

July  
2011  
Volume 7,  
Issue 7

# 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,

Summer has finally arrived with some warm weather, and I hope you are all well and enjoying the days! Here at Good Shepherd, we are busy with planning and looking at our ministry and activity. A recent Council retreat the end of June surfaced a number of goals that Council members are looking to implement.

**One of the areas we're looking at is our fall** schedule. Please mark your calendars for a special event coming up soon:

July 17	9:30 AM	One Worship Service
	10:45 AM	Conversation regarding Fall Schedule

A Task Force / Planning group is developing an opportunity for all to gather for worship, then refreshment and conversation about fall opportunities with respect to our Fall Worship Services and Christian Education activities.

I hope you will be able to join us as we explore what God is calling us to in the near future as we seek to provide ministry in this and other areas of our life together.

Congregations (of which we are one of many, and yet very important) are encouraged and indeed called to be centers of evangelical mission – living out a life of ministry and activity that serves the community and one another. Of course to do that we have to be authentic to who we are as the body of Christ in this place.

While we want to plan activities and ministry that **we enjoy, a variety of recent articles and information I've** been reading point out how the Christian Church has become very consumer-oriented. When our focus is on what we like/want as individuals or as a body, we can **easily miss to what God's Spirit may be leading us**

– new insights, new growth opportunities, renewed and re-energized faith development.

When we worship, a song or hymn might not be one that we particularly like or touches our lives and spirits, yet it might be one that speaks to the heart of another. The same goes for any other parts of the worship services, or other ministry activities.

The question then becomes in what ways might we welcome different experiences of worship and ministry activities for the sake of the body – both those who already belong, and those who may be seeking some hope and comfort in their lives (the grace and mercy of God).

Worship is the time God promises to encounter us in Word and Sacrament. Our ministry of Christian Education and service is the time we have to encourage faith, life, service to one another and the community at large. God indeed calls us to something larger than ourselves – for the sake of others.

How might we experience joy as we provide experiences of worship and ministry that touches the lives of others? God has a great Word to share with us and others together, with words of words of hope, **comfort, and new life. That's the process of God's call to "make disciples" (disciples = life long learners of God)** – of us and others.

I look forward to seeing you throughout these warm days of summer. I especially look forward to seeing you at our worship and conversation on July 17 (again one service at 9:30 AM, followed by conversation). May God continue to warm your hearts with the surprising and graceful love of Jesus!

*In Christ, Pastor John*

*From Our Council President...*

Where has the year gone? We are half way through the year, summer is here and traditionally it is a time to relax, rest, regroup, and gain our bearings as we get ready for new beginnings in the fall. Our Church Council thought a little differently. We thought it was time to assess where we are and determine where we want to go. As a Council we wanted to determine what can be accomplished by the end of 2011. Therefore, we scheduled a Council Retreat on June 25, 2011. The event was off site from Good Shepherd. We stepped away from our usual surroundings, and placed ourselves in a different space. I believe it helps us to see things differently and can generate new thoughts. The retreat was held at Saint Matthew Lutheran Church in Walnut Creek.

The Council worked hard, and I believe was pleased with what was accomplished in those four precious hours. We prayed, we sang (the best we could without a choir) and I am sure God was delighted we were praying **and singing to His Glory, "Take, Oh Take Me As I Am."**

We looked at the work that had been done by the Legacy Groups in 2008 along with the Mid-Summer Nights Dreaming **people in 2009 and asked ourselves "what thoughts come to mind about what has been done?" We talked about how many short term goals had been completed.** And then we reviewed the medium and long term goals. Some need more specificity, clarity, and agreement with the congregation about where we want to go as a church!

The Council Members came to the **retreat ready to share each committee's** short term goals to be completed by the end of 2011. Linda Rodemsky recorded the information. Thank you, Linda. The goals

were then placed on the calendar to track and follow to completion.

We discussed the need for another Retreat before the end of the year, in order to begin the planning for 2012. The calendar was marked for October 29, 2011. Within a month after the Congregational Meeting in 2012 we will schedule a Retreat in order to welcome new Council Members, to clarify and strengthen Council Member Roles, understand the goals set and to establish a timeline to achieve the goals. I hope you, like the Council, can see we are working to bring about change, not just any change but change that will build us up individually and collectively as the Body of Christ.

The notes and calendar have been prepared and are available to you at: <http://gsconcord.com/> or copies of our work can be found in the Narthex, and in Fellowship Hall on the windows. When you look at the calendar for July notice we have two events taking place on July 17<sup>th</sup>. Worship and Music along with Christian Education will hold a meeting in Fellowship Hall starting at 10:45 am to discuss our Fall Schedule for Worship and Sunday School for children and adults. At 2:00 pm, there will be a Youth Bowling Event at Clayton Bowl at 2:00 pm. This will be an intergenerational gathering. All are welcome. We could have the Youth against the Adults. Winner buys Pizza afterwards!!!! Some of us will need to practice. Also notice the Vacation Bible School on July 25-29. The theme is: Grow in Faith, Have Fun, and Change the World. Laura Mott is organizing the volunteer workers who are Wilma Seppala, Pam Dietz, Kay Bennett, Ingrid Burns, and Sue Hertless. The garden has been planted with lettuce, strawberries, zucchini and pumpkins by the children. The lettuce is ready for harvest and

From Our Council President  
Continued from Page 2

We made a garden salad with the lettuce at the Council Retreat. It was delicious, refreshing, and fresh.

A big take away from the Council Retreat is we need to spend more time getting to **know each other and "encourage one another and build one another up.** Be at peace among ourselves, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient. See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do

good to one another and to everyone. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain **from every form of evil."**

– 1 Thessalonians 5:11

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*Thanks and Recognitions*

At the June 13, 2011 Council Meeting we recognized:

Linda Mahloch for her many years of service to the Good Shepherd Altar Guild and her work as Altar Guild Chairperson.

Marcy Munson for her years of dedication as leader of the Ebenezer group at Good Shepherd.

All who worked tirelessly to present the Memorial Luncheon for the Maurer Family after the Memorial Service for Jerry Maurer.

Laura Carlson named Volunteer of the Year for her 1,016 hours of service to the Clayton Library. Laura began working for the library in October 1999 shelving books.

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Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you so much for the best wishes, cards, cake and quilt in celebration of my 25th Anniversary of Ordination. That was a great blessing and expression of care. Blessings to you all and thank you very much!

– In Christ, Pastor John

***Looking for some guidance for life's challenging journeys?***

Life is beautiful. But it also can be unpredictable, challenging, and difficult. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has resources that can help you learn how to cope — or help a loved one or neighbor weather a troubled time.

<http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Life-Transitions.aspx>

**Birthdays**

Taylor Bradley	7/1
Arlene Dankowski	7/2
David Batchelder	7/10
Phyllis Stripe	7/10
Jim Carson	7/11
Kelly Schaefer	7/11
Mickey Kuehner	7/13
Joann Nelson	7/14
Betty Fraga	7/15
Sarah Mollwitz	7/15
Norma Sasaoka	7/15
Nicholas Mitchell	7/16
Larry Sander	7/16
Regis Filbert	7/17
Ryan Filibert	7/17
Lucillerose Fassl-Lemons	7/21
Amy Harris	7/22
Donna Abeyta	7/23
Mike Albrecht	7/24
Joan Maugeri	7/25
Hub Erickson	7/26
Elizabeth Griffis	7/26
Ian Livingston	7/26
Donna Bauders	7/27
Sue Hertless	7/28
Marcia Sander	7/29

**LUTHERAN DAY with the****Oakland A's**

Join us on

**Saturday August 13<sup>th</sup> 1:05 PM****A's vs Texas Rangers**

For our special group:

**PREGAME TAILGATE PARTY**

at 11:30 AM

Game Snacks Provided by:

**Contra Costa Chapter of Thrivent****Financial for Lutherans**

Seats in Field Level Section

**Cost \$25/ticket**

Bring your family and friends

Reserve by calling Laura in the  
Church Office no later than  
July 15th to sit as a group.

**GOOD SHEPHERD'S BOOK CLUB READING**

MEMORY KEEPERS DAUGHTER for July Gathering!

"Bookmarks Magazine's" review of Kim Edward's best-selling novel, *Memory Keepers Daughter* states, "Critics roundly applaud Kim Edwards' debut novel, *The Memory Keeper's Daughter*, which plays into one of our largest fears: What happens when a baby is born with Down syndrome? Edwards, an award-winning short-story writer, extends this question even further: What happens if this baby somehow "disappears" without the mother's knowledge? *The Memory Keeper's Daughter* explores deception, family secrets, the influence of the past on the present, and our tendency to rationalize poor decisions".

▶▶▶▶ Join us in the Fireside Room on July 19 at 7:30 p.m.

Newcomers are always welcome!

Questions? Contact Donna Albrecht, donna@albrechts.com

**Wedding Anniversaries**

Milton and Eldora Swenson  
July 4, 1942

Larry and Dianne Smith  
July 6, 1980

Dana and Janine Livingston  
July 28, 1987

Greg and Kristi Buchholz  
July 31, 1993



**GOOD SHEPHERD INCOME STATEMENT  
YEAR TO DATE AS OF MAY 31, 2011**

	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER (UNDER) BUDGET
<b>INCOME:</b>			
Pledges	\$ 80,240	\$77,520	\$ 2,720
Other (Tower Rent, etc.)	59,579	65,257	(5,678)
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>139,819</b>	<b>\$142,777</b>	<b>(2,958)</b>
<b>LESS TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>(127,691)</b>	<b>(130,707)</b>	<b>3,016</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$12,128</b>	<b>\$ 12,070</b>	<b>\$ 58</b>

**NEWS FROM OUR WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE**

By Ingrid Burns



Summer vacation arrives and families "shift gears" to a relaxed mode in keeping with warmer weather. We look forward to outdoor worship and fellowship. We admire our gardens and appreciate the beauty and nourishment provided by them. Trips and vacations provide us with new settings and sights.

Yet, we do not forget the environment of our sanctuary, the sights and sounds that await us in the coming months. Most of all we remember the parables of Jesus as an example of how to be his disciples in the world. Our yoke is light when shared with Jesus, when we gather to be refreshed by Word, water, and meal.

# Open Hearts...Open Arms

Celebrating Community

Women of the ELCA - Sierra Pacific Synod

October 28-30, 2011

All Women of the ELCA are joyfully invited to attend the 10th Biennial Convention. The convention will be held at Mission d'Oro on Highway 5 in Santa Nella, CA, October 28-30, 2011. The theme is "Open Hearts, Open Arms" *But if we walk in the light, God being the light, we also experience a shared life with one another.* – 1Jn 1:7a (The Message).

There will be Worship times, Workshops, Fellowship, Sharing and Music. The Keynote speaker will be Inez Torres-Davis and the Bible Study will be led by Karen Erickson. Registration is \$125.00 and includes four meals. Registration deadline is September 30. Early Bird Registration Deadline is August 1 and enters your name in a drawing for special gifts!

If you are interested in attending please see Donna Monroe. This will be a wonderful opportunity for Lutheran women to connect with old friends and make new friends, as we open our hearts and arms to each other. For more information check out: <http://spselca.org>. Follow the "Partners" link to "Women of ELCA".



## Cemetery Plot Available for Purchase

By Bob Ripley

Council has approved selling a cemetery plot that had been donated to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, giving the congregation the first option to purchase the plot before it is offered elsewhere.

The plot is located in Skyview Cemetery, Garden of Good Shepherd in Vallejo. For additional information, please contact Bob Ripley at (925) 827-9717 or by email at: [ripleys4@astound.net](mailto:ripleys4@astound.net)

## You Can Change a Life!

Encouragement, Guidance, Opportunity and Enjoyment await you when you join...

### The Diablo Valley Literacy Tutors

A one-to-one volunteer experience makes a tremendous difference in the lives of people who come here from other countries. Just one or two hours a week can change a life forever.

Consider attending our next training at Good Shepherd on 9/24, 9/27 and 10/01/2011. You must attend all 3 classes. Call us for more info at 925.685.3881 or [DVLC@juno.com](mailto:DVLC@juno.com).



How does a garden grow? You may recall on a windy spring morning in May, our young gardeners began the planting of our VBS summer garden. On the 4th of July as the weather turned to hot summer days, we began harvesting our first crop of lettuce! We hope you enjoy these wonderful pictures.

Our Vacation Bible Camp begins July 25 through July 29 - 9AM to Noon. Just \$5.00 for the week. **THE LAST DAY TO REGISTER IS JULY 18.**

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May 22, 2011, planting our first crop!

I mage Removed

July 4, 2011, our first harvest!

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## An Evening with Dr. Mark Allan Powell

Saturday, September 17, 2011 • 5:00 P.M. with dinner served at 6:30  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 4000 Clayton Road Concord, CA

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Join us for an evening of faith as we introduce Dr. Mark Allan Powell, an internationally known theologian and bible scholar. Dr. Powell has served as a Parish Pastor and Campus Pastor and is currently Professor of New Testament at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio. He is author of over 25 books and 100 published articles on Theology and the Bible. Dr. Powell was the Keynote Speaker at the May 2011 Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly.

During the program from 5:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m., Dr. Powell will be presenting a talk on Stewardship titled, **“Hearts and Treasures.”** **Dr. Powell will also** be preaching at our 9:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday morning in the Sanctuary.

Program tickets: \$10.00 per person

Program and Dinner tickets: \$20.00 per person

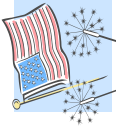
All are welcome to join us on Sunday morning

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is located at 4000 Clayton Road in Concord.

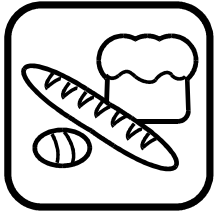
There will be directed parking in the church parking lots. To purchase tickets for the program, the dinner or both, please call the church office at 925-682-8410; leave a message if necessary.

We invite the community to hear this engaging and enlightening speaker.

# JULY 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 8:30 a.m. Worship (CH) 9:45 a.m. Refreshment (FH) 11:00 a.m. Worship (CH) <b>6:00 p.m. Women's NA (FH)</b>	4 Independence Day 	5 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	6 9 a.m. Senior Food Program (FH) Formerly Brown Bag 10 a.m. DVLC (FH) 2:00 p.m. Finance (FH) 6:00 p.m. Evangelism (office) 7:00 p.m. Property (FH)	7 9 a.m. Senior Food Program (FH) Formerly Brown Bag 10 a.m. DVLC (FH) 2:00 p.m. Finance (FH) 6:00 p.m. Evangelism (office) 7:00 p.m. Property (FH)	8 10:00 a.m. Bereavement (FR)	9 10:00 a.m. Bereavement (FR)
10 8:30 a.m. Worship (CH) 9:45 a.m. Refreshment (FH) 11:00 a.m. Worship (CH) 5:00 p.m. Hertless Group <b>6:00 p.m. Women's NA (FH)</b>	11 6:00 p.m. Executive Committee (FH)	12 9:30 a.m. Quilters (FH) 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	13 9:30 a.m. Quilters (FH) 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	14 3:00 p.m. Worship/Music (FH)	15 9:30 a.m. Friends Feeding Friends (FH)	16 9:30 a.m. Friends Feeding Friends (FH)
17 SPECIAL SUNDAY 9:30 a.m. One Service (CH) 10:45 Congregation Mtg. (FH) 5:00 p.m. Hertless Group <b>6:00 p.m. Women's NA (FH)</b>	18 2:00 p.m. Hymn Selection (Office)	19 4:30 p.m. Christian Education (Office) 7:30 P.M. Book Club (FR)	20 2:00 p.m. Memorial Committee (FH) 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	21 9:00 a.m. Senior Food Program (FH) Formerly Brown Bag 7:00 p.m. AT&T Neighborhood Meeting (FH)	22 Newsletter → AUG ARTICLES DUE TODAY!	23
24/31 8:30 a.m. Worship (CH) 9:45 a.m. Refreshment (FH) 11:00 a.m. Worship (CH) 5:00 p.m. Hertless Group <b>6:00 p.m. Women's NA (FH)</b>	25 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting (FH)	26 VACATION BIBLE CAMP — 9:00 AM TO NOON	27 9:30 a.m. Quilters (FH) 7:00 p.m. NA (FH)	28 Fellowship Hall and Outdoor Area	29	30

# Friends Feeding Friends



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

At our June luncheon, we served 131 hot meals at the North Concord shelter: hot dogs, green salad, broccoli salad, hard boiled eggs, chips, fresh fruit, chocolate cake, and drinks. Special **'thanks'** to **Tabernacle school for the donation of hundreds of earthquake kits** filled with shelf-stable foods, and also to New Life Church for volunteering and providing clothing donations. Thank you to all who help us so faithfully with donations of groceries and household furnishings, making our ministry possible.

**The next time we meet will be on Saturday, July 16. We'll be serving deli sandwiches, salad, fresh fruit, drinks, and dessert at the North Concord Shelter.** 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 July luncheon we will need:

- |                 |                     |               |
|-----------------|---------------------|---------------|
| cold cuts       | fresh fruit/veggies | bottled water |
| sliced cheese   | single serve juices | eggs          |
| broccoli crowns | grapes              | lettuce       |

**There's an on-going need for:**

- |                           |                 |               |
|---------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| hats & sunscreen          | shorts/t-shirts | linens/towels |
| pots & pans               | eating utensils | groceries     |
| cooking utensils          | flip flops      | laundry soap  |
| 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](mailto: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  
that needs help?

Call the Homeless  
Hotlines 800-799-  
6599 and 800-808-  
6444, or the Bay  
Area Rescue  
Mission 510-215-  
4868

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  
925-682-8410

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

Loaves & Fishes  
catering kitchen:

510 Garcia Ave.,  
Suite H  
Pittsburg, CA

# Worship Assistants July 10 - August 7

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.
7/10	8:30	Magic Jaquez	Bill Dietz Candace Bradley	Candace Bradley	Sam Buchholz	Doug Olson	Dottie Davis, Donna Abeyta, Leone McCullough, Christy Dankowski, Nancy Knapp	Larry and Marcia Sander	Jim and Carin Olson Greg Buchholz, Vicki Smiglewski	Jamie Rodemsky		Greg and Kristi Buchholz	Duane Peterson and Greg Buchholz	Sue Hertless
	11:00		Sherry Chaplin Linda Rodemsky	Sherry Chaplin				Alden Johnson	Rick Koehler					
7/17	9:30	Duane Peterson	Mike Albrecht Bill Dietz	Donna Albrecht	Austin Fiene	Travis Fiene	Kathy Price, Eise Welsh, Heidi Moss	Kay Bennett	Sue Hertless, Ron Figueroa, Jon and Heidi Moss	Jamie Rodemsky	Duane Peterson	Special Service	Reyanne Freeman and Duane Peterson	Linda Rodemsky
	—													
7/24	8:30	Susan Ripley	Ken & Nikki Robinson	Ingrid Burns	Chrystian Porter	Nicholys Porter	Jan Harmon, Pam Dietz, Willajean Rogelstad, Linda Mahloch	Wilma Seppala and Lone Bantly	Gary and Linda Mahloch, Paul Rusch, Kathy Harless	Jamie Rodemsky		Jon and Heidi Moss	Joe Carlson and Paul Rusch	Jean Moore
	11:00		Linda Rodemsky Connie Summers	Rosemary Fassl				Rosemary Fassl	Rick Koehler					
7/31	8:30	Bill Dietz	Sue Hertless Duane Peterson	Susan Ripley	Sam Buchholz	Issac Stice	Laura Carlson, Vicki Smiglewski, Elizabeth & Emily Kich, Sue Hertless and Betty Chambers	Kurt and Jan Harman	V. Smiglewski, G. Buchholz Ron and Mary Figueroa	Jamie Rodemsky		Ron and Kathy Price	Joe Carlson and Paul Rusch	Mark Deniston
	11:00		Sherry Chaplin Linda Rodemsky	Linda Rodemsky				Elaine Stephenson	Connie Summers					
8/07	8:30	Magic Jaquez	Ken & Nikki Robinson	Pam Dietz	Doug Olson	Ross Deniston	Ione Bantly, Karen Vetterli, Connie Summers, Karen Bohling	Richard and Laura Olson	Doug and Reyanne Freeman, Jim and Carin Olson	Jamie Rodemsky	Ken & Nikki Robinson	Linda and Gary Mahloch	Karen Maurer and Jan Carzino	Herb Yonge
	11:00		Sherry Chaplin Rosemary Fassl	Sherry Chaplin				Donna Abeyta	Rick Koehler					

*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  
Interim Organist: Lynne Davies  
Contemporary Music Leader: Tom Deans Flegel - tdeans08@gmail.com  
Sound/Technology: Jamie Rodemsky - jamier1263@gmail.com  
Treasurer: Lynne Davies - finance@gscconcord.com  
Financial Secretary: Bob Ripley - ripleys4@astound.net  
Office Administrator: Laura Mott - lauramott@gscconcord.com

*Ministry Staff:*

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

*Congregational Council*

President: Sue Hertless, Vice President: Victor Olmedo, Secretary: Laura Mott,  
Member-at-Large: Susan Ripley

*Executive Committee:*

*Concord, CA*

*Good Shepherd Lutheran Church*