



# **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

**FEBRUARY, 2024**  
**Volume 27- Issue 2**  
Editors: Lynn Dickerman  
& Linda Tidmore

**JOIN US FOR  
ASH  
WEDNESDAY  
SERVICE  
ON  
FEBRUARY 14TH,  
5:30 P.M.**



**SHEPHERD OF THE GLADES  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

## **PASTOR'S PAGES . . .**

February 14th is known as Valentine's Day. But this year, Ash Wednesday is also on February 14th. I have seen a picture with someone marking the imposition of ashes in a heart shape rather than a cross. Although there is no greater demonstration of love than Jesus' life and his death on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins, I will mark the sign of the cross on your foreheads on Ash Wednesday rather than a heart. The words that we hear when we receive the imposition of ashes is, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." These words are spoken to remind us of our mortality. We will not live on this earth forever. God wants us to remember this in order that we think about our purpose and our legacy. What will people remember about us and about our faith long after our time on earth has passed?



On March 10th, 2024, Shepherd of the Glades will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of organizing as a worshipping community and making Christ known in our community and beyond. In some ways 50 years does not seem like a long time. Some members of Shepherd of the Glades come from churches that have celebrated 150 years of ministry or more. So 50 years seems relatively short. But in 50 years a lot has happened. The year Shepherd of the Glades was established as a church, the President of the United States resigned due to the Watergate investigation. In 1974, women were granted the legal right to get their own credit cards in their own name through the equal credit opportunity act. In 1974, The Episcopal Church voted to ordain the first female priests. (The Lutheran Church in America had ordained women since 1970,) At the end of 1974, the Dow Jones was listed at a roaring 570.01 (As of January 29th it was 38,333.45.) In some ways, it is hard to believe there have been so many major changes that have happened over 50 years that we do not think about. We take women's right to have a credit card for granted. We are blessed with thousands of women who are ordained ministers and priests. We think national political upheaval and unrest are something new. And we forget how much God has financially blessed us. Look at our homes compared to 50 years ago. And look at the church compared to 50 years ago. The hallowed ground we stand on today in our church was once just a patch of swamp land. As members of Shepherd of the Glades, we can easily forget that the ministry and property we now enjoy started with just a dream and an invitation to many people. Their legacy of faith is the building and property we have today.

The bible says "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." 50 years ago, when President Nixon was resigning due to a scandal, and women's rights were finally beginning to be recognized, a church was born in Naples Florida. There was a time for this church to be born. And now is the time for this church to continue to grow and dream about God's plan for Shepherd of the Glades, and invite others to be a part of that dream. As we journey through Lent together beginning on Ash Wednesday (Valentines Day), we will focus on "a time for every

## **PASTOR'S PAGES (CONTINUED) . . .**

matter” for Shepherd of the Glades. We will celebrate the past 50 years and discuss the wonderful and joyful times, and we will begin to do some “holy dreaming” about what God might be inviting us to do over the next 50 years. What are your hopes and dreams for Shepherd of the Glades? How do you envision Shepherd of the Glades looking differently when they celebrate the 75th or 100th anniversary? What ministry might we begin now that will be instrumental in the future of our church? Dream big. God will provide if the dream is from God. When we gather for the celebration of our 50th anniversary, the work we do during Lent will be on display. The people who started this congregation 50 years ago did not begin with all the resources we have now. They began with a vision and with prayer. They started Shepherd of the Glades in faith and we are enjoying and seeing the blessings of their dream and labor. Now that we have been blessed for 50 years by the fruits of some who are still with us and some who have gone before us in the faith, it is time to prayerfully consider a vision of the future of Shepherd of the Glades. Come to the Lenten services and join in a time of “Holy Dreaming” as we look back with thanksgiving and look ahead with hope.

Your fellow Holy dreamer,

Pastor Jeff

## **SOTG JUST WANTS TO HAVE FUN . . .**

On Sunday, January 14th, the Fellowship Committee hosted a “Welcome Back Luncheon”. It was well attended and good food and fellowship was had by all!



# **COUNCIL CORNER . . .**

## **SHEPHERD OF THE GLADES LUTHERAN CHURCH JANUARY 16, 2024, COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Bonny Dery at 6:00 p.m.

Members in attendance: Pastor Ungs, Bob Tidmore, Penny Morken, Doug Walck, Charlotte Wahlig, Becky McDanel, John Sherman, Bonny Dery, Pam Bhatena, Gunar Strungs, Brad Caulder, and Colleen Hoffman

Devotions: Bonny Dery

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2023, Council meeting was made, seconded, and approved as written.

**Pastor's report:**

Pastor Jeff continues to make congregation home visits/member visits, home bound communions, and hospital/clinic/rehab visits. Pastor Jeff reported that he had meetings with Spiritual Advisory Board of AVOW Hospice, East Naples Ministerium, Grief Support group, photo directory planning, Stewardship meeting, and weekly staff. Pastor continues to have 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. The Christmas Eve services were very well attended. We had 145 people that attended the 5 p.m. service, and 67 attended the 7 p.m. worship service. We also had 146 online viewers at some point following the candlelight service.

**Treasurer's Report:** Bob Tidmore reported that our investment account was up as of the end of December. Our year-to-date income was more than our year-to-date expenses. Our efforts to stay within our budget with expenses have been successful.

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

**Committee reports:**

**Endowment** – Endowment Fund showed an increase as of November 30, 2023.

**Parish Relations** – No report

**Property** – The bushes have been removed from the front of the Church. Poole Roofing repaired the damage to the roof in Hanson Hall. Projects to consider this year are trimming all 43 trees on the church property, resealing and marking the parking lot, and stain removal on our sidewalks.

**Education** – Pastor Jeff's weekly 10 a.m. Wednesday Bible study continues to be well attended. Online class is available upon request. We are going to offer a Women's Bible study starting Friday, January 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

**Fellowship** – On Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, the Fellowship Committee had a very successful Welcome Back Luncheon with over 80 people attending. The food was delicious, and they raised over \$275 to help offset the cost of our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. They are looking forward to the having "Strawberry Sundae/Sunday" on Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Stewardship** – Pastor reported that the theme for the Stewardship campaign this year will be "Encountering Jesus". Temple talks will be as follows: Encountering Jesus in Worship – 1<sup>st</sup> week, Encountering Jesus in our community – 2<sup>nd</sup> week, and Encountering Jesus in the world – 3<sup>rd</sup> week.

## **COUNCIL CORNER CONTINUED . . .**

**Evangelism** – The Evangelism Committee reported that we will be filling over 100 backpacks sometime in the month of March. Thank you to everyone that participated!

**Local Mission** - Food continues to be distributed to St. Matthews House in Naples and Friendship House in Immokalee. The quilting Sew-Sews donated 8 quilts to Grace Place.

**Worship & Music** – John Sherman has scheduled a “Reunion Concert” on February 10, 2024. He will perform with his friend and fellow entertainer, Marco Gueli.

The Worship & Music Committee is looking for volunteers that can play an instrument, love to sing, and would like to perform for the congregation.

### **New Business:**

Council voted on the following 2024 Executive Council Members-

President – Bonny Dery

Vice President – Penny Morken

Treasurer – Robert Tidmore

Secretary – Pamela Bhatena

They also voted on the following as 2024 Council Liaisons for committees-

Parish Relations – Bonny Dery

Evangelism Committee - Penny Morken & Becky McDanel

Endowment – Charlotte Wahlig & Gunar Strungs

Education – Charlotte Wahlig

Fellowship – Penny Morken

Stewardship – Brad Caulder

Property – Doug Walck

Worship & Music – John Sherman & Colleen Hoffman

Local Missions & Social Concerns - Becky McDanel & Pam Bhatena

### **Old Business:**

Plans are continuing to be made regarding the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Shepherd of the Glades, which will be held Sunday, March 10, 2024. The Planning Committee has selected St. Matthews catering service to provide the food for the luncheon. The Fellowship Committee has provided decorating ideas, and Colleen Hoffman has agreed to make a banner for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The “Beautification Project” for improving the look of the grounds, is also helping.

Council meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m. with Pastor Jeff saying a prayer. Next meeting will be February 13, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., with devotions by Pastor Jeff Ungs.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Tidmore, Administrative Assistant

## **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



## NEWS IN THE SHEEPFOLD . . .



### HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS TO . . .

February 1	Michael Kleiber
February 2	Ardelle Berthe
February 5	Gary Spragg
February 10	Yerry Madison
February 11	John Speidel
February 12	Michael Cowles
February 16	Ron Limpus
February 17	Earnie Keller
February 18	Cindy Quehl
February 21	Bob Tidmore
February 23	Becky McDanel
February 26	Margarete Krehan
February 28	Jan Wolfe

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!



### FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES . . . HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

February 4	Larry & Maryann Buettner
February 6	Gary & Linda Salisbury
February 11	Rod & Marilyn Barikmo
February 15	Andrea Tack & Deborah Moeser
February 16	Larry & Barb Tommingo
February 18	Bob Saaranen & Nola Halverson
February 18	Al & Marilyn Lane

## PRAYER CHANGES THINGS . . .

Prayer works, as we look at some of the wonderful ways God has answered prayer: David, James, Brad, Elaine, Roland, Jay, Rod, and Bill have had healing or continue to heal, to mention just a few. Thank you for your prayers! It means so much! If you would like to be a Prayer Warrior, please contact Kelli Ungs or the church office. Prayer is the first wireless communication!!

## LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE . . .

What did the digital clock say to the grandfather clock?  
Look, no hands!!!

Why did the chicken go to the gym?  
To work on his pecks!

In Europe it's called a lift. Well, in America it's called an elevator.  
I guess we were just . . . Raised differently!

I asked my wife to do karaoke with me.  
She wouldn't duet!

## CARING CONNECTIONS . . .

### PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following people in your thoughts and prayers:

Rod Barikmo & Family	Family of Jackie Jacobs	Patty Musielak
David Blazek	Steven Jungerberg	Ashley Nell
Brad Caulder	Richard Jonas	Family of Doug Powers
James Caulder	Family of Jeanne Jones	Arlene Schamberger
Kathryn Connell	Ellen Klopfer	Don Sebo
Christy	Bob Koostra	Leila Sellman
Roland Cumor	The Kramer family	Elaine Sima
Marilyn Day	Anita & Nick Lehr	Micah Smith
Family of Maureen Drum	The Lentini Family	Raymond Swaby
Alan & Susie Espersen	The Lipke family	The Swain Family
Lisa Marie Farnsworth	Marilyn Malinowski	The Ungs Family
Charlie Hoffman & Family	Al & Pat McFadden	Bill Whelan
Ingrid Hoerz	Irma Median	Family of Tom Watts
Family of Carl Hydes	Michael Moor-Kelly Family	

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

## 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 the office for more information.

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 the office for more information.

At 10:00 a.m., a women's AA group meets in Hanson Hall on the 1st and 3rd Friday of every month. If you or someone you know wishes to attend, please contact the office for more information.

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

PERIOD: One Month Ended January 31, 2024

	Actual	Budget	Difference: Favorable (Unfavorable)
Operating Income	\$33,546	\$36,708	(\$3,162)
Operating Expense	\$33,089	\$33,963	\$874
Net Income (Deficit)	\$457	\$2,745	(\$2,288)

We're starting the year off slowly with income a bit short of budget projections. However, our income still exceeded expenses. Thank you to all our faithful givers to the life and ministry of SOTG!

## **CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF MINISTRY . . .**

It is indeed a blessing to be celebrating 50 years of ministry at Shepherd of the Glades Lutheran Church.

On Sunday, March 10, 2024 our congregation will be celebrating this wonderful occasion with a special worship service followed by a catered luncheon in Hanson Hall.

Bishop Pedro Suarez, our Bishop of the Florida Bahamas Synod will be participating in our worship service that day. In addition, former pastors of Shepherd of the Glades will be honored during a short program following our worship service.

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend this special 50th Anniversary worship service. Following worship, a catered lunch will be served in Hanson Hall. Reservations will be required. We need an accurate count of those planning to attend. Sign up sheets will be available in the church narthex and after Sunday services. Reservations must be made by March 1, 2024.

Celebrating our 50th Anniversary is an exciting time for our congregation. Please join us as we give thanks for the past 50 years of ministry and look forward with praise and thanksgiving to the future of Shepherd of the Glades Lutheran Church.

50th Anniversary Steering Committee

## **FOOD FOR THE SOUL . . .**

“To be fully seen by somebody, then, and be loved anyhow — this is a human offering that can border on miraculous.” *Elizabeth Gilbert*

“The giving of love is an education in itself.” *Eleanor Roosevelt*

“Love puts up with all things, trusts in all things, hopes for all things, endures all things.” 1 Corinthians 13:7

“To love at all is to be vulnerable.” *C.S. Lewis*

“Love doesn't make the world go 'round. Love is what makes the ride worthwhile.”  
*Franklin P. Jones*

“Love is when the other person's happiness is more important than your own.”  
*H. Jackson Brown, Jr.*

“Love has nothing to do with what you are expecting to get — only with what you are expecting to give — which is everything.” *Katharine Hepburn*

“'Tis better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all.”  
*Alfred Lord Tennyson*



## **WE GET LETTERS . . .**

Dear Shepherd of the Glades Lutheran Church,

I am writing to thank you for your support of Palms Deaf Church last year. Your support makes you part of our family, and I wanted to share a story with you. Last week, a woman who has come to our services a few times told us she feels comfortable at Palms Deaf Church. This is very special because she has been looking for a church for many years. She completely lost her hearing because of surgery to remove a tumor from her brain and doesn't know sign language well yet. Our church helps her by providing captioning. Now, she feels part of a community where she is loved and accepted. Every time she comes, she gets better at signing.

She is just one example of the 98% of people who are deaf and don't go to church or feel part of one.

Many deaf people don't get enough support in their faith because it's hard for them to communicate in church. At our church, we are working to change this. We use American Sign Language (ASL) to show and share God's love. Thanks to your help and willingness to follow God's way, our church began weekly services in September of 2023 in Ocala, Florida. We offer this service both in person and online, and we make sure everyone can understand by providing words on the screen (captioning). We welcome everyone, even if they don't know sign language. We have someone who voices what is being said in American Sign Language every week and ensures live captioning is available. We want to be as inclusive as possible.

We feel God's presence and plan to have a second service at another location this year. This is all possible because you said yes to following God. Thank you for making a difference and changing the statistics.

In Christ,  
Rev. Lori Fuller  
Palms Deaf Church

Dear Pastor Unga,

Thank you for making a gift to Grace Place for Children and Families! Your gift is important for many reasons, most important is that the impact will be lifelong. Our continuum of programs guides educational success by engaging families and learners throughout their early learning and academic career.

The single most significant factor influencing a child's early educational success is an introduction to books and being able to be read to at home. Yet, 60% of low income families do not have even one age appropriate book at home. The lack of language and literacy exposure at an early age is one of the key reasons children enter kindergarten without school readiness and it is what will keep a student in a low proficient category throughout their primary and secondary education. We work with new families to understand the importance of an at home library, building an important foundation for learning. For our older students, proficiency, and a love of learning build from that foundation.

The staff of educators at Grace Place are problem solvers and solution seekers. A staff with a love of learning is what makes Grace Place special. Building that love in students is our specialty. Our work is important. Your support is equally as important because without you, there is no Grace Place for Children and Families.

Thank you for being part of the Grace Place Family.

Best,  
Lara Fisher, CEO

Welcome to February 2024!

Did you know that February is American Heart Awareness Month? February also has a slew of observances including Groundhog Day, Superbowl Sunday, Ash Wednesday, Valentine's Day, President's Day, and, this year, we have LEAP DAY on the 29th! There are many more, so be sure to hug someone on Hug Day, enjoy some soup on Homemade Soup Day and join us for a couple of Free Thrivent Online Events:

**FEBRUARY 01, 2024 | 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM ET "TAX TIPS FOR CHURCH WORKERS"**

Church workers face unique tax considerations. Join Ryan Burger, CPA, for a discussion of key issues and considerations, including why and how you are taxed, tax saving ideas, myth busters and more.

RSVP: <https://bit.ly/489f98F>

**FEBRUARY 13, 2024 | 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM ET OR 9:30 PM – 10:30 PM ET**

**"RETHINKING RETIREMENT TAX PLANNING WITH ED SLOTT: NEW STRATEGIES TO KEEP MORE OF YOUR MONEY"**

While your retirement savings make up a majority of your net worth, a meaningful portion of those funds may not be taxed. You need to be proactive to reduce or eliminate a big tax hit later. Expert Ed Slott will share how strategies like the Roth IRA and Roth conversions can help you prepare. Learn effective ways to manage your retirement accounts, RMDs and the importance of beneficiary planning which can help loved ones minimize taxes too.

Register to attend the event or indicate you would like to receive a recording.

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

No products will be sold at our events. For additional disclosures, see [Thrivent.com/social](https://www.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 Associate David Contessa at (239) 300-5139.

## AH, SWEET FELLOWSHIP . . .

### FELLOWSHIP EVENT SCHEDULE

February 18, 2024 - Strawberry Sundae Sunday After Church Courtyard

March, 2024 - Fellowship Assists with 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events

April 7, 2024 - Until We Meet Again Brunch After Church Hanson Hall

More Details Provided Prior to Each Event

## WOMEN' BIBLE STUDY . . .

Marcia Schacht is providing a Women's Bible study starting on Friday, January 26th beginning at 10:00 a.m. The topic of the class will be "Women of the Bible". The class will be offered on the 4th Friday of every month at 10:00 a.m. in the choir room. Mark your calendars and plan to attend!



# FEBRUARY, 2024

SUN	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> 7:00 – 8:00 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP	<b>2</b> 10:00 – 11:00 A.M. WOMEN'S AA GROUP	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY 9:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP	<b>5</b> 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 12 NOON AA MIXED GROUP	<b>6</b> 8:30 - 11:00 A.M. SEW-SEW QUILTERS	<b>7</b> 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 10:00 A.M. PASTOR JEFF'S BIBLE STUDY	<b>8</b> 7:00 – 8:00 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD 9:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP	<b>12</b> 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 12 NOON AA MIXED GROUP	<b>13</b> 8:30 - 11:00 A.M. SEW-SEW QUILTERS 6:00 P.M. CHURCH COUNCIL MTG.	<b>14</b> 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 5:30 P.M. ASH WEDNESDAY 10:00 A.M. PASTOR JEFF'S BIBLE STUDY	<b>15</b> 7:00 – 8:00 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP	<b>16</b> 10:00 – 11:00 A.M. WOMEN'S AA GROUP	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT 9:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP SUNDAE SUNDAY & ANNUAL MTG.	<b>19</b> 9:00 - 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 12 NOON AA MIXED GROUP DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS	<b>20</b> 8:30 - 11:00 A.M. SEW-SEW QUILTERS	<b>21</b> 9:00 - 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 5:30 P.M. LENTEN SERVICE 10:00 A.M. PASTOR JEFF'S BIBLE STUDY	<b>22</b> 7:00 – 8:00 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP	<b>23</b> 10:00 A.M. WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT 9:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP	<b>26</b> 9:00 - 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 12 NOON AA MIXED GROUP	<b>27</b> 8:30 - 11:00 A.M. SEW-SEW QUILTERS	<b>28</b> 9:00 - 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 5:30 P.M. LENTEN SERVICE 10:00 A.M. PASTOR JEFF'S BIBLE STUDY	<b>29</b> 7:00 – 8:00 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP		

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS . . .

Lent begins Wednesday, February 14, 2024, with Lenten services at 5:30 p.m., followed by soup suppers.

Annual Sundaes Sunday and Annual Meeting is on Sunday, February 18, 2024.

Mark your calendars for the 50th Anniversary Celebration on March 10, 2024 with lunch following.

Shepherd of the Glades Lutheran Church  
6020 Rattlesnake Hammock Road  
Naples, FL 34113

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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: [sotg6020@gmail.com](mailto: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**