

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

& The Vineyard Preschool

March, 2012

Volume 61, Number 3

Website address: goodshepherdgilroy.org

THE DISCIPLINES OF LENT FORM OUR CHRISTIAN LIVING

The four disciplines of Lent are prayers, alms giving, deeds of mercy and fasting. We may wonder if these things are human inventions to keep church people busy during Lent, or if there is something more significant about them.

One guide for understanding these four disciplines is the readings for the Vigil of Easter. The Vigil of Easter is the beginning of the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus and takes place on Saturday night. Vigil gives us the clue that we are waiting for the first light of Easter Sunday, and while we wait, we prepare for the good news by reading from the Old Testament the stories of God's deliverance of the chosen people when they are suffering. It's the story of the life and ministry of Jesus told from the point of view of the Old Testament Salvation history. When we are in trouble, God comes to us with salvation (healing) to deliver us.

There are 12 readings, although some may be omitted. Four are not omitted: The Creation Story, The Exodus from Egypt, the Promise of Restoration from Exile, and the Deliverance from the Fiery Furnace. In each case, (except the Creation) God comes to the rescue of God's people. In a sense, we are being prepared for the greatest rescue in the resurrection of Jesus. We hear these stories while we keep vigil, knowing that they communicate to us the most important message we can learn about what God is like. Our God is caring and creating. Our God does not abandon us but rescues us when we are in trouble.

Here is where the four disciplines of Lent give us direction and invite us into godly living. Our God calls us to be god-like in our care for others. We pray for the needy with god-like compassion. We distribute our wealth to those who are in poverty through our offerings and alms giving. We do deeds of mercy and help to relieve injustice for the oppressed. We fast from self-indulgence in order to do these things. In fasting, we are giving up something in order to remind ourselves of what God has given up in order to come to rescue us.

On Ash Wednesday, at the conclusion of the imposition of ashes, we offered this prayer: *Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.* We are praying for God to form our living into true service to others. We are living into the rescue of the resurrection. We are intentionally setting our sights on the great Three Days.

Yours for blessed Lenten formation into Christ,

Pastor Koch

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>March, 2012</h1>						
				1 N.A. 8 pm	2 N.A. 8 pm	3 N.A. 9:30 am N.A. 8 pm
4 9:30 am Worship Forum 11:15 N. A. 4 pm	5 N.A. 6 & 8 pm	6 N.A. 6 pm	7 Handbell Choir 7:00 N.A. 7 & 8:30 p	8 N.A. 8 pm	9 N.A. 8 pm	10 N. A. 9:30 am N.A. 8 pm
11 9:30 am Worship Forum 11:15 N. A. 4 pm	12 N.A. 6 & 8 pm	13 N.A. 6 pm Congregation Council 7:30	14 Handbell Choir 7:00 pm N.A. 7 & 8:30 p	15 N.A. 8 pm	16 N.A. 8 pm	17 N.A. 9:30 am N.A. 8 pm
18 9:30 Worship 3rd S. BRUNCH TEAM 4 NA 4 pm	19 N.A. 6 & 8 pm	20 N. A. 6 pm	21 Handbell Choir 7:00 pm N.A. 7 & 8:30 p	22 N. A. 8 pm	23 N.A. 8 pm	24 N.A. 9:30 am N.A. 8 pm
25 9:30 Worship Forum 11:15 NA 4 pm	26 N.A. 6 & 8 pm	27 N.A. 6 pm	28 Handbell Choir 7:00 pm N.A. 7 & 8:30 p	29 N. A. 8 pm	30 N. A. 8 pm	31 N.A. 9:30 am N. A. 8 pm

March Birthdays

16 Vickie Morton 20 Ian Hopkins

28 Lenore Penkethman

March Anniversaries

None

March Assisting Ministers

Date	Coffee Time	Clean up	Acolytes	Lectors	Ushers
4	<u>Set up</u> Amy Low Critzer	<u>Clean up</u> Weylands	Kyra Guerra	Steve Andrade	Steve and Debbie Andrade
11	Debbie Andrade	Debbie Andrade	Ben Anderson	Rozanne Koch	Mariah Garcia & James Guerra
18	BRUNCH - Team 2 Team 2: Sally Hammelev, Mariah Garcia, Sharon Hammelev-Paula,		Abigail Finucane	Patti Johansen	Karen & Nicci Spence
25	Weylands	Michelle Anderson	Nicole Critzer	Steve Andrade	John Hopkins

FLOWERS: A Special Lenten arrangement of "desert" flowers will adorn the altar during this season.

Good Shepherd “Sisterhood” Meeting

(Formerly Good Shepherd Lutheran Women)

The Sisterhood group met on February 12 after worship and Bible Study led by Pastor Koch. 10 women attended the meeting. They elected the following officers:

President, Debbie Andrade

Treasurer, Nancy Taves

Secretary, Duane Brown

Kitchen Duties, Lenore Penkethman

Prayers and Prayer Chain, Lenore Penkethman

St. Joseph’s Deliveries, Sharon Hammelev Paula and
Karen Spence

The Women will continue with hosting the Christmas and Graduation Receptions for the Vineyard Preschool ministry. They will also host coffee time on two different occasions for the Vineyard parents to continue this ministry of hospitality to our Vineyard Preschool families.

The Women decided to gather 24 Baskets of Promise for the Lutheran World Relief appeal throughout Lent. The entire congregation is invited to participate by bringing selected school items on the Sundays Lent. A collection box has been set up to receive the various items each week. On April 22, at the next meeting of the Sisterhood, the notebooks, scissors, crayons, pencils/pens, and rulers and erasers will be assembled into the backpacks.

The schedule for receiving these items is as follows:

March 4, Notebooks (70 sheet, 8x10)

March 11, Pens (black or blue, no gels) and Pencils (unsharpened #2 with erasers) 5 of each per student

March 18, Rulers (30 centimeters) and erasers

(2 ½ inches long)

March 25, boxes of crayons (16 or 24 count) and pencil sharpeners.

April 1, Scissors

The Sisterhood decided to order 24 backpacks of uniform size and style to hold the items for each student.

Remember, the next meeting is Sunday, April 22nd after worship and Bible Study. All are welcome.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATES

Offering expectation \$85,860

(based on last year’s offerings)

Divided by 53 weeks: \$1,620 / week.

Stewardship Update through February, 2012

Average attendance for 9 Weeks: 30

Offering expected weekly at \$1,620/week: \$14,580

Actual Offering: \$12,459

Shortfall: \$ 2,121

Average shortfall per week: \$236

The offerings for February showed a great improvement over January. In fact, we even exceeded our target of \$1,620 per week in February. Let’s look at a comparison:

January offerings: \$5,874 divided by 5 Sundays equals a weekly average of \$1,175 and a weekly short-fall of \$445.

February offerings: \$6,585 divided by 4 Sundays equals a weekly average of \$1,646, **\$26 over our projected expectation** noted in the box above. Thank you for your generosity.

It is heartening to note that our weekly shortfall for the year so far has dropped from \$445 in January to \$236 in February. Let’s keep on track to eliminating a weekly shortfall altogether.

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.



Good Shepherd Sets the Date to Vote for the Adoption of the Synod-Approved Model Constitution of the ELCA

In November, the Constitution Committee met and adapted the ELCA Model Constitution for our congregation. We sent this to Synod secretary, Pat Cash, who reviewed it and recommended it for the Synod Council's approval. At its January meeting the Sierra Pacific Synod Council of the ELCA approved our Model Constitution. Now we need to adopt it as the Congregation's Constitution. Copies are available in the narthex for review.

The meeting date to adopt this as our Congregation Constitution has been set for Sunday, March 18th after worship. That is our 3rd Sunday Brunch event, so we expect a good turn out for food and voting. The Sierra Pacific Synod will send a staff representative to be with us that day to answer any questions and facilitate our voting process.

After we have approved the Constitution, we will send a letter to Synod Secretary, Pat Cash notifying her of the results of our vote and requesting formal admittance as a congregation of the ELCA.

After a service at Good Shepherd when we will be received into the ELCA through prayers, we will be formally received at the beginning of the Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly and voting members are welcomed to vote. The Synod Assembly meets in San Jose on the weekend of May 18 - 20. We have been invited to bring as many members as we can from Good Shepherd to this Assembly. Knowing that

we will be welcomed at the beginning of the Assembly, we can plan now for a healthy representation from Good Shepherd that Friday. We will all be invited on stage and welcomed into the ELCA. Pastor Koch attended the Synod Assembly last year along with Rev. Earnest Brooks (who represented the retired clergy), and both will attest to the joyful welcome we will receive.

Please set aside the day of May 18th on your calendars so that we can be well represented.

By-law Formation Goes to Congregation Council

The constitution that we will adopt will be fine-tuned through the by-laws for our use at Good Shepherd. We have brought many of the by-law provisions from our old by-laws into our new constitution for study and revision. The Congregation Council is doing the initial work as we make revisions and changes. Once we have completed that task, we will make them available to the membership for further revision as needed. We will then submit the by-laws to the Synod Council for their approval (they cannot conflict with the constitution, for example). Then we will also adopt the approved by-laws. This will likely occur at our May congregation meeting after the Synod Council has approved the by-laws at their meeting during the Synod Assembly. In our new constitution, we have set the annual meeting for May to elect officers and set an annual budget. Our fiscal year will run from July through June to coordinate with the Vineyard Preschool year.