

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

DECEMBER, 2020
Volume 23- Issue 11
Editors: Lynn Dickerman
& Linda Tidmore



**SHEPHERD OF THE GLADES
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

PASTOR'S PAGES . . .

Although this year has been filled with tragedy and difficulty, I recently read an article that said we should refuse to change the calendar and move into a new year. Do you know why? Because that would mean 2021. Get it? 2020 won? I know. It is a bad joke. But as we head into a new church calendar year during Advent, it is important to know that 2020 did not and will not defeat us. God continues to do a new thing. Advent reminds us that we are called to look forward with hopefulness. This past year has been difficult, but it has also been a time people have stepped up their generosity and helped others in many ways. Thank you for your generous gifts to the matching funds for when the Church was first closed for public worship. Your financial support helped us through a very uncertain period of time. Thank you for your generous gifts to matching funds to the homeless shelters and local food pantries. Your generosity will help many who have been negatively impacted by the COVID virus this year. Thank you for your regular giving in a time of anxiety and financial uncertainty. You have shown your trust is in the LORD. It has been a time for us to recognize God's powerful presence in the midst of chaos and a global pandemic. Let there be no doubt, God is with us - Emmanuel, Christ Jesus our Lord.



Christmas has traditionally been filled with families gathered together around a Christmas tree, exchanging gifts, and celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord. But this year has been anything but traditional. With COVID-19 cases on the rise in Collier County and around our country, it is hard to project what the guidelines will be for family gatherings at Christmas. I am hoping that we will still be able to have Christmas Eve candlelight services. At this time, we are planning on both services being outdoors. Christmas Eve worship is filled with joyful singing, and unfortunately we cannot do that indoors due to the potential to spread the COVID-19 virus. But we live in a climate that will allow us to sing and celebrate Christmas outdoors, God willing! If Covid does not cause restrictions in public gatherings, we will be able to join together giving God praise for the gift of the promise of the forgiveness of sin and the resurrection to eternal life. The birth of Jesus the Messiah is the reason for the season.

Maybe we will hear the birth narrative in a different way this year. Jesus was not born in a perfect, loving, sharing environment. Mary and Joseph were turned away from the inns because "there was no room." No one would even give up their room for a woman about to give birth. God provided a place for them to stay among the animals, and when he was born, Jesus was placed in a manger - a feeding trough. As we reflect on the symbolism of Jesus being placed in a manger, we recognize he was born to feed the world with the spiritual food that brings eternal life. It is a very old cliché, but to know Jesus is to know peace. If there was no Jesus, we would have no peace. Christ came into this chaotic and confusing world to feed us with hope. It is true that 2020 has been a year like no other year filled with challenges. But nothing can take away the true meaning of this Holy Holiday. Christmas is when we receive the best gift of all. It

PASTOR'S PAGES (CONTINUED) . . .

will not come in a neatly wrapped package.

The best gift of Christmas comes in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. . . The gift of the birth of Christ Jesus our Lord. . . The gift of hope. . . The gift of the presence of God with us. I would guess that some members will remain in the safety of their homes and watch the Christmas Eve service. Like Easter, we may not get to celebrate the Holy Day in the way we are accustomed to. But no one and nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our LORD. We will find a way to broadcast the service on the internet. Even if you cannot come to the church and be physically present for worship, don't leave Christ out of Christmas.

May you have a very spiritual and meaningful Advent, and a blessed Christmas.

Pastor Jeff

CARING FOR THOSE LESS FORTUNATE . . .

After the sermon at the November 15th service, an anonymous donor felt moved by the Spirit to donate \$10,000, with a matching fund provision, to be used to assist the homeless shelters and provide food through local charities for those impacted by COVID-19. So on Sunday, November 22, Pastor Jeff made the announcement about the anonymous donor and the matching funds drive to help feed the needy impacted by COVID-19 in Collier County. As of Sunday, November 29th, we have recorded \$22,215 to help the needy impacted by COVID-19 here in Collier County. Thank you, Holy Spirit, for working in our hearts and pocketbooks to feed "the least of these". Thank you, friends and members of SOTG, for being so generous and being open to the Spirit!

THRIVENT UPCOMING ONLINE EVENTS . . .

Merry Christmas from Thrivent! Following are a couple of online events to enjoy for the holidays:

CHRISTMAS WITH MICHAEL W. SMITH on Tuesday, December 8, 2020; On Demand;
One day only

A FOR KING & COUNTRY CHRISTMAS on Tuesday, December 15, 2020; On Demand;
One day only

Register for these events and others at <https://www.thriventfinancial.com/member-network/southeast/events/> Friends and family are always welcome to attend! Feel free to share event details via email, text, or social media while we're meeting virtually.

At Thrivent we believe humanity thrives when people make the most of all God has given them. We want to offer you opportunities of inspiration to learn something new and give back. To see a full list of upcoming online events, please visit <https://www.thriventfinancial.com/member-network/southeast/events/> If you have questions, please reach out to David Contessa at (239) 300-5139.

COUNCIL'S CORNER . . .

SHEPHERD OF THE GLADES LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES October 13, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Vice President, Pete Peterson.

The meeting of the Shepherd of the Glades Council was held via conference call and in person because of the Corona Virus. Members in attendance: Bob Tidmore, Pat Cooper (phone), Pete Peterson, Doug Walck, Bonny Dery, Paul Hashagen (phone), Barb Keller (phone), and Charlotte Wahlig (phone). Pastor Jeff Unga was also in attendance.

Larry Buettner and Keith Scamehorn were absent.

Devotions were given by Pete Peterson.

Pastor's report: Pastor Jeff reported that he has had "Zoom" meetings with Caloosa Conference, East Naples Ministerial Association, personal spiritual direction, and A/V team – evaluations on how to simplify. Held weekly staff meeting, met with Altar Guild and discussed new guidelines and expectations for setting up Holy Communion. Scheduled to meet with nominating committee for annual meeting; and meeting with Lynn Dickerman, Cindy Quehl, and Bob Tidmore for planning 2021 budget. Met with (5) virtual greeters, (3) home bound (2) potential new members and (6) hospital visits.

Treasurer's Report: Bob Tidmore reported offering was up by \$6,000 and expenses down by \$1,300.

Committee reports:

Due to the Corona Virus and inactivity of the church, the following Council members gave a report:

Endowment – Pete Peterson reported that the balance in the endowment account as of September 30, 2020 is \$131,564.

Parish Relations: Nominating committee will meet in October to make their decision regarding the nominees for 2021 Church Council and Synod representatives.

Stewardship – Pete Peterson has agreed to chair the 2021 Stewardship committee.

Education – Bonny is selling "God's Creation" calendars again this year. The cost is \$7.00 each.

Local Missions – Paul Hashagen has agreed to pick up the donated food and take it to St. Matthews House in Immokalee.

Worship & Music – Pat Cooper commented on what a wonderful job Pastor Jeff and Megan are doing with the music during our Sunday Worship services.

Property – Doug Walck requested a bid from our landscaping contractor for removal of bushes inside main sign (\$300). Landscaping contractor has requested that he trim palm trees around building for \$16 a tree. Replacing the church sign on Santa Barbara with shorter steel painted sign. Painting the church sign on Rattlesnake-Hammock Road. Paint has been purchased, looking for volunteers. Property volunteers have been working in the grove next to the garage to keep the grass cut. This will be an on-going project. SOTG will send neighbor a letter explaining liability concerns when working on church property.

Old Business:

I have been in contact with Dr. Linder from NCH and we are working on a date that will work to meet with the Council regarding medical recommendations for congregations that have opened for public worship.

COUNCIL'S CORNER (CONTINUED) . . .

New Business:

Mutual ministry team - With new Covid guidelines for worship and some concerns that have been shared with me regarding worship times and other minor issues, I have decided it is time to once again begin work on development of this new ministry. This ministry team would be under the guidance of the Parish Relations Council member.

Memorial committee – Memorial committee is to be formed to have oversight of memorial funding and gifts. This was put on hold due to Covid, but it will be important to form this committee in the near future. This committee and Pastor would contact families to whom memorials have been given to invite them to use their memorial gifts for potential projects. They would also report to and be under the direction of the Endowment Committee. Endowment Committee would be responsible for giving reports to the Council and congregation when memorial funding is used.

Council approved the Men's AA Group using Hanson Hall every Monday at 12:00 noon for their weekly meeting.

Council adjourned at 6:38 p.m. with closing devotions by Pastor Jeff.

Next meeting will be November 10, 2020 with devotions by Larry Buettner.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Cooper, Secretary

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



REMEMBERING THOSE LESS FORTUNATE . . .

We are again collecting food for the food for the St. Matthew's House Food Pantry at both Naples and Immokalee. Food may be dropped off at the Church in the Narthex on Sunday mornings or Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

FINANCIALLY, HOW ARE WE DOING? . . .

PERIOD: Eleven Months Ended November, 2020

	Actual	Budget	Difference: Favorable (Unfavorable)
Operating Income	\$38,959	\$26,955	\$12,004
Operating Expense	\$24,155	\$26,644	\$ 2,489
Net Income (Deficit)	\$14,804	\$ 311	\$14,493

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 DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS TO . . .

December 2 Jennifer White
December 5 Iann Butterman
December 7 Carol DiScala
December 8 Nola Halverson
December 11 Shelby Hackethal
December 11 Dorothy MacKenzie
December 11 Eleanor Pitzer
December 12 Alice Bassett
December 12 August Buettner
December 12 George Giacometti
December 12 Harlo "Pete" Peterson
December 13 Sally McIlwain
December 14 Richard Jingling
December 19 Steven Tracy
December 20 Olivia Tibbetts
December 24 Doris Marderness
December 26 Donald Glaser
December 27 Pat Cooper
December 28 Penny Morken
December 29 Sharon Hicks
December 30 Edward Ries
December 31 Bonnie Kischer

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES . . .

HAPPY ANNIVERSERY TO:

December 23 Kathy & Roger Burtchin



RECEIVED HIS VICTORY . . .

Ted Roscoe received his victory in the Lord on Friday, October 30, 2020.

On Monday, November 30, 2020, Carl Morken received his victory in the Lord. Service arrangements are pending.



LAUGHTER IS MEDICINE FOR THE SOUL . . .

Remember when air was free at the gas station? Now it's \$1.50. You know why? Inflation!

I've started investing in stocks: beef, chicken, and vegetable . . .
One day I hope to be a bouillonnaire.

I just bought a new first aid kit. I thought I would treat myself.

Why did the lion eat the tight rope walker?
He wanted a balanced meal.

AA GROUPS . . .

Women's AA Group

On Monday nights at 7:30 p.m. you are invited to join the "Women by the Book" closed AA meeting for women only. You are welcome to email: womenbythebookaa@gmail.com for Zoom information. The meeting will be on Zoom year round and we will begin meeting at Shepherd of the Glades, Hanson Hall starting on November 9, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

Mixed AA Group

On Mondays at noon, a mixed AA group will be meeting in Hanson Hall. Also, Tuesday evenings at 5:30 p.m. and Saturday morning, at 9:00 a.m. If you or someone you know wishes to attend, please contact Tom Gallagher at 239-348-2205 or Frank Zalar at 239-784-7351.

FOOD FOR THE SOUL . . .

"...And then, just when everything is bearing down on us to such an extent that we can scarcely withstand it, the Christmas message comes to tell us that all our ideas are wrong, and that what we take to be evil and dark is really good and light because it comes from God. Our eyes are at fault, that is all. God is in the manger, wealth in poverty, light in darkness, succor in abandonment. No evil can befall us; whatever men may do to us, they cannot but serve the God who is secretly revealed as love and rules the world and our lives." *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

CARING CONNECTIONS . . .

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following people in your thoughts and prayer:

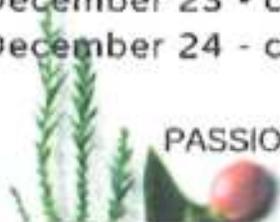
Lynn Arbeiter & Family	Raymond Kern	The Ted Roscoe Family
Shobha Bharty	The Family of Jim Lee	Charlotte Sebe
Helene Boone	Anita Lehr	Don Sharpe
The Jim Bullock Family	The Herrick Family	Karen & Brad Puerner
John Carr	Sharon Hicks	The Reseou Family
The Robert Cumor, Jr. Family	Family of Ina Loeslie	Elaine Sima
The Dana Dickerman Family	Pat Lussy	Micah Smith
Tom & Vicki Dunlop	Bill MacDonald	Donald Spanitz
Mike Eickhoff	Leo Malinowski	The Spiegel Family
Susan Espersen	Lisa & Mark McGarity	Family of Tim Stover
Jack Fee	The Carl Morken Family	Karen Tangen
Carol Freitag	The Jim O'Neal Family	Family of Pastor Jeffery Walther
Sue Haberkorn	Jim Oppermann	Family of Shirley Watson

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

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

**EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A
FOOD BANK.**

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans



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A CHRISTMAS PROJECT OR TWO . . .

The Giving Tree for St. Matthews House

Reaching out to those in need in our community is even more important this year due to the difficulties they have experienced with the pandemic.

Realizing this, we will still try and make the Christmas holidays festive for those men and women living at St. Matthews House shelter. The Evangelism Committee at SOTG is planning to have our little tree in the Narthex to celebrate the Christmas season. Because of Covid -19, we will be presenting our Giving Tree request a little differently.

Currently, many people do not feel comfortable going out into the stores to buy gifts but would still like to do something to help the residents at St. Matthews House. This year we (the Evangelism Committee) are going to offer to do the shopping for you. If this is something you are interested in, just send a donation to Shepherd of the Glades marked "St. Matthews Christmas Gift" and the committee will purchase your gift and make sure it gets to St. Matthews House before December 24th. You can even specify what kind of gift you want the committee to purchase.

If you would like to purchase your own gift and bring it to the Church, you may still do so. The office is open daily from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday, and St. Matthews is requesting that you do not wrap the gift. Please just indicate what the item is on a package tag and put the item in a gift bag. Last year some of the members of the congregation ordered their gift online and had it delivered to the Church. This is also an option that is available to you again this year.

Mr. David Welch, our contact person at St. Matthews House, suggested "Gift Cards" might be more appropriate and safer to give this year. Gift cards are used by St. Matthews's staff to purchase needed items for the residents. If this is not something you feel comfortable doing, we have listed a few gift suggestions below:

Bed Slippers – Male or Female (slip on with rubber bottom)

Socks – Male or Female (adult size)

Umbrella

Rain Poncho

Bike Light

Bike Lock (combination)

Wallet

Daily Journal

Adult backpack – Male or Female

Personal hygiene items

Note: Please bring our send your gift to SOTG prior to Sunday, December 13, 2020.

Thank you,

Penny Morken and Linda Tidmore
Evangelism Committee



CHRISTMAS IS COMING . . .

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS ORDER FORM!

Please help us beautify our sanctuary in praise to our Savior this Christmas! Poinsettias will be placed around the altar for Christmas. You may take your poinsettia(s) home after Christmas Eve worship.

Please order one or more poinsettias by completing the form below. The cost is \$20 per poinsettia. The deadline for ordering is Monday, December 14, 2020.

Please place your order form in the offering plate, leave in the basket in the narthex, or deliver to the Church office.



I WOULD LIKE TO ORDER _____ POINSETTIAS AT \$20 EACH, DEDICATED AS INDICATED BELOW: (PLEASE PRINT)

BULLETIN DEDICATION #1 _____

BULLETIN DEDICATION #2 _____

BULLETIN DEDICATION #3 _____

BULLETIN DEDICATION #4 _____

MY CHECK OR CASH IS ATTACHED FOR \$ _____.

MY NAME: _____

MY PHONE: _____ MY ENVELOPE NUMBER: _____

Office use only:
Date received: ____ Dedication entered ____ Amount paid ____ Check # ____ Cash ____

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS . . .

If you are interested in working with the Altar Guild, we would love to have you. This would involve preparing the altar and communion distribution for Sunday Worship service, but time commitment is minimal. If interested, contact Ann Buck at (678) 428-5003 or Darlene Momberg at (239) 404-7598.

We are looking for a few people who would like to volunteer to read the Sunday lessons. If this is something you would like to do, you can contact Jan Wolfe at janwolfe@embarqmail.com or (239) 649-7437.

We are also looking for people to usher at both the 8:30 a.m. indoor service and the outdoor 10:30 a.m. service. Training will be provided. If interested, please call the office at (239) 775-0696.



DECEMBER, 2020

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1 AA MIXED GROUP 5:30 P.M.	2	3	4	5 AA MIXED GROUP 9:00 A.M.
6 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP SERVICE W/ HOLY COMMUNION 10:30 A.M. OUT- DOOR SERVICE	7 AA MIXED GROUP 12 NOON AA WOMEN'S GROUP 7:30 P.M.	8 COUNCIL MTG 5:00 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP 5:30 P.M.	9	10	11	12 AA MIXED GROUP 9:00 A.M.
13 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP SERVICE W/ HOLY COMMUNION 9:30 A.M. ANNUAL MEETING 10:30 A.M. OUT- DOOR SERVICE	14 AA MIXED GROUP 12 NOON AA WOMEN'S GROUP 7:30 P.M.	15 AA MIXED GROUP 5:30 P.M.	16	17	18	19 AA MIXED GROUP 9:00 A.M.
20 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP SERVICE W/ HOLY COMMUNION 10:30 A.M. OUT- DOOR SERVICE	21 AA MIXED GROUP 12 NOON AA WOMEN'S GROUP 7:30 P.M.	22 AA MIXED GROUP 5:30 P.M.	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE OUTSIDE WORSHIP 5:00 P.M. AND 7:00 P.M.	25 CHRISTMAS DAY OFFICE CLOSED	26 AA MIXED GROUP 9:00 A.M.
27 FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS 8:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP SERVICE W/ HOLY COMMUNION 10:30 A.M. OUT- DOOR SERVICE	28 AA MIXED GROUP 12 NOON AA WOMEN'S GROUP 7:30 P.M.	29 AA MIXED GROUP 5:30 P.M.	30	31		

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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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**

(239) 775.0696 FAX: (239) 793.2465

Web Page: <http://www.sotgweb.org>

Email: sotg6020@gmail.com

Sunday Worship Service: 9:30 a.m.

Office Hours: Monday - Friday: 9:30 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