

June
2011
Volume 7,
Issue 6

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

From Pastor John...

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Well the world didn't end after all. I didn't think it would, but that guy's "prediction" sure created quite a stir, and his radio station is reportedly worth over \$100 million. Sounds like a lot of people are looking for some kind of hope, or peace, or perhaps some kind of exit strategy. What might we learn from this? A couple things come to mind:

Clearly interpreting the Bible isn't a matter of one's opinion. Certainly we can read the Bible devotionally, yet we also must read it with a view to its literary and historical context.

A "leader" who isn't accountable to a larger church isn't leading a church at all, but rather a group that's approaching (if not already) a cult. One must be very careful.

All of this makes our work of communicating the **gospel of God's grace and mercy even more challenging in today's world. Yet God continues to** call us into a community of people where we can learn and grow – where we can ask questions and explore **God's Word and God's world** – where we can serve others in love. Build community, nurture faith, and serve others.

The Bible and our Easter faith teaches salvation – eternal life with God – is a free gift. Absolutely free! God in Jesus invites you into relationship and in this relationship, God, in Jesus, and through the Holy Spirit, walks with you, empowers you to live your life in peace and with joy, with hope, despite whatever **challenging circumstances come your way. That's the** tough part – to trust, to have hope, to have peace in the face of difficult circumstances, in the face of the consequences of unhealthy decisions and choices we might have made / will make.

So God continues to call us to build community, to nurture faith, to serve one another. I look forward to celebrating this faith, this hope, this peace we have. The Holy Spirit will be with us (we celebrate Pentecost on June 12)! When we live in relationship **with the living God of eternity, we don't have to fear** today or tomorrow, because eternity is assured.

Yes, Jesus is coming again, and we do not know **when, even Jesus doesn't (check the gospels – try** Mark 13)! When we live in relationship, we live in freedom, and joy. We live to build community, nurture faith, serve others. Thanks be to God!

Blessings in Christ,
Pastor John

June 12 – Pentecost Sunday!
Celebrate God's gift to you, to the church,
to the world. Red is the color of the day!

Recognition of Graduates

Church members who are graduating from high school, university, or technical schools, even middle schools – please contact the church office – **we'd like to recognize you in** worship on June 12. Be sure to come and worship with us!

From Our Council President...

Have you asked the question “I wonder what Council is doing?” In this article I would like to share with you some of the work that has been done. Let me start with what will seem like bad news we had 3 people leave Council. However, we have had 2 people join Council and they are: Victor Olmedo, who has accepted both Stewardship and the position of Vice President. I am grateful and honored to have Victor as a member of the Council. The second person is equally qualified and a pleasure to work with, Mark Deniston. Mark has accepted the position of Youth Committee Chair. Mark has worked with the youth in the past and comes with a lot of experience. We welcome Mark as the latest member of Council. We have one opening still vacant and expect it to be filled in June. More about that in the next article as the appointment needs to be approved by Council. The expectation is the Council will have a full complement of members in June. Thanks Be to God!

The newly formed Technology Committee includes Lynne Davies, John Mott, Susan Ripley and Jamie Rodemsky. They are looking at many things to improve communications here at the church like Member Connect, a computer back-up system, anti-virus protection, an office telephone system and billing, and adequate hearing devices for the sanctuary. We have the right people on the team.

The faithful and diligent Finance Committee reports monthly our financial standing. They point out areas of concern like the Church Register needs to be brought up to date. This affects the number of members for the church. We have placed a stake in the ground to have the registry up to date by October. Additionally, the Committee is looking closely at cash flow and investment opportunities and will be making a recommendation in June or July to the Council. They recently conducted a yearly audit and found no major discrepancies.

The Council agreed we would do Vacation Bible Camp this year and at the first meeting we

had 10 volunteers who committed to sharing **their gifts and talents to bring about “The Parable of the Sower.** Renew, change the world, and have fun. Did you notice the 4 planter boxes on the lower level? And, on May 22nd the children planted their crop and flowers in the boxes. They should be ready to harvest during Vacation Bible Camp. Laura Mott is heading up this effort and she definitely is the right person to be leading us. The cost for each child to attend will be \$5.00 and the sign should go up advertising Vacation Bible Camp some time next week. So be on the watch.

We are working hard to get a Youth Program going and we will have much more to report next month. I am determined not to give **up, and not to give in, and with God's help we will** find a way for the youth to be a vibrant part of Good Shepherd in an active, fun, and Christ centered way.

We have scheduled a Council Retreat for June 25th to be held at Saint Matthews. The purpose is to identify the goals we want to achieve in 2011, lay out a plan to achieve these goals and then follow the plan. Additionally, we will begin to sketch a path to follow for 2012. The Council has committed the time to do this necessary work. We will share more about the outcome of this day soon.

Lastly, on June 26th we have planned an informational meeting for the congregation. It will be a time to hear from your Council. Last year this worked well and information seemed to flow from you to the Council and from the Council to you. The meeting will be held between services. It will be a time for us to share more information with you and a time for you to ask questions of us. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the meeting in Fellowship Hall starting at 10:00 until 10:45 a.m.

Blessings to you and may they come often,

Sue Hertless
Council President 2011

Thanks and Recognitions

At the May 9, 2011 Council Meeting we recognized:

Joe Carlson and Paul Rusch were recognized and thanked for their work inspecting and repairing the outdoor sprinkler system.

Jim Olson, Doug Olson, Linda Rodemsky, Jamie Rodemsky, Dana Deniston and Aimee Olmedo were recognized and thanked for building our planters and providing and moving the soil from the Olmedo backyard and Ace Hardware.

Lynne Davies was recognized and thanked for the many hours she gives as a volunteer to Good Shepherd as our Treasurer.

BELL CHOIR BAKE SALE **Thank You!**

Our Mother's Day Bake Sale was very successful. Your support raised approximately \$337.00. We have a wish list of useful items from which to choose. Perhaps we will purchase a table for all the bells you have purchased or maybe music risers and lights so we can better see our music!

The Bell Choir will play once more in June before our summer break. If you are interested in playing bells we would love to have you when we begin rehearsals in September. A little bit of previous music experience would be helpful, but we are a group willing to teach you all that we know about bell ringing. Thanks again!

From Jan Harmon –

I wish to thank everyone for their prayers and the many cards that I received after my surgery. Also, for the food that was brought to our home. It was all greatly appreciated.

From John and Laura Mott –

We would both like to take this opportunity to thank the congregation for allowing us the privilege of representing Good Shepherd as your Voting Lay Members at the recent 2011 Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly. It was a wonderful experience for us both. The speakers were inspiring and faith filled and the experience of being a part of the voting process was something we took seriously as we did our best to represent our congregation. It is a joy to be part of a faith that believes each of us has an important contribution in the shaping of the direction of our congregation and the larger church body! Thank you all very much for a weekend we will long remember.

*Because of Jesus' love, we are freed to serve our neighbors in love.
Find out what Jesus' death and resurrection means for the world. elca.org*

Birthdays

Lucas Mitchell	6/03
Emily Rodemsky	6/04
Janet Carzino	6/09
Adam Castle	6/13
Taylor Setchell	6/13
Joe Carlson	6/14
Laura Mott	6/14
Judy Dunn	6/17
Landon Poston	6/17
Isaac Stice	6/18
Joy Deniston	6/20
Reyanne Freeman	6/20
Magic Jaquez	6/20
Jean Moore	6/20
Jacqueline Fassl	6/21
Jack Mecklenburg	6/22
Chloe Setchell	6/22
Dominick Christiana	6/24
Tracy Hein	6/24
Cynthia Cuthbertson	6/25
Daven Stelter	6/27
Ryan Taylor	6/28
Donnie Wilson	6/28



MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

By Pam Dietz

The Memorial Committee is up and running having had our first meeting on May 28th. Members are Kathy Price, Pam Dietz, Laura Mott, Pastor John and Herb Yonge.

We have reviewed the Memorial Policy and assigned responsibilities.

One of our responsibilities is to prepare a list of items for the Council to consider as to the use of Memorial funds. Committees will be asked to submit their wish lists to the Memorial Committee for consideration. The Committee will compile a list and present it at the July Council meeting for approval.

If you have any questions concerning the committee you may contact any of the members.

NEWS FROM OUR WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE

By Ingrid Burns

Images of wind and fire usher in this culmination of the Easter season. We are to carry on the work of creating the kingdom. The Spirit blows into us and fills us with fire in order to inspire us to change the world.



Our Search Committee to select a new Music Director is now complete. Members are Pastor John, Lynne Davies, Pat Brack, Wendy Pritchard, Joe Carlson and Geri Koehler.

We are in the planning stages of a congregational event to gather input with regard to our worship services, including where and when to schedule Sunday School around our worship. We will continue with two Sunday morning services.

Planning for Vacation Bible School is in full process. It will run mornings from Monday, July 25 to Friday, July 29. Children from pre-school to fifth grade are invited to participate.

We appreciate Erin Dunlavy's presence and contributions to the Worship and Music Committee. Pam Dietz contributed years of her superior talents in planning and execution of worship and music events in the church. We will miss both of them.

There are now just three or four members in the committee. We need two or three additional members in order to accomplish our important work.

RUTH CIRCLE BIBLE STUDY GROUP

We will meet on Thursday, June 16 at 11:30 a.m. at the Buttercup Restaurant located on the corner of Treat and Clayton Road for lunch. Please call Donna Monroe at 682-6766 if you plan to attend.

In July and August we will take a summer break and resume our Bible Study on the Gospel of Mark, beginning Thursday, Sept. 15 at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

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, 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

John and Ione Bantly
June 21, 1954

James and Cathy Setchell
June 5, 1999

Jack and Frances
Mecklenburg
June 16, 1967

Ray and Helen Ollila
June 17, 1951

Chris and Suzanne
Christensen
June 19, 1954

Valentine and Evelyne
Kingwell
June 29, 1969



Graduation Prayer

*Now that I have knowledge God,
will you show me how
to use it wisely and find a way somehow
to make the world I live in a little better place,
And make life with its problems
a little bit easier to face.
Grant me faith and courage and
put purpose in my days,
And show me how to serve Thee
in effective ways.
So my education, my knowledge and my skill
May find their true fulfillment as
I learn to do Thy will.
And may I ever be aware in everything I do,
That knowledge comes from learning,
and wisdom comes from You.
Amen.*

Congratulations to our Graduates!

Bereavement Group

We will meet on Saturday,
June 11, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

We are a mutual support
group for all who have
experienced grief. Join us.

Call Ingrid 685-8087

GOOD SHEPHERD INCOME STATEMENT

YEAR TO DATE AS OF APRIL, 2011

	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER (UNDER) BUDGET
INCOME:			
Pledges	\$ 63,100	\$62,016	\$ 1,084
Other (Tower Rent, etc.)	48,697	52,205	(3,508)
TOTAL INCOME	111,797	\$114,221	(2,424)
LESS TOTAL EXPENSES	(106,034)	(103,374)	(2,660)
NET INCOME	\$ 5,763	\$ 10,847	\$ (5,084)



Summer is just around the corner, and we are planning a really cool exciting Vacation Bible Camp (VBS) experience! Are you looking for a safe, friendly, and fun environment for your kids, your grandkids, your neighbors and friends? Then get ready to sign up for ReNew: The Green VBS! This fun-filled VBS is for children in preschool to 5th grade. We welcome and encourage our middle school and high school teens to join the fun, too as volunteer helpers! The program begins on Monday, July 25 and continues through Friday, July 29. Each day begins with check-in at 8:45 a.m. and wraps up at noon. The cost for the week for each child is just \$5.00.


At ReNew, kids will explore the Bible and discover ways to care for God's creation. There will be snacks, there will be games, there will be crafts and songs and smiles.

Emphasizing stewardship and community through the Parable of the Sower, kids will have an amazing time growing in faith, having fun, and changing the world!

Look for registration forms in the Narthex beginning June 5. For more information or to register for our Vacation Bible Camp, check out our website at: gsconcord.com or call the church office at 925.682.8410.

There are ways for everyone to participate! Look for more information in upcoming Sunday bulletins and the July newsletter.

To all of the
men who
have made a
difference in
our lives



Happy Father's Day ☆ June 19th!

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

Perhaps you have already noticed the 4 raised planters as you walk down the stairs to the lower parking lot? Maybe you have wondered what on earth (pardon the pun) is growing in those boxes? These are part of our ReNew Vacation Bible Camp (VBS) for our children and teens this summer. We thank Joe Carlson and Ross Deniston for joining us on a windy spring morning May 22, between services, to take photographs while some of our young gardeners began the planting of our VBS summer garden. We hope you enjoy these photos and share in our joy and excitement about providing a garden to our children so they can experience what it is like to grow our own food, eat locally, and truly experience what it means to be good stewards of our planet that God has given us. Watch us grow!

IMAGE REMOVED

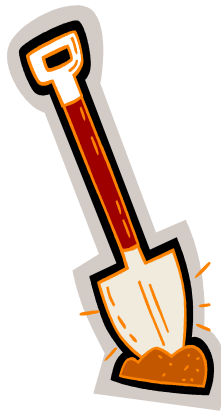
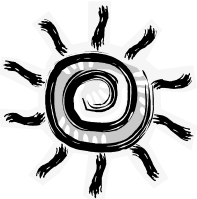


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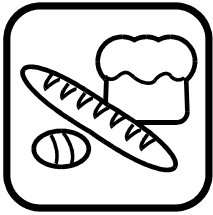
Easter Morning 2011



IMAGE REMOVED

Our thanks to Joe Carlson for these wonderful Easter pictures!

Friends Feeding Friends



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

At our May luncheon, we served 84 hot meals at the North Concord shelter: hot ham and cheese sandwiches, green salad, broccoli salad, hard boiled eggs, chips, fresh fruit, cookies, and drinks. Thank you to all who help us so faithfully with donations of groceries and household furnishings. We continue to work with the shelter to **assist persons receiving low income housing, and we couldn't do this without your support.**

The next time we meet will be on Saturday, June 18. We'll be serving hot dogs, 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 June luncheon we will need:

- Hot dogs • Fresh fruit/veggies • Buns • Sodas (regular and diet)
- Broccoli crowns • Chips • Grapes • Lettuce

There's an on-going need for:

- Hats & sunscreen • Clothing for warm weather • Linens/towels • Pots & Pans • Dressers • Eating utensils • **Groceries** • End tables
- Cooking utensils • Flip Flops • Lamps • Travel size hygiene items
- Laundry soap

For the "Food for Later" bags:

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

 Ephesians
 2:10

The North Concord
 Shelter:
 2047 Arnold
 Industrial Way,
 Parallel to Highway 4

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

Worship Assistants June 5 — July 3, 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.
6/05	8:30	Susan Ripley	Ken & Nikki Robinson	Candace Bradley	Austin Fiene	Travis Fiene	Dottie Davis, Donna Abeyta, Leone McCullough, Christy Dankowski, Nancy Knapp	Willajean Rogelstad	Gary & Linda Mahloch, Doug and Reyanne Freeman	Jamie Rodemsky	Ken & Nikki Robinson	Greg and Kristi Buchholz	Reyanne Freeman and Susan Lorenzen	Jean Moore
	11:00		Sherry Chaplin Rick Koehler	Sherry Chaplin				Rosemary Fassel	Connie Summers					
6/12	8:30	Magic Jaquez	Bill Dietz Sue Hertless	Kristi Buchholz	Sean Harless	Isaac Stice	Kathy Price, Else Welsh, Heidi Moss	Ron and Mary Figueroa	Sue Hertless, Kathy Harless Jon and Heidi Moss	Jamie Rodemsky		Doug and Reyanne Freeman	Wilma Seppala and Gordon Monroe	Jon Moss
	11:00		Linda Rodemsky Rosemary Fassel	Linda Rodemsky				Elaine Stephenson	Laura Mott					
6/19	8:30	Bill Dietz	Ken & Nikki Robinson	Richard Olson	Doug Olson	Ryan Kich	Jan Harmon, Pam Dietz, Willajean Rogelstad, Linda Mahloch	Bob Nielsen	Jim and Carin Olson, Paul Rusch, Emily Kich	Jamie Rodemsky	Duane Peterson	Jon and Heidi Moss	Wilma Seppala and Gordon Monroe	Susan Ripley
	11:00		Sherry Chaplin Linda Rodemsky	Sherry Chaplin				Donna Abeyta	Rick Koehler					
6/26	8:30	Susan Ripley	Mike Albrecht Duane Peterson	Donna Albrecht	Sam Buchholz	Ross Deniston	L. Carlson, V. Smiglewski, Elizabeth & Emily Kich, Sue Hertless	Greg and Kristi Buchholz	G. Buchholz, V. Smiglewski, S. Lorenzen, R. Figueroa	Jamie Rodemsky		Ron and Kathy Price	Bob Ripley and Carin Olson	Victor Olmedo
	11:00		Rosemary Fassel Sherry Chaplin	Rosemary Fassel				Victor and Aimee Olmedo	Linda Rodemsky					
7/03	8:30	Duane Peterson	Ken & Nikki Robinson	Ingrid Burns	Austin Fiene	Travis Fiene	Ione Bantly, Karen Vetterli, Connie summers, Susan Schillings	Ray and Heleen Ollila	Ron and Mary Figueroa, Doug and Reyanne Freeman	Jamie Rodemsky	Ken & Nikki Robinson	Linda and Gary Mahloch	Bob Ripley and Carin Olson	Jim Olson
	11:00		Rosemary Fassel Rick Koehler	Rick Koehler				Nancy Knapp	Laura Mott					

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
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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, 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