

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

& The Vineyard Preschool

January, 2012, Volume 61, Number 1

Website address: goodshepherdgilroy.org

Pastor's Report for the year, 2011

In 2011, our congregation continued our regular pattern of liturgical worship, with the celebration of Holy Communion at each Sunday service and at most of the special worship services as well. Our music program continued with our Youth choir, which presented special music at several services. Our Church Musician, Zita Weyland, and I continued to plan meaningful worship and special music. Worship is our center.

In January we began the search for a new Preschool Director. I interviewed the entire Vineyard staff to determine what concerns they might have regarding church/school relationships and the search for a new director. In January we continued our look at changing affiliation by inviting Rev. Robert Newton, District President of the CNH District of the LC-MS to preach and meet with us in an extended coffee time Q and A. In February we had another guest pastor, Rev. Stan Abraham, Circuit Counselor for the CNH District, preach and preside and answer concerns regarding our synod affiliation. In March we began Lent with Ash Wednesday worship. I began the extensive and comprehensive process of applying for admission to the roster of clergy for the ELCA.

In April we had a visit from the Sierra Pacific Synod Bishop of the ELCA, Mark Holmerud. He preached and stayed after for an extended coffee time session of Q and A. He suggested that we take a non-binding, advisory vote to determine the depth of support for changing synod affiliation. We held choir rehearsals for a men's group that formed to adorn our Holy Week and Easter worship with special music. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Vigil of Easter, and Easter day worship filled the last week of April.

In May, Church Musician Zita Weyland, and I attended the Valparaiso Liturgical Institute. The topic was the Psalms and was very rewarding in helping us grow in our understanding of the Psalms and how to make good use of them in worship and preaching. I attended the ELCA Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly in Burlingame at the invitation of Bishop Holmerud. We had our special congregational meeting and passed an advisory vote (with only 2 dissenting) to instruct the Board of Director and Pastor to go forward with the change of synod affiliation. Plans began for an additional preschool classroom in the north end of the Social Hall. Thanks to Herm Weyland for heading up the project, and to the many helpers, especially Steve & Debbie Andrade and Lenore Penkethman.

In June the Board of Director's approved an ad campaign in the SJ Mercury News and on it's job website to see if we might expand the field of candidates for Preschool Director.

In July the interview committee met with three candidates for the preschool director position. In late July, Church Musician, Zita, I went to the ALCM National conference in Seattle. Planning began for the congregation's 60th anniversary celebration on Sunday, October 2, with special invitations for all Vineyard families, and alums.

In August the Board of Directors hired Denise Higuera as our new Preschool Director. We held our annual Summer Music Camp with the congregational Beer 'n' Brats picnic after culminating worship. The Parking lot was repaired and sealed and re-stripped. The new classroom was inspected, finalized and furnished. School began on August 31 with a new director and a new classroom.

In September the Board of Directors set a date for the final vote on changing synod affiliation, October 30th, Reformation Sunday. We began Handbell rehearsals for the festival service on October 2. We also held choir rehearsals for the Vineyard children to learn a new song to present in worship at our 60th anniversary. The Vineyard would also be celebrating its 37th anniversary, so we wanted to include and extend invitations as widely as possible. Invitations went out and the festival worship and luncheon planning moved apace. The Social Hall floor was stripped and waxed, and the walls were given a fresh coat of paint. Herm Weyland and crew led the way.

October 2nd came, and with it, a most successful 60th and 37th anniversary celebration. 102 attended worship, and an equal number enjoyed the festival luncheon. Hats off to Debbie and Steve Andrade, and Lenore Penkethman for coordinating the luncheon. Many others helped immensely. On Reformation Sunday the congregation voted to change our synod affiliation from the LC-MS to the ELCA, and to call me as their pastor, once both congregation and pastor were ELCA members. November and December brought 2011 to a close with Advent & Christmas.

Ongoing throughout 2011 was the effort to unite the church and school budget and accounting systems into one unified program. Thanks to Jack Penkethman who has spent countless hours setting up the new system. Our efforts at unifying our ministry are being realized and we find much more cooperation and positive spirit in working together. We are also realizing better overall stewardship of our resources. We pray for God's continued blessing on our work as church and school here in Gilroy,

Your Pastor & Friend, *Ronald E. Koch*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>January, 2012</h1>						
1 9:30 am Worship N.A. 8 pm	2 N.A. 6 & 8 pm	3 N.A. 6 pm	4 N.A. 7 & 8:30 p	5 N.A. 8 pm	6 Epiphany Worship 7 p Mt. Calvary N.A. 8 pm	7 N.A. 9:30 am Flowers:Needed N.A. 8 pm
8 9:30 am Worship Forum 11:15 N. A. 4 pm	9 N.A. 6 & 8 pm	10 N.A. 6 pm Board Of Directors 7:30	11 Handbells 7pm N.A. 7 & 8:30 p	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 3rd S. BRUNCH TEAM 4 N. A. 4 pm	16 N.A. 6 & 8 pm	17 N.A. 6 pm	18 Handbells 7pm N.A. 7 & 8:30 p	19 N.A. 8 pm	20 N.A. 8 pm	21 N.A. 9:30 am Flowers:Needed N.A. 8 pm
22 9:30 Worship Forum 11:15 NA 4 pm	23 N.A. 6 & 8 pm	24 N. A. 6 pm	25 Handbells 7pm N.A. 7 & 8:30 p	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 Worship Forum 11:15 NA 4 pm	30 N.A. 6 & 8 pm	31 N.A. 6 pm				

January Birthdays

11 Diane Stuenkel 18 John Hopkins

January Anniversaries

None

January Assisting Ministers

Date	Coffee Time	Acolytes	Lectors	Ushers
	<u>Set up</u>	<u>Clean up</u>		
1	No Coffee Time –New Year’s Day	Kyra Guerra	Rozanne Koch	John Hopkins
8	Karen Spence Duane Brown	Ben Anderson	Patti Johansen	Karen & Nicci Spence
15	BRUNCH - Team 4 Team 4: Ruth Compton, Patti Johansen, Amy Low Critzer, Norma Rymers, and Duane Brown	Nicole Critzer	Jo Brooks	Mariah Garcia & James Guerra
22	Sally Hammelev Debbie Andrade	Kyra Guerra	Steve Andrade	Steve & Debbie Andrade
29	Michelle Anderson Ruth Compton	Ben Anderson	Carolyn Carver	John Hopkins

FLOWERS: January 1 Poinsettias January 8 NEEDED January 15 Needed
January 22 NEEDED January 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.

Good Shepherd “Sisterhood” News

(Formerly Good Shepherd Lutheran Women)

The Sisterhood held a bake sale on December 11 during coffee time. The proceeds went to assist a needy Vineyard Preschool family. It turned out that the family was our own Vineyard Preschool Director, Denise Higuera. Caring for her children’s father who is dying of cancer brings stress both emotional and financial to most families. We were happy to help them in their time of need. This thanks expresses it best:

To the wonderful people and family of Good Shepherd – We cannot find the words to express how grateful we are for the love and kindness you have shared with us. Thank you so much for the wonderful gifts and financial support you have given. Your thoughtfulness has helped to lighten the burden we are carrying. Your sacrifice for us has encouraged us to continue this journey with hope. We pray that you each be blessed ever so abundantly as you have been a blessing. May you have a wonderful Christmas & Happy New Year. Thank you again – We appreciate all you’ve done. Denise, Nathan, Jaicee and Anthony Higuera.

Also in December the Sisterhood hosted the receptions following the Vineyard reschool Christmas programs on Wednesday, the 14th and Thursday the 15th. This is a wonderful ministry of hospitality to our Vineyard families. Thanks to the Sisterhood for this outreach.

Third Sunday Brunch Offering

For our **December ingathering** on the 3rd Sunday (Brunch Sunday), we joined with the Vineyard Families in bringing children’s goods for the needy in Gilroy. With the Vineyard families, we filled a baby playpen with food, clothing and disposables and took them to St. Josephs for distribution. **Thank you very much for remembering the needy children in our community** as we remembered the Baby who joins us to the birth of all children born on the edges of society.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATES

Weekly Offering Needs Determined
 Our adopted budget for 2011: \$121,310
 Total Passive Income Stream: \$-36,910
 Offerings needed: \$ 84,400
 Offering expectation \$104,000
 (based on the last 3 years)
 Divided by 52 weeks: \$2,000.00 / week.

Stewardship Update through December, 2011	
Average attendance for 52 Weeks:	31
Offering expected weekly at \$2000/week:	\$104,000
	Actual Offering: <u>\$85,794</u>
	Shortfall: <u>\$18,206</u>
Average shortfall per week:	\$350

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.

2011 This Year	2010 Last Year
Ave. attendance: 31	Ave. Att.: 43
Ave. Offering/wk: \$1,650	Offering: \$1,967

While we did not meet our offering expectation of \$104,000 for 2011, we did more than the needed offering to meet the budget. See the comparison of the last two years:

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
Budget	\$121,310	\$164,695
Passive income	- <u>\$36,910</u>	- <u>\$32,080</u>
Needed offering	\$84,400	\$132,615
Actual offering	<u>\$85,794</u>	<u>\$102,307</u>
Over / Shortfall	+ \$1,394	-\$30,308
Over / Shortfall/week	+\$27	- \$583

The biggest change in the budget from 2010 to 2011 was in the decreased cost of Pastor's salary and benefits. In taking his retirement benefit, Pastor Koch saves us about \$1,900/month in benefits and about \$4,100/month in salary.

* * * * *

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 9, on The Pastor. This says what the call of a pastor means in terms of carrying out his or her work. Note well that the pastor is to “speak publicly to the World in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God’s love for the world.” Coupled with last month’s installment on the purpose of the congregation, we can see clearly that pastor and people need to work together in a cooperative and complementary manner. **God’s work, Our hands**, is a fitting motto. Read on.

Chapter 9. THE PASTOR

- *C9.01. Authority to call a pastor shall be in this congregation by at least a two-thirds majority ballot vote of members present and voting at a meeting legally called for that purpose. Before a call is issued, the officers, or a committee elected by the Congregation Council to recommend the call, shall seek the advice and help of the bishop of the synod.
- *C9.02. Only a member of the clergy roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or a candidate for the roster of ordained ministers who has been recommended for the congregation by the synodical bishop may be called as a pastor of this congregation.
- *C9.03. Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,
- a. Every ordained minister shall:
 - 1) preach the Word;
 - 2) administer the sacraments;
 - 3) conduct public worship;
 - 4) provide pastoral care; and
 - 5) speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God’s love for the world.

- b. Each ordained minister with a congregational call shall, within the congregation:
 - 1) offer instruction, confirm, marry, visit the sick and distressed, and bury the dead;
 - 2) supervise all schools and organizations of this congregation;
 - 3) install regularly elected members of the Congregation Council; and
 - 4) with the council, administer discipline.
- c. Every pastor shall:
 - 1) strive to extend the Kingdom of God in the community, in the nation, and abroad;
 - 2) seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel;
 - 3) impart knowledge of this church and its wider ministry through distribution of its periodicals and other publications; and
 - 4) endeavor to increase the support given by the congregation to the work of the churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and of the Sierra Pacific Synod of the ELCA.

