</h1>						
			1 Handbells 7pm N.A. 7 & 8:30 p	2 N.A. 8 pm	3 N.A. 8 pm	4 N.A. 9:30 am Flowers: Patti Johansen N.A. 8 pm
5 9:30 am Worship Forum 11:15 N. A. 4 pm	6 N.A. 6 & 8 pm	7 N.A. 6 pm Congregation Council 7:30	8 Handbells 7pm N.A. 7 & 8:30 p	9 N.A. 8 pm	10 Girl Scouts 3:15 – 6:15 N.A. 8 pm	11 N. A. 9:30 am Flowers: Zita Weyland N.A. 8 pm
12 9:30 am Worship; 11:15 G.S. Sisterhood Meets N. A. 4 pm	13 N.A. 6 & 8 pm	14 N.A. 6 pm	15 N.A. 7 & 8:30 p	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 Worship 3rd S. BRUNCH TEAM 1 NA 4 pm	20 N.A. 6 & 8 pm	21 N. A. 6 pm	22 Ash Wednesday Worship 7pm N.A. 7 & 8:30 p	23 N. A. 8 pm	24 Girl Scouts 3:15 – 6:15 N.A. 8 pm	25 N.A. 9:30 am Flowers:Needed N.A. 8 pm
26 9:30 Worship Forum 11:15 NA 4 pm	27 N.A. 6 & 8 pm	28 N.A. 6 pm	29 Handbells 7pm			

February Birthdays

7 Norma Wiedeman 10 Herm Weyland
12 Sarah Penkethmen 22 Jack Rymers

February Anniversaries

11 Ervin and Ellen Heinrich

February Assisting Ministers

Date	Coffee Time	Clean up	Acolytes	Lectors	Ushers
5	Michelle Anderson	Patty Johansen	Nicole Critzer	Rozanne Koch	Karen & Sabrina Spence
12	Duane Brown	Mariah Garcia	Kyra Guerra	Patti Johansen	Mariah Garcia & James Guerra
19	Team 1: Michelle Anderson, Zita Weyland, Lenore Penkethamn, Debbie Andrade, Sharon Kaekel	Team 1	Ben Anderson	Jo Brooks	Steve And Debbie Andrade
26	Needed	Debbie Andrade	Nicole Critzer	Steve Andrade	John Hopkins

FLOWERS: February 5 Johansen February 12 Weyland
February 19 NEEDED February 26 NEEDED

If you have a birthday or anniversary that you would like included in the monthly list, please let us know, and we'll add it. Thanks.

Good Shepherd "Sisterhood" News

(Formerly Good Shepherd Lutheran Women)
Good Shepherd Sisterhood have been busy the past few months.

In December we helped the Vineyard Preschool with their Christmas Reception, decorating the Social Hall, setting up for the Reception, and welcoming the families to our Church

I hope you noticed the Breezeway decorations. All the ornaments adorning the tree were donated by Church members, Vineyard Preschool Families and N.A., bringing all together to make one special community tree.

We also had the most unbelievable Bake Sale to help a very Special Vineyard family at Christmas.

In January we put together 79 toiletry bags. 33 for women, 39 for men and 7 for children. The items were donated by The Klee Group of Morgan Hill. A BIG Thank you to Karen Spence and Sharon Hammelev-Paula for delivering the assembled bags to St. Joseph's Family Center. Please continue to bring in your hotel toiletries! We still need them.

For our next project we'll be teaming up with Lutheran World Relief. On February 26, first day of Lent, we'll begin putting together school supplies in backpacks for third world countries. Our own Vineyard Preschoolers will be participating in helping make a child able to stay in school with the child's own supplies. A flier with a list of items for each Sunday in Lent will be added to your Sunday Bulletin!

We have been providing, Coffee Socials along with (two) Receptions per year for The Vineyard parents. These are great in-house missions for Good Shepherd.

As you can see, we have been very busy, and we're getting bigger! We now have 10 members of our Sisterhood. Plan on coming to our next meeting, Sunday, February 12.

When asked for help, Please answer the call of duty! (not only ladies, men are always welcomed as well)

Blessings to you and your family,
Debbie Andrade

STEWARDSHIP UPDATES

Offering expectation \$85,860
(based on last year's offerings)
Divided by 53 weeks: \$1,620 / week.

Stewardship Update through January, 2012

Average attendance for 5 Weeks: 30

Expected to date at \$1,620 for 5 weeks: \$8,100

Actual Offering: \$5,847

Shortfall: \$2,253

Average shortfall per week: \$ 445

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.

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What is Tithing?

A tithe is 10%. A tenth is the Biblical standard for giving.

Why 10%? God seems to have in mind that all of us need to redistribute our wealth.

- We do so for the sake of the poor.
- We do so for the sake of the worshipping community, providing wages for our staff.
- We do so to maintain a place to gather.
- We do so because it is good discipline to give up something for the good of others.

What keeps us from tithing? Why is it so hard to give away 10% of our earnings? It's not a very popular idea, and certainly we cannot count on our culture to encourage this since the liturgy of the culture (advertising) encourages us to spend ever more on ourselves. So the liturgy of the Culture of God (our worship) invites another perspective.

- Thank God for the goodness that has graced your life.
- Do a great thing for others with no intent of return or benefit to yourself
- Attach no strings to what you give away.
- Make your giving a grace-filled custom.
- Align what you say you believe with action

ELCA Model Constitution Page

The ELCA Model Constitution is a wonderful document for us to review. In the next several months, we will publish a page or two from the Model Constitution for you to read and consider as part of our Newsletter. **This installment is part of Chapter 12, on The Congregation Council.** This outlines the make-up of the Council, and the general duties of this body. Since we began using our provisional governance with a smaller group of leaders in 2008, we have called the group the Board of Directors. In adopting this constitution, that group is now called the Congregation Council. The idea of a Council seems to be a better fit for a church body than Board of Directors. We deliberate with one another as a Council. We serve the congregation as a Council. We model service to God as a Council. A Board of Directors connotes a bit of distance and authority, while a Council is more open and inviting of participation. Good things.

Chapter 12.

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

C12.01. The voting membership of the Congregation Council shall consist of the pastor(s), the officers of the congregation, [President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer] and three voting members of the congregation: the Financial Secretary, the Minister of Property, and Minister of Spiritual Health, as defined in the By-Laws. A member's place on the Congregation Council shall be declared vacant if the member a) ceases to be a voting member of this congregation or b) is absent from four successive regular meetings of the Congregation Council without cause. Consistent with the laws of the state in which this congregation is incorporated, the congregation may adopt procedures for the removal of a member of the Congregation Council in other circumstances.

C12.02. The members of the Congregation Council except the pastor(s) shall be elected to serve for two years or until their successors are elected. Their terms shall coincide with the fiscal year. Newly elected Congregation Council members shall be installed at worship

on a Sunday prior to the date they assume office.

C12.03. Should a member's place on the Congregation Council be declared vacant, the President shall appoint a successor with the approval of the Congregational Council. The successor shall serve until the next annual meeting.

C12.04. The Congregation Council shall have general oversight of the life and activities of this congregation, and in particular its worship life, to the end that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The duties of the Congregation Council shall include the following:

- a. To lead this congregation in stating its mission, to do long-range planning, to set goals and priorities, and to evaluate its activities in light of its mission and goals.
- b. To seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support.
- c. To oversee and provide for the administration of this congregation to enable it to fulfill its functions and perform its mission.
- d. To maintain supportive relationships with the pastor(s) and staff and help them annually to evaluate the fulfillment of their calling or employment.
- e. To be examples individually and corporately of the style of life and ministry expected of all baptized persons.
- f. To promote a congregational climate of peace and goodwill, and, as differences and conflicts arise, to endeavor to foster mutual understanding.
- g. To arrange for pastoral service during the sickness or absence of the pastor.
- h. To emphasize partnership with the synod and churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as well as cooperation with other congregations, both Lutheran and non-Lutheran, subject to established policies of the synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- i. To recommend and encourage the use of program resources produced or approved by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- j. To seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel.

