

# 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, 2024**  
**Volume 27- Issue 4**  
Editors: Lynn Dickerman  
& Linda Tidmore



## SHEPHERD OF THE GLADES LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. (Matthew 28:5-6) Easter morning changed everything! The women went to Jesus' tomb to find that he was not there. Naturally they were afraid. Had someone taken his body? Would they get into trouble for being near the empty tomb? Would they be arrested and put to death for their support of Jesus? But the angel of the Lord said to the women, “Do not be afraid ... He is not here, he has risen just as he said.” This is the message that forever changed the world. Do not be afraid. Jesus has risen from the tomb just as he said.



Have you heard anyone say they are afraid of what might happen if/when (fill in the blank) happens. As believers in Jesus Christ we can certainly have concerns about the future and even take action to prevent bad things from happening when possible, but we have no reason to be afraid. We are called to be bold and courageous as we share God's love with others. Fear comes when we listen to the voice of the deceiver. Adam and Eve were afraid when God came looking for them because they had followed the advice of the serpent and had disobeyed God. We will never know what would have happened if they had been obedient to God. But one thing is certain. They would not have been afraid. God provided for their every need. And God still provides for our every need. Yet we listen to the voice of the deceiver who convinces us to put our trust in things that draw us away from completely trusting God and God's plan for our life. There is nothing to fear when we believe that God is our strength and our refuge. We live in fear when we do not trust completely in God's plan for us and for the world. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

We have just celebrated 50 years of ministry at Shepherd of the Glades Lutheran Church. The mission of Christ is being fulfilled through Christ's church and here at Shepherd of the Glades. “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” We no longer need to fear anything. Jesus has conquered sin and death. Jesus is with us until the end of the age. On Maundy Thursday we heard Jesus give a new commandment. That we love one another as Jesus has loved us. By the simple act of loving others as Jesus has loved us, the world will know that we are disciples of Jesus.

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

I want to thank you for the surprise recognition of the 25th anniversary of my ordination. The love and support you have shown to Kelli, Abraham and myself has been outstanding. Your love and compassion for others is evident in your care and support in the Naples community and beyond. I hope you enjoy the anniversary pictures and articles in this month's newsletter. Dear church - stay focused on God's love and mission, and we will have nothing to fear. Jesus is risen just as he said. Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia! Happy Easter!

Pastor Jeff

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

It is with heartfelt thanks that the members of the Bone Builders class, sponsored by the Collier County RSVP program, and led by Colette Bogdan, present this donation to Shepherd of the Glades Lutheran Church in appreciation for use of your facility on Monday and Wednesday mornings. There have been many testimonials by class members who have had improvement in balance and bone density due to the effectiveness of these classes and this program. Thank you for your generosity in making this all possible.

## **ENDOWMENT FUND UPDATE . . .**

### THE LITTLE CHURCH ON THE BEACH AND YOUR ENDOWMENT FUND

On September 28, 2022, St. Peter's Church on Ft. Myers Beach was partially destroyed by Hurricane Ian's 160 mph winds and storm surge of 10-15 feet. Your Endowment Committee donated money to help families in Naples, the Ft. Myers area, and to St. Peter's Church for their rebuilding. Now many months later, St. Peter's is starting their rebuilding with donations from many and flood insurance from the federal government. Doug Eckman, Council member at St. Peter's said, "Rebuilding St. Peter's will make it better and stronger than before." Services currently are being held in a tent with excellent attendance. Attached are a few photos at the start of reconstruction. Church members have aided the rebuilding by generously donating to our Endowment Fund. Please continue to support your Endowment Fund so that the fund can be ready to meet future needs.

Chuck Keller, Endowment Committee Chair





# COUNCIL CORNER . . .

## SHEPHERD OF THE GLADES LUTHERAN CHURCH MARCH 12, 2024, COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES (Unofficial)

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Bonny Dery at 6:00 p.m. Members in attendance: Pastor Ungs, Bob Tidmore, Doug Walck, Charlotte Wahlig, Becky McDanel, Bonny Dery, Pam Bhatena, Gunar Strungs, Brad Caulder, Penny Morken, and Colleen Hoffman. Absent: John Sherman Devotions: Pastor Ungs, 1 Corinthians 10:6-13

A motion to approve the minutes of February 13, 2024, Council meeting was made, seconded, and approved as written.

### Pastor's report:

Pastor Jeff began his report with words of gratitude to the Council and congregation for the surprise recognition of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his ordination. He expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve Shepherd of the Glades for the past five years and for the opportunity to serve as an ordained pastor for the past 25 years. His official 25<sup>th</sup> ordination anniversary is June 6.

Lenten mid-week services have been well attended. Thank you to everyone for their hard work. Now on to the work of Holy Week and Easter celebrations!

Meetings: Historical committee, East Naples Ministerial lunch meeting, Weekly Staff meetings, Property committee. Pastor has regular communication with Pastor Orlando Ramirez of Iglesia Conexion, Pastor DJ and Haitian Baptist Church leaders, and Caloosa Conference. Bible Studies: Weekly 10 AM Wednesday bible study. About 12 people are still attending the Wednesday study and several are attending the Women's bible study that Marcia Schacht is leading. Pastor Jeff continues to make congregation home visits/member visits, home bound communions, and hospital/clinic/rehab visits. Pastor Bob also conducted several of these visits as well as a few hospital calls. Memorial services: The memorial service for Alan Espersen was held Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. It was well attended.

New Pastoral Business: New Member Sunday is scheduled for April 7<sup>th</sup>. The Baptism that was scheduled for March 3<sup>rd</sup> and the First Communion that was scheduled for March 17<sup>th</sup> have both been postponed. The First Communion celebration for Kellen Snover is now scheduled for May 26<sup>th</sup>. We expect our new directories to be completed sometime after Easter. We will be notified when distribution is underway.

Old Business: We received many compliments on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Worship service and social time. The church attendance was 211. It was wonderful to have Pastor Peter Lyberg, Pastor Carl Kelly, Pastor Doug Wahlberg, Pastor Bob Hoffman, Bishop Pedro Suarez, and Deacon Aura Suarez participating in the Worship. Thank you to Megan and the music team for making this service and social time so special. The additional musicians were paid for their services.

Memorial Plaque: We will be purchasing another plaque for the Memorial Garden.

Treasurer's Report: Bob Tidmore reported our Truist Investment account increased during the month of February. Our February income was less than budgeted. Our year-to-date income was more than our year-to-date expenses.

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

## **COUNCIL CORNER (CONTINUED) . . .**

### Committee Reports:

**Endowment** – The Endowment Fund showed an increase as of the end of January.

**Property** – New landscaping equipment has been purchased: Electric Chain Saw and Pole Trimmer. We received additional quotes on the parking lot resurfacing. A motion was made and carried to hire Paramount Asphalt Sealcoating. This work will begin during the week of May 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Fellowship** - The “See You Again Brunch” will be held on April 7.

**Evangelism** – Backpack supplies are being ordered and a ‘fill the backpack’ event will be available next month. The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon was well attended. Penny will have a full report on the expenses next month. Compliments to Colleen Hoffman on the beautiful banner she made for the occasion.

**Social Concerns** – Thank you for all the boxes to move the food donations, it was a big help. We will need more boxes for distribution next month. Please continue to donate boxes.

**Worship & Music** – A new folk group was discussed to enhance worship. Pastor Jeff suggested making a list of names and phone numbers of people that are interested in joining the music group. Colleen Hoffman will work with John Sherman on creating this list and will assist John in contacting everyone.

Council meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. with a prayer from Pastor Jeff.

Next Meeting will be April 9, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Devotion: Penny Morken

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Bhatena, Council Secretary

## **PRAYER CHANGES THINGS . . .**

Prayer works, as we look at some of the wonderful ways God has answered prayer: Raymond, James, Elaine, Rod, Steve, Ellen, Anita, Phyllis, Bob, Donna, Dennis, Charlie, Millie, and Valerie, and 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 Unga or the church office. Prayer is the first wireless communication!! Prayer is a blessing to both those who are praying and those who are prayed for. We have witnessed the power of prayer for so many. Please join the prayer warriors if you wish to pray or let us know how we can pray for you.

## **WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY . . .**

Women’s Bible study will be held on Friday, April 26th beginning at 10:00 a.m. The topic of the class will be “Women of the Bible.” Mark your calendars and plan to attend! This will be the last study until the fall.

## NEWS IN THE SHEEPFOLD . . .



### HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAYS TO . . .

April 1	Vicki Dunlop
April 2	LaMorris Cook
April 5	Merlyn Bowers
April 5	Elizabeth Cianflone
April 7	Jacqueline Masterson
April 12	Marilyn Barikmo
April 13	Ken Sebe
April 14	Leila Sellman
April 14	Bev Smith
April 14	Lester Larrabee
April 15	Gary Dieterichs
April 16	Vern Rasmussen
April 16	Linda Salisbury
April 17	Don Pryor
April 17	Be Oppermann
April 17	Irmi Bjerken
April 23	Leslie Ann Beers
April 30	Lawrence Buettner
April 30	Marjorie Oberst

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!



### APRIL ANNIVERSARIES . . . HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

April 17	Linda & Bob Tidmore
April 20	Stephanie & Daniel Bernabei
April 29	Karen & Harlo Peterson
April 30	Diana & Steve Snover

## FOOD FOR THE SOUL . . .

"We are told to let our light shine, and if it does, we won't need to tell anybody it does. Lighthouses don't fire cannons to call attention to their shining—they just shine."

*Dwight L. Moody*

"It's not about the bunny; it's about the lamb."  
*Unknown*

"Christ the Lord is risen today, sons of men and angels say. Raise your joys and triumphs high; sing, ye heavens and Earth reply."

*Charles Wesley*

## REMEMBER THOSE IN SERVICE TO THEIR COUNTRY . . .

Staff Sergeant Adam Crown

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



## CARING CONNECTIONS . . .

### PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following people in your thoughts and prayers:

Rod Barikmo & Family	Steven Jungerberg	Peter Newell
Valerie Becker	Richard Jonas	Family of Doug Powers
David Blazek	Ellen Klopfer	Rick
Family of Carl Bueger	The Kramer family	Arlene Schamberger
Family of Carol Christian	Kim LeBetz	Don Sebo
Kathryn Connell	Anita & Nick Lehr	Leila Sellman
Family of Alan Espersen	The Lentini Family	Elaine Sima
Lisa Marie Farnsworth	The Lipke family	Micah Smith
Brian Feeney	Marilyn Malinowski	Family of Raymond Swaby
Sandra Frederking	Al & Pat McFadden	The Swain Family
Charlie Hoffman & Family	Irma Median	The Ungs Family
Ingrid Hoerz	Ed Michael	Family of Tom Watts
Family of Carl Hydes	Patty Musielak	
Family of Jackie Jacobs	Ashley Nell	

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: Three Months Ended March 31, 2024

	Actual	Budget	Difference: Favorable (Unfavorable)
Operating Income	\$106,222	\$108,580	(\$2,358)
Operating Expense	\$93,616	\$93,296	(\$320)
Net Income (Deficit)	\$12,606	\$15,284	(\$2,678)

March was a very good month! Our income exceeds expenses, but our net income is still beneath budget. We made good progress in March towards building up funds to meet our annual insurance premium that comes due in June.



# CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF MINISTRY . . .

Shepherd of the Glades had a marvelous celebration of 50 years of ministry on Sunday, March 10, 2024. In case you missed the program after worship, the following is a link to the special presentation: <https://youtu.be/ccGI1qxxJ9Y> In addition to the Bishop Pedro Suarez and his wife, Deacon Aura Suarez of the Florida Bahamas Synod, we also had a number of former pastors join us: Pastor H. Peter Lyberg, Pastor Carl Kelly and his wife Joan, Pastor Douglas Wahlberg and his wife Lynne, Pastor Bob Hoffman and his wife Colleen. Many thanks to those who helped put this celebration together . . . to Colleen Hoffman for creating a 50th Anniversary banner, to Brett Karlsen for the beautiful oil painting of the church, to Megan Cianflone, Director of Music for the special music, to everyone who helped with Hanson Hall set up for the luncheon. It looked beautiful and it was a glorious day in the life of Shepherd of the Glades. Photos of the event follow.

Penny Morken, Chair of the 50th Anniversary Celebration Committee



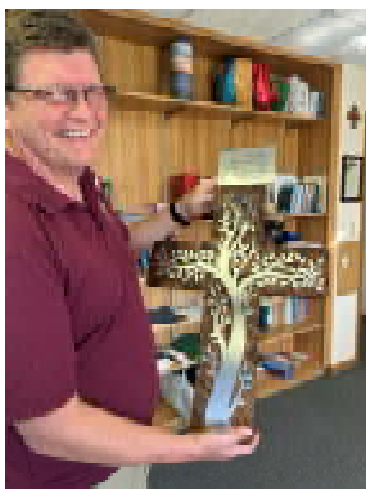


## AND 25 YEARS OF MINISTRY . . .

Also on Sunday, March 10, 2024, Shepherd of the Glades celebrated Pastor Jeff's 25th anniversary of ordination! We managed to completely surprise him!! Pastor Jeff graduated from Wartburg Theological Seminary in 1999.



After the 50th Anniversary presentation, Penny Morken, Bonny Dery, and Ken Sebe congratulated Pastor Jeff on 25th Anniversary of his ordination. They presented him with an olivewood cross with the tree of life, a painting of the church by Brett Karlson, and a check from Shepherd of the Glades in appreciation for his ministry here at Shepherd of the Glades.



Spring has Sprung!!

Thrivent Celebrates Our Members in April 2024

APRIL 06, 2024 THROUGH APRIL 28, 2024

[Annual Celebration of Membership](#)

In the month of April, Thrivent celebrates its members with our annual member meeting. We are excited that this year the Southeast is returning to in-person meetings at multiple locations across our 4 states. If you are a Thrivent Associate or Benefit Member you, along with your family and friends, are welcome to join us in a celebration of membership. **Click/Go To the RSVP link below and find your nearest meeting location.** We are highlighting what makes Thrivent and our members truly unique: generosity. The heart to give back is truly what sets our members apart! We can't wait to celebrate the joy of generosity together with you. RSVP: <https://bit.ly/2024Members>

**COMING IN MAY - WATCH FOR OUR SAVVY TAX STRATEGIES AND SAVVY SOCIAL SECURITY EVENTS**

*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 Associate David Contessa at (239) 300-5139.**

## AH, SWEET FELLOWSHIP . . .

### UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN BREAKFAST!

The Fellowship Committee is planning a farewell breakfast immediately following our worship service on Sunday, April 7, 2024. The breakfast will be served in Hanson Hall. The committee needs to know how much food to prepare, so if you are planning to attend, please register on the signup sheets in the Narthex.

## LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE . . .

Did you hear about the most beautifully decorated eggs?

*They were to dye for!*

Why don't chicks play baseball?

*Too many fowl balls!*

Why are Easter bunnies more tired when Easter's in April?

*Because they've just finished a long March!*

# MONTH AT A GLANCE . . .

# APRIL, 2024



SUN	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS  12 NOON AA MIXED GROUP  OFFICE CLOSED IN CELEBRATION OF EASTER	<b>2</b> 8:30 - 11:00 A.M. SEW-SEW QUILTERS	<b>3</b> 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS  10:00 A.M. PASTOR JEFF'S BIBLE STUDY	<b>4</b> 7:00 – 8:00 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP	<b>5</b> 9:30 – 11:30 A.M. WOMEN'S AA GROUP	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER NEW MEMBER SUNDAY 9:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP "Til WE MEET AGAIN" LUNCHEON	<b>8</b> 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS  12 NOON AA MIXED GROUP	<b>9</b> 8:30 - 11:00 A.M. SEW-SEW QUILTERS  6:00 P.M.CHURCH COUNCIL MTG.	<b>10</b> 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS  10:00 A.M. PASTOR JEFF'S BIBLE STUDY	<b>11</b> 7:00 – 8:00 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER 9:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP	<b>15</b> 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS  12 NOON AA MIXED GROUP	<b>16</b> 8:30 - 11:00 A.M. SEW-SEW QUILTERS	<b>17</b> 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS  10:00 A.M. PASTOR JEFF'S BIBLE STUDY	<b>18</b> 7:00 – 8:00 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP	<b>19</b> 9:30 – 11:30 A.M. WOMEN'S AA GROUP  DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS DU E DEADLINE	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 9:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP	<b>22</b> 9:00 - 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS  12 NOON AA MIXED GROUP	<b>23</b> 8:30 - 11:00 A.M. SEW-SEW QUILTERS	<b>24</b> 9:00 - 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS  10:00 A.M. PASTOR JEFF'S BIBLE STUDY	<b>25</b> 7:00 – 8:00 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP	<b>26</b> 10:00 A.M. WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 9:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP	<b>29</b> 9:00 - 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS  12 NOON AA MIXED GROUP	<b>30</b> 8:30 - 11:00 A.M. SEW-SEW QUILTERS				

**Note: The 50th Anniversary Church Directory has been delayed. We just received the proof and are making corrections. We will keep you advised on when we expect delivery. We will mail them to those who have left for the season. Thanks for understanding!**

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

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**This Parish Paper is from:  
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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  
Bonny Dery, Council President  
Lynn Dickerman and Linda Tidmore, Admin. Assistants to the Pastor  
Rev. H. Peter Lyberg, Pastor Emeritus**