

January
2012
Volume 8,
Issue 1

Shepherd's Voice

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church • 4000 Clayton Road • Concord, CA 94521
925-682-8410 • gsconcord.com

Worship: Sundays 8:30 AM. & 11:00 AM. • Pastor John Ridenour

From Pastor John...

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

By the time you read this, I'll be away on the major portion of my 2011 vacation, yet not without having you in my thoughts and prayers. Plans have been made for our worship and congregational care in these days. **Pastor Ralph Supper (as in "super") will lead worship. He'll also be available for any emergency events.** Pastors Kerstin Barnes and Glenda Wilson will also be on call care and service. Contact the church office for more information, or see the notes in this newsletter and in our worship bulletins.

The Christmas Season draws to a quick close (our last Christmas worship is on January 1st, with one service at 10 AM). I share one more word regarding the Christmas message – this from some writings of **Martin Luther compiled in "The. Martin Luther Christmas Book," translated and arranged by Roland Bainton, Fortress Press.** These excerpts come from **Luther's sermons, reflections, and writings about the Annunciation, when the angel announced to Mary that she was going to become the mother of God:**

"The Virgin birth is a mere trifle for God; that God should become flesh is a greater miracle; but the most amazing of all is that this maiden should credit the announcement that she...had been chosen to be the mother of God."

"Had she not believed, she could not have conceived. She held fast to the word of the angel because she had become a new creature. Even so must we be transformed and renewed in heart from day to day."

"This is the word of the prophet: 'Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.' (Isa. 9:6). This is for us the hardest point, not so much to believe that He is the son of the Virgin and God himself, as to believe that

this Son of God is ours."

"Truly it is marvelous in our eyes that God should place a little child in the lap of a virgin and that all our blessedness should lie in him. And this Child belongs to all humankind. God feeds the whole world through a Babe nursing at Mary's breast. This must be our daily exercise: to be transformed into Christ, being nourished by this food. Then will the heart be suffused with all joy and will be strong and confident against every assault."

What powerful words and images – the reality that **"unto us a son is born a son is given."** What a challenge to believe that this Son of God is ours, not by way of our possession, but by way of the love God has for us and all humankind. What a gift that this God **feeds the whole world, and us, through the "Babe nursing at Mary's breast."** And so we have a daily exercise, a daily assignment: **"to be transformed into Christ, being nourished by this food."**

As we begin the new calendar year and the new season of Epiphany, we will have opportunity to sing **God's praises in worship and to grow in Christ in study and fellowship opportunities.** We'll be able to serve our community through Friends Feeding Friends and **other Social Ministry opportunities.** We'll be able to participate in the mission of the larger church through our gifts of offering and participation in the life and activities of the church.

No doubt we'll have some challenges along the way, similar to a majority of churches and non-profits around the country. But God promises to be with us, **to inspire and engage us through the power of God's loving Spirit.** The Epiphany season is the time for our **light (Christ's light within us) to go out** – not to be extinguished, but to go out to our neighbors and friends, in love, in joy, and in thanksgiving to God!

*From Pastor John (Continued)**Special Thanks for Christmas Decorations!*

Many thanks to all who shared in the decorating of the Sanctuary and Christmas trees on December 17th.

Laura Carlson	Joe Carlson
Linda Mahloch	Gary Mahloch
Susan Ripley	Bob Ripley
Marcia Sander	Larry Sander
Paul Rusch	Vicki Smiglewski
Jean Moore	Ione Bantly
Pastor John	

Also, a special thank you goes to Dana Deniston for festive Christmas decorations on the plants on both sides of the church entrance! Thank you very much!

Choir Director Begins

Our new Choir Director, Phoebe Jevtovich, will begin service in mid-January, specifically on Wednesday, January 18th. Choir will resume rehearsals on that evening as that is the time both Phoebe and Margaret will be available to lead us in singing and worship. Know that you are welcome to come and sing!

Come and give singing a try. You'll be glad you did! Welcome, Phoebe!

Seven Youth travel to JAM Retreat

I'll be seeing you again soon, returning to the office on January 19, and then heading with seven of our young people on a retreat to Mt. Cross.

Mt. Cross Lutheran Bible Camp in the Santa Cruz Mountains will be home for seven of our youth January 20-22, 2012. The JAM (Jesus and Me) retreat will give the youth an opportunity for some group-building exercises, Bible Study, ropes course, and singing-worship. This event will be a rich experience for the middle schoolers and

confirmation youth. Keep them all in your prayers!

I'll be seeing you again soon. Meanwhile, may God give you New Year Blessings, Joy, and Peace!

– Pr. John

Mark Your Calendar Now!

It is said, "if you want something done, ask a busy person." For that reason we are listing here a few activities and events that will be coming over the next few months. We hope you will mark your calendar and plan on joining us!

January:

Sundays Jan. 8 and 15

9:45 AM to 10:15 AM

Budget Information Forum Fellowship Hall

Sunday, January 29

Congregational Meeting at 9:45 AM

February:

Sundays, February 12 and February 19

Photos will be taken for those who would like a new picture in the 2012 Church Directory. There will be an appointment sign-up list in the Narthex beginning Jan.8.

March:

Saturdays, March 3, 10 & Wednesday March 6

Diablo Valley Literacy New Tutor Training Sat. 8AM to 1:30 and Wed. 5PM –9:30PM Sign up now and become a tutor!

March 12 through 25

Winter Nights Program at Good Shepherd

A Message from our Council President

Message from the President . . .

The year is coming to a close and by the time you read the newsletter it will be 2012. If you had to describe 2011, what would you say? While that question is broad we can narrow it down which is what I would like to do. I would like to focus on our church, Good Shepherd.

I found myself this morning sitting at the dining room table with my Bible reading Revelation which was written by John. He had worked with seven churches and now writes to them as they struggle to survive in a world dominated by the Roman Empire. Some faced persecution; some were being corrupted by society; some had stopped taking faith seriously. The seven churches were Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.

I invite you to open your Bibles and read Revelation 2:1-29; 3:1-22. After you have read the scripture, ask yourself, can you find Good Shepherd in any one or more of the churches that John describes? Can you see resemblances of our church in the scripture? How and why? Then ask yourself does it matter?

If it does matter to you, I invited you to engage in conversation with any of our Council Members who are looking forward to having a dialogue with you. This is important to all of us, and I and other Council Members will make time for you. I promise.

Blessings to you and may they come often,
Sue Hertless

Thanks and Recognition

At our December Council Meeting, we thanked the women of our Ruth's Circle who, for many years, have given their time, energy and talents to bake cookies for our shut-ins and deliver them along with some Christmas cheer. Thank you to: Donna Monroe, Pam Dietz, Ingrid Burns, Betty Peterson, Evelyn Hidy, Helen Ollila, Laura Carlson and Nancy Knapp.

Thanks from the Carson Family:

Hello All,

We want to share the news of our best Christmas present ever. Laura had her follow up Echo-cardiogram on Wednesday. Last night the doctor called to tell her that her heart has returned to normal shape and size. She will still be on medication through February, but she is on track to return to SF State on January 20th. Thank you to everybody for all your prayers, emails, cards and good wishes through out Laura's illness.

Happy New Year to all. Jo, Jim and Laura Carson

January Birthdays

Julie Sasaoka	04
Jauire Welsh	04
Kim Christiana	05
Austin Fiene	08
Mary Figueroa	09
Candace Bradley	10
Ken Robinson	10
Emmerson Chambers	12
Christy Dankowski	12
Darlene Forest	12
Janine Livingston	13
Ryan Kich	14
Angie Morgan	15
Samuel Poston	16
Suzanne Christensen	17
Samuel Buchholz	22
Phil Kich	22
Craig Peterson	23
Kailey McCullough	24
Joann Rossi	25
Sherry Chaplin	26
Patricia Fiene	27
Helen Johnson	27
Christopher Mynhier	27
Linda Mahloch	28
Carol Beran	29
Ronald Fassl	29
Glen Bradley	30



HOW LUTHERANS INTERPRET THE BIBLE

On January 8, 2012 we will begin the New Year with a new Adult Faith Formation **study**. **Ken Robinson will be our facilitator as we explore Dr. Mark Allan Powell's** video series, *How Lutherans Interpret the Bible*. Join us in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 10:15 a.m. on Sunday, January 8.

In this seven session video series, Mark Allan Powell invites viewers to explore seven important questions about Lutherans and the Bible. He artfully presents a varied range of interpretive tools that will help participants learn to interpret scripture from a uniquely Lutheran perspective, helping them to understand the contribution Lutherans can make to biblical interpretation. With content that encourages rich discussion, participants will discover answers to questions they have always had about the Bible. We hope you will join us as we share this adult Bible study program!

Session 1: The Word of God
 Session 2: What Lutherans Say About the Bible
 Session 3: Where the Bible comes From
 Session 4: Interpreting the Bible in Context
 Session 5: Determining Right from Wrong
 Session 6: The Many Meanings of the Bible
 Session 7: Devotional Bible Reading



POINTS OF INFORMATION

- Did you know you are cordially invited to attend any committee meetings held at our church?
- Are you aware that you can attend any and all Council Meetings? They are held on the second Monday of every month at 7:00PM. Believe it or not, we have had congregational members who are not on the Council attend Council Meetings in 2011. It was a joy to everyone serving on Council to have congregation members join us and share their thoughts.
- A suggestion was made to distribute Council Meeting minutes in the Narthex after each Council Meeting. We agreed it will provide you with information, so you can know what is going on in your Council Meetings. Beginning with our February 2012 Meeting, we make available copies of the Council Meeting Minutes in the Narthex.
- Did you know that someone is actively pursuing renting space here at the church **for a day care? While we are a long way from "yes" we have not said "no."** It would be lovely to have children here on the campus Monday through Friday.
- Did you know in our circle of Lutheran churches, Good Shepherd is viewed as a great place to have an event? Our facility is being sought after for different Synod events. Why? Because we are hospitable, our environment is pleasing to the eye, we are ADA accessible, and our location offers access to various modes of transportation.

GOOD SHEPHERD BOOK CLUB

For January, the Good Shepherd Book Club is reading *THE SHADOW OF THE WIND* by Carlos Ruiz Zafón.

In its review, *Booklist* said, "Part detective story, part boy's adventure, part romance, fantasy, and gothic horror, the intricate plot is urged on by extravagant foreshadowing and nail-nibbling tension. You won't want to miss this book or our discussion.

We'll meet on Tuesday, January 17 at 7:30 pm in the Fireside Room.

Ever wanted to go to a book club where the people have actually read the book? That's us at the Good Shepherd Book Club! Come and join the discussion. Questions? Contact Donna Albrecht at donna@albrechts.com

Wedding Anniversaries

Clayton and Ruth Lee
January 27, 1943



Leisure Lunch is January 17

Happy New Year to our Leisure Lunchers!



Thank everyone so very much for sharing some of their favorite Christmas stories and ornaments at our December luncheon-what a beautiful day that was. Leisure Lunchers will gather again for fun and fellowship on Tuesday, January 17, 2012.

The "assignment" this time: Please submit to the church office a baby picture of yourself by Monday, January 16th. We'll make a game out of identifying who is who during our lunch. Let's see who can correctly match the most baby pictures with the current version! Your picture will be returned to you on that day. Also, please remember to sign up for the lunch by calling the church office. Laura is always so happy to help and she will gladly put your name on the list.

Additionally, is there someone whom you miss seeing at the Leisure Lunch events? Please invite them to join us. If someone is in need of a ride to the church, you may contact Bob or Susan Ripley at: 925-827-9717.

Thank you from the Care Bear Program

On behalf of our Social Ministry Committee, we would like to thank everyone who participated in the Care Bear Program this year.

Thanks to those of you who selected gift tags from our Care Bear Tree, purchased and wrapped gifts and brought them to the church, we were able to deliver gifts just before Christmas to 22 very appreciative, local families that included 40 children.

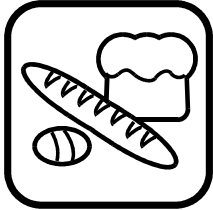
Many thanks to everyone who participated. Happy New Year!

**GOOD SHEPHERD INCOME STATEMENT
YEAR TO DATE AS OF November 30, 2011**

	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER (UNDER) BUDGET
INCOME:			
Pledges	\$ 158,661	\$170,544	\$ (11,883)
Other (Tower Rent, etc.)	129,460	143,565	(14,105)
TOTAL INCOME	288,121	\$314,109	(25,988)
LESS TOTAL EXPENSES	(296,246)	(306,802)	10,556
NET INCOME	\$ (8,125)	\$ 7,307	\$ (15,432)

◀◀ Regarding the Income Statement Pledges are \$11,833 less than budgeted and Year-to-Date expenses exceed income by \$8,125. Unpledged receipts are \$5,908 less than budget.

Friends Feeding Friends



Sarah Jean's
Dream at age 4 —
"So people who are
really hungry
have food."



Good Shepherd Lutheran
Church

4000 Clayton Road
Concord, CA 94521
682-8410

Located east of the
Salvation Army church
between West St. and
Mendocino

Loaves & Fishes catering
kitchen:

510 Garcia, Suite H
Pittsburg, CA

Here's an update from Friends Feeding Friends--an outreach ministry that serves needy in our county.

We served 128 at our December shelter luncheon, a meal of hot ham & cheese sandwiches, fresh vegetable soup, broccoli salad, green salad, hard boiled eggs, oranges, bananas, fudge and brownies.

We want to thank AT&T, Girl Scout Troop #32295, New Life Church, Tabernacle School, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and Valley Christian Church for their help with donations, Christmas gifts for our needy families, preparation and service. Thank you to all who helped move furniture, and who helped donate household furnishings, making our ministry possible. We are distributing a lot of groceries to senior citizens on fixed incomes and to needy families. Can you help with donations of groceries? Our pantry shelves are emptying faster than we can restock them.

The next time we meet will be on Saturday, January **21, 2012. We'll be serving toasted sandwiches, fresh soup, green salad, broccoli salad, fresh fruit, drinks, and dessert.** If you would like to help sort donations, pack hygiene kits and "food for later" bags, meet us at **Good Shepherd at 9:30 a.m.** If you would like to help prepare lunch, meet us at the Loaves & Fishes catering kitchen at 10:00 a.m. Come join us, and invite a friend to share in a fun morning. If you can help with groceries, for the December luncheon we will need:

sliced cold cuts • sliced cheese • red grapes • fresh fruit
broccoli crowns • any desserts • bottled water • fresh
veggies

There's an on-going need for:

laundry soap • lamps • blankets • linens/towels • pots &
pans • coats & jackets • eating utensils • groceries • dish
soap • cooking utensils • travel size hygiene items •
microwave ovens • dressers & end tables

For the "Food for Later" bags:

Shelf-stable meals (ravioli, hearty soups, stews, chili, spam,
tuna kits, etc.) • Fruit cups/fruit snacks • Packaged bars,
snacks and desserts

If you have questions or need additional information, please call Dana Deniston 768-9087 or Linda Rodemsky 864-9266. Or, email us at friendsfeedingfriends@yahoo.com
Thank you once more to all our faithful supporters whose contributions benefit so many in our community.



For we are
God's
workmanship
created in
Christ Jesus
to do good
works, which
God prepared
in advance for
us to do.

E phesians
2:10

The North
Concord Shelter:

2047 Arnold
Industrial Way,

Parallel to
Highway 4

Know of someone
who needs help?
Call the Homeless
Hotlines at
800-799-6599 or
800-808-6444.
Call the Bay Area
Rescue Mission at
510-215-4868, or
the Contra Costa
Crisis Center 211.

Worship Assistants January 8, 2012 – February 5, 2012

Date	Time	Assisting Minister	Communion Assistant	Lector	Acolyte, Torchbearer	Crucifer	Altar Guild	Welcome Table	Ushers	Sound Ministry	Communion to Shut-ins	Coffee Ministry	Counters	C.O.D.
1/08	8:30	Susan Ripley	Bill Dietz Mike Albrecht	Donna Albrecht	—	Ryan Kich	Kathy Price, Else Welsh, Heidi Moss	Kay Bennett and Jeannette Kaul	Gary and Linda Mahloch, Doug and Reyanne Freeman	Jamie Rodemsky	—	Doug and Reyanne Freeman	Joe Carlson Paul Rusch	Mark Deniston
	11:00		Linda Rodemsky, Sherry Chaplin	Linda Rodemsky				Alden Johnson	Rick Koehler					
1/15	8:30	Duane Peterson	Ken and Nikki Robinson	Kristi Buchholz	—	Sam Buchholz	Jan Harmon, Pam Dietz, Willjean Rogelstad, Linda Mahloch	Ione Bantly	Jim and Carin Olson, Greg Buchholz and Vicki Smiglewski	Jamie Rodemsky		Jon and Heidi Moss	Joe Carlson Paul Rusch	Sue Hertless
	11:00		Rick Koehler	Sherry Chaplin				Wendy Pritchard	Connie Summers					
1/22	8:30	Bill Dietz	Sue Hertless, Candace Bradley	Candace Bradley	—	Doug Olson	Laura Carlson, Vicki Smiglewski, Elizabeth and Emily Kich, Sue Hertless	Kurt and Jan Harmon	Jon and Heidi Moss, Kathy Hartless, Paul Rusch	Jamie Rodemsky	Duane Peterson	Ron and Kathy Price	Jan Carzino Reyanne Freeman	Jean Moore
			Sherry Chaplin Linda Rodemsky	Linda Rodemsky				Donna Abeyta	Linda Rodemsky					
1/29		Susan Ripley	Ken and Nikki Robinson	Bob Ripley	—	Travis Fiene	Ione Bantley, Karen Vetterl, Leone McCullough, Karin Bohling	Jauire and Else Welsh	Doug and Reyanne Freeman Jim and Carin Olson	Jamie Rodemsky		Gary and Linda Mahloch	Jan Carzino Reyanne Freeman	Jon Moss
			Rosemary Fassel Rick Koehler	Rosemary Fassel				Victor and Aimee Olmedo	Rick Koehler					
2/05		Duane Peterson	Susan Ripley Ingrid Burns	Ingrid Burns	—	Austin Fiene	Dottie Davis, Donna Abeyta, Christy Dankowski, Nancy Knapp	Ron and Kathy Price	Sue Hertless, Vicki Smiglewski, Ron Figueroa, Tom Danielson	Jamie Rodemsky	—	Greg and Kristi Buchholz	Susan Lorenzen Gordon Monroe	Victor Olmedo
			Sherry Chaplin Linda Rodemsky	Sherry Chaplin				Nancy Knapp						



GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
 4000 Clayton Road Concord CA, 94521
 Phone 925.682.8410 Fax 925.682.8178
 www.gsconcord.com
 Pastor John R. Ridenour

December 21, 2011

Dear Members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,

May the Advent promises of the hope, love, peace, and joy of our Lord Jesus be with you and your family as you celebrate this Christmas season and throughout the New Year.

As preparations are being made for the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 29, 2012, the Church Council seeks to help with the understanding of the proposed annual budget. The Council has scheduled two informational meetings to be held on January 8th and 15th, from 9:45 to 10:00 AM. Please choose which to attend as they will share the same information.

The purpose of the gatherings will be to inform the congregation that two budgets have been prepared for presentation to the congregation. One budget responds to the congregation's decision to call an Associate Pastor for Youth and Family Ministry as decided at the August 28 Congregational Meeting. The second budget is a plan that doesn't include the finances for calling an Associate Pastor. As we have shared in the December 2011 newsletter, both in Pastor John's article, and in the Message from Financial Committee, we still have budgetary gaps and concerns to present a balanced budget for 2012.

At these gatherings, members of the Finance Committee and Council members will be present to assist with explanations and answer questions. Please mark your calendars, and plan to attend one of the information forums, as well as the Annual Meeting.

Fellowship Hall Information Forums:	Sunday, January 8, 2012	9:45 – 10:15
	Sunday, January 15, 2012	9:45 – 10:15
Annual Congregational Meeting	Sunday, January 29, 2012	9:45 AM

Christmas and New Year Blessings to you and your family!


 Sue Hertless, Council President


 Pastor John Ridenour

IN THE EVENT OF A PASTORAL EMERGENCY WHILE PASTOR JOHN IS ON VACATION THROUGH JAN. 18, PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE OR USE THE FOLLOWING CONTACT INFORMATION:

Pastor Kerstin Barnes: **St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 925-934-6114 (Office)**
 pastorkerstin@gmail.com

Pastor Glenda Wilson: **St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 925-935-0160 (Office)**
 glendajwilson@hotmail.com

January 2012

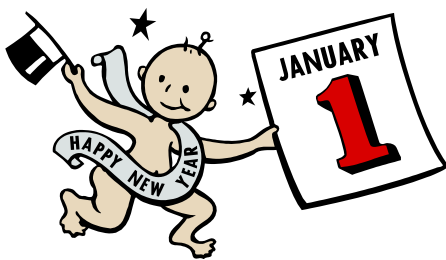
Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10:00 a.m. Worship (CH) 5:00 p.m. Hertless Small Group 6:00 p.m. Women's NA (FH)				9:00 a.m. Senior Food Program 7:00 p.m. Prop./Long Range (FH) 7:00 p.m. Robinson Small Grp. (Robinson Home)		
8 8:30 a.m. Worship (CH) 9:45 a.m. Budget Disc. (FH) 10:15 a.m. Christian Ed. (FH) 11:00 a.m. Worship (CH) 5:00 p.m. Hertless Small Group 6:00 p.m. Women's NA (FH)	9 7:00 p.m. Council (FH)	10 Noon Leisure Lunch Group (FH) 7:30 p.m. Book Club (FR)	11 9:30 a.m. Quilting (FH) 5:30 p.m. Confirmation 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	12 Noon DVLC (FH) 2:00 p.m. Finance 7:00 p.m. Robinson Small Group (Robinson Home)	13 FEBRUARY Newsletter Articles Due Today!	14 9:30 a.m. Friends Feeding Friends (FH)
15 8:30 a.m. Worship (CH) 9:45 a.m. Budget Disc. (FH) 10:15 a.m. Christian Ed. (FH) 11:00 a.m. Worship (CH) 5:00 p.m. Hertless Small Group 6:00 p.m. Women's NA (FH)	16 7:00 p.m. Council (FH)	17 Noon Leisure Lunch Group (FH) 7:30 p.m. Book Club (FR)	18 5:30 p.m. Confirmation 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	19 9:00 a.m. Senior Food Program (FH) 11:00 a.m. Ruth Circle 7:00 p.m. Robinson Small Group (Robinson Home)	20 FEBRUARY Newsletter Articles Due Today!	21 9:30 a.m. Friends Feeding Friends (FH)
22 8:30 a.m. Worship (CH) 9:45 a.m. Refreshment (FH) 10:00 a.m. Christian Ed. (FH) 11:00 a.m. Worship (CH) 5:00 p.m. Hertless Small Grp. 6:00 p.m. Women's NA	23	24	25 9:30 a.m. Quilting (FH) 3:00 p.m. <u>JOINT</u> Hymn Selection and Worship & Music Meeting 5:30 p.m. Confirmation 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	26	27	28
29 8:30 a.m. Worship (CH) 9:45 a.m. Refreshment (FH) 9:45 a.m. Annual Mtg 11:00 a.m. Worship (CH) 5:00 p.m. Hertless Small Grp. 6:00 p.m. Women's NA	30	31				

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

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Interim Choir Director: Emilie Patton - eeyoreishappy@hotmail.com
Contemporary Music Leader: Tom Deans Fiegel - tdeans08@gmail.com
Sound/Technology: Jamie Rodemsky - jamier1263@gmail.com
Treasurer: Lynne Davies - finance@gsgsconcord.com
Financial Secretary: Vicki Smiglewski

Ministry Staff:

Mark Deniston, Sue Hertless, Jean Moore, Jon Moss, Laura Mott,
Victor Olmedo, Jim Olson, Ken Robinson, Linda Rodemsky, Herb Yonge

Congregational Council

President: Sue Hertless, Vice President: Victor Olmedo, Secretary: Laura Mott,
Member-at-Large: Ken Robinson

Executive Committee:

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Concord, CA