

# LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

& The Vineyard Preschool

May, 2012

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Website address: [goodshepherdgilroy.org](http://goodshepherdgilroy.org)

## EASTER OBSERVANCE CONTINUES

In the Christian assemblies Easter is celebrated for a “week” of Sundays. We continue to lift up the resurrection of Jesus as we live out of the Three Days liturgy for seven Sundays. While Lent is important with 6 Sundays, Easter is even more significant with a perfect 7 Sundays, exceeding Lent by one. The last three Sundays of Easter bring us the conversations of Jesus with his disciples recorded in the Gospel of John just before his arrest, trial, and crucifixion. These are important words to hear as they are still instructions we need for our journey of faith with Jesus.

On May 6, from John 15, we hear Jesus describe to us to kind of intimate connection we have with him. He is a vine, and we are branches bearing fruit. We cannot bear fruit unless we are connected, and the fruit we bear must be of the same stuff of which Jesus is made. Jesus names this fruit “love.” Because he is loving, we are too.

On May 13, again in John 15, Jesus gets specific and commands that we love each other as he has loved us. That is his commandment to us. And he knows what it means to love us, for he laid down his life for his friends. We are his friends, chosen by him to go and bear the fruit of love. John’s gospel is very specific in connecting Jesus’ love to his offered life. His death is testimony to how much he loves us; he is willing to die for us!

May 20 is the 7<sup>th</sup> and last Sunday of Easter. The Gospel reading on this day is always from John, Chapter 17, called the great priestly prayer of Jesus. For what does Jesus pray, as he is about to die? For **us**, his disciples, and for our **unity** that gives a witness to the world of God’s love and care for all humanity.

Come and be involved in the lively worship of the Assembly gathered around and celebrating the risen presence of Jesus in Word, Meal, prayer and song. This is the heart of our life together. What we do here speaks to us and to the community about our willingness to engage the context of our culture with an alternative vision of what is really important.

God bless our continuing celebration of Christ’s risen presence in our assembly.

*Pastor Koch*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>May, 2012</h1>						
		<b>1</b> N.A. 6 pm NA leaders 8	<b>2</b> Handbell Choir 7:00 N.A. 7 & 8:30 p	<b>3</b> N.A. 8 pm	<b>4</b> N.A. 8 pm	<b>5</b> N.A. 9:30 am  Flowers:Needed N.A. 8 pm
<b>6</b> 9:30 am Worship 11:15 Baptized We Live N. A. 4 pm	<b>7</b> N.A. 6 & 8 pm	<b>8</b> N.A. 6 pm	<b>9</b> Handbell Choir 7:00 N.A. 7 & 8:30 p	<b>10</b> N.A. 8 pm	<b>11</b> N.A. 8 pm	<b>12</b> N. A. 9:30 am Flowers N.A. 8 pm
<b>13</b> 9:30 am Worship <b>MOTHER'S DAY</b> <b>BRUNCH- TEAM 3</b> N. A. 4 pm	<b>14</b> Congregation Council 7:30 N.A. 6 & 8 pm	<b>15</b> N.A. 6 pm	<b>16</b> Handbell Choir 7:00 pm N.A. 7 & 8:30 p	<b>17</b> N.A. 8 pm	<b>18</b> Sierra Pacif. SynodAssem. 1pm in S.J. N.A. 8 pm	<b>19</b> N.A. 9:30 am Flowers:Needed N.A. 8 pm Synod Assembl
<b>20</b> 9:30 am Worship NA 4 pm S-P Synod Assembly ends	<b>21</b> N.A. 6 & 8 pm	<b>22</b> N. A. 6 pm	<b>23</b> Handbell Choir 7:00 pm N.A. 7 & 8:30 p	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> N.A. 8 pm	<b>26</b> N.A. 9:30 am Flowers:Needed N.A. 8 pm
<b>27</b> 9:30 am Worship Forum 11:15 NA 4 pm	<b>28</b> N.A. 6 & 8 pm	<b>29</b> N.A. 6 pm	<b>30</b> Handbell Choir 7:00 pm N.A. 7 & 8:30 p	<b>31</b>		

Because Mother's Day is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday the May Sunday Brunch is moved to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of May with the Men's Team hosting. Thanks, Gentlemen.

#### May Birthdays

17 Nancy Taves 24 John Mills & Marlys Prael 31 Esther (Koch) Knapp

May Anniversaries: None

#### May Assisting Ministers

Date	Coffee Time		Acolytes	Lectors	Ushers
	Set up	Clean up			
6	Karen Spence	Mariah Garcia	Ben Anderson	Rozanne Koch	Mariah Garcia & James Guerra
13	MOTHER'S Day Brunch Team 3 (Men's Team)		NEEDED	Patti Johansen	Karen & Sabrina Spence
20	NEEDED	Weylands	Abigail Finucane	Jo Brooks	Steve & Debbie Andrade
27	NEEDED	NEEDED	Elena Finucane	Steve Andrade	John Hopkins

Flowers: May 6, Needed;

May 13, Sally Hammelev in loving memory of Harry Hammelev;

May 20, Needed; May 27, Needed

## Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly in May

Now that we are an ELCA congregation and pastor, we are able to participate in the life of the next level of the church: the Synod Assembly. The ELCA has three "expressions:" the congregation, the synod, and the church-wide. Synod is the regional administration of about 200 congregations in the northern California and Nevada area. Church-wide is the national administration of all the congregations of the ELCA in the U.S.A.

Our participation is through our pastor and our delegate to the Synod Assembly. There we will elect people to serve on the Synod Council, pass a Synod budget for the next fiscal term, and act on important resolutions that shape our Synod's ministry for the future.

Pastor Koch and Herm Weyland will represent Good Shepherd at the Synod Assembly this year. In addition, our congregation and pastor will be welcomed into the ELCA on Friday afternoon, May 18<sup>th</sup>, during the first business session. The Synod Assembly will open with a Eucharist Worship beginning at 1 pm. The first business session will follow at 2:15 pm. 6<sup>th</sup> on the agenda is the welcoming of congregations, including us! At 4:15 is the Assembly Keynote address, and at 7 pm, after district elections, there is a banquet. The cost for the banquet is \$50/person for those who wish to stay. Let Pastor know if you'll attend the banquet by May 4 or sooner for an accurate count. The Assembly theme this year is "For the Love of God: Caring for Creation."



## Good Shepherd "Sisterhood" News

(Formerly Good Shepherd Lutheran Women)

Good Shepherd Lutheran Women Sisterhood met after worship on Sunday, April 22 to pack the 24 Baskets of Promise with the school supplies collected by many in our congregation for the Lutheran World Relief appeal. They finished at about noon after a meeting and time of fellowship around the packing of the kits.

The women were encouraged to help with food preparation for the Vineyard Preschool Mother's Day Tea. The dates for the tea are on Thursday, May 10 at 10:45 am, and on Friday, May 11 at 10:45 am and 2:15 pm. Please call Debbie Andrade for more specific information on how you can help.

The Sisterhood also agreed to help host the Vineyard Graduation receptions. Graduation is on Friday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 10 am and 2 pm. Contact Debbie Andrade for more specific information on how you can help.

The next regular meeting will be in September, with plans to continue our outreach ministry to the community through St. Joseph Family ministry.

## STEWARDSHIP UPDATES

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

### Stewardship Update through April, 2012

Average attendance for 18 Weeks: 32

Offering expected weekly at \$1,620/week: \$29,160

Actual Offering: \$25,743

Shortfall: \$3,417

Average shortfall per week: \$190

### 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.

*Have you skipped a house payment, car loan payment, credit card payment, student loan payment, medical premium payment or any other regular bill, like PG&E or City Utilities lately? Amazing, isn't how those regular bills get paid. Is your offering given as regularly?*

## TIMES OF TRANSITION: THE ONLY CONSTANT IS CHANGE

The only sure things are death and taxes, is the old saying. Now the new “old saying” is the only constant is change. We have made some changes at Good Shepherd in leaving the Missouri Synod and joining the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. It was a change over which we had great control. It was completely our action and choice. We freely began the process of discerning where we belong, freely asked questions of our special visitors who came to us to speak about our choice, and finally, we freely voted to leave the LC-MS and join the ELCA. This was a change that we managed, took charge of, and controlled.

Other changes come to us over which we have no control. We have to adapt without having the choice. We can try to anticipate the changes, we can read forecasts about what might come our way, but we don't really have control. We may feel victimized by these unwanted changes and resist making the adaptations that are required to continue to move ahead. But we must adapt, or else we may not survive. We have very little control over the declining interest in participation in organized religion in our country, for example.

There are some things over which we have great control and other things over which we have very little control. The wisdom is to know the difference, and to take appropriate action.

We may be able to control our choice of denominational affiliation, but we may not be able to control declining membership in our congregations, for example. Just by joining the ELCA, we *may* have increased our potential for growth. There are 57,000 ELCA Lutherans in the Sierra Pacific Synod of the ELCA compared to 33,000 Lutherans in the California-Nevada-Hawaii District of

the LC-MS. However, unless we are a welcoming, warm and hospitable congregation, we will not grow. We have to make some decisions, as a congregation, and as individuals, concerning our invitational presence in this community. What are you, personally, doing to help our congregation be a healthy, welcoming community of faithful Christians in Gilroy? Your personal invitation is the most important thing you can do to help us grow. People mostly join churches because they are invited by a friend or a relative to attend. While there are some walk-in visitors, those types are becoming fewer and farther between.



We have important outreach ministries at Good Shepherd: our Vineyard Preschool, our work with St. Josephs Family ministries, our Lutheran World Relief participation in projects like Baskets of Promise. We need support from you to enhance our relationship to the Vineyard families. Can you help host the Mother's Day Tea? Can you help host the Vineyard graduation day receptions? These families come to us. How can we better welcome them?

"Do not ask the Lord to guide your footsteps, if you are not willing to move your feet." Anon.

We may not harden our opinions in the concrete of our own agenda and still be faithful servants. When we profess our willingness to follow, we must move. God's agenda is grace and allows us to change.