

October  
2011  
Volume 7,  
Issue 10

# Shepherd's Voice

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

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

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*From Pastor John...*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

**“People do not have to engage some holy quest to find God. They do not have to wait for God to reveal an interest in relationship. No, God does the seeking.”**

Such is the quote from the first article in The September 2011 issue of *The Lutheran Magazine*. The article is the first of a series of **“ten Bible stories that breathe life”** by Peter W. Marty who writes the regular column. The particular Bible story Marty refers to in this first article is Genesis 3:1-9.

A couple other quotes from the article:

**“The divine refusal to leave us completely to ourselves becomes clear in the very first question ever posed in the Bible. God says to Adam, ‘Where are you’ (Gen 3:9)?”**

**“So what’s missing in Adam’s life? God is absent as the center and source of this man’s self-understanding. There is a lost dimension to his soul.”**

**“Psychologist Rollo May said, ‘Humans are the strangest of all creatures because they run fastest when they have lost their way.’ Adam has lost his way. He is running fast from God.”**

**“So, if we become unavailable to God, how will we ever be available to our neighbor?”**

The title of this article quoted above is **“A God bent on relationship: Storyline of Bible is one of a radically different kind of faith. The Good News for us is that God always seeks us out, always seeks to be in relationship with us. God is always with us, and for us, all the way, no strings attached.**

Another great article later on in the magazine, one that brought tears to my eyes, is called **“Of urinals and**

**the least of these,”** by Walt Wangerin Jr. Wangerin writes of Christianity, he writes of love.

Here at Good Shepherd, God continues to invite us into relationships of love, with God, with one another, and **“with the least of these.”**

Having just celebrated a time with Dr. Mark Allan Powell from Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio, we move deeply into a time of reflecting on our stewardship. Powell reminded us that stewardship is about **“getting wet,”** about **“belonging to God,”** and **“duty and delight.”**

Our stewardship theme, **“Sharing Treasured Passions”** speaks to the spirit and gift of life God gives to each of us – gift/s passion/s unique to us that we may develop and celebrate to the glory of God. As we do, we are in tune with ourselves, with God, and with others.

So in anticipation, thank you for your partnership, your stewardship of life – time, talents, and treasures. As we move into a time of calling an Associate Pastor for Youth and Family ministry, securing a Choir Director, may God give to us the deep understanding that God seeks us out in love, and helps us to know the way of life and relationship.

In these days, we also begin a new era of Christian Education on Sunday mornings for children and adults! I look forward to your partnership in learning and growing in this awareness that God seeks us out in love. See you in worship, and also in our adult discussions – (*How Lutherans Interpret the Bible*) 10 am in the Fellowship Hall!

*God’s blessings and peace, Pastor John*

*From Our Council President...*

The 2011 Church Year is coming to a close on November 27<sup>th</sup>. I think it is important to look at the significant work that has been done here at Good Shepherd and then to look at the work that still needs to be done before the close of the year. Some of the work that **brought life and enjoyment to God's Kingdom** was Italian Night, Winter Nights, Vacation Bible School and the new Organist / Piano Director.

I am sure you would agree that while much has been done more still needs to be done before the year ends. It is these things that I would like to address.

At the Congregational Meeting you voiced the support and need for a full time Associate Pastor in order to create a vibrant youth group that could become the future leaders of the community. On September 19<sup>th</sup> the Council used the following criteria to select and approve the Associate Pastor Call Committee. The criteria was:

- 3 Adult lay females – Moms
- 2 Adult lay males – Dads
- 2 Youth active in the Church
- 1 Senior lay male / female who has had children and grandchildren attending as members of Good Shepherd.

These people approved by the Council are:

- Aimee Olmedo
- Carin Olson
- Geri Koehler
- Greg Buchholz
- Mark Deniston
- Jamie Rodemsky
- Amy Harris
- Rosemary Fassi

The next step in the process is the Call Committee and Council will meet with the

Bishop or Assistant to the Bishop for instructions on the process and steps that will need to be taken. Pastor John and the President of the Council will contact several churches who have recently hired an Associate Pastor to gain insights on the process and experience, then each will share with the Call Committee.

Once the Call Committee begins the interviews, we as a congregation will pray daily **for each of the members to hear God's** discernment for Good Shepherd as we wait for our new Associate Pastor for Youth and Family Ministries.

Additional excitement for Good Shepherd is Sunday School beginning October 2<sup>nd</sup> for the young children, youth, and adults. Laura Mott will be teaching the young children ages 3, 4, 5 and 6 year olds. Jim Olson and Jon Moss will be working with the youth until the new Associate Pastor arrives. Pastor John will be **teaching an adult class on "How Lutheran Interpret the Bible."** This material was written by Mark Allan Powell and contains video **material and a Leader's Guide.** This should be a good adult Bible study. I hope you will attend each Sunday from 10:00A.M. to 10:45 A.M.

By the time you get this, Leisure Lunch will have taken place and I am sure it was successful. We all so love our fellowship time, combine that with good food provided by the Ripleys, and how could it not be a good time?

Lastly, Laura and I are working on bringing in the New Church Year with enthusiasm and excitement as we wait for the Celebration of Birth of Our Lord and Savior. If you will like to join us in the planning and delivery please contact Laura in the office. I promise it will fill your soul with joy, and delight at a special time of the year...Christmas!!!!

Blessings to you and May they Come Often,

Sue Hertless, Council President

## Thanks and Recognitions

A big THANK YOU to ALL who gave so willingly to make the Dr. Mark Powell event a success. It could not have been done without your help!

Kay Bennett	Betty Jacobsen	Glen Stallen
Ali / Dolores Maatung	Susan Metzger	Steve
Barbara Carr	Laura Mott	Friends Feeding Friends
Dana / Mark Deniston	Bob Nielsen	Good Shepherd Quilt Ministry
Ross Deniston	Victor Olmedo	
Pam Dietz	Jim Olson	
Jeremy Flegel	Jamie Rodemsky	
Richard / David Hertless	Linda Rodemsky	

And the ladies who baked desserts:

Kay Bennett	Donna Flatness	Jeannette Kaul	Carin Olson	Nikki Robinson
Pam Dietz	Betty Jacobsen	Aimee Olmedo	Betty Peterson	

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Many thanks to Linda Rodemsky for setting up the Bounce House on Sunday, September 25 for Rally Sunday. Everyone had a great time!

Thank you from Sheila Huddleston for the many prayers, cards, good wishes and the beautiful prayer quilt received during her surgery and recovery.

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Congratulations to Tyler Deniston!

Tyler made San Francisco State University Athlete of the Week in September. He also had a personal best time, 25:21.5 in the 8K race finishing 14th place out of 234 runners at the Sundodger Invitational in Seattle, Washington and helping the Gators to their second straight team championship.

Congratulations to the Busch Family!

Baby Alexandra Lauren Busch was baptized on Sunday, September 25 at Good Shepherd. Blessings and best wishes to parents Scott and Kristina Busch and family.



## Birthdays

Michael Morgan	10/04
Victoria Neely	10/04
Travis Fiene	10/05
Nathaniel Mollwitz	10/06
Chrystian Porter	10/07
Betty Jacobsen	10/13
Louise Cohen	10/14
Teresa Fassl	10/14
Ione Bantly	10/15
Chase Kreutzinger	10/15
Laura Olson	10/17
Clayton Lee	10/18
Dana Livingston	10/18
Marcy Munson	10/20
Margie Greig	10/21
Faye Yarbrough	10/21
John Bantly	10/23
Dana Deniston	10/24
Donna Monroe	10/26
Diane Neely	10/26
Emilie Patton	10/26
LaVonne Busch	10/27
Ingrid Burns	10/28
Jamie Rodemsky	10/28
Helga Wardle	10/30
Greg Castle	10/31
Karen Maurer	10/31



## STEWARDSHIP 2012

**I would like to first apologize for the error in last month's letter. Our theme for this year is "Sharing Treasured Passions", not "Your Treasured Passions".**

You should by now have picked up your Stewardship packet and/or received it by mail. If you have not, please contact the office.

**As mentioned in last months' newsletter, the Stewardship Committee has** decided to pursue the concept of sharing by asking all of us to first look within ourselves. Our theme for this year is: *Sharing Treasured Passions*. We would like for you to look deep into your heart, find those passions that you treasure, and use them to grow and build a deeper relationship with God and others in our church and our community.

**Please remember to place both your "volunteer to pledge" and "financial pledge" cards in the enclosed envelope as well as your suggestion sheet, if you** have one, and bring it to church to be dedicated on Commitment Sunday, October 16th. If you cannot attend worship that Sunday, please mail or bring your filled envelope to the church office.

Good Shepherd looks forward to your wholehearted commitment to strengthening your relationships with God, other members of our church and the outside community.

Your Stewardship Committee:

Victor Olmedo, Chair  
Sue Hertless  
Susan Lorenzen  
Bob Ripley  
Vicki Smiglewski

Attention Seniors: Leisure Lunch has been reestablished!

We will meet in the Fellowship Hall during the last week in October. Please watch your Sunday bulletin for the exact date. Leisure Lunches are from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m.

Come and enjoy a simple lunch and conversation with friends. To sign up for the lunch, please call the church office and ask that your name be placed on the sign up sheet. That's all you have to do! You are welcome to bring a friend if you like. We look forward to seeing everyone in October!

RUTH CIRCLE BIBLE STUDY GROUP

We will continue our Bible Study on the Gospel of Mark on Thursday, October 20 at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All friends and women of Good Shepherd are welcome and encouraged to join us!

IS YOUR PLEDGE UP TO DATE?

By Herb Yonge

Our Finance Committee has suggested I write this note asking us to review our pledges to see if we are up- to-date. Is your pledge up-to-date?

You will note in the Financial Report as of August 31, 2011 that our pledges are below budget by \$5,712. It is true that in past years summer-time is sometimes a period when we are out of town and therefore we get behind.

You will also find in the Financial Report that although we had a \$4,035 surplus in August, payment of our property insurance premium of \$6,400 in September plus our ongoing expenses will most likely result in our expenses exceeding income when we close the books for the third quarter.

Please review your pledge and see if you are up to date. If not, would you catch up? If you are on target, thank you.

JOIN THE FUN AT THE FABULOUS BOUTIQUE

On Saturday, November 5 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Salem Lutheran Home at 2361 E. 29th Street in Oakland will be selling all kinds of nearly new items, including jewelry, collectibles, books, gifts, linens and bagged goods. Proceeds will benefit activities for the residents. Further info call (510) 534-3637.

Wedding Anniversaries

- Greg and Deborah Castle  
October 1, 1988
- John and Laura Mott  
October 5, 1985
- Jeremy and Diane Neely  
October 5, 2002
- Tyrone and Norma Sasaoka  
October 6, 1962
- Karl and Karin Bohling  
October 11, 1980
- J. Brad and Helga Wardle  
October 12, 1991
- Joel and Christine Harris  
October 14, 1990
- Carl and Betty Fraga  
October 16, 1965
- Bill and Pamela Dietz  
October 18, 1975
- Larry and Marcia Sander  
October 20, 1973
- Duane and Betty Peterson  
October 27, 1951



Christian Education

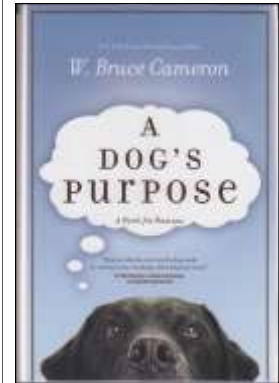
Christian Education for adults and children will begin between services at 10:00 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. on Sundays, beginning October 2. All are welcome and encouraged to join us. There is no deadline to sign-up your children. Call Laura in the office for further info.

GOOD SHEPHERD INCOME STATEMENT			
YEAR TO DATE AS OF August 31, 2011			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER (UNDER) BUDGET
<b>INCOME:</b>			
Pledges	\$ 118,320	\$124,032	\$ (5,712)
Other (Tower Rent, etc.)	94,445	104,411	(9,966)
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>212,765</b>	<b>\$228,443</b>	<b>(15,678)</b>
<b>LESS TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>(208,730)</b>	<b>(222,077)</b>	<b>13,347</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 4,035</b>	<b>\$ 6,366</b>	<b>\$ (2,331)</b>

## GOOD SHEPHERD BOOK CLUB

Join us on November 15 for *A Dog's Purpose: A Novel for Humans* by W. Bruce Cameron. This touching, engrossing, and funny tale helps us reflect on God's purpose in our own lives. The Kirkus Review called it, *Marley and Me* combined with *Tuesdays With Morrie*. Temple Grandin, New York Times bestselling author said, "I loved the book and I could not put it down. It really made me think about the purpose of life."

We'll be meeting to discuss this book in the Fireside room at 7:30 pm. We hope you will join us! All are welcome. Questions? Contact Donna Albrecht at [donna@albrechts.com](mailto:donna@albrechts.com)



## NEWS FROM OUR WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE

By Ingrid Burns

October arrives with autumnal foliage when our California climate permits; otherwise the color change may arrive later! At Good Shepherd activities burst into full swing. Sunday School will begin on October 2 and there will be a Blessing of the Animals outside during the second service at 11 a.m.

Stewardship Sunday will arrive on October 16 and Reformation Sunday on October 30, less than a month before we end the church year. All Saints Sunday will follow on November 6. Confirmation will be on either Reformation or All Saints Sunday.

Our new choir director may be hired by the time you read this, and we will once more delight to their music. In the meantime, our Bell Choir is rehearsing in preparation for its first performance, Margaret Halbig continues to contribute exquisite piano and organ music. We are a church gifted with musical talent for which we are very thankful.



Next Music and Worship Meeting: October 19 at 4:30 p.m.


## Cultural Competency, Why Does it Matter?

**It is said that "Every encounter between two people is a Cross Cultural experience."** In an effort to build a foundation for the Re-Emerging Multicultural Church, the Sierra Pacific Synod invites all people in all walks of life to attend this one day seminar at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on November 12 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

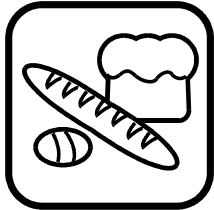
Pastors, lay leaders, staff, worship leaders, middle school and high school students and anyone **else interested in learning how to live with "the other" while working to build a multi-cultural church** is most welcome and encouraged to attend. Come and find out why it really does matter!

If you would like to volunteer to help with this one day conference, please call Laura in the office. We are asked to provide 10 volunteers to assist with assembling folders, working the registration table and other light duty activities. The cost is free if you volunteer or \$20/per person if 3 or more **from a congregation attend. We hope you'll consider attending this valuable Synod sponsored event.**


# October 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 9:00 a.m. DVLC Training (FH)
2 PET BLESSING 8:30 a.m. Worship (CH) 9:45 a.m. Refreshment (FH) 11:00 a.m. Worship /Outside 5:00 p.m. Hertless Small Group <b>6:00 p.m. Women's NA (FH)</b>	3	4	5 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	6 9:00 a.m. Senior Food Program 2:00p.m. Finance Meeting (FH) 6:00 p.m. Evangelism (Office) 7:00 p.m. Prop./Long Range (FH) 7:00 p.m. Robinson Small Group (Robinson Home)	7	8 10:00 a.m. Bereavement (FR)
9 8:30 a.m. Worship (CH) 9:45 a.m. Refreshment (FH) 11:00 a.m. Worship (CH) 5:00 p.m. Hertless Small Group <b>6:00 p.m. Women's NA (FH)</b>	10 Columbus Day 7:00 P.M. Council (FH)	11	12 9:30 a.m. Quilting (FH) 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	13 10 a.m. DVLC (FH) 7:00 p.m. Robinson Small Group (Robinson Home)	14	15 9:30 a.m. Friends Feeding Friends (FH)
16 Stewardship Sunday 8:30 a.m. Worship (CH) 9:45 a.m. Refreshment (FH) 11:00 a.m. Worship (CH) 5:00 p.m. Hertless Small Group <b>6:00 p.m. Women's NA (FH)</b>	17	18	19 3:00 p.m. Hymn Selection Committee 4:30 p.m. Worship and Music Meeting (FH) 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	20 9:00 a.m. Senior Food Program (FH) Formerly Brown Bag 10:00 Ruth Circle (FH)(FR) 7:00 p.m. Robinson Small Group (Robinson Home) NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DUE	21	22
23/30 Reformation 10/30 8:30 a.m. Worship (CH) 9:45 a.m. Refreshment (FH) 9:45 a.m. Blood Pressure (FR) 11:00 a.m. Worship (CH) 5:00 p.m. Hertless Small Group <b>6:00 p.m. Women's NA (FH)</b>	24/31 	25	26 9:30 a.m. Quilting (FH) 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	27 7:00 p.m. Robinson Small Group (Robinson Home)	28	29 9:00 a.m. Council Retreat (Off site) 2PM Peterson Anniversary (FH)

# 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 the needy in our county.**

We served 117 meals at our September shelter luncheon, a meal of ham & cheese sandwiches, broccoli salad, green salad, hard boiled eggs, chips and brownies. One of our shelter friends ate 4 servings of broccoli salad!! We want to thank New Life Church for their donations, and for their help with preparation and service. Thank you to all who helped move furniture, and who helped donate household furnishings, making our ministry possible. We now joke that Friends Furnishing Friends is busier than Friends Feeding Friends!

**The next time we meet will be on Saturday, October 15. We'll be serving chicken enchiladas, pinto beans, green salad, broccoli salad, fresh fruit, drinks, and dessert. If you would like to help prepare lunch, sort donations, pack hygiene kits and "food for later" bags, meet us at Good Shepherd at 9:30 a.m. Come join us, and invite a friend to share in a fun morning.**

If you can help with groceries for the October luncheon, we will need:  
 Boneless chicken • **grated cheese** • **red grapes** • **corn tortillas** • **enchilada sauce** • **fresh fruit** • **broccoli crowns** • **any desserts**  
**bottled water** • **dried or canned pinto beans**

**There's an on-going need for:**  
 Linens/towels • pots & pans • dressers and end tables • microwave ovens • eating utensils • **groceries** • laundry soap • cooking utensils • lamps • travel size hygiene items

**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** • **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 of 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, 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 October 2, 2011 - October 30, 2011

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.
10/02	8:30	—	Ken and Nikki Robinson	Kristi Buchholz	Sam Buchholz	Ross Deniston	Jan Harman, Pam Dietz, Willajean Rogelstad, Linda Mahloch	Kay Bennett	Sue Hertless, V. Smiglewski, Gary & Linda Mahloch	Jamie Rodemsky	Ken & Nikki Robinson	Jon and Heidi Moss	Susan Lorenzen, Carin Olson	Linda Rodemsky
	11:00		Linda Rodemsky, Sherry Chaplin	Sherry Chaplin				Donna Abeyta	Rick Koehler					
10/09	8:30	—	Bill Dietz,	Susan Lorenzen	Austin Fiene	Travis Fiene	Laura Carlson, Vicki Smiglewski, Elizabeth and Emily Kich, Sue Hertless, Betty Chambers	Wilma Seppala and Ione Bantly	Ron & Mary Figueroa, Tom Danielson, Susan Lorenzen	Jamie Rodemsky		Ron and Kathy Price	Duane Peterson, Greg Buchholz	Jim Olson
	11:00		Rick Koehler, Sherry Chaplin	Rosemary Fassl				Victor and Aimee Olmedo	Linda Rodemsky					
10/16	9:30	Bill Dietz	Sue Hertless, Mike Albrecht	Donna Albrecht	Sam Buchholz	Ryan Kich	Ione Bantly, Karen Vetterli, Connie Summers, Karen Bohling	Kurt and Jan Harman	Doug & Reyanne Freeman, Jon and Heidi Moss	Jamie Rodemsky	Duane Peterson	Gary and Linda Mahloch	Herb Yonge, Joe Carlson	Ken Robinson
			Sherry Chaplin, Linda Rodemsky	Sherry Chaplin				Nancy Knapp	Connie Summers					
10/23	8:30	—	Duane Peterson, Candace Bradley	Candace Bradley	Doug Olson	Ross Deniston	Dottie Davis, Donna Abeyta, Leone McCullough, Christy Dankowski, Nancy Knapp	Richard and Laura Olson	Jim & Carin Olson, Kathy Harless, Paul Rusch	Jamie Rodemsky		Greg and Kristi Buchholz	Joe Carlson, Paul Rusch	Open
	11:00		Linda Rodemsky, Sherry Chaplin	Linda Rodemsky				Alden Johnson	Rick Koehler					
10/30	8:30	Duane Peterson	Ken and Nikki Robinson	Kristi Buchholz	Sam Buchholz	Travis Fiene	Kathy Price, Elise Weish, Heidi Moss	Ron and Kathy Price	Jon & Heidi Moss, Emily Kich, V. Smiglewski	Jamie Rodemsky	Ken & Nikki Robinson	Doug and Reyanne Freeman	Jan Carzino, Bob Ripley	Sue Hertless
	11:00		Rick Koehler, Connie Summers	Rosemary Fassl				Connie Summers	Linda Rodemsky					

*Good Shepherd Lutheran Church*  
*4000 Clayton Road*  
*Concord, CA 94521*

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

Senior Pastor: John Ridenour - pastorjohnr@gmail.com  
Office Administrator: Laura Mott - lauramott@gscconcord.com  
Organist/Pianist and Bell Choir Director: Margaret Halbig  
Contemporary Music Leader: Tom Deans Fiegel - tdeans08@gmail.com  
Sound/Technology: Jamie Rodemsky - jamier1263@gmail.com  
Treasurer: Lynne Davies - finance@gscconcord.com  
Back Up Treasurer: Vicki Smiglewski  
Financial Secretary: Bob Ripley - ripleys4@astound.net

*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:*

*Concord, CA*

*Good Shepherd Lutheran Church*