



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

SEPTEMBER, 2020

Volume 21- Issue 8

Editors: Lynn Dickerman
& Linda Tidmore



SHEPHERD OF THE GLADES LUTHERAN CHURCH

PASTOR'S PAGES . . .

"I am with you until the end of time." (Mt. 28:20) This is an important promise for us to hold on to very closely and remember with each sunrise and sunset. There is never a moment in our life that Jesus is not with us. I have heard some asking if it is possible that all the signs are in place for Jesus to return: Famines in Africa; California fires; hurricanes Laura and Marco; Political unrest. Some quote the Gospel of Matthew that there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. Yet even if we are nearing the end of time, we need to remember that Jesus is with us in the famines, hurricanes, political unrest, and earthquakes of our lives.



St. Paul was convinced Jesus would return in his lifetime. The temple where people worshipped God had been destroyed and there were wars and rumors of wars. People were living in fear of the new reality they were experiencing. And even though Paul believed the "appointed time has grown short", he wanted people to stay focused on the mission of going, making disciples, and teaching about Jesus, and that He would be with us until the end of time. God gave us the gift of the advocate, the Holy Spirit, to walk with us in our journey of life. We have no reason to fear. Even if the time is near for Jesus to return, we have no reason to fear. The question remains, "Are we focused on the fear of the many unknowns in our new reality or are we focused on Jesus' presence and his promise to be with us through whatever challenges we face in life?" We have been blessed to enjoy weekly worship online in the safety of our homes since March. It is hard to believe so much time has passed. Thanks to the generosity of members and a Church Council that understands our calling to preach the Gospel at all times, the technology at the church has greatly improved. This has allowed the quality of our online services to greatly improve. We now have high speed internet and you can watch the worship service live from the safety of your home. We have a new camera and a new sound system that help you feel like you are in the church. We have been blessed with virtual greeters, and now a member of the church reads the lessons each week in the church. Because of the changes, I have also started sending the readings out in advance to help you prepare for worship and I have invited you to share your thoughts on the scriptures. Many of you are taking on this new spiritual growth challenge. I believe your responses help the sermon be pertinent and relevant to your lives. By making the worship service online, we have new people who are a part of our community of faith who are watching from home. It is my intention that even when we return to the sanctuary for public worship, we will continue using technology to share the Gospel with folks who may otherwise not have been able to attend worship due to their schedule. I continue to pray about ways we can move forward with hope in the church as we move into uncertain times.

The guidelines the Council put into place regarding when we can safely resume public worship in the sanctuary have not allowed us to return to the building in August, and as we look to September, I am seeing numbers of hospitalizations for Covid in early August increasing, not decreasing. It has been 6 months since we have celebrated the sacrament of Holy Communion. If I took the time to write all the theological and biblical reasons for abstaining from this sacrament during a pandemic, it would take up the whole newsletter. They are all legitimate, but they are also all based on the common understanding that we

PASTOR'S PAGES CONTINUED . . .

can and should gather together in assembly on a regular basis as the “ecclesia” (the church) to worship God whenever it is possible. The pandemic has changed our practices as we worship together through modern technology without being physically together. This is done not out of fear, but out of love for one another. As I exclaim every Sunday, we are the Church. After praying for a long time about abstaining from the sacraments until we can all gather together again, I have come to the reality that if the resurrected Christ Jesus can come through closed and locked doors to be present with his disciples and say, “peace be with you,” the resurrected Christ can certainly come into our homes and be present in his body and blood in the Sacrament of Holy Communion helping us to have peace in times of this global pandemic. I recognize and I am very well aware of the theological concerns of utilizing the online services for distribution of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. But I cannot ignore our human need for Jesus to physically be present in our lives.

Therefore, beginning the first Sunday in September, and every Sunday following, we will celebrate the presence of Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Communion as part of our worship. I simply ask the following of you as we partake of Jesus in this Holy Sacrament: Reverence for the elements. Please set aside a holy space in your home with some symbols of faith. It can be a candle or a religious picture if you have one. Set the table with the elements of bread and wine/grape juice but only enough for you to consume in this setting. Given for you, Shed for you. If you are alone in your home, I will invite you to take and eat, take and drink when the time is appropriate. Please wait until you hear the invitation to receive each of the elements. If there are two or more of you in your home, you may commune one another with the words “The Body of Christ, given for you; the Blood of Christ, shed for you.” as you share the elements with the other person/people.

Some Lutheran Pastors have asked that you only partake of Holy Communion during the livestream broadcast in real time, and if you are watching at a later time you should pray the prayer for Spiritual communion. This is because the context of communion is when the church as an assembly gathers together to worship. You may look up the spiritual communion prayer and pray it if you personally feel this is important. Churches, Bishops, Pastors, and individuals will have different views regarding the practices of Holy Communion during the pandemic, but I will trust you and your faith convictions to make those decisions. The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be offered regularly as part of our online services beginning the first week in September. I believe this is an important step in moving forward and helping our faith journey as we remember that Christ is with us always, until the end of time. If closed and locked doors cannot keep Jesus from being present, the Covid 19 pandemic most certainly will not either. I wish I could tell you when we will gather again as an assembly for public worship, but God alone knows the answer to that question. The Council will be discussing this again in their September meeting. In the meanwhile, keep the faith! Draw near to Jesus. And do not be afraid. Jesus is with you.

In Christ,

Pastor Jeff

IN THANKFULNESS . . .

Tom Davis, who has taken care of our lawncare since 2014, has retired to go North to be with family with his wife Marian. We thank Tom for his conscientious and faithful service to Shepherd of the Glades and wish him health and wellness as he leaves us. Godspeed, Tom! G & C Landscaping has assumed responsibility for our lawncare and shrub maintenance.

A WORD FROM OUR SYNOD . . .



Florida-Bahamas Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 God's work. Our hands.
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 813.876.7660 • www.fbsynod.com • info@fbsynod.org

August 15, 2020

Dear friends in Christ at Shepherd of the Glades Lutheran Church:

Thank you for the Mission Support of \$24,310.19 you have shared with Christ's wider Church between February 1 and July 31, 2020 through and as part of the Florida-Bahamas Synod. Your continued support, especially during these challenging times, is greatly appreciated. With your support we can continue our work as church together, so that we might joyfully serve our God in service, sacrifice, and celebration.

Mission Support helps us participate in the miracles of the Christ as we respond to the needs before us. It helps us train up leaders and pastors, feed people in need, respond to natural disasters, provide resources to congregations for their viability and growth, and the list goes on and on. Your Mission Support is vital to who we are and what we can do.

Thank you for your partnership in ministry. We pray faithfully for your congregation. Let us know how we might be of greater service to you.

In God's Peace,

+ Pedro M. Suarez

The Rev. Pedro M. Suarez, Bishop
 Florida-Bahamas Synod, ELCA

A WORD FROM OUR CALOOSA CONFERENCE . . .

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS

Our sister church, Faith Lutheran in Lehigh Acres, is requesting our assistance with their "God's Work, Our Hands" project. They appreciate however we may be of assistance in advancing the ministry of compassion and care there. On September 26, 2020, Faith Lutheran Church-Comunidad de Fe will be handing out children's shoes and socks and hygiene kits, containing towels, shampoo/conditioner, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, hand lotion, and hand sanitizer to the most vulnerable in the community during this most challenging of years for those already dealing with poverty and inequality.

FINANCIALLY, HOW ARE WE DOING? . . .

PERIOD: Eight Months Ended August, 2020

	Actual	Budget	Difference: Favorable (Unfavorable)
Operating Income	\$240,696	\$241,014	(\$318)
Operating Expense	\$219,489	\$245,758	\$26,269
Net Income (Deficit)	\$21,207	(\$4,744)	\$25,951

NEWS IN THE SHEEPFOLD. . .



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!

HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS TO . . . SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES . . .

September 1 Inger Gotterup
September 1 Barbara Modjeska
September 3 Carolyn Case
September 4 Donald Hertzner
September 4 Linda Boyd
September 8 Kellen Snover
September 10 John Carr
September 10 Frankie Siciliano
September 11 Noel Bischoff
September 13 Bill MacDonald
September 13 Susan O'Neal
September 16 Thomas Cianflone
September 19 Charlotte Sebe
September 20 Karen Kuzel
September 21 Kim Haberkorn
September 22 Alan Espersen
September 22 Pamula Leimer
September 25 Barbara Harvey
September 26 Ester Rascher
September 26 Helen Boone
September 27 Pamela Bhatena
September 27 Susan Espersen
September 28 H. Peter Lyberg
September 30 Ed Michel
September 30 Jamie Helenek

September 1 Barbara & Ron Modjeska
September 3 Joan & Jerry Thomas
September 3 Betty & Clay Baker
September 5 Helen & Vern Rasmussen
September 6 Karen & Julio Solo
September 15 Irmi & Charles Bjerken
September 17 Betty & Jim Sauer
September 30 Carole & Ed Michel



RECEIVED HIS VICTORY . . .

Jim Bullock received his victory in the Lord on Sunday, August 2, 2020.



REMEMBER THOSE IN SERVICE TO THEIR COUNTRY . . .

Staff Sergeant Adam Crown
Warrant Officer, Christopher Farnsworth
Airman Corey Malinowski
Capt. Michael Scott
Army Sergeant Kendra Stofflet at Ft. Campbell Army Base, KY
Warrant Officer Robert Stofflet at Ft. Campbell Army Base, KY
Lieutenant Sterling Payne, 205 Ming St. Warrensburg MO

HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS. . .



To our Contributing Churches & Synagogues:

We pray that you and your families are remaining healthy and safe during this difficult time.

2020 will be the 26th year of the UNDY SUNDAY campaign to provide an ample supply of underwear, socks and miscellaneous clothing & school supplies for the many needy elementary and pre-school children within Collier County.

With the outreach involving 33 religious interfaith churches and synagogues, Catholic Charities' volunteers received an abundance of undergarments and socks from the church donations in 2019, which were segregated, sorted, labeled and packaged for delivery to 37 selected Elementary & Charter schools, plus six Social Service organizations who assist needy women and children in our community.

In addition, the 2019 campaign was blessed with receiving an overwhelming number of socks again this year, allowing us to donate more than a thousand pairs to the "Laces of Love" Foundation to supplement their "Shoes for Needy Kids Program".

All monetary donations received will be used to support other children activities & programs at Catholic Charities of Collier County, throughout the year.

Historically, UNDY SUNDAY has occurred in August. For 2020 and beyond, we would like to move the campaign to the last two weekends in October. For 2020, this would be October 17th & 18th, and 24th & 25th. There are several reasons for this change, including the availability of more Collier County High School student volunteers to help with contribution pickup, sorting, and delivery. **May we ask that you "save the dates" in your calendar?**

God Bless everyone involved in this special mission.

Tim, Mike & Paola

Tim Corcoran, Michael Egan & Paola Pinillos
UNDY SUNDAY Team of 2020

CARING CONNECTIONS . . .

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following people in your thoughts and prayer:

Lynn Arbeiter & Family	The Herrick Family	Rick Quehl
The Jim Bullock Family	Karen Kuzel	The Reseou Family
The Robert Cumor, Jr. Family	The Family of Jim Lee	Corrine & Ted Roscoe
The Dana Dickerman Family	Anita Lehr	Charlotte Sebe
Ken Drum	Pat Lussky	Don Sharpe
Tom & Vicki Dunlop	Bill MacDonald	Elaine Sima
Susan Espersen	Leo Malinowski	Micah Smith
Jack Fee	Lisa & Mark McGarity	Donald Spanitz
Carol Freitag	Carl Morken	The Spiegel Family
Sue Haberkorn	The Jim O'Neal Family	Karen Tangen
Family of Ted Henning	Jim Oppermann	Ken Tate
	Karen Puerner	Family of Shirley Watson

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



SEPTEMBER, 2020

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 NEWSLETTER MAILING	5
6 FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST 8:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP SERVICE W/ HOLY COMMUNION	7 LABOR DAY— OFFICE CLOSED	8 COUNCIL MTG 5:30 P.M.	9	10	11	12
13 FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST 8:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP SERVICE W/ HOLY COMMUNION	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST 8:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP SERVICE W/ HOLY COMMUNION	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST 8:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP SERVICE W/ HOLY COMMUNION	28	29	30			

Note: Some of these activities are subject to change due to the corona virus precautions in place. Please check our website for the latest updates or call the office at 239-775-0696.

Shepherd of the Glades Lutheran Church
6020 Rattlesnake Hammock Road
Naples, FL 34113

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U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
NAPLES, FL
PERMIT # 18**

Dated material mailed September 4, 2020
Please deliver between September 4-8, 2020

Current Resident or

**This Parish Paper is from:
Shepherd of the Glades Lutheran Church
6020 Rattlesnake Hammock Road (Corner of Santa Barbara Blvd.)
Naples, FL 34113**

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Email: sotg6020@gmail.com

Sunday Worship Service: 9:30 a.m.

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

Pastor Jeff Unga, Pastor [cell phone: 641-529-2479]

Megan Cianflone, Director of Music

Lawrence Buettner, Council President

Lynn Dickerman and Linda Tidmore, Admin. Assistants to the Pastor

Rev. H. Peter Lyberg, Pastor Emeritus