



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

JANUARY, 2021
Volume 24- Issue 1
Editors: Lynn Dickerman
& Linda Tidmore



**SHEPHERD OF THE GLADES
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

“The people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.” (Matthew 4:16 ESV).

There are 12 days of Christmas, representing the journey the Magi made to see Christ, the King. Don't put away that tree or take down those lights too quickly! Take in the message of “Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel, has come to you oh Israel” and “Joy to the World, the Lord is come, let earth receive her king!” We have been living and dwelling in a darkness for so long. But there is hope and there is a light that the darkness cannot overcome. It is Christ our King. The Gospel of Matthew quoted at the beginning of this letter is also found in the Old Testament book of the prophet Isaiah 9:2.



The birth of Jesus Christ is celebrated during a time of year that the daylight is visible for the least amount of time. We often say these are the shortest days of the year, but when the light is not visible, it feels like these are the longest days of the year and of our life. When the darkness of the shadow of death overwhelms us, we become weary and often feel hopeless. 2020 has been filled with many difficult and long days. But we remember that there is not a darkness that the light of Christ cannot overcome. Celebrations are difficult when we are grieving, but they give us hope and a glimpse of light in our darkest times. Celebrating the birth of Jesus reminds us that even in the darkest hours, new life is born. We have just come out of the time of winter solstice. The darkest days we have experienced are now behind us. So what new life and spark of hope can we look forward to in 2021?

As we look back at 2020, there was much to celebrate, even in the midst of the darkness we experienced because of Covid 19. It is not likely that January 1st will mark the end of the darkness of this horrible disease that has claimed the lives of so many, but there is a glimpse of hope and light in the vaccines that are beginning to roll out. There is also reason to hope for a brighter future as we recognize that 2020 and the closure of the church for public worship forced us to become evangelists and develop an international church through the internet. The Good News that we share can be heard globally, and not just in the building. Because of the darkest times in recent history, the Church has left the building and is reaching out to hundreds who otherwise might not be able to attend worship. And it was in 2020 that Shepherd of the Glades raised over \$22,000 specifically to assist the homeless and hungry. Because of your generosity and refusal to dwell in the darkness, the people walking in the darkness have seen a great light, who is Christ the Savior. And if we can do this together in 2020, what can we do in 2021 that will let our light shine before others so that they may see our good works and glorify God in Heaven? The birth of the Christ child brought us hope. Looking into the eyes of a baby always makes us smile as we see the face of God reflected in their beauty. In the same way, new start ministries bring us joy as we recognize the face of God reflected in the hope these new starts provide. Did you know that we have two new start ELCA ministries in our Conference? Emmanuel Communities in Emmanuel Park is located on Oil Well Road just West of Everglades Blvd. This new community church includes a soccer field, playground, and lake with a walking path. The idea behind this new start ministry is that the church is

PASTOR'S PAGES (CONTINUED) . . .

more than the building. It is the community. This new ministry already provides a safe place to have fun and food assistance for local residents. In the darkness, God is providing a great light in this new ministry. A second new ministry is Babcock Ranch; again, a community oriented new start. Like all new buildings in Babcock Ranch, this new ministry will be building a church that is completely powered by renewable energy! The light is shining in the darkness in a new way.

But maybe you do not feel called to support new start ministries. There will be plenty of opportunities for you to support the ministry we share at Shepherd of the Glades. A new Capital Campaign will begin in 2021 to bring much needed updates to our facilities including new lights and resurfacing the parking lot. Or maybe your gifts are gifts of service. We always welcome sharing your gift as a greeter/usher, lector, or musical offering for indoor worship. Don't put away those Christmas lights or Christmas spirit too soon. Let your light shine in the darkness so others may see your good works and glorify your father in Heaven. God bless you, and Happy New Year!

Pastor Jeff

THRIVENT UPCOMING ONLINE EVENTS . . .

HAPPY NEW YEAR from THRIVENT!!!

Here's a quick Checklist for keeping tabs on your portfolio

Watch your portfolio to make sure your asset allocation is still appropriate for your situation.

Check on whether your investments themselves have changed.

Find out whether new investing vehicles may be right for you.

Thrivent's mission as a fraternal benefit society, a membership organization of Christians, has helped me and I would like to continue helping others. Whether you need assistance with investments, insurance, or wealth transfer, I am here to help you too.

Thrivent Member Network - Southeast Region online events are continuing into the new year!!

Upcoming ONLINE events

Living in Financial Victory with Dr. Tony Evans

Wednesday, January 13, 2021 | On Demand | One Day Only

Understanding Annuities and Social Security with Robin Mueller

Wednesday, January 20, 2021 | 12 p.m. & 7 p.m. | Online Webinar

The 5 Love Languages with Dr. Gary Chapman

Wednesday, January 27, 2021 | On Demand Event

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 register for these events and to see a full list of upcoming online events please visit <https://www.thriventfinancial.com/member-network/southeast/events/> and follow us on Facebook [@southeasttmn](https://www.facebook.com/southeasttmn). 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 November 10, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 5:39 p.m. by President, Larry Buettner.

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

Devotions were given by Larry Buettner with prayer for our civic leaders.

A motion to approve the minutes of the last Council meeting as written was made, seconded, and passed.

Pastor's report: Pastor Jeff reported that he has had "Zoom" meetings with Caloosa Conference, East Naples Ministerial group, personal spiritual direction meetings; meetings with Altar Guild members, staff, ushers, Worship Committee, Nominating Committee, Evangelism Committee regarding the Christmas gift program, and Budget Committee. He has also had AV training with the new equipment and weekly staff meetings. Pastor has been calling, visiting, and praying with members who have been hospitalized or sick or interested in joining the church. He has been doing homebound communions. Pastor is sending weekly readings in advance of worship, and videotaping weekly greeters for Sunday worship. He performed a funeral for an inactive member. He is assembling a Mutual Ministry Team which will be under the direction of the Parish Relations Council member and will form a Memorial Committee next month which will be under the direction of the Treasurer. A 10:30 a.m. service began on 11/8/2020 and will continue through the winter months. Weather permitting, it will be outdoors.

Treasurer's Report: Bob Tidmore reported that the giving was below what was budgeted for the month but that our expenses were down from what was budgeted. The Finance Committee met to approve the budget for 2021. Pat Cooper made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report, which was seconded by Larry Buetter and approved by all.

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 our Ameritrade account as of October 31, 2020 is \$128,794.

Parish Relations – Barb Keller is now the liaison to the Mutual Ministry Team.

Education – Bonny Dery reported that the second batch of calendars were almost all sold with monies to be used for the youth.

Property - Doug Walck had submitted a written report. The wooded area was cleaned of fallen branches this past month. He is receiving bids for repaving the parking lot. A bid was also solicited and received for a replacement of the Santa Barbara Blvd sign for \$800. Pastor Jeff purchased a portable sound system to use for outdoor services. The landscape contractor is clearing the front sign of inside bushes and roots. We also have a quote to replace the parking lot lights for \$10,915.89. It was motioned, seconded, and carried in favor to approve the replacing of the parking lot lights and to replace the Santa Barbara Blvd sign.

Stewardship – Pete is trying to recruit people for the stewardship talks in January.

Local Missions – Paul took food to Saint Matthew's House in Immokalee. They are in need of baby diapers.

Worship & Music – Pat reported that Pastor Jeff and Megan were doing a very good job with the music and worship, bringing people in through the internet and in the sanctuary.

COUNCIL'S CORNER (CONTINUED) . . .

Old Business:

Bonny Dery is still waiting on Collier County to come up with the plans for the original sign out front. Pastor Jeff met with a doctor who reported that wearing masks should be mandatory indoors with a 6 foot distancing. Outdoor masks are optional but should include 6 foot distancing.

New Business:

Bob Tidmore reported that there will be a capital campaign to raise money for the parking lot lights, sign, and parking lot repaving. Motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve sending of the pastor and staff Christmas gift letter. Discussion of dental assistance for Pastor Jeff was tabled until next meeting. AA groups have been meeting on Mondays and have requested two more meetings. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approved to allow the additional meetings. A motion was made, seconded and carried to add a \$50 sanitizing fee to all groups renting Hanson Hall.

Council adjourned at 6:39 p.m. with closing devotions by Pastor Jeff.

Next meeting will be December 8, 2020 with devotions by Doug Walck.

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: Twelve Months Ended December, 2020

	Actual	Budget	Difference: Favorable (Unfavorable)
Operating Income	\$366,471	\$356,739	\$9,732
Operating Expense	\$348,528	\$356,739	\$8,211
Net Income (Deficit)	\$17,943	\$0	\$17,943

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 JANUARY BIRTHDAYS TO . . .

January 2	Katherine Cianflone
January 5	Barb Keller
January 7	Carol Freitag
January 7	John Sherman
January 7	Deniece Spaulding
January 12	Christopher Bettridge
January 16	Mary Sherman
January 17	Maryann Buettner
January 18	Sherry Larson
January 18	Abraham Unga
January 20	Vicki Tracy
January 20	Steven Snover, Jr.
January 22	Leo Malinowski
January 26	Guy Cooper
January 28	Brenda Charleston
January 29	William Christian

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES . . .

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

January 10	Luana & Gerald LaStella
January 16	Sylvia & Dave Hedges
January 18	Sue & Doug Walck
January 31	Lori & Bryan Cook



RECEIVED THEIR VICTORY . . .

Karen Puerner received her victory in the Lord on Thursday, December 10, 2020.



On Saturday, December 19, 2020, Phil Kalbaugh received his victory in the Lord.

Arrangements for the celebration of their lives are pending at this time.

MEMORIAL GARDEN IMPROVEMENTS . . .



Larry and Maryann Buettner have donated two large urns for each side of the Memorial Garden fountain. They will be able to house seasonal floral arrangements, which we will be able to keep watered through direct irrigation lines. Thank you, Larry and Maryann, for arranging for the perpetual beautification of the Memorial Garden!

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 . . .

"So, what sort of New Year's resolution should a Christian make? Here are some suggestions: (1) pray to the Lord for wisdom ([James 1:5](#)) regarding what resolutions, if any, He would have you make; (2) pray for wisdom as to how to fulfill the goals God gives you; (3) rely on God's strength to help you; (4) find an accountability partner who will help you and encourage you; (5) don't become discouraged with occasional failures; instead, allow them to motivate you further; (6) don't become proud or vain, but give God the glory. [Psalm 37:5-6](#) says, 'Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun.'" *~GotQuestions.org*

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following people in your thoughts and prayer:

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

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

ANNUAL MEETING . . .

This year's annual meeting was an historic one! President of the Congregational Council, Lawrence Buettner, and Pastor Jeff Unga led the meeting using Zoom, allowing participation of those viewing the meeting on line. The 2021 budget was approved and four new Council members were elected for this next year. They are listed below.



My name is Bonnie Brisky. Currently, I own and am the designer for Bon Bijoux—a company which creates one of a kind artisan crafted jewelry. Previously I served in multiple capacities at Sears. Corp. headquarters retiring as the Merchandise Manager for Consumer Electronics nationwide. I have a Masters in Management from Northwestern University, as well as a Bachelors in Journalism. I joined SOTG in 2005 when we moved here full time from Chicago. I have served on the Church Council and am a member of the Endowment Committee. Previously I have served on the Evangelism Committee and Altar Guild. I am a widow and have two sisters who live in the Chicago area and a brother who lives in Arizona. My stepson, daughter-in-law and granddaughter live in Seattle. I love to travel and am active in The Women of the 239.

My name is Brenda Charleston. I have 37 years of work experience in the state of Florida. I have been married for fifty years to my husband William, and have four children (boys) and eight grandchildren. I was baptized in 1986 by Pastor Lyberg and remained a member until 1990. I came back to SOTG in April of 2018. Since rejoining the church, I have worked as an usher, lector and altar assistant. When I have time, I love to read, sew, bike and walk on the beach.



My name is Penny Morken. I retired in 1998 from the field of education, where I was a classroom teacher, special education administrator, and teacher educator at the University of North Dakota. My husband and I joined SOTG approximately 18 years ago, and I became a full member 2 years ago. At my northern church I directed the Board of Lay Ministry for several years, and at SOTG, I have served on the Evangelism Team, Endowment Committee, Call Committee, and Nominating Committee. My husband, Carl recently passed away. I have three step children, eleven grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren. I enjoy reading, playing tennis, volunteer activities, and walking on the beautiful SW Florida beaches.

ANNUAL MEETING (CONTINUED) . . .



My name is Phil Willman. I have 38 years of work experience and received my degree from Penn State University. My wife, Lisa, and I came to SOTG when Pastor Wahlberg was here, and he did a memorial service for our son. I have been active on the Property Committee. We feel that this church is a good fit for us.

Lisa and I have been married for fifty years. We have a son, Nathan, who resides in Knightdale, NC; and a granddaughter, Hailey, attending East Carolina University, and a grandson, Tyler who is a senior at Knightdale High School, NC. I enjoy kayaking, bike riding, trying to play golf, and attempting to learn Spanish.

CARING FOR THOSE LESS FORTUNATE . . .

On Tuesday, December 15th, we delivered what you all so generously donated for the Giving Tree, benefiting St. Matthew's House. David Welch of St. Matthew's House received 41 gifts, \$345 in cash, and \$375 in gift cards.

On Thursday, December 17th, Pastor Jeff delivered a check for \$22,015 from Shepherd of the Glades' matching gift project to Bob Irzyk, Director of Marketing & Communications, benefiting St. Matthew's House and Immokalee Friendship House.



Karen & "Pete" Peterson delivered boxes of food collected through Shepherd of the Glades' "Reverse Advent Calendar" project also to St. Matthew's House to help feed the hungry in Collier County.

**WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANTS
AT SHEPHERD OF THE GLADES!**



FOR THE NEW YEAR . . .

“Happy New Year!
May your troubles be less,
And your blessings be more.
And nothing but happiness come through your door.”
~ *Anonymous*

Glory to God in highest Heaven,
Who unto man His Son hath given;
While angels sing with tender mirth,
A glad New Year to all the earth.
~ *Martin Luther*

May joy and peace surround you,
contentment latch your door,
and happiness be with you now
and bless you evermore!
~ *Irish blessing*



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION . . .

On Tuesday, December 15th, SOTG hosted an informal brunch in appreciation for the faithful efforts of the Property Committee and the money counters. Even though not all SOTG's volunteers could be included, please know how much the efforts of all our volunteers are appreciated. It our hope that in 2021 all our volunteers can be present for a “volunteer appreciation” event.



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 Anne 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.

JANUARY, 2021



Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs.	Fri	Sat
					1 NEW YEAR'S DAY OFFICE IS CLOSED	2 AA MIXED GROUP 9:00 A.M.
3 SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS 8:30 A.M. LIVE STREAM- ING WORSHIP SERVICE W/ HOLY COMMUNION 10:30 A.M. OUTDOOR SERVICE	4 AA MIXED GROUP 12 NOON AA WOMEN'S GROUP 7:30 P.M.	5 AA MIXED GROUP 5:30 P.M.	6	7	8	9 AA MIXED GROUP 9:00 A.M.
10 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD 8:30 A.M. LIVE STREAM- ING WORSHIP SERVICE W/ HOLY COMMUNION 9:30 A.M. ANNUAL MEETING 10:30 A.M. OUTDOOR SERVICE	11 AA MIXED GROUP 12 NOON AA WOMEN'S GROUP 7:30 P.M.	12 COUNCIL MTG 5:30 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP 5:30 P.M.	13	14	15	16 AA MIXED GROUP 9:00 A.M.
17 SECOND SUNDAY OF THE EPIPHANY 8:30 A.M. LIVE STREAM- ING WORSHIP SERVICE W/ HOLY COMMUNION 10:30 A.M. OUTDOOR SERVICE	18 AA MIXED GROUP 12 NOON AA WOMEN'S GROUP 7:30 P.M.	19 AA MIXED GROUP 5:30 P.M.	20	21	22	23 AA MIXED GROUP 9:00 A.M.
24 THIRD SUNDAY OF THE EPIPHANY 8:30 A.M. LIVE STREAM- ING WORSHIP SERVICE W/ HOLY COMMUNION 10:30 A.M. OUTDOOR SERVICE	25 AA MIXED GROUP 12 NOON AA WOMEN'S GROUP 7:30 P.M.	26 AA MIXED GROUP 5:30 P.M.	27	28	29	30 AA MIXED GROUP 9:00 A.M.
31 FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE EPIPHANY 8:30 A.M. LIVE STREAM- ING WORSHIP SERVICE W/ HOLY COMMUNION 10:30 A.M. OUTDOOR SERVICE						

Shepherd of the Glades Lutheran Church
6020 Rattlesnake Hammock Road
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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**