

# 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 2019**  
**Volume 15- Issue 10**  
Editors: Lynn Dickerman  
& Linda Tidmore



*A Blessed Christmas  
Season to All!*

Worship fully!  
Live radically!  
Love completely!

**SHEPHERD OF THE GLADES  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

This year will be my first Advent and Christmas without snow. It is such a gift to live in “paradise on earth” but living here means giving up a lifelong tradition of a “White Christmas.” If I am honest, I would have to admit that my image of snow and Christmas having to be together is a bit of Norman Rockwell fantasy life painting rather than real life. Snow and Christmas are not synonymous. I would suspect that many of you have experienced feeling a bit strange as you put up Christmas lights on your Palm trees and barbeque outdoors or go to the beaches or do something you have never done before at Christmas. Advent and Christmas traditions are engrained in our minds, and when these traditions are not present, we might feel like we are missing out on something. But the real meaning and tradition of Christmas is found in scripture. No matter where you live, this is what Christmas is about, and it will never change.



It is written in the gospel of Luke, “An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you *good news of great joy that will be for all the people*. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; *He is Christ the Lord*.” The good news at Christmas that brings us great joy that lasts is not a “White Christmas” or lots of presents under the tree. Christmas is receiving the greatest gift of all. Celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord and savior! This Christmas, we are hosting all our children and their spouses in our home. Their presence and being present with one another to celebrate the birth of Christ is the best gift any of us could ever receive. Christmas is not about buying presents to put under the tree, but rather celebrating the presence of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Do you remember the classic story, “The Grinch”? Even though he stole all the presents, and all the trees, and all the lights, the Grinch could not steal Christmas. For many Americans and for millions of Christians around the world, there will be no presents under the tree- if they even have a Christmas tree. But they still find great joy in this Holy Holiday even without the presents or snow. One of my family traditions when the children were younger was that we must create the presents we give to one another or give the gift of time (I will make your bed for one week! I will do your chores for one week! I will play a game with you whenever you ask...You get the idea.) This is especially meaningful to the young children who cannot buy gifts. That gift you buy them may make them happy for a time, but the memory and joy of your presence and time spent with them will last a lifetime. Children can share their gift of love and time with their siblings and their parents. I have to admit that I am not totally un-American. The pressures of society affected how we celebrated Christmas in the past. When they were younger, our children would receive 3 Christmas gifts each from us; representing the gold, frankincense and myrrh that Jesus received. Though it is very hard, we wanted to keep Christ central in Christmas.

If you are desiring to find good news and great joy this Christmas, don't forget Christ. If you feel blessed and want to bless others, take a look at making a donation to ELCA world hunger appeal, the local food pantry, local homeless shelters like St. Matthews, or energy assistance for the poor. There are also ELCA good gifts you can buy for people around the world that will help them sustain their lives through your gift of honey bees, chicks, dairy cows, goats, a citrus tree, or many other

## PASTOR'S PAGES . . .

options at a small cost. You will make Christ known to others through your gifts. Now that my children are grown, they purchase ELCA good gifts and give them on behalf of Kelli and I as a Christmas present to us. Maybe you could suggest this to others who want to buy you something for Christmas. Then with great joy we can sing Destiny's Child, "Christmas is here, bringing good cheer To young and old, meek and the bold ... Songs of good cheer, Christmas is here Merry merry merry merry Christmas!" Have a happy and joyous Holy Holiday and remember to keep Christ in Christmas!

In God's Gracious Grip and in  
Christ's peace +,

Pastor Jeff

## CROSS+GENERATION SUNDAY SCHOOL . . .

We are grateful for the blessings we continue to receive as we meet each Sunday, studying God's word. Informational discussions about the "rapture" phenomena and what the Bible does not say about it. A study on the book of James with Martin Luther's thoughts and learning about the importance of forgiveness in our lives, were some of the topics covered last month. An informal Christmas caroling night is in the works...more details will follow. We are thankful to Pastor Jeff for leading us each week, as we grow together in our faith. Come check us out in Hanson Hall after coffee fellowship on Sunday mornings. All ages are welcome!

God's presence is in you !

Lori Bernabei- Education Committee

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE . . .

On Christmas Eve there will be two opportunities to worship, 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. What a great opportunity to invite neighbors and friends to worship with us!

## MEMORIAL SERVICE . . .

Lynn Dickerman appreciates the caring hearts and people of Shepherd of the Glades and thanks all of you for your prayers, thoughts, and cards while Dana, her husband, was ill. He went home to the Lord he loved on Sunday, November 24, 2019. You are all invited to celebrate his life and faith with Lynn and her family on Saturday, January 18, 2020, at 2:00 p.m. at Centerpoint Community Church, 6590 Golden Gate Boulevard, Naples, FL 34105.

## FINANCIALLY, HOW ARE WE DOING? . . .

PERIOD: Eleven Months Ended November, 2019

	Actual	Budget	Difference: Favorable (Unfavorable)
Operating Income	\$278,881	\$310,535	(\$31,654)
Operating Expense	\$261,887	\$244,242	(\$17,645)
Net Income (Deficit)	\$16,994	\$66,293	(\$49,299)

### **September 10, 2019 Council Meeting Minutes** **(No Council meeting was held in the month of October)**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Vice President, Pete Peterson. Members in attendance: Larry Buettner, Pat Cooper, Pat Cumor, Tom Dunlop, Paul Hashagen, Pete Peterson, Keith Scamehorn, and Bob Tidmore. Pastor Jeff Ungs was also in attendance. Absent were Earnie Keller and Doug Walck .

Devotions were given by Pastor Jeff Ungs.

Bob Tidmore was nominated as Treasurer by Pat Cooper, seconded by Paul Hashagen, and unanimously voted as the new Treasurer. He reported that August was an “up” month, and that we have not had to tap into investment funds for this year. There might have to be an adjustment to the budget because the original budget accounted for an interim pastor for all of 2019. Bob will be working on the budget for next year.

Pastor Jeff gave his report to Council. He made 11 calls during the month for home communions, pre-surgery, and hospital visits. Pastor Jeff performed three funerals. Two more funerals are upcoming. He has met with several committees, attended an area pastors’ luncheon, planned funeral preparations with families, and provided spiritual direction for visitors to the church. Special events were “Welcome Sunday” and “Rally Sunday”, which had 20 in attendance. He is pleased with the way Lynn and Linda are working together.

Team reports:

Education – Larry Buettner had no report, but Pastor Jeff said there were 20 people who came to the Cross Gen. Bible Study.

Endowment - Pete Peterson reported that the Endowment Fund provided a loan to Pastor Jeff until the sale of his house up North.

Evangelism – Pat Cumor reported that she was contacted by Jenny Winter about advertising in the Naples News. We need to get something in about Pastor Jeff’s installation on November 3.

Fellowship - Earnie Keller sent an email report stating that the Sew-Sew’s will start meeting on September 17.

Local Missions– Paul Hashagen reported that he missed the last eight weeks food pickup because of illness, but is he is starting back now.

Parish Relations - No report

## **COUNCIL'S CORNER (CONTINUED) . . .**

Property – Ron Modjeska reported that Property Committee was having troubles. The air conditioner for the office area needs replaced and will cost \$5,600. Ron would like to rent a lift to change the lights in the sanctuary

The painting in the main room and hallways of Hanson Hall was completed, and a thermostat was replaced in Hanson, as well. A motion to spend \$5,600 for a new office air conditioner was made by Larry Buettner, seconded by Pat Cumor and approved. A motion to rent the lift for \$450 and replace all the light bulbs was made by Larry Buettner and seconded by Keith Scamehorn and approved. A motion was made to purchase a new mailbox for \$200 and seconded by Pat Cumor and approved.

Stewardship – Tom Dunlap reported that we need to get started on a program using E-Giving.

Worship & Music – Larry Buettner reported that we will have the same format for worship. The Worship Committee and Pastor are working together to make the hymns, worship and scripture all come together. Jan Wolfe and the A/V people will be invited to the next Worship & Music Committee. New green cowls have been provided for the choir robes. The Worship and Music Committee will have a regular set date on the calendar for future meetings.

**New Business:**

Staff of Committees – Pete Peterson commented on the staffing of committees. We need to work on bringing people back to church that have been gone.

Larry Buettner thanked Pete for doing such a good job. Pastor Jeff wanted to know who keeps the records of who is buried in our Memorial Garden.

Paul Hashagen is in charge of devotions for the November meeting. Pastor Jeff gave devotions at the end of the meeting. Council was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pat Cooper, Secretary

## 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 . .

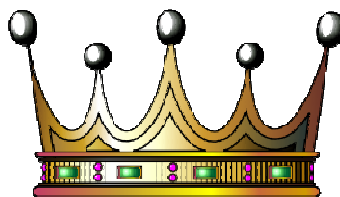
December 1 Jeremiah Eliason  
December 2 Jennifer White  
December 5 Iann Buttermann  
November 5 Saul Gamez-Perez  
December 7 Carol DiScala  
December 8 Nola Halverson  
December 11 Shelby Hackethal  
December 11 Dorothy MacKenzie  
December 11 Eleanor Pitzer  
December 12 Alice Bassett  
December 12 August Buettner  
December 12 George Giacometti  
December 12 Harlo "Pete" Peterson  
December 13 Sally McIlwain  
December 14 Barbara Ettinger  
December 14 Myrka Gonzalez  
December 14 Richard Jingling  
December 15 Iris Krug  
December 17 Donna Niss  
December 19 Audrey Denny  
December 19 Steven Tracy  
December 20 Olivia Tibbetts  
December 24 Doris Marderness  
December 27 Pat Cooper  
December 28 Penny Morken  
December 29 Sharon Hicks  
December 30 Edward Ries



### NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES . . . **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:**

December 19 Sherri & Jeffrey Nelson  
December 23 Kathy & Roger Burtchin

## RECEIVED THEIR VICTORY . . .



James Montgomery received his victory in the Lord on Wednesday, October 30, 2019.  
Dana Dickerman received his victory in the Lord on Sunday, November 24, 2019.

## CARING CONNECTIONS . . .

### PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following people in your thoughts and prayers:

Lynn Arbeiter & Family	Helen	Rusty Razer
Susan Aspro	Ted Henning	Beverly Renning
Rich Bartsh	Joanne Hogan	Victor & Yolanda Rodrigues
Ryan Bebb	Family of Pat Hulsemann	Ted Roscoe
Betty Baker	Jonas	Greta Schamberger
Meta Bauer	Judy & Rich	Charlotte Sebe
Merlyn Bowers	Stefanie Kopecke	Don Sharpe
James Bullock	Glen Ladic	Elaine Sima
Carolyn Case & Family	Bryant Lane	Micah Smith
Rob Ciaramitaro	Sheryl Lane	Paul Smith
Dianne, Kate & Mark Connell	Ed Larson	Donald Spanitz
Liza Corson	Anita Lehr	Ruth Spears
Marion Davis	Liz	Spiegel Family
Dana Dickerman Family	Carol Lyberg	Dan and Scott Stegner
Frances Dise	Martha Mahon	Susan Sweet
Family of Esther Dressler	Gary Mart	Ron Sweet, Jr.
Drew Family	Howard Mattick	Tom
Tom Dunlop	Paula McCarthy	Susanne Thomas
Eric	Jack McKenna	Ginny Trendel
Coleen, Glenn, & Susan Evans	Debbie McWaters	Kelli Ungs
Mike Feldman	Barb Modjeska	Susan Walck
Michelle Fetzer	Nancy Moran	Christina Warrilow
Barbara Glaser	Carl Morken	Shirley Watson
Gerald Gibbons	Jim O'Neal	Lana Williams
Family of Annette Gjesdahl	Frank Ordway	Connee Zeman
Robin Good	Karen Puerner	
Jim Hahn	Quinn	

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

## 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. Eustis Army Base, VA  
Warrant Officer Robert Stofflet at Ft. Eustis Army Base, VA



## **ANNOUNCEMENT ALLEY . . .**

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

### **WORSHIP HOURS**

Starting Sunday, January 5, 2020 we will holding two worship services. The time of these services will be 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 quilting group gathers every Tuesday at 8:30 a.m. in Hanson Hall. We welcome any person who wishes to participate in the fellowship that we all enjoy. If you that has old sheets and tablecloths, the sew-sews would appreciated them being donated.

### **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

The Women's Bible Study will resume again in January. It will be held the second Friday of every month in the Choir room. The ladies study the "Gather" magazine Bible study. Copies of the study will be available in the Narthex the Sunday before. All are welcome!

### **AMAZONSMILE CHARITY**

The Amazon Smile logo, featuring the word "amazon" in its signature font with a curved arrow underneath, and the word "smile" in a white, sans-serif font on an orange background with a subtle pattern of white circles.

[SMILE.AMAZON.COM](https://www.smile.amazon.com)

**Support Shepherd of the Glades Lutheran Church by shopping at AmazonSmile.**

When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon will donate to Shepherd of the Glades Lutheran Church. Support us every time you shop.

### **CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDERS**

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 a form in the Narthex. The cost is still \$15 per poinsettia. The deadline for ordering is MONDAY, December 16, 2019. Please place your order form in the offering plate, leave in the basket in the narthex, or deliver to the Church office.



## ANOTHER INSPIRATIONAL BLESSING . . .

A friend of mine called to thank me for sending Pastor Ungs to his home. In fact, he has seen them on a monthly basis. This couple has not been able to come to church for some months due to advancing dementia. It has now reached the point where they are not able to leave their home. But faithfully Pastor shows up to see them and conducts his service in their home complete with a sermon. This article has a dual point. Perhaps you know someone in similar difficult times and the also let you know how attentive our new Pastor has been. Our Pastor simply does an outstanding job in helping people in these critical times. This article has been written by a member of SOTG who wishes to remain anonymous.

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT . . .

### Christmas to-do List

1. Buy **Be** Presents
2. Wrap Gifts **Someone in a Hug**
3. Send Gifts **Peace**
4. **Donate** Shop for Food

## PASTOR JEFF'S INSTALLATION 11/03/19. . .



## PASTOR'S INSTALLATION CONTINUED . . .



## CALENDAR CUES . . .

Sunday, December 8, 2019, Annual Church Bake Sale

Sunday, December 15, 2019 Annual Congregational Meeting , following  
worship service

Sunday, December 15, 2019 Blessing of the Giving Tree gifts

Friday, December 20, 2019 January 2020 Newsletter deadline

Tuesday, December 24, 2019, Christmas Eve candle light worship services  
5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Friday, January 3, 2020, Newsletter mailing

Sunday, January 5, 2020, two worship services, 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, January 5, 2020, Worship and Music Meeting after 10:30 worship service

Friday, January 10, 2020, Women's Bible Study, 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, January 12, 2020, Welcome Back Luncheon, 12:00 noon with Thrivent

# DECEMBER, 2019



	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 1ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT 9:30 A.M. WORSHIP W/PASTOR JEFF + GEN 10:45 A.M.	<b>2</b> 9:00 -10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS WOMEN'S GROUP 7:30 P.M.	<b>3</b> 8:30 - 11:00 A.M. SEW-SEWS	<b>4</b> 9:00-10:00 AM BONE BUILDERS CHOIR 7 PM	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> NEWS LETTER MAILING	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT 9:30 A.M. WORSHIP W/ PASTOR JEFF + GEN 10:45 A.M.	<b>9</b> 9:00 -10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS WOMEN'S GROUP 7:30 P.M.	<b>10</b> 8:30-11:00 A.M. SEW-SEWS 5:00 COUNCIL MTG	<b>11</b> 9:00 -10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS CHOIR 7 P.M.	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT ANNUAL MEETING 9:30 A.M. WORSHIP W/ PASTOR JEFF + GEN 10:45 A.M.	<b>16</b> 9:00 -10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS WOMEN'S GROUP 7:30 P.M.	<b>17</b> 8:30 - 11:00 A.M. SEW-SEWS	<b>18</b> 9:00-10:00 AM BONE BUILDERS CHOIR 7 P.M.	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> DEADLINE FOR JANUARY NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT 9:30 A.M. WORSHIP W/ PASTOR JEFF + GEN 10:45 A.M.	<b>23</b> 9:00 -10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS WOMEN'S GROUP 7:30 P.M.	<b>24</b> 5:00 & 7:00 P.M. CRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP W/PASTOR JEFF	<b>25</b> CHRISTMAS DAY	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 1ST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS 9:30 A.M. WORSHIP W/ PASTOR JEFF + GEN 10:45 A.M.	<b>30</b> 9:00 -10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS WOMEN'S GROUP 7:30 P.M.	<b>31</b>	NEW YEAR'S DAY			

The Shepherd of the Glades Parish Newsletter is sponsored by:



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**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: [sotg1@embarqmail.com](mailto:sotg1@embarqmail.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**