

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

& The Vineyard Christian Preschool

June, 2012, Volume 61, Number 6

Website address: goodshepherdgilroy.org

GIVING AS A FAITH PRACTICE

We don't come with DNA that gives us an embedded desire to give away what we have. In fact, a small child can get verrrry upset when you try to take something away that they want. "IT'S MINE!" is what you will hear. How do we develop this capacity to share with others from our own abundance? - in fact, more often, from our own modest resources? It comes to us as Christians from our faith formation.

Studies show that the more we have the less we share. People of modest means share a greater percentage of their income than those who are very rich. As shocking as that seems to be, it is very true. Why this is so may be seen in a story I heard Mother Teresa tell in her visit to San Jose many years ago. She shared a story from her work with the very poor and the dying in Calcutta. A very poor woman came to the convent for her daily bowl of rice for her family. Upon returning home, she immediately got out another bowl and took half of her daily ration to her neighbor, who had nothing. A very short story, but very powerful. The woman was concerned with the "we" and "us" and "our" of her community's life. If she had only cared for herself, her neighbor might have died. That shared bowl of rice meant life and death for her neighbor.

Jesus tells the story of the farmer whose very successful harvest gave him security for the rest of his life. In this story, the man says, "What will I do with my harvest? I know, I will tear down my small barns and I will build bigger barns for my harvest. Then I will say to myself, 'Self, eat and drink and be merry,' because I have laid up for myself a treasure for the rest of my life." We notice all of the pronouns in these two stories. The woman of Calcutta shared with her friends in their community of "our" and "we" and "us." The rich man, in his self-focused way used "I" and "me" and "mine." Maybe those who *have* a lot are more concerned about "I" and "me" and "mine" because they have so much. They don't need to live in community and have no need or desire to share. Their survival does not depend on their neighbor, so they don't think about anything other than themselves.

As Christians we learn that we are in a community; that we need to share what we have so that our faith community can not only survive, but also thrive. We learn that we are also part of the larger community of human kind, created by God for God's purposes. We care deeply and dearly for our fellow human beings and their welfare. We don't come by this sentiment naturally, but by being formed as we practice our faith. That formation begins in our baptism. Parents promise to nurture their children in the faith "*so that your children may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.*" At Confirmation, the affirmation of Baptism, we say that we will "*serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and strive for justice and peace in all the earth.*" We are formed as we are nurtured in the faith through worship and Christian education.

If you think that you have achieved this sense of community responsibility, examine your attitudes toward the poor, the oppressed, people of color, undocumented workers, those without health care. Examine, please, your commitment to Good Shepherd and the faith community that includes you in the "we" of "our" ministry. We are all in this together. It is God's world, entrusted to "us." This is our congregation, our ministry, and our responsibility to learn how to share from our abundance.

Your Pastor & Friend, *Ronald E. Koch*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	June, 2012				1	2
3 Holy Trinity Worship 9:30 am N. A. 4 pm	4	5	6	7	8	9 N.A. 9:30 am N.A. 8 pm Flowers Patti Johansen
10 Pentecost 2 9:30 am Worship N. A. 4 pm	11 N.A. 6 & 8 pm Congregation Council 7:30	12 N.A. 6 pm	13 N.A. 7 & 8:30 p	14 N.A. 8 pm	15 N.A. 8 pm	16 N. A. 9:30 am Flowers:Needed N.A. 8 pm
17 Pentecost 3 9:30 am Worship N. A. 4 pm	18 N.A. 6 & 8 pm	19 N.A. 6 pm	20 N.A. 7 & 8:30 p	21 N.A. 8 pm	22 N.A. 8 pm	23 N.A. 9:30 am Flowers:Needed N.A. 8 pm
24 Pentecost 4 9:30 am Worship NA 4 pm	25 N.A. 6 & 8 pm	26 N. A. 6 pm	27 N.A. 7 & 8:30 p	28 N. A. 8 pm	29 N.A. 8 pm	30 N.A. 9:30 am Flowers:Needed N.A. 8 pm

June Birthdays

3 Ruth Compton, 23 Duane Brown, 30, Michelle Anderson

June Anniversaries

14 Pastor and Rozanne Koch, 29 Dave and Vickie Morton

Date	Coffee Time	June Assisting Ministers		
		Acolytes	Lectors	Ushers
3	<u>Set up</u> Sallyi Hammelev	<u>Clean up</u> Mariah Garcia	Will Anderson	Carolyn Carver
10	Weylands	Michelle Anderson	Ben Anderson	Rozanne Koch
17	NEEDED	NEEDED	Elena Finucane	Patti Johansen
24	NEEDED	NEEDED	Abigail Finucane	Jo Brooks
				John Hopkins

FLOWERS: June 3 P. Johansen
June 17 NEEDED

June 10 NEEDED

June 24 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.

Vineyard Christian Preschool News

With the changing times we need to continue to keep our Vineyard Preschool ministry up to date with the needs of today's children as they prepare to enter kindergarten once they "graduate" from the Vineyard. Today, the expectation of public schools is that children will come into kindergarten ready to get to work. They need to be better prepared for writing and other school and social skills.

Recent studies have shown that a good preschool experience gives children confidence and skill to perform better in school, all the way from elementary school to graduate school. We are in a good place to offer to the community a quality program. We give thanks for our Director, Denise Higuera, for her outstanding leadership to move us forward in serving Gilroy. Denise has experience with a program that has a more academic emphasis, as well as an awareness of the developmental growth of preschool children. Her work and her goals for the Vineyard are really good shepherding of our congregation's ministry.



Our enrollment for next year at this point looks very good for the morning programs. We have 37 enrolled in the MWF morning program for 4 year olds, and 24 enrolled in the TTH morning program for 3 year olds. Mornings seem to be the most desired time slot for parents. We are grateful that we had the insight and capability to expand our classrooms from 2 to 3 last year. We are finding new ways to meet the needs of the community in our preschool ministry. We can accept up to 45 in the morning programs.

With classroom space free in the afternoon, we are also going to offer sessions of extended hours to enrolled students who desire a longer day, or for parents who want the extra supervised,

educational time for their children or for their own busy schedules. We are looking forward to and planning for a great preschool year next fall.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATES

Offering expectation \$85,860

(based on last year's offerings)

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

Stewardship Update through May, 2012

Average attendance for 22 Weeks: 30

Expected to date at \$1,620 for 22 weeks: \$35,640

Actual Offering: \$31,827

Shortfall: \$3,813

Average shortfall per week: \$ 173

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Good Shepherd "Sisterhood" News

(Formerly Good Shepherd Lutheran Women)

Good Shepherd's Sisterhood helped host the Vineyard Preschool's Mother's Day Tea on May 10th and 11th. The Social Hall was set with beautifully decorated tables for the Moms and their children. Seated side by side, the children learned "proper tea-time etiquette." Best of all, it was a great time for Mommies and their dear children.

The women also helped to host the Vineyard Preschool graduation reception in the Social Hall on May 25th for the morning and afternoon classes and their parents.

Now that our congregation is affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we want to take a look at the support we can receive from the Women in the ELCA, or WELCA national organization.

The next meeting of the Sisterhood will be in September. Watch for news about the specific date and time. Have a great summer. We'll see each other in Sunday worship.

