

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

APRIL, 2020

Volume 18- Issue 4

Editors: Lynn Dickerman
& Linda Tidmore

On a hill far away...

**He died,
that I might live.**

1 Thess. 5:10



**SHEPHERD OF THE GLADES
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

PASTOR'S PAGES . . .

Easter is going to look different this year. Due to the COVID-19 virus, we will not hold public Worship on Easter. There will be virtual worship on the internet that you will be able to watch, participate in, and enjoy, but we will not have public worship in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday. I will follow the guidelines and recommendations of the CDC, the Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, and Bishop Suarez and the Florida Bahama Synod. Think of it this way. This will be the first time in your life where it will be acceptable and permissible to come to Easter Worship in your pajamas! But we will gather virtually on the internet as a community with the reminder that there is a very serious global pandemic that is being addressed and is present in the United States. We are still in the upward curve in terms of containing this global pandemic virus in the USA. The CDC has recommended that no groups larger than 10 persons gather in one space and that all remain at least 6 feet apart. Social distancing and isolation have become our new reality. As I have stated in a sermon, many want things to return to normal. I believe that when we say we want things to get back to “normal” we are really saying that we hope to return to a routine that we are familiar and feel comforted with and that everything is going to be OK. So let me begin by reminding you that everything will be OK. In fact, it is going to be better than OK because we already know the ending of the story. Everything, including the way we do the work of the Church, and gather for worship has changed this Easter season. But God has been and always will be present with the Church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail. Shepherd of the Glades has a firm financial foundation, and I do not know of any members at this time who have had the unfortunate experience of getting this horrible virus. The Lutheran Church is a Church of Re-formation, and we understand that the Church will change, but God who is faithful will not leave us or forsake us. It is true that none of us like change and uncertainty. But we need to remember that we are a resurrection people. So think for just a moment about that very first Easter. Everything changed not only for those first disciples of Jesus, but for the whole world.



When Jesus died a humiliating death on the cross, all hope was lost for those who followed him. All sense of the hope for a normal life and a powerful kingdom on earth for the nation of Israel was gone. The story in Luke 24:21 tells us that two men who were followers of Jesus said they “had hoped He would be the one to redeem Israel.” These two disciples were walking back to what they thought would be a return to their life before they met Jesus. They had heard the news from the women who said that Jesus was not in his tomb and he was alive, but no other disciples had seen Jesus since he was sealed in the tomb. So they were sad and looking down. When they met the resurrected Christ, they were not even able to recognize him in their presence. But Jesus opened their eyes to Holy Scripture and God’s plan even in the midst of what seemed like all was lost. Sometimes, when it feels like all is lost and we are looking down and feeling sad, we fail to see Jesus in our midst. We had hoped to renew the Passion play this year and make Holy Week a powerful and meaningful experience. We had hoped this year we would have a big Easter egg hunt between services for our families to enjoy. We had hoped this year we would see an increase in new attendees and families coming to Church. So what do we do when what we had hoped for does not happen? We can look to the cross of Jesus Christ and we are reminded that when all seems lost, God brings the promise of new life and hope to our grief.

PASTOR'S PAGES CONTINUED . . .

Bishop Suarez has recommended that when we finally are able to gather together again for public worship, that we celebrate a Resurrection Sunday even though it is not Easter on the calendar. We can celebrate our gathering with a new appreciation of what a gift it is to come together as an assembly of believers in Jesus Christ for worship.

We can celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion with a strong desire to receive Jesus' body and blood for the forgiveness of sin. We can gather together in prayer as an assembly once again. In the meantime, please don't neglect your spiritual care. Join us every Sunday for worship online at our website, and take a look at the new additional links that are on our website to help feed your Spirit with hope, peace, and the love of God in Christ Jesus our LORD.

Yes, the way we do Church this Easter will look different, but the message of "Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed!" will not be silenced even by a global pandemic. The good news of Jesus Christ and His love for us continues to spread throughout the world even in the darkest hours of history, and the COVID-19 virus will not keep us from joyously proclaiming, "Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed! May you have a blessed Easter filled with the peace that passes all human understanding, and may the joy of the Lord be your strength.

God bless +,
Pastor Jeff

OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE . . .

A member recently suggested, and Council approved, the establishment of a fund for the support of ELCA seminary students from SOTG. The fund is not a budget item but was established to receive contributions that individuals might like to make in support of students from SOTG who attend ELCA seminaries and colleges. There has been an initial contribution to this fund by a member and further contributions are welcomed. They should be designated for the Seminary Support Fund.

CROSS + GENERATON SUNDAY SCHOOL . . .

We are temporarily suspending our Sunday morning classes on the Psalms due to precautions currently in place. We will resume when we are able. Remember that God is in control and nothing is unexpected for him. God's presence is in you.

Education Committee

FINANCIALLY, HOW ARE WE DOING? . . .

PERIOD: Three Months Ended March, 2020

	Actual	Budget	Difference: Favorable (Unfavorable)
Operating Income	\$108,245	\$129,109	(\$20,864.00)
Operating Expense	\$92,801	\$84,886	(\$7,915.00)
Net Income (Deficit)	\$15,444	\$44,223	(\$28,779)

FEBRUARY, 2020 COUNCIL MINUTES . . .

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by President, Larry Buettner.

A motion to approve the minutes of the last Council meeting and the annual congregational meeting were made, seconded, and passed.

Treasurer's Report: Bob Tidmore recommended Bodine Perry Accounting Firm to audit the financial records for 2019. Bob suggested that we purchase the second AV system, and have it installed prior to the Easter services. Council voted and approved this recommendation. Bob reported that it was not necessary to open a new account for the "Education Fund", we can use what we currently have in our chart of accounts.

Pastor Jeff gave his report to Council. "During the month of January, I have attended 'in house' meetings involving AV team, Stewardship campaign, budget meeting, Worship and Music Committee and staff. Also I hosted the Caloosa Conference meeting and attended the East Naples Ministerial meeting. The pastoral calls included home/member visits (5), home bound communions (5), potential new member visits (1) and (12) hospital/clinic visits, and (1) Hospice visit and funeral for a non-member. We had 11 new members join the church on February 2, 2020. We also had a new member orientation meeting with light meal on Thursday, January 23, 2020. Ushers' meeting was held between services on Sunday, January 26, 2020. We discussed some changes that will improve with assisting and the flow of worship. Women's Bible Study was held Friday, February 14th with (7) ladies in attendance. This group will continue to meet the second Friday of every month during season, at 10 a.m. in the music room. I have had 14-16 people attend my Bible study group on Tuesdays, during the month of January. Lent begins Wednesday, February 26th with Ash Wednesday. Holden Evening Prayer will be utilized for worship every Wednesday during Lent, with exception of Ash Wednesday." Pastor recommended that the committee chairs check the "Time and Talent" sheets to try and involve those people that have shown an interest in working with them.

Team reports:

Education – Bonny Dery reported that the Cross + Generation Sunday School is going well. The Women's Bible study group met in February with 7 ladies in attendance. Pastor Jeff has had 14-16 people attending his Tuesday afternoon Bible study class.

Endowment - Pete Peterson reported that this committee has four different funds to monitor and act on as required. Pete gave a report on the balance of each of those funds. The balance of the "Endowment" fund as of 12/31/2019 is \$133,609. The balance in the "Memorial" fund as of 12/31/2019 is \$17,000. The balance in the "Youth" fund as of 12/31/2019 is \$4,000. The balance in the "Rainy Day Emergency" fund as of 12/31/2019 is \$160,439. Pete then explained the

COUNCIL MINUTES CONTINUED . . .

restrictions on these accounts and how these funds can be spent. Connee Zeman has been appointed to the Endowment fund committee.

Fellowship - Earnie Keller reported that the Sew-Sews are going on a tour of the Shelter for Abused Women and Children on Tuesday, February 25th. The Chili Cook-off was held Friday, February 7th and we had 29 people participate.

Local Missions– Pete Peterson reported that the donated food was delivered to St. Matthews in Naples. Charlotte Wahlig commented that it was so heartwarming to see some of the residents in Immokalee purchase coats for their local children.

Property – Doug Walck reported that all the bushes around Hanson Hall have been trimmed. The volunteer workers have picked up tree branches in the grove, picked up debris on lawn and sprayed weeds around the building. They have set up tables and chairs for various HOA meetings and church events.

Stewardship – No report

Worship & Music – Pat Cooper reported that the choir members will be receiving new robes. Megan is researching some of the older hymns to make sure there is not a copyright license required.

Old Business:

Earnie Keller has resigned from her council position and Keith Scamehorn will follow up on the possible purchase or re-design of our sign. Keith will meet with Mike Boyd, from “Signs and Things”.

New Business:

Francisco Landscaping has submitted a bid for spraying insecticide and fungicide on our bushes at Hanson Hall.

Council approved the purchase of a new alarm system for Hanson Hall.

Barbara Keller is going to check on our insurance coverage for the church nursery and to make sure we have a current policy in place.

Council discussed “church security” and what to do in case of an emergency.

Council approved the purchase of a garage door opener for the maintenance shed.

Council approved the purchase of twelve light weight folding tables for Hanson Hall.

Pastor Jeff will provide devotions at the March meeting.

Council adjourned at 6:55 p.m. with a prayer led by Pastor Jeff.

Next scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Cooper, Secretary

A MESSAGE FROM OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT . . .

Your church remains active serving members and the community. Even though public gatherings at Shepherd of the Glades are suspended temporarily, the office is open, Pastor and staff remain available during business hours, volunteers are busy and special projects are underway. On behalf of you, our members, we continue to do the Lord's work every day. What we want you to do:

- 1) Stay connected – use our website to review current events and tune in to Pastor Jeff's video taped church services, www.sotgweb.org. If you need assistance in any way to make this work on your computer, please contact the office. We are here to help you!
- 2) Please continue with your weekly giving and financial support of the Church. Drop your offerings at the office or via mail, or direct deposit from your bank. The weekly offerings have dropped significantly, and we would appreciate it if you continue to financially support the Church as you are able. If you would like suggestions on how to give electronically, please contact the office or Pastor Jeff directly at [\(239\) -775-0696](tel:239-775-0696) .

We are praying for you and appreciate your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

Larry Buettner, Council President

MESSAGE FROM THE SEW-SEW'S . . .



The quilters had many challenges this season. We finished with a total of 101 quilts that were donated to the Shelter for Abused Women and Children and St. Matthews House.

Though we were down on our quantity for donation; the love and blessings are in every quilt!

We continue to need donations of sheets and fabric. The donations can be brought to the business office; and we look forward to starting again in the Fall.

God Bless!

Maryann Buettner

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 APRIL BIRTHDAYS TO . .

April 1	Vicki Dunlop
April 2	LaMorris Cook
April 4	Mark Batson
April 5	Merlyn Bowers
April 5	Elizabeth Cianflone
April 6	Andrea Moran
April 7	Joanne Bartsh
April 11	Matthew McWaters
April 12	Marilyn Barikmo
April 12	Gerald LaStella
April 13	Bill Johnson
April 13	Ken Sebe
April 14	Bobby Hicks
April 14	Lester Larrabee
April 14	Leila Sellman
April 14	Beverly Smith
April 15	Gary Dieterichs
April 16	Vernon Rasmussen
April 16	Linda Salisbury
April 17	Irmgard Bjerken
April 17	Be Opperman
April 20	Loran Loy
April 21	Donald Bassett
April 22	Gerald Campbell
April 23	Leslie Ann Beers
April 24	Mason Batson
April 25	Mason Ciampa

April 25	Cori Klocek
April 29	Mary Jingling
April 30	Larry Buettner
April 30	Jeffrey Seminario



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES . . . HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

April 7	Mary & Jeffrey Prod
April 10	Jennifer & Howard Wiesener
April 13	Susan & James O'Neal
April 20	Stephanie & Daniel Bernabei
April 28	Susan & Alan Espersen
April 29	Karen & Harlo Peterson
April 30	Diana & Steve Snover

RECEIVED THEIR VICTORY . . .



Pauline Bensing received her victory in the Lord on Tues., February 25, 2020.
Jim Lee received his victory in the Lord on Wed., March 17, 2020, in MN.

CARING CONNECTIONS . . .

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following people in your thoughts and prayers:

Lynn Arbeiter & Family	Gerald Gibbons	Jim Oppermann
Didi Arpia	Family of Annette Gjesdahl	Karen Puerner
Susan Aspro	Robin Good	Rusty Razer
Rich Bartsh	Sue Haberkorn	Beverly Renning
Betty Baker	Jim Hahn	Victor & Yolanda Rodrigues
Don Bassett	Ted Henning	Ted Roscoe
Meta Bauer	Family of Pat Hulsemann	Greta Schamberger
Merlyn Bowers	Jeanne Jones	Charlotte Sebe
James Bullock	Stefanie Kopecke	Don Sharpe
Carolyn Case & Family	Family of Iris Krug	Elaine Sima
Rob Ciaramitaro	Glen Ladic	Pauline & Huseyin Sirt
Dianne, Kate & Mark Connell	Penny Lagergren	Micah Smith
Liza Corson	Bryant Lane	Donald Spanitz
Marion Davis	Sheryl Lane	Ruth Spears
Tom Davis	The Family of Jim Lee	Spiegel Family
Francis DeBries	Lofthouse Family	Tim Stover
Dana Dickerman Family	Pastor Peter Lyberg	Susan Sweet
Frances Dise	Martha Mahon	Ron Sweet, Jr.
Family of Esther Dressler	Gary Mart	Karen Tangen
Drew Family	Howard Mattick	Susanne Thomas
Tom Dunlop	Paula McCarthy	Ginny Trendel
Coleen, Glenn, & Susan Evans	Jack McKenna	Susan Walck
Mike Feldman	Debbie McWaters	Christina Warrilow
Carol Freitag	Ron Modjeska	Family of Shirley Watson
Family of Deloris J. Galster	Carl Morken	Lana Williams
Barbara Glaser	Jim O'Neal	Nikki Wykstra
		Connee Zeman

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. Campbell Army Base, KY
Warrant Officer Robert Stofflet at Ft. Campbell Army Base, KY
Lieutenant Sterling Payne, 205 Ming St. Warrensburg MO



ANNOUNCEMENT ALLEY . . .

Office hours: Monday - Friday, 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

WORSHIP HOURS

Due to the corona virus precautions in place, you can access or worship service as soon as it is published on our website, www.sotgweb.org. The service is at the beginning of the home page, as well as on the right hand side of your screen, where you can find the latest updates.

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.

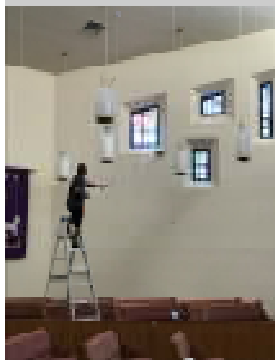


ATTENTION SOTG MEMBERS

This time of the year, the largest number of dry and canned goods come in as members return to their homes up north. Please continue to drop your donations off at our Church and we will make the deliveries to St. Matthews and Friendship House. Thank you!

Pete and Karen Peterson
Paul and Ann Hashagen

CLEANING UP OUR ACT . . .



Spring cleaning project! During the recent shut down SOTG has been scrubbed; walls, pews, bathrooms, offices, kitchen, floors, cabinets, shelves, windows, etc. We hired a cleaning service to detail, disinfect and sanitize. A crew of four worked for three days. Be advised, your church facilities have been professionally cleaned and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Larry Buettner,
Council President

GRATITUDE IS AN ATTITUDE . . .

Dear Pastor Ungs,

Please know it was a privilege and blessing to share my story of "Annie" with you and the members of your congregation. Your welcoming spirit of those with disabilities is a gift to so many. On behalf of Mosaic, thank you for inviting me. Also thanks to all who made the delicious soup. May God to continue to bless you!

Many thanks,
Judy Tamisiea

FELLOWSHIP AND FUN . . .



The Wartburg College Castle Singers gave a wonderful performance on March 2, 2020. The talent and energy that these young students have was felt by everyone who attended. Thanks to the hosts who housed them for the night and fed them!

MUSIC TO OUR EARS. . .



On Sunday, March 8, 2020, Mason Taylor, Larry & Maryann Buettner's visiting son in law, worshipped with us, playing the piano and singing. He and the Buettner's daughter, Ashley, presently live in Gallatin, TN. Mason is a graduate of Heart of David School of Worship and is an Austin and Nashville recording and touring artist. He is also a marketing manager. Talented visitors are always welcome and appreciated!

CALENDAR CUES. . .

Sunday, April 5, 2020, 9:30 a.m. Palm Sunday Service on Facebook and website

Thursday, April 9, 2020, 5:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship on Facebook and website

Friday, April 10, 2020, 5:30 p.m. Good Friday Worship on Facebook and Website

Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020, 9:30 a.m. Easter Worship Service on Facebook and Website

Tuesday, April 14, 2020, 5:30 p.m. Council meeting

Sunday, April 19, 2020, 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship on Facebook and website

APRIL, 2020



Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 PASSION/PALM SUNDAY 9:30 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE	6	7	8	9		11
12 EASTER SUNDAY 9:30 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE	13	14 5:30 P.M. COUNCIL MTG.	15	16	17	18
19 2ND SUNDAY AFTER EASTER 9:30 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE	20	21	22	23	24 DEADLINE FOR MAY NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS	25
26 3RD SUNDAY AFTER EASTER 9:30 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE	27	28	29	30	31 9:00 A.M. NEWS- LETTER MAILING	

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: 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