



# 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

**MAY, 2020**  
**Volume 18- Issue 5**  
Editors: Lynn Dickerman  
& Linda Tidmore



**SHEPHERD OF THE GLADES  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

## PASTOR'S PAGES . . .

What a month April has been. No one could have imagined that our lives would be so drastically changed in such a short time. It seems so strange to lead worship in an empty sanctuary. Instead of going to the homes of our shut ins, I am making phone calls. Instead of going to the hospitals, care facilities, assisted living and rehab hospitals, I am making phone calls and relying on information to get to the church that someone is not well. The Church Council met in April via phone conference for all participants. There was no one from the Council in the Church building. And yet, the Church of Jesus Christ is still vibrant and connected. Easter was different than we have ever experienced it, but we still celebrated Christ's resurrection. Christ is risen! Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!



I know that it is a challenging time as we move forward with the new reality that no one knows for certain when we will be able to get out and enjoy social functions and even enjoy public worship together again. But the Good News is that God knows. And God who created the heavens and the earth and everything in it will provide for our every need. This has been a time for us to really examine the gift of life and how fragile life can be. To borrow a portion of a poem by Sarah Bourns, we all have been exposed to Corona virus. Bourns writes, "*We've all been exposed. Not necessarily to the virus (maybe...who even knows). We've all been exposed BY the virus. Corona is exposing us. Exposing our weak sides. Exposing our dark sides. Exposing what normally lays far beneath the surface of our souls, hidden by the invisible masks we wear - Now exposed by the paper masks we can't hide far enough behind. Corona is exposing our addiction to comfort; our obsession with control; our compulsion to hoard; our protection of self. Corona is peeling back our layers; tearing down our walls; revealing our illusions; leveling our best-laid plans. Corona is exposing the gods we worship: our health, our hurry, our sense of security, our favorite lies, our secret lusts, our misplaced trust ... We've all been exposed. Our junk laid bare. Our fears made known. The band-aid torn. The masquerade done. So what now? What's left? Clean hands, clear eyes, tender hearts. What Corona reveals, God can heal. Come Lord Jesus. Have mercy on us.*"

Another very helpful artist that frames our current life in a helpful way is the Christian music band known as Casting Crowns. In a song called "Just be Held" Casting Crowns sing the following lyrics. "*Hold it all together. Everybody needs you strong. But life hits you out of nowhere and barely leaves you holding on. And when you're tired of fighting, chained by your control. There's freedom in surrender. Lay it down and let it go. So when you're on your knees and answers seem so far away, you're not alone; stop holding on and just be held. Your world's not falling apart, it's falling into place. I'm on the throne, stop holding on and just be held. Just be held; just be held.*"

*If your eyes are on the storm, you'll wonder if I love you still. But if your eyes are on the cross You'll know I always have and I always will. And not a tear is wasted; in time, you'll understand. I'm painting beauty with the ashes. Your life is in My hands.*

*So when you're on your knees and answers seem so far away, you're not alone; stop holding on and just be held. Your world's not falling apart, it's falling into place. I'm on the throne, stop holding on and just be held. Just be held; just be held."*

## PASTOR'S PAGES CONTINUED . . .

Brothers and sisters in Christ, I love you! I miss you, and I pray for you daily. As we continue through this Easter season, remember that Christ is Risen. Stop holding on and just be held by the one who gives us the promise of an abundant life. May the peace of the resurrected Christ be with you now and always.

I will see you in my prayers,

Pastor Jeff

## THRIVENT CARES . . .

Pastor Jeff & Shepherd of the Glades, I hope this scripture can provide you with strength and comfort through this uncertain ordeal: "May you be strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might for all endurance and patience with joy." Colossians 1:11 I pray His divine health, healing and protection upon you and your loved ones.

Prayerfully yours,

Katherine Kyle, Thrivent Community Engagement Leader

## 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 Lutheran Higher Education Support Fund.

## BLUE ZONES PROJECT . . .

God's blessing on your day! I recently brought to Council the proposition of becoming a Blue Zone Church. Blue Zones Project is a community-wide well-being improvement initiative to help make healthy choices easier in Southwest Florida. Things like providing healthy snacking options and exercise opportunities can make us eligible and provides us with free marketing and advertising. To enlist we only need 30 people to take the Blue Zone pledge. To receive more information or to take the pledge, go to the following link:

<https://southwestflorida.bluezonesproject.com>

[pledge=enY1cWVmaHZQRIBVaER1YkiY&t=FAITH](https://southwestflorida.bluezonesproject.com/pledge/enY1cWVmaHZQRIBVaER1YkiY&t=FAITH) By taking the Blue Zones Personal Pledge, you take the first step toward living a longer, healthier, happier life and have joined hundreds of your friends, neighbors, and co-workers in transforming well-being in Southwest Florida. This is a free project to help us live longer healthier lives in our community. Please take the pledge. Thank you.

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

Thanks, all, for your generosity! General Fund Matching Funds received through April 28, 2020: \$17,796; with the matching gift, the total was \$27,796.

PERIOD: Four Months Ended April, 2020

	Actual	Budget	Difference: Favorable (Unfavorable)
Operating Income	\$164,941	\$192,964	(\$28,023)
Operating Expense	\$116,382	\$117,819	\$1,437
Net Income (Deficit)	\$48,559	\$75,145	(\$26,586)

# **MARCH, 2020 COUNCIL MINUTES . . .**

**Treasurer's Report:** Bob explained that building and grounds was \$2,400 over budget in February due to the installation of a new alarm system, and that the \$15,000 loss in the investment fund is due to a decline in the overall market.

**Pastor Jeff** gave his report to Council. During the month of February, I have attended meetings involving AV team, Caloosa Conference meeting, East Naples Ministerial Meeting, budget meeting, Altar Guild, Passion Play committee meeting, Worship and Music Committee meeting, and staff meeting. I have continued to make in home visits for our shut-ins, and we had one funeral in February.

As you can see, there have been many hospital and home visits. To be a responsible leader of a community during the flu and virus season, I made the decision to suspend the shaking of hands during the passing of the peace and replace it with a simple bow to your neighbor.

Lent began Wednesday, February 26th with the Ash Wednesday service. Holden Evening Prayer has been utilized for worship every Wednesday during Lent, and the service can be seen on Facebook or the SOTG website.

The Wartburg College Choir concert was wonderful. However, unless we have a plan in place for the meal and enough host homes from our membership it will be difficult to host concerts in the future. We had 108 people attend this concert.

I am also developing a Memorial Fund committee to have oversight of memorial funding and gifts. This committee and Pastor would contact families to whom memorials have been given to invite them to use their memorial gifts for potential projects. The committee would also report to and be under the direction of the Endowment Committee.

**Team reports:**

**Education –** Bonny Dery reported that there will be an egg hunt between services on Easter.

**Endowment -** Pete Peterson reported that an account has been set up for educational donations for seminary students.

**Fellowship –** Pat Cooper reported that the Fellowship Committee has decided not to serve breakfast on Easter Sunday. Thrivent is sponsoring a brunch on April 19th after the 9:30 a.m. worship service.

**Local Missions–** Paul Hashagen reported on the wonderful work St. Matthews House does.

**Parish Relations –** Barb Keller talked to the insurance company to verify that the church Council members are covered by our liability insurance. Barb also reported that since we do not have an employee working in our nursery, a parent must accompany the child when using that area.

**Property –** Doug Walck reported that Bonny Dery and Chuck Keller will talk to Mike Boyd from “Signs and Things” regarding the permit and progress of the new church sign.

We have installed new alarm systems in Hanson Hall and in the church. A new garage door opener was installed in the maintenance shed. The fire extinguishers in both buildings were inspected and signs were posted to denote their location. Electrical work for the new AV System has been completed.

**Stewardship –** Pete Peterson gave a report on the “Time and Talent” forms that were returned.

**Worship & Music –** Pat Cooper reported that the choir members will be receiving new robes.

**New Business:**

Council approved fixing/replacing the exterior lights.

Council approved going back to one service as of April 19, 2020.

Passion play will be held on Palm Sunday, April 5th.



# 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

## HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAYS TO . .

May 1	Elizabeth Kalbaugh
May 2	Ralph Stadler
May 2	Lorraine Cook
May 3	Keith Scamehorn
May 4	Dave Larson
May 4	Lynn Arbeiter
May 5	Nikki Wykstra
May 7	Cynthia Tillman
May 7	Alejandro Soto
May 8	Joan Heimlich
May 9	Dave Hedges
May 9	Bonnie Brisky
May 10	Mary Lee Jordan
May 10	Ben Pletsch
May 10	Gayle Huberty
May 11	Brian Bartczak
May 12	Sylvia Carroll
May 12	Paul Smith
May 12	Larry Tommingo
May 16	Jennifer Wiesener
May 16	Tiffany Helenek
May 17	Sylvia Hedges
May 18	Pastor Bob Trendel
May 19	Betty Baker
May 19	Linda Lee
May 19	Gary Salisbury
May 20	M. Kathleen Duby

May 21	Lynn Karle
May 22	Kathryn O'Brien
May 23	Ed Larson
May 23	Marlene Grzywinski
May 25	Sandy Lofthouse
May 26	Nadine Kelly
May 26	Karen Peterson
May 27	Virginia Madison
May 27	Kim Klocek
May 29	Stephanie Bernabei
May 31	Shirley Rowold



## MAY ANNIVERSARIES . . .

### **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:**

May 4	Jay & Ardelle Berthe
May 18	Steve & Deniece Spaulding
May 22	Brian & Beverly Bartczak
May 23	Nancy & Jim Bullock
May 28	Derek & Andrea Moran

## **THANKS FOR CARING . . .**

Merlyn Bowers' birthday was on Palm Sunday, and Pastor Jeff during worship asked everyone to give a call to Merlyn that afternoon to wish her a happy 90th birthday. She would like to thank all the people who took the time to call her for her 90th birthday!

## 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
Family of 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
Frances 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 & Vicki 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



# MAY, 2020



Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
					1	2
<b>3</b> FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 9:30 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>10</b> FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER & MOTHER'S DAY 9:30 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE	11	<b>12</b> 5:30 P.M. COUNCIL MTG.	13	14	15	16
<b>17</b> SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 9:30 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE	18	19	20	21	<b>22</b> DEADLINE FOR JUNE NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS	23
<b>24</b> SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 9:30 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE	25	26	27	28	29	30
<b>31</b> DAY OF PENTECOST 9:30 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE						

**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.**

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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](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**