

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, 2023
Volume 26- Issue 1
Editors: Lynn Dickerman
& Linda Tidmore

Happy & Blessed New Year!



**SHEPHERD OF THE GLADES
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

PASTOR'S PAGES . . .

As we begin a new year, Kelli, Abraham, and I wish to express our thanks for your generous Christmas gifts and goodies. I want you to know that I recognize just how blessed I am to be called to serve at Shepherd of the Glades. Thank you for generously buying presents for our Giving Tree and helping residents in ProMedica know they are not forgotten and are loved. Thank you for all your financial support for those who suffered loss from Hurricane Ian. May you all be blessed for your generosity and being a blessing to others!



Happy New Year 2023! Where does the time go? It seems like every year time goes faster and faster. We get used to writing and saying 2022, and before you know it, we have to change the year on our checks and get new calendars!

And just when we get used to a phone or computer program, a new one comes along that we have to learn to use properly. As hard as it is to adjust to change and new things, newness is a wonderful part of God's plan. Change is a necessary part of life and it is even a good thing. God's Word says, "Behold. I am about to do a new thing. Even now it is coming. Do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:19) Think about the many ways and times God has made things new. In the beginning, there was nothing-complete emptiness. God spoke and all creation was formed. In 6 days God created everything new, and it was good. And on the 7th day God rested. Everything was beautiful and perfect. Then creation (more specifically humans) turned against God's plan for a perfect and abundant life. Adam and Eve chose to eat the forbidden fruit. Their son, Cain, killed his brother, Abel. Humanity rejected God's plan for a healthy and abundant Godly life. Eventually, God decided to start again by flooding the earth and saving Noah and his family because Noah was a righteous man. But as quickly as humanity was given a new start, people once again began sinning against God and others. God tried to give us the commandments to help us live in healthy relationships. But no matter how many chances God gave us, people sinned against God and against one another. God gave the people prophets to serve as judges over the people and help people live in peace, but the people wanted kings like the rest of their neighbors. And so God gave the people kings. But the kings became focused on their desires rather than what God desired. Eventually, God determined that no matter how many new beginnings God gave humans, we would eventually turn inward and sin against God and others. So God did the unthinkable. God became human. God did something new. The creator of all things became a part of creation and took on human flesh! Unto us a Son is given, and he is Jesus Christ our Lord. He is good news of great joy. Jesus became the new covenant when he gave his blood as a sacrifice for our sins, when he died on the cross. Because of God's love for us, Jesus gave his life. And because Jesus gave his life, we have the promise of new and eternal life.

PASTOR'S PAGES . . .

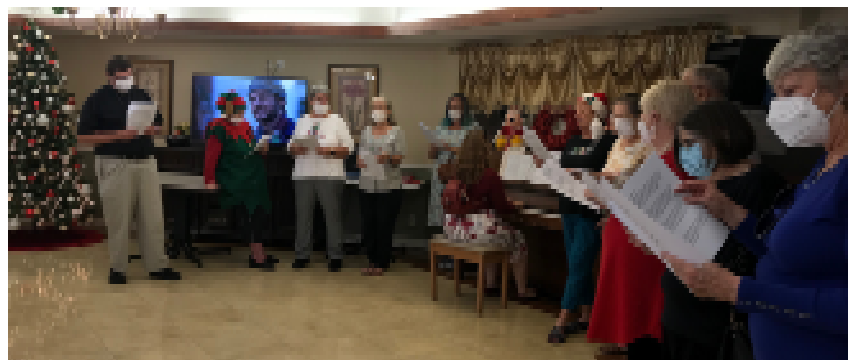
We just celebrated the birthday of Jesus and the gift of God's love and presence among us in human form. This year Christmas was very different for me because, although I have always believed in Jesus and celebrated his birth, this was the first Christmas both of my parents and one of my siblings were celebrating Jesus' birthday in heaven. I am sad and grieve that they are gone from this earth, but I am very thankful for the new life Jesus has given them in heaven. My parents, my brother, and those who have gone before us in the faith have been made new; No more pain; No more suffering. And God has wiped every tear from their eye. In Christ, they are a new creation living the way God intended, eternally joyful and filled with peace. This image and promise of new life bring hope-the hope that one day, we will all once again be joined together and living the way God intended. And what a wonderful day that will be. Rather than seeing new things as challenging, we can see them through the lens of God and God's plan. Suddenly change and new things don't seem so intimidating or difficult. So may you have a very blessed and Christ filled New Year. Happy 2023!

+ Pastor Jeff

EVANGELISM "GIVING TREE" . . .

Several members from Shepherd of the Glades sang Christmas carols and presented over 60 Giving Tree gifts to residents of ProMedica after worship on December 18. Thank you to all in the congregation for your generous giving to this year's Christmas community outreach project.

The Evangelism Committee



COUNCIL CORNER . . .

SHEPHERD OF THE GLADES LUTHERAN CHURCH December 13, 2022, COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES (Unofficial)

The meeting was called to order by Bonny Dery, President.

Members in attendance: Bob Tidmore, Penny Morken, Bonnie Brisky, Brenda Charleston, Bonny Dery, Doug Walck, Charlotte Wahlig, John Sherman, Brad Caulder Ed Ries, and Pastor Unga.

Devotions: Penny Morken

A motion to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2022, Council meeting was made, seconded, and approved as written.

Pastor's report: Pastor gave the Council an update on members who have been home bound, sick, or hospitalized. The baptism of Michael Anthony Cowles was December 11, 2022.

Pastor Jeff reported that he had meetings with ELCA Disaster response team, East Naples Ministerial, Caloosa Conference pastors, and weekly staff. Pastor also met with the Cowles family prior to the baptism. Pastor continues to meet with Property, Fellowship, and the Evangelism Committees. Pastor has regular communication with Pastor Orlando Ramirez of Iglesia Conexion and Pastor DJ and Haitian Baptist Church leaders, and the Caloosa Conference. Hanson Hall continues to be utilized by Iglesia Conexion United Methodist Church, Haitian Baptist Church, Bone Builders, AA Groups, and HOA neighborhood groups.

New Council members will be installed on Sunday, January 1st. First meeting will be January 10th. First item of business will be election of the Executive Committee.

Treasurer's Report: Bob Tidmore reported that the Truist investment account shows an increase as of the end of November, 2022. Expenses are in line with the 2022 budget.

Both the Pastor's and Treasurer's reports were motioned for approval, seconded, and passed.

Committee reports:

Endowment – No Report

Parish Relations – No Report

Property – G & C Landscaping will apply fertilizer and insecticide to our property in December. The Poole Roofing Company is scheduled to repair the roof of Hanson Hall on January 3, 2023. The Property Committee will be mulching around the plants sometime in January. A special thank you to all who helped with the Paul Todd Concert.

Education – Weekly 10 a.m. Wednesday Bible study is going well and has about 12 people attending. The Women's Bible Study met Friday, December 2nd with 4 members in attendance. They will continue to meet on the first Friday of every month at 10:00 a.m. during season.

COUNCIL CORNER (CONTINUED) . . .

Fellowship – Fellowship Committee reported that the bake sale was a big success. Plans for the “Welcome Back Luncheon” on January 15, 2023, are already in progress.

Stewardship – No Report

Evangelism- Evangelism Committee reported that the “Thanksgiving Dinner” was a wonderful success. We served 65 meals and everyone that wanted, took home leftovers. A special thanks to Kelli Unga who did most of the cooking and Colleen Hoffman who made many of the baked goods. Everyone that attended enjoyed it, and hopefully we can make this an annual event. All of the ornaments were taken off the “Giving Tree”. The wrapped gifts will be delivered on Sunday, December 18th along with Christmas caroling with the residents at ProMedica.

Local Mission - Donated food was delivered to St. Matthews House in Naples. Thank you every one that volunteers to deliver the food.

Worship & Music – Megan Cianflone is working on special music for the upcoming holidays. Paul Todd concert was a wonderful event. We had almost 300 people attend. A special thank you Lisa McGarity for organizing this event. Worship and Music Committee is planning a concert sometime in February, featuring local talent.

New Business:

The Annual meeting was held Sunday, December 11, 2022. The congregation voted to accept the nominations of Bonny Dery, Charlotte Wahlig, and Ed Ries as the new 2023 Council members.

The congregation voted to have Hank Beers, Barbara Keller, and Ron Modjeska as the 2023 Nominating Committee members.

Approval was given for Pastor Bob & Colleen Hoffman to represent the Church as Synod voting representatives for 2023.

The amendment to the Endowment Committee Bylaws was approved.

Council meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. with closing prayer by Pastor Jeff.

Next meeting will be January 10, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., with devotions by Pastor Jeff.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Charleston

Council Secretary

PRAYER CHANGES THINGS . . .

Thank you to all of God's children. As prayer warriors we are all at times in need or in praise. We are thankful for the first most reliable wireless connection to the source of all life, prayer. Please let the church office know of needs or blessings. We are all the body of Christ. If you wish to join the prayer warriors there are different ways to communicate. It can be text, email, or in person. We hold all in strict confidence. Happy New Year and may the coming year be well blessed.

Blessings,

Kelli Unga

NEWS IN THE SHEEPFOLD . . .



HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAYS TO . . .

January 1	Barbara Tommingo
January 2	Katherine Cianflone
January 5	Barb Keller
January 7	John Sherman
January 7	Deniece Spaulding
January 8	Roger Burtchin
January 9	Catherine Biederman
January 12	Carl Kelly
January 16	Mary Sherman
January 16	Colleen Strungs
January 17	Maryann Buettner
January 18	Corinne Roscoe
January 18	Sherry Larson
January 18	Abraham Ungs
January 19	Milan Blaho
January 20	Steven Snover, Jr.
January 21	John Yuhaschek
January 22	Leo Malinowski
January 22	David Hackethal
January 23	Ron Eickhoff
January 24	Sally Moore
January 26	Guy Cooper
January 28	Brenda Charleston
January 29	Al Lane
January 29	William Christian
January 31	Joan Kelly

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!



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES . . . HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

January 18	Sue & Doug Walck
January 19	Betty & Chuck Teal
January 29	Joan & Carl Kelly
January 31	Lori & Bryan Cook



The staff of Shepherd of the Glades thanks everyone for their generous and kind Christmas gifts! Happy New Year from Lynn, Linda, Megan, & Abraham!

RECEIVED THEIR VICTORIES . . .

Dorothy Julien received her victory on May 16, 2020 in Rockford, MI. She was 94 years old.

Bob Dyer received his victory in the Lord on Wednesday, December 28, 2023 at Hospice. Plans for a celebration of his life are pending.



ENDOWMENT FUND NEWS . . .

Endowment Fund Opens its Doors

In the past, our fund's constitution stated that donated funds would remain as "principal" and only dividends and interest could be distributed for a good cause. The congregation voted to modify the constitution to allow donors to give donations to either principal, gifts, or both.

You now have a choice of seeing your donations at work now or wait for a future generation. The door is opened to you and the Endowment Committee. Thank you for your consideration.

Endowment Fund and Hurricane Ian

We only have to watch the news or read the newspaper to see the devastation that Hurricane Ian has created here in Southwest Florida. Your Endowment Fund has sent a total of \$15,000 in donation to help the relief effort.

Pastor Jeff will distribute \$5,000 for relief aid here in the Naples area. The Florida-Bahamas Synod has received \$5,000 for relief aid in the Fort Myers area; And St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Fort Myers has received \$5,000 for their rebuilding effort. (See below.)

HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS . . .

Our sister church in Fort Myers Beach was decimated by Hurricane Ian. SOTG's Endowment Committee gifted Pastor Sharon of St. Peter Evangelical with a \$5,000 check towards their rebuilding efforts. See photos below:



GRATITUDE IS AN ATTITUDE . . .

Thank you for your generous response to St. Peter's needs in the aftermath of the destruction caused by Hurricane Ian. It is still too early to tell where God will lead us but your donation and prayers are greatly appreciated.

In Christ,
Arlene Burns
Council Secretary

CARING CONNECTIONS . . .

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following people in your thoughts and prayer:

Lynn Arbeiter & Family	Family of Jack Fee	Patty Musielak
Ben Bairn	Sue Haberkorn	Be Opperman & family
Family of David Beers	Family of Bobby Hicks	The Quehl Family
Bridget Adeline Bragg	Rev. Bernie Jorn	John Rogers
James Caulder	Nadine Kelly	Arlene Schamberger
The Charleston Family	Ken Konopka	The Sebe Family
Kate Connell	Al & John Lane	Leila Sellman
Lisa Corson	Family of Ed Larson	Joe Simmonasky
Xanver Davison	Anita & Nick Lehr	Micah Smith
Marilyn Day	The Lentini Family	Lisa Stenback
Family of Bob Dyer	Carl & Jean Lipke	The Swain Family
Alan & Susie Espersen	Al & Pat McFadden	The Ungs Family
Lisa Marie Farnsworth	Irma Median	Lanna Williams

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

FOOD FOR THE SOUL . . .

"Life is change. Growth is optional. Choose wisely." *Karen Kaiser Clark*

"Although no one can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending." *Carl Bard*

"The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new." *Socrates*

FINANCIALLY, HOW ARE WE DOING? . . .

PERIOD: Twelve Months Ended December 31, 2022 *

	Actual	Budget	Difference: Favorable (Unfavorable)
Operating Income	\$360,688	\$356,577	\$4,111
Operating Expense	\$385,954	\$356,577	(\$29,377)
Net Income (Deficit)	(\$25,266)	\$0	(\$25,266)

* There may be some end of year adjustments

We came in on target regarding operating income. Due to the unexpected expenses we incurred this past year, we ended the year at a deficit. Thanks to all who have been faithful givers this year!!

AA GROUPS . . .

Mixed AA Group

On Mondays at noon, a mixed AA group meets in Hanson Hall. If you or someone you know wishes to attend, please contact Tom Gallagher at 239-348-2205.

On Thursdays at 7:00 p.m., a mixed AA group meets in Hanson Hall. If you or someone you know wishes to attend, please contact Jay Miller at 404-435- 6695.

On Friday mornings at 10:00 a.m., a women's AA group meets in Hanson Hall. If you or someone you know wishes to attend, please contact Kathy Story at 239-398-4156.

REMEMBER THOSE IN SERVICE TO THEIR COUNTRY . . .

Staff Sergeant Adam Crown

Warrant Officer Christopher Farnsworth

Airman Corey Malinowski

Marine Tom McJilton

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



IMPORTANT NOTICE!!! . . .

****** Please be advised that we will have one worship service this winter. The service will be held at 9:30 a.m. ******

AH, SWEET FELLOWSHIP . . .

FELLOWSHIP

The traditional Welcome Back Luncheon will be on January 15, 2023 after the service. You may think that is too early for lunch, but it is never too early to eat Publix Fried Chicken and the dishes to go with it.

Please sign up on the patio. Place your name and the number in your group on the sheet on the card table. We need to know how many to expect.

Come join us for Fellowship with other members of our congregation.

LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE . . .

Q: Where can you go to practice math on New Year's Eve?

A: Times Square!

Q: What do you call a New Year's resolution?

A: Something that goes in one year and out another.

Q: What do snowmen like to do on New Year's Eve?

A: Chill out!

[Best wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year - 2023!](#)

“An optimist stays up until midnight to see the new year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old one leaves.” – Bill Vaughan

JANUARY 09 - JANUARY 15, 2023 - [Francis Chan – True Life](#)

What if fullness of life was not dependent on our circumstances or difficult seasons? Jesus says that He offers “life to the full”, so why do many Christians feel like they are merely surviving? Join us along with Francis Chan as he encourages us how to embrace true life.

RSVP: <https://bit.ly/TrueLife2023>

JANUARY 10 - JANUARY 16, 2023 - [Living A Life of Significance with Tim Tebow](#)

The secret to a truly meaningful life doesn't involve more comfort or ease. It requires a clear focus on who God made you to be. Hear first-hand as Tim Tebow shares his encouragement to Live a Life of Significance. In this on-demand presentation, he reveals how you can find your mission and take a step each day to reach your purpose and your best future.

RSVP: <https://bit.ly/TTebow2023>

JANUARY 17, 2023 | 7:30 PM ET

JANUARY 19, 2023 | 12:30 PM & 7:30 PM ET

[Paychecks & Playchecks: Retirement Solutions for Life](#)

Join us for a free webinar “Paychecks and Playchecks: Retirement Solutions for Life, presented by retirement income expert, Tom Hegna. You will learn a proven approach for creating a retirement strategy tailored to your goals and priorities.

RSVP: <https://bit.ly/Hegna2023>

JANUARY 23 - JANUARY 29, 2023 - [Michael Jr. Virtual Comedy Show](#)

Join us for a family-friendly virtual event with comedian, Michael Jr. You will be inspired by his comedy and dynamic storytelling to activate your purpose. Hear about **Funny for the Forgotten**, a nonprofit organization that takes comedy shows to places like homeless shelters, prisons, abused children's facilities, or any place where laughter is in short supply – yet highly needed. Support a worthwhile cause and enjoy some time laughing with purpose.

RSVP: <https://bit.ly/MJComedy>

No products will be sold at our events. For additional disclosures, see [Thrivent.com/social](https://thrivent.com/social).

We help Christians find financial clarity, enabling lives full of meaning and gratitude. All are welcome to attend our free virtual events. Feel free to share these events with your friends and family.

Want to know more about Thrivent? Call Thrivent Financial Advisor David Contessa at (239) 300-5139.



JANUARY, 2023

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS 9:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP	2 9:00 –10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 12 NOON AA MIXED GROUP	3	4 9:00 –10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 10:00 A.M. PASTOR JEFF'S BIBLE STUDY	5 7:00 –8:00 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP	6 10:00-11:00 A.M. WOMEN'S AA GTROUP 10:00 A.M. WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 6:00 - 8: 00 P.M. IGLESIA CONEXION CHURCH	7
8 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD 9:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP	9 9:00 –10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 12 NOON AA MIXED GROUP	10 6:00 P.M. COUNCIL MTG	11 9:00 –10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 10:00 A.M. PASTOR JEFF'S BIBLE STUDY	12 7:00 –8:00 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP	13 10:00-11:00 A.M. WOMEN'S AA GTROUP 6:00 - 8:00 P.M. IGLESIA CONEXION CHURCH	14
15 SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY 9:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP WELCOME BACK LUNCHEON AFTER WORSHIP	16 9:00 –10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 12 NOON AA MIXED GROUP	17	18 9:00 –10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 10:00 A.M. PASTOR JEFF'S BIBLE STUDY	19 7:00 –8:00 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP	20 10:00 –11:00 A.M. WOMEN'S AA GROUP 6:00 - 8: 00 P.M. IGLESIA CONEXION CHURCH NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS DUE	21
22 THIRDSUNDAY OF EPIPHANY 9:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP	23 9:00 - 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 12 NOON AA MIXED GROUP	24	25 9:00 - 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 10:00 A.M. PASTOR JEFF'S BIBLE STUDY	26 7:00 –8:00 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP	27 10:00-11:00 A.M. WOMEN'S AA GROUP 6:00 - 8:00 P.M. IGLESIA CONEXION CHURCH	28
29 FOURTH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY 9:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP	30 9:00 –10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 12 NOON AA MIXED GROUP	31				

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6020 Rattlesnake Hammock Road
Naples, FL 34113

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**This Parish Paper is from:
Shepherd of the Glades Lutheran Church
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Naples, FL 34113
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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

Bonny Dery, Council President

**Lynn Dickerman and Linda Tidmore, Admin. Assistants to the Pastor
Rev. H. Peter Lyberg, Pastor Emeritus**