

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

The Parish Paper of Shepherd of the Glades Lutheran Church
6020 Rattlesnake Hammock Road (Corner of Santa Barbara)
Naples Florida 34113

FEBRUARY, 2018

Volume 11 - Issue 1

Editor: Lynn Dickerman

*Lent Begins with Ash Wednesday
On February 14, 2018*



**SHEPHERD OF THE GLADES
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

GREETINGS, PEOPLE OF SOTG!

Over the years, it has been my practice to share my annual report in the monthly newsletter for the sake of the many who are not able to have access to the annual report, or are not able to attend the annual meeting. The following, therefore, is the report to the congregation from me for the last year, 2017.

“OVERWHELMED” Matthew 2:10

The following paragraph is taken from my annual report to this congregation for the year 2010, as it was presented at our Annual Meeting on February 13, 2011:

“Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

As I have the privilege to share my perspective on the past year of ministry at Shepherd of the Glades, writing my second annual report to the congregation, I thought of the wisemen who finally reached the baby Jesus, and ‘They were overwhelmed with joy’. (Matthew 2:20) Matthew shared this miraculous story in order to make sure that all people from all countries and all backgrounds and social status have a Savior in our Lord Jesus Christ. The magi were wise enough to seek the Savior, and we as pastor and congregation, will continue to seek the Savior’s guidance into the new year by the power of the Holy Spirit. Many, many times over the past year, 2010, I have been OVERWHELMED WITH JOY in the ministry of the Gospel for and with this wonderful and exciting parish.

As of this writing, I have now been OVERWHELMED WITH JOY to have served you for 19 months. My first Sunday with you, as your pastor, was Pentecost, May 31, 2009. It remains an amazing miracle that I’m here as your pastor. The story is read in last year’s annual report.”

I keep track of the titles of my annual reports to you, and I felt I had used OVERWHELMED before. That year I used the emotion JOY as shared by Matthew and the wisemen. This year just OVERWHELMED is my emotion as I reflect on the past year. Of course, JOY can be the reflection on the last year in many ways. Our good Lord has blessed us in many, many ways. The presents of the Lord Jesus as the Epiphany light is an OVERWHELMING JOY that continues to shine brightly in our congregational people’s lives. Our staff and Council have given to us all OVERWHELMING JOY with their skill and dedication to their tasks here at SOTG. OVERWHELMED WITH JOY can describe your generosity in your support of me as your pastor with your salary and benefits and things like your OVERWHELMING monetary Christmas gifts to me and all the staff. I’m OVERWHELMED WITH JOY as so many terrific volunteers do so much with such love! Thank you so much.

However, the emotion OVERWHELMED can describe many other ways we might react to our lives. Hurricane Grandma Irma was to arrive on Sunday, September 10th, so I called two special Council meetings on the Tuesday and Thursday before to be proactive. Worship on the 10th? OVERWHELMED with the forecast track, the cone of uncertainty, we cancelled worship the morning of the 10th. This is the first Sunday in 41 years of service, with 25 of those years in the frozen north, that any of my churches cancelled service on a Sunday. That is OVERWHELMING for me. As my wife, Lynn, and I rode out Grandma Irma, on Sunday afternoon, let’s just say we were OVERWHELMED as we watched fascia and soffits and shingles and trees and branches fly and water rise and a lanai disappear, which was destroyed by a fallen tree that I observed as I went out during the passing of the eye. What a blessing the category dropped from a 5 to a 3 by the time it hit our areas. On Monday morning, September 11, I never even thought about the 16th anniversary of the 911 attacks on our country as I dodged the downed trees and power lines and non-working traffic lights (Whitaker was totally blocked) to make my way to God’s Holy Ground only to find about 2-3 feet of water all around the building. I made my way through the flooding and 27 downed trees to the nursery/sacristy side door to inspect our church damage. In the dark, I got down on my knees at every door, not in prayer (well, maybe) but to feel just how wet our new \$30,000 carpet was, as it was installed the week before Grandma and dedicated to God’s glory on Sunday, September 3. I was OVERWHELMED with emotion as I realized that the church was dry! There was no leaking in the building. It was OVERWHELMING as we all began to recover. Our Council was OVERWHELMED with estimates for recovery and made great choices, as we do have a complete new roof on our main sanctuary, with other repairs in the works. SOTG got power back late on Thursday, September 14th, so we worshipped on September 17th with 40 hardy souls gathering to pray, praise, and thank God for our safety. Many told



PASTOR'S PAGES . . .

Grandma Irma stories with OVERWHELMING emotion. It was so OVERWHELMING to hear these stories. These stories can be heard on our website, www.sotgweb.org. On the home page, on the right hand side, choose "Worship Audio Files". When that page comes up scroll down to the last audio file, "September 17, 2017". Just click on the forward arrow.

I felt I needed to meditate, prepare, pray, sing, share the Gospel with you, God's wonderful people, so I asked the Council's permission to hold six extra services. So a Thanksgiving Eve service, as well as four Advent services and an 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service were held. This was an OVERWHELMING JOY for me. Total attendance was 243 for those six services (making our attendance a bit better for the year). I suggested that the offering for these six services go toward Grandma Irma repair and approximately \$4,269 was given. Thanks for attending and giving.

And you wonderful people have stepped up with almost \$100,000 altogether in Irma funds with repairs as of now being close to \$80,000. WOW, I'm OVERWHELMED with thankfulness and praise with the generosity of the people of SOTG. Our giving in general is OVERWHELMING with great financial reports. I'm OVERWHELMED with joy with the generosity in your mission & ministry (budget support). You have given \$14,384 over what we have spent. It's a miracle!

It has been my experience, having gone through other hurricanes, three area hits and nine others brushing our state, in my 16 years serving churches that hurricanes are OVERWHELMING and lives change forever. Our attendance is down 10% (See page 6). Of course, no church on the 10th is a factor, as was the fact that many folks stayed north last season or moved back north for good. Our church did grow, and I'm OVERWHELMED WITH JOY that 14 children became members of this church this past year. Could our average age be getting younger? There were six baptisms in the last three weeks, including Christmas Eve, New Year's Eve, and January 7th. ALL GLORY BE TO GOD!

So by the grace of God, we carry on and worship and study and pray and sing and serve, and our GREAT GOD WILL CONTINUE TO OVERWHELM US with God's blessings through the power of Jesus Christ, which we know by the power of the Holy Spirit.

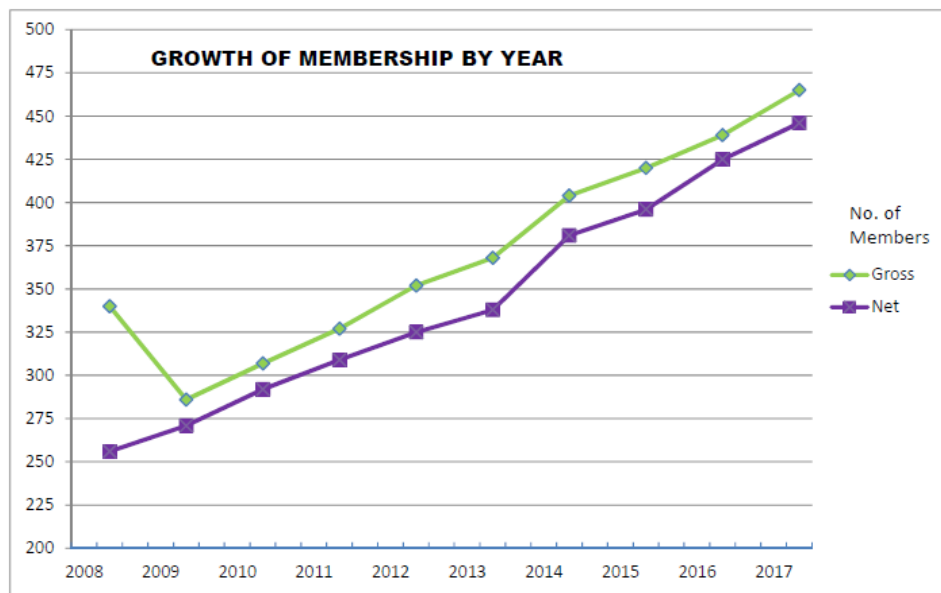
GOD'S OVERWHELMING PEACE BE WITH YOU THIS NEW YEAR 2018.

Pastor Doug

CHURCH GROWTH

2008 - 2017

<u>No. Members</u>	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Gross	340	286	307	327	352	368	404	420	439	465
Net	256	271	292	309	325	338	381	396	425	446



PASTOR'S PAGES (CONTINUED) . . .

CHURCH STATISTICS

	<u>Membership</u>	<u>Baptized</u>	<u>Confirmed</u>	<u>Full</u>	<u>Associates</u>
End of 2007:	332	226	207	226	106
End of 2008:	256	187	179	187	69
End of 2009:	271	201	193	201	70
End of 2010:	292	226	219	226	66
End of 2011:	309	239	221	239	70
End of 2012:	325	247	228	247	78
End of 2013:	338	252	238	252	86
End of 2014:	381	285	247	285	96
End of 2015:	396	299	259	299	97
End of 2016:	425	320	278	320	105
End of 2017:	446	340	326	340	106

	<u>Baptism</u>	<u>Transfers In</u>	<u>Reaffirmation of Faith</u>	<u>Confirmation</u>	<u>First Communion</u>
Total increase in 2017:	8	7	22	3	0

	<u>Transfer Out</u>	<u>Death</u>	<u>Requested Removal</u>
Total Loss in 2017:	2	10	7

Gross Growth: 40

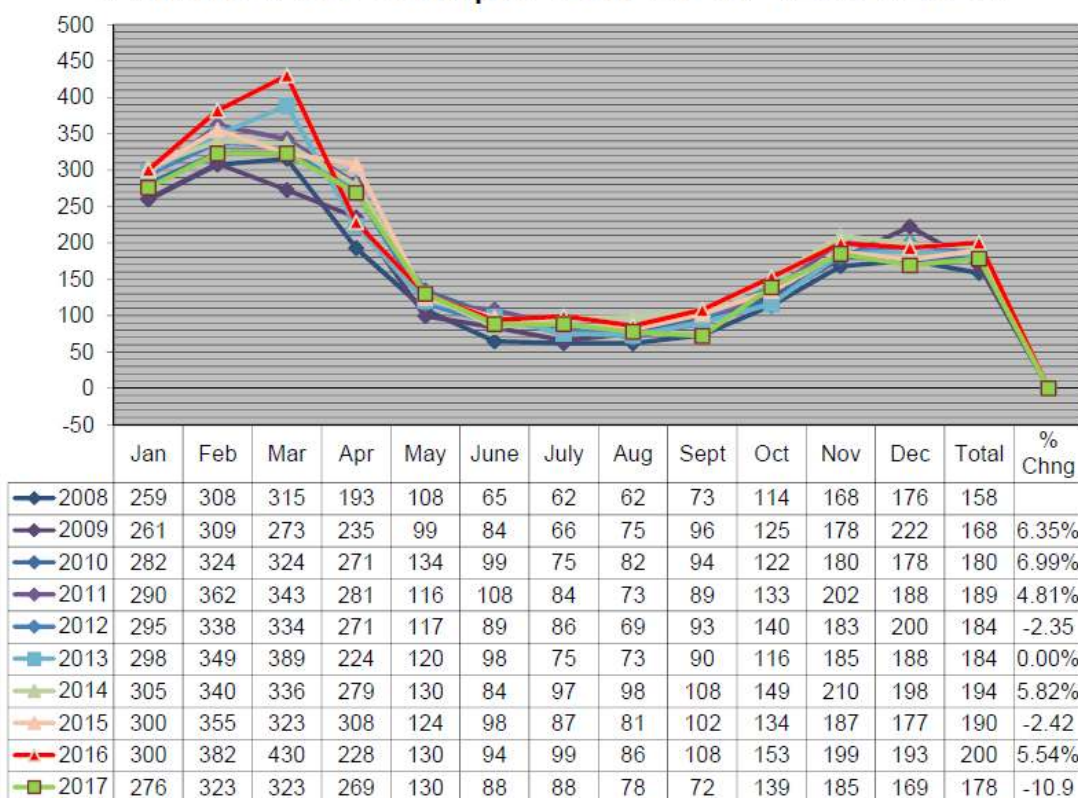
Net Growth: 21

2017 Funerals Performed: 6

2017 Weddings Performed: 1

Average Church Attendance :	December- April	May-November	Annual Average	% Inc.
2007 (Dec. 06)	258	90	162	
2008 (Dec. 07)	249	93	158	
2009 (Dec. 08)	251	103	168	6.35%
2010 (Dec. 09)	285	112	180	6.99%
2011 (Dec. 10)	291	115	189	4.81%
2012 (Dec. 11)	285	111	184	-2.35%
2013 (Dec. 12)	291	107	184	0.00%
2014 (Dec. 13)	289	125	194	5.82%
2015 (Dec. 14)	302	113	190	-2.42%
2016 (Dec. 15)	303	124	200	5.54%
2017 (Dec. 16)	273	112	176	-10.9%

Attendance Comparison as of 12/31/2017



Mo. Avg./Week

ANNOUNCEMENT ALLEY . . .

Office hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
TWO Sunday worship service times at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m..

A CALL FOR ACTION:



Every week, Shepherd of the Glades collects and donates canned and boxed food to help persons in need at St. Matthew's House, Grace Place, and Immokalee Friendship House. Suggested items are canned food of all kinds, powdered milk, peanut butter, jellies/ jams, cereals, soups, rice, pasta, etc. Items need to be within code date and unopened. Just bring your donations to the church and give to the ushers every Sunday morning. All items are delivered the end of each month. We extend our thanks to all who faithfully give food items for our local need organizations. The last donations were just delivered to St. Matthew's House .

SEW-SEW GROUP

The Sew-Sews are quilting in Hanson Hall at 8:30 - 11:00 a.m. If you enjoy sewing and fellowship, come join in, making quilts for those who need them. Questions? Please contact Marjean Cossette at 239-353-6786.

CHANCEL CHOIR

Do you enjoy lifting your voice in praise to worship the Lord? Come and use your talents in the Chancel Choir. Choir rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the Choir Room. All are welcome! If you have questions, contact Megan Cianflone, Director of Music.

SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL

Until May 7th, Sunday School will take place during the 10:30 a.m. service. We are blessed to have Bonny Dery, Nadine Kelly, and Lori Bernabei as committed teachers for our children.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP

The Women's Bible Study, led by Elaine Sima, will continue meeting the second Friday of the month on February 9th at 10:00 a.m. in the Choir Room. Come & bring a friend.

FINANCIALLY, HOW ARE WE DOING? . . .

PERIOD: One Month Ended January, 2018

	Actual	Budget	Difference: Favorable (Unfavorable)
Operating Income	\$47,613	\$36,872	\$10,741
Operating Expense	\$31,478	\$32,979	\$1,501
Net Income (Deficit)	\$16,135	\$3,893	\$12,242

CHRISTMAS AT SOTG . . .

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

On Sunday, December 17, a sweet performance was given by our children, which included lap harp solos and the singing of "Away in the Manger" and reading the Christmas Gospel from Luke. When asked "How do you know of the Baby Jesus, Our Savior's birth?", a resounding, "We Were There!", was the reply from Joseph, Mary, angels, wiseman, shepherd, and cow. Thank you, everyone, for your help, continued support, and prayers received for our children's ministry.



GIVING TREE GIFTS FOR YOUTH HAVEN

The Evangelism Team would like to sincerely thank everyone who participated in the 2017 Giving Tree Project. Thanks to your generous response, Youth Haven, a local emergency shelter that provides services to abused, neglected, and abandoned children in Collier County, received over 75 beautiful Christmas gifts for children ages 6-17 living at their cottages. Meredith Curley, Director of Development for Youth Haven, spoke at our first Forum talk on January 7, 2018. Ms. Curley thanked our congregation for participating in this outreach project and shared information about the needed services Youth Haven provides to at-risk children and their families in our community.

The Evangelism Team is so appreciative of the wonderful congregational response to this Giving Tree Project. We continue to ask you to keep these children, their families, and the staff of Youth Haven in your prayers.



CHRISTMAS EVE AT SOTG

This Christmas at SOTG there were two Christmas Eve services, 7:00 and 11:00 p.m. Both featured candlelight, communion, and special music. At the 7:00 p.m. service, in addition to the Chancel Choir, Megan Cianflone on piano, Cindy Quehl on flute, special guests on violin were Elizabeth Cianflone and Steve Aquino. There were also special Christmas Eve baptisms. At the 11:00 p.m. service, special music was provided by H. G. Fisher, Jr. and Cindy Quehl on flute. The offerings from this service went towards G.S.S.S., Shepherd's hurricane recovery fund.

LET US ENTERTAIN YOU . . .

EVERGLADES BARBERSHOP CHORUS

The Everglades Barbershop Chorus, a group of thirty men from the Naples area, is returning to SOTG. They will present two performances on Friday, March 23, 2018 at 3:00 and 7:00 p.m. Their program will feature songs from “the good old days” right up through recent times and will include a popular Beatles’ tune. They will also bring to Naples one of America’s favorite barbershop quartets, “Broadway”. This award winning group brings joy and laughter to its audiences with smooth harmony, great comedy, and, unlike the usual barbershop groups which sing a capella, adds stringed instruments. Seating will be limited, so it is recommended that tickets at \$20 each be purchased in advance. They are available at the church office.

LENTEN SEASON BEGINS . . .

Lent begins this year with Ash Wednesday, on February 14, 2018; with Easter on Sunday, April 1, 2018. The theme this Lent is Martin Luther’s Theology of the Cross.

WORSHIP WILL TAKE PLACE ON WEDNESDAYS AT 5:30 P.M. FOLLOWED BY A SOUP SUPPER. The schedule and topics preached by Pastor Wahlberg are as follows:

Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2018: “Seeing God’s Face from Behind”. Soup is provided by the FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE.

February 21, 2018: “God’s Strength in Weakness”. Soup is provided by the CHOIR.

February 28, 2018: “In the Eyes of the Divine Beholder”. Soup is provided by the SEW-SEW’S AND PROPERTY GROUP.

March 7, 2018: “God’s Future Is Today”. Soup is provided by COUNCIL.

March 14, 2018: “The Darkness Where God Is”. Soup is provided by PASTOR’S AND WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY GROUPS.

March 21, 2018: “Strange Glory”. Soup is provided by STAFF AND PASTORS.

Come as you are from work or play for worship and fellowship. For a full description of Lenten events and Holy Week, see the insert enclosed.

GENEROUS STEWARDS . . .

Some have asked for what Pastor Doug shared on Stewardship Sunday. It follows:

Top 10 Reasons Why People Become Generous Stewards

1. The senior pastor is giving effective leadership.
2. People give to vision, not to budgets.
3. Transformation leads to stewardship.
4. Confidence and even pride in one’s congregation.
5. Inspirational worship attracts people to attend, which increases stewardship.
6. There is an absence of conflict in the church.
7. A blend of the great commission and the great commandment is necessary for sacrificial giving.
8. The vision of the congregation is consistently and effectively communicated.
9. The congregation needs to be focused on team ministry, the priesthood of all believers.
10. The congregation needs to build strategic partnerships so it is seen as a part of a larger mission.





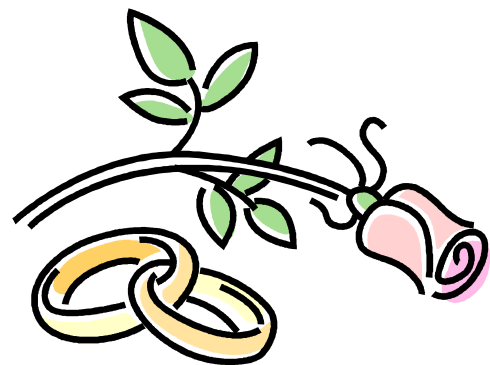
If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please call the office so we can update our information and not miss you next time! YOU are special to us!

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES . . . HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS TO . . .

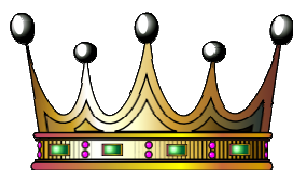
February 1	Sara Nelson
February 2	Ardelle Berthe
February 3	Susan Upham
February 4	Kathleen Mantovani
February 5	Daniel Malinowski
February 6	Jean Zirk
February 10	Yerry Madison
February 10	Kathryn Winters
February 11	Alan Rowold
February 17	Conan Hayton
February 17	Callie Eliason
February 17	Earnestine Keller
February 18	Cindy Quehl
February 20	Fredeen Hill
February 21	Alandee Delp
February 21	Robert Tidmore
February 22	Jeremiah Eliason
February 22	David Hatwell
February 22	Micheline Larsen
February 24	Jim Lee
February 26	Margarete Krehan
February 26	Handry Perez
February 27	Rick Borman
February 27	Dorothy Sherwood-Sibley
February 27	Carl Zirk
February 28	Jan Wolfe

February 3	Vicki & Steven Tracy
February 4	Larry & Maryann Buettner
February 5	Doralba Yanez & Julio Palacios
February 6	Gary & Linda Salisbury
February 11	Rod & Marilyn Barikmo
February 11	Chris & Kristina Quinton
February 14	Dick & Deborah Roberts
February 14	Kenneth & Charlotte Sebe
February 15	David & Alandee Delp
February 16	Larry & Barb Tommingo
February 24	Frank & Debra Siciliano
February 28	Al & Marilyn Lane



VICTORY IN THE LORD . . .

Letha Brough received her victory in the Lord on Saturday, December 16, 2017. A Service of Committal took place at Mount Olivet Cemetery in Hanover, Pa on December 30, 2017, and a memorial service took place at SOTG on January 13, 2018.



CARING CONNECTIONS . . .

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following people in your thoughts and prayers:

Janet Anderson	Freathestone Family	Debbie McWaters
Tom Archard	Mike Feldman	Nancy Moran
Anthony	Yamilla Frederick	Morgan
Lee Arendt	Jonathan Gance	Carol Nauert
Lynn Arbeiter & Family	Adele Giacometti's Family	Susan O'Neil
Zoey Berger	Annette Gjesdahl	Michael O'Donald
Betty	Carole Graesser	Frank Ordway
Mary Ann Blair	Sally Guerra	Family of P.J. Read
Merlyn Bowers	Judy & Ron H.	Robert
Luke Bradley	Sue Haberkorn	Laura Robertson
Braun Family	Dave Hedges	Neva Marie Rucci & Sons
Bonnie Brisky	Ann Marie Hill	Connor & Linda Ruisz
Russ Brisky	Carl Hydes	Sally
J. Andrew Brough	Jeannie	Hermann Schamberger, Jr.
Ernie Burch	Family of Ardent Jensen	Joe Schamberger
Anne & John Burgbacher	Family of Arly Jeppson	Kathie Schmidt
Josh Cane	Judy & Rich	Larry Segerlind
Velma Carasco	Lily & Billy Kelly	Shannon
Jerry Carson	Reina Klassen	Elaine Sima
Casey	Al Lane	Gordon Skrede & Family
Mia Cervoni	Barb & Dave Lees	Patrick Smith
Dianne, Kate & Mark Connell	Family of Jim Lipe	Ruth Spears
Jill Coulthard	Carl Lohmann	Spiegel Family
Emily Davies	Martha Mahon	Susan Sweet
"Debbie"	Rose Maki	Tommy's Family
Lena Deter	Douglas & Dorothy MacKenzie	Shirley Watson
Frances Dise	Matthew Marderosian	Patricia Wiley
Family of Annie Doara	Mary & Drew	Tony Zeman
Coleen, Glenn, & Susan Evans	Mary R.	
Jimmy F.	Maryanne	

Please let us know when someone should be added or removed from the Prayer List.

REMEMBER THOSE IN SERVICE TO THEIR COUNTRY . . .

Lt. Col. Paula Behrens
Staff Sergeant Adam Crown
Warrant Officer, Christopher Farnsworth
Airman Corey Malinowski
Enlisted Army, Kendra Schweneker
Capt. Michael Scott



CALENDAR CUES . . .

CALENDAR NOTES:

Thursdays at 2:00 & 7:00 p.m. Pastor's Bible Study

Sunday, February 4, 2018, 9:30 a.m. Annual Meeting

Friday, February 9, 2018, 10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study

Sunday, February 11, 2018, Strawberry Sundae Festival after both services

Tuesday, February 13, 2018, 5:30 p.m. Council Meeting

Wednesday, February 14, 2018, 5:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service with soup supper following, provided by the Fellowship Committee; Lenten services every Wednesday through March 21 at 5:30 p.m. with soup supper following

Friday, February 16, 2018, deadline for submissions to March newsletter

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Friday, March 16, 2018, 6:00 p.m. Spring Potluck Supper in Hanson Hall

Friday, March 23, 2018, 3:00 & 7:00 p.m. Everglades Barbershop Chorus and Bling!

Sunday, March 25, 2018, Beginning of Holy Week with Palm Sunday worship

Thursday, March 29, 5:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday service; Friday, March 30, 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Tenebrae service

Easter Sunday, April 1, 7:00, 8:30, 10:30 a.m. Easter worship

THANK YOU . . .

TEEN CHALLENGE THANKS YOU!



Teen Challenge International-Southwest Florida participated in worship on Sunday, January 14th, provided the Adult Forum, and joined us for the "Welcome Back" Luncheon. An offering was taken to benefit Teen Challenge. A total of over \$1,564 was collected at both services that Sunday. Thank you for your generous heart, your prayers, and your financial support! God bless you and your families in 2018 and always.





FEBRUARY, 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 2:00 & 7:00 P.M. PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY	2	3
4 5TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 8:30 & 10:30 A.M. WORSHIP 9:30 A.M. ANNUAL MEETING 10:30 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL	5	6 8:30 A.M. PROPERTY CREW & SEW- SEWS	7 7:00 P.M. CHOIR	8 2:00 & 7:00 P.M. PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY	9 10:00 A.M. WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY	10 PREPARATION FOR STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL
11 TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD 8:30 & 10:30 A.M. WORSHIP AFTER EACH SERVICE- STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL 10:30 A.M. SS	12	13 8:30 A.M. PROPERTY CREW & SEW- SEWS 5:30 P.M. COUNCIL	14 5:30 P.M. ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE W/ SOUP AFTER 7:00 P.M. CHOIR	15 2:00 & 7:00 P.M. PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY	16 DEADLINE FOR MARCH NEWSLETTER	17
18 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT 8:30 & 10:30 A.M. WORSHIP 10:30 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL	19	20 8:30 A.M. PROPERTY CREW & SEW- SEWS	21 5:30 P.M. LENTEN WORSHIP W/ SOUP AFTER 7:00 P.M. CHOIR	22 2:00 & 7:00 P.M. PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY	23	24
25 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT 8:30 & 10:30 A.M. WORSHIP 10:30 A.M. SS	26	27 8:30 A.M. PROPERTY CREW & SEW- SEWS	28 5:30 P.M. LENTEN WORSHIP W/ SOUP AFTER 7:00 P.M. CHOIR			

The Shepherd of the Glades Parish Newsletter is sponsored by:



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Current Resident or

**This Parish Paper is from:
Shepherd of the Glades Lutheran Church
6020 Rattlesnake Hammock Road (Corner of Santa Barbara Blvd.)
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Sunday Worship Service: 9:30 a.m.

Office Hours: Monday - Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Dr. Douglas Wahlberg, Senior Pastor [cell phone: (239) 687.6580]

Megan Cianflone, Director of Music

Ron Modjeska, Council President

Lynn Dickerman, Administrative Assistant to the Pastor

Rev. H. Peter Lyberg, Pastor Emeritus