

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

& The Vineyard Preschool

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Website address: goodshepherdgilroy.org

THE GREAT THREE DAYS - TRIDUUM

During Lent this year we have been emphasizing our walk with Jesus to the great Three Days. We have read of the prediction of his suffering and death. We have heard him say that he would rebuild a destroyed temple in three days. We have heard with the Greeks who asked to see Jesus, the voice from heaven declaring approval of Jesus. Jesus said that he was going to be “lifted up” in order to draw all people to himself. “For this purpose I came. Father, glorify your name.” “I have glorified it and I will glorify it again,” booms the voice. We certainly are ready to move into the Three Days beginning on Thursday night and continuing into Easter Day.

Last year, among the extra services, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil, people attended the Vigil of Easter in greater numbers. About 5 or 6 people attended all three special times of worship. Among those folks, I heard expressions of how much they learned, or how meaningful the whole experience was for their spiritual life.

I commend to you full participation in the Great Three Days worship. Not because it is popular. It isn't. Not because we'd like to increase the count of those who attend all of the extra services. That would be nice, but it misses the point. I commend full participation to you because in those days we learn what it means to become the Body of Christ for the world. In the story of the cleansing of the Temple, we recall that Jesus was asked by what authority he was doing this cleansing. His answer seems strange at first: Destroy this temple and in three days I will rebuild it.” That doesn't answer the question. But John's Gospel says that Jesus was speaking of the temple of his body. After the resurrection Jesus' disciples **remembered** what he said.

It is in this remembering that the early church came to see Jesus as the fulfillment of Scriptures, as God's plan for salvation, as the promises of God being kept. This is holy remembering. This kind of remembering is what we do in the Three Days. This remembering gives meaning to what happens to us. This remembering is the connecting of all the dots so that we see the whole plan and trust that God has saved us and calls us to become a blessing. This remembering brings fresh perspective and conviction to our discipleship.

The disciples remembered what Jesus said about the Temple being destroyed and being rebuilt in three days. The temple is Jesus' body. Jesus is the new “place” for the center of our worship of God. St. Paul calls the church the Body of Christ. Are we the new center? Are we the “body” by which the work of God is to be done on earth?

If Jesus' offered body is the supreme example of God's love and compassion, and if we are called to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, how do we offer our selves in service?

Jesus' commitment to us takes on meaning in the stories of the Three Days. As we remember them, we become inspired and moved and shaken from our lethargy. We *become* committed disciples who sacrificially serve others as Jesus served us.

Lent is often described as a journey with Jesus into the wilderness, into ministry, into Jerusalem, and onto the cross. We have been on this path for 5 weeks, leading us to the great Three Days: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil. Why stop the journey short now? In fact, why not stay on for a trip extension and a wonderful visit to an empty tomb. That place makes everything we have seen and done on our Lenten journey worthwhile. Holy remembering brings us holy compassion, holy service, holy commitment to seek justice and peace in all the earth. May this year's Three Days change us, renew us, and draw out of us the commitment we need to be God's people here in Gilroy. Each night, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday we worship beginning at 7 pm.

Your Pastor & Friend, *Ronald E. Koch*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>April, 2012</h1> 						
1 Palm/Passion Sunday Worship 9:30 am "Baptized We Live" at 11:15 N. A. 4 pm	2 N.A. 6 & 8 pm	3 N.A. 6 pm	4 Youth Choir 4 Handbells 7pm N.A. 7 & 8:30 p	5 <u>The</u> <u>Maundy</u> <u>Thursday 7 p</u> N.A. 8 pm	6 <u>Three</u> <u>Good Friday</u> <u>Noon St. Mary</u> <u>7 pm LCGS</u> N.A. 8 pm	7 <u>Days</u> N.A. 9:30 am <u>Vigil of Easter</u> <u>7 pm</u> N.A. 8 pm Flowers Patti Johansen
8 9:30 am Worship Easter Brunch at 11:15 N. A. 4 pm	9 N.A. 6 & 8 pm	10 N.A. 6 pm Congregation Council 7:30	11 N.A. 7 & 8:30 p Handbells 7 pm	12 N.A. 8 pm	13 Girl Scouts 3:15 – 6:15 N.A. 8 pm	14 N. A. 9:30 am Flowers:Needed N.A. 8 pm
15 9:30 am Worship N. A. 4 pm	16 N.A. 6 & 8 pm	17 N.A. 6 pm	18 N.A. 7 & 8:30 p NO Handbells	19 N.A. 8 pm	20 N.A. 8 pm	21 N.A. 9:30 am Flowers:Needed N.A. 8 pm
22 Worship@ 9:30. Confirma- tion & Sister- hood @ 11:15 NA 4 pm	23 N.A. 6 & 8 pm	24 N. A. 6 pm	25 N.A. 7 & 8:30 p Handbells 7 pm	26 N. A. 8 pm	27 Girl Scouts 3:15 – 6:15 N.A. 8 pm	28 N.A. 9:30 am Flowers:Needed N.A. 8 pm
29 9:30 am Worship "Baptized We Live" 11:15 NA 4 pm	30 N.A. 6 & 8 pm					

April Birthdays

20 Bill Workman 29 Pastor Koch

April Anniversaries

11 Ervin and Ellen Heinrich 29 Bill and Elinor Workman

April Assisting Ministers

Date	Coffee Time		Acolytes	Lectors	Ushers
	<u>Set up</u>	<u>Clean up</u>			
1	Weylands	M. Anderson	Ben Anderson	Rozanne Koch	John Hopkins
8	Easter Brunch	All Hands On Deck to Help	Nicole Critzer	Jo Brooks	Mariah Garcia & James Guerra
15	NEEDED	NEEDED	Abigail Finucane	Patti Johnsen	Karen Spence & Nicci
22	Sally Hammelev	NEEDED	Will Anderson	Steve Andrade	Steve And Debbie Andrade
29	Michelle Anderson	NEEDED	Elena Finucane	Carolyn Carver	John Hopkins

FLOWERS: April 1 Lenten Dry Flowers April 8 Patti Johansen and Easter Lilies from the whole congregation
 April 15 NEEDED April 22 NEEDED April 29 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.

We need your help at Easter

1. Our **Easter Brunch** is a long-standing tradition at Good Shepherd. It's like a giant brunch Pot-luck. Everyone brings a dish or baked goods to share with the entire congregation of worshipers, including the many guests who come at Easter. It's a wonderful way to welcome people to Jesus' resurrection and welcome them "Home."
2. We invite you to bring **Easter Lilies** to beautify our sanctuary. We decorate the sanctuary during the Vigil of Easter on Saturday at 7 pm. Please bring lilies on Saturday any time. You can take your lilies home after worship on Sunday.
3. We ask that you bring **cut flowers** to attach to the cross before worship on Easter morning. The cross will be in the entryway to greet worshipers. Please come a few minutes early so that you have time to attach the flowers to the cross before worship. The **flower-adorned cross** will lead the Gospel Processional at the 9:30 Festival Worship.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATES

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

Stewardship Update through March, 2012
Average attendance for 13 Weeks: 29
Expected to date at \$1,620 for 13 weeks: \$21,060
Actual Offering: <u>\$17,895</u>
Shortfall: \$3,165
Average shortfall per week: \$ 243

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What is "Regular" Giving?

At Good Shepherd, we get offering envelopes from a company each year for distribution to the congregation members to use for their offerings. The offering envelopes are arranged in the box in chronological fashion, January to December, with the date of the Sunday worship on each envelope. In January, the Sundays were 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29. There is a reason for this system. Being a member of the Christian community means that you gather each week and bring an offering for the Assembly's collection.

Justin Martyr (about 150 AD) reports that each week the community gathered and took up a collection. The point is that offerings are made regularly, each week. Nowadays, we find that people attend worship when it works out; when it is convenient. Along with that attitude about attendance comes a very irregular pattern of donations. People bring an offering only when they attend worship. Actually, regular giving means that you plan your giving with a certain amount you give each week or each month. If you cannot attend worship, you bring the make-up offering the next Sunday. Being regular means that the church can count on a reliable pattern of offerings to make sure that God's work gets done.

Good Shepherd "Sisterhood" News

(Formerly Good Shepherd Lutheran Women)
Good Shepherd Sisterhood will meet on Sunday, April 22, to assemble all of the materials in the Baskets of Hope appeal.

Good Shepherd Adopts ELCA Constitution as our own

At a special congregation voters meeting on Sunday, March 18th, we voted unanimously to adopt the ELCA Model Constitution, approved by the ELCA Synod Council of the Sierra Pacific Synod, for our congregation. The minutes of the meeting and the letter requesting that we be received into the ELCA have been sent to Synod Secretary, Pat Cash. Attending the meeting, representing Bishop Mark Holmerud, was Assistant to the Bishop, Jim Goldsmith. He opened the meeting in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. After it was moved to adopt the ELCA constitution, Rev. Goldsmith answered any questions about the process. After the vote, he welcomed us into the ELCA and told us of the Synod Assembly in San Jose on May 18 - 20, where we will be formally received with great warmth and applause.

The adoption of the ELCA constitution means that we have officially left our affiliation with the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod.

We are now members of an ELCA congregation! This is an opportunity for you to invite friends and neighbors and relatives to come and get acquainted with the "new" church in town.

Pastor Koch gets date for Approval Interview

Pastor Koch has his Theological Review Panel and Candidacy Committee Interview scheduled for Saturday, April 21 at Pacific Lutheran Seminary in Berkeley. In preparation for the interview Pastor has had to prepare a 16 page Approval Essay consisting of three parts. First, a description of a ministry setting that reflects the contemporary cultural, ethnic and demographic changes in our society. Second, a sermon delivered in that kind of setting and an essay on how he applied Law and Gospel in his preaching. Third, a response to his preaching and what kind of leadership he demonstrated that reflects his theological grounding. After the interview, the panel recommends him to be received onto the ELCA Clergy roster, and the Candidacy Committee votes to accept him. Once that vote is made, Pastor will be an ELCA Pastor.

Response to Good Shepherd's Vote makes Front Page on ELCA Website

On Wednesday, March 28, on the front page of Living Lutheran, www.livinglutheran.com Good Shepherd was the feature article with a picture of Pastor Koch standing by our church sign and newly installed banner declaring that we are a Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The article was written by Melissa Ramirez Cooper. She called Pastor Koch and interviewed him for the story. Pastor sent her his original Newsletter article from October, 2010, in which he asked, "Where Do We Belong?" In the article Pastor explained how our congregation functions much more like

congregations of the ELCA than of the Missouri Synod. The article also was posted on the ELCA Facebook page wall. There were 32 written responses to the article, all indicating a warm welcome into the ELCA. In addition, there were 328 "thumbs up" Like-This-story pokes. Those of you who use Facebook can check it out. It feels good to be so affirmed in our decision.

Congregation invited to Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly in May

Remember to save May 18th, Friday, the first day of the Synod Assembly, when pastor and congregation will be formally welcomed and received into the ELCA Sierra Pacific Synod. The Assembly is at the San Jose Convention Center Marriot Hotel. It continues into Sunday afternoon. Any and all from our congregation are welcome to attend and receive the formal welcome from our new Synod, the Sierra Pacific Synod of the ELCA. We will be given representation as a voting member congregation. For a congregation of our size that means one delegate.

The ELCA is structured on a three-tiered plan. First is the congregation, that is us. Second is the Synod. In our case it is the Sierra Pacific Synod, encompassing Northern California and Nevada. Our Synod headquarters is in three offices, Sacramento (main) and Burlingame and Fresno. Third is the Church wide organization. Our national headquarters is in Chicago.

Special Thanks

To Vic Lase and friends for the ground cover plants in our church sign flowerbox.

To Herm Weyland for crafting our Good Friday processional cross.

To Rev. Earnest Brooks for making the Tree of Life crucifix wire sculpture as a gift to adorn our sanctuary. (He lent us his last year; this is ours!)