



# 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, 2024**  
**Volume 27- Issue 5**  
Editors: Lynn Dickerman  
& Linda Tidmore



**SHEPHERD OF THE GLADES  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

***“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares” (Hebrews 13:2 ESV)***

Recently, I was driving to the hospital to call on a member and I stopped at a gas station to fill up. A man sitting outside the store saw my cross and commented on how nice it looked. He asked if he could take a closer look at it. The cross I was wearing was a gift to me from a woman who purchased the cross from a missionary. It is made with nails but the loop in the center makes it look somewhat like a crucifix from the distance. I took the cross off and asked the man if he wanted to hold it. He took it into his hands with great reverence and shared with me that he was a new Christian, and he hadn't seen a cross anything like it before.

He asked me if I went to church anywhere, and I told him about Shepherd of the Glades and where the church is located. He thanked me for letting him see the cross and then asked me if I had a couple of bucks to help him out. He needed a taxi ride and didn't have enough money to pay for an Uber. I told him that I do not carry cash, only cards so I couldn't help him by giving him cash, but I asked where he was going and told him I would give him a ride. This man was mostly clean but smelly and he had a prosthetic leg. He had a backpack with his clothes next to him and his bible opened nearby on the sidewalk. I asked his name and he smiled and told me it was Matt. He thanked me for the offer to give him a ride as he struggled to stand up with just one good leg. What followed as we journeyed together to his destination was a God appointment for me.

Matt shared that he was a recovering “meth head.” He had been addicted to meth for years but he had been clean for 3 months. He said he tried many times before to stop his addiction but was unsuccessful until his new found faith in Jesus gave him the strength to resist drugs. He told me about his church and where it was located. He told me that church was at 10:30 on Sunday and I should visit sometime. He didn't know I am ordained and serve a church. He said that Jesus gives him all he needs and that he likes to help others when he can. He explained that he had a “buddy” that let him panhandle where he was asked to be dropped off. Matt said he makes between \$50 - \$70 a day. Then he said that he uses the money to help another homeless man by buying him one meal a day from a local fast food place. Matt told me about others he helps who, he said, are less fortunate than him. But he said, “I don't just buy stuff for them without asking them to do something for me, like help me stand up or some other small task. That way it gives them dignity. It's not a hand out. It's a hands up.” He also told me that God has provided everything he needs, so he feels good sharing what he has with others. We arrived at Matt's destination, and he thanked me and even offered to give me his last \$5.00 to help pay for gas. I told him to use it to help others, and we parted ways. I returned to traveling to my original destination with many



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

thoughts and questions. Meeting Matt was like encountering an angel. But can an angel be a homeless, smelly, man with a prosthetic leg? Yes. Angels don't always appear with wings. The word angel means messenger of God. And Matt was a messenger of God for me that day.

My encounter with an angel that day left me wondering how many times in a day I pass by someone in need because I am busy or have somewhere I am going? What if they are messengers of God? How can a man that literally has nothing give away what he has to others because he believes they are less fortunate than him? Do I believe the money and things I have are gifts of God meant to be shared, or do I hoard them as private treasure? This homeless man invited me to his church and told me about the power of faith in Jesus. Why is it so hard for Christians to tell others about our experience of the power of prayer and God in our life and invite them to church?

I am thankful for my encounter with this stranger. His non-judgmental love and care for others and his testimony of faith reminded me that this world is filled with messengers of God. But they may come in very unexpected ways. Be well dear children of God and know that you are loved.

In Christ,

Pastor Jeff

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

Prayer is the first wireless connection. Prayer always has a great connection and never needs electricity to work no matter your location. We are blessed to be able to come to our creator with everyone's every need. I was reminded that God cares about all aspects of our lives. God even knows how many hairs are in my head. Please know we welcome all to join the prayer warriors from wherever you are. We are instruments to share God's love, grace, healing and peace. Please contact the church office to join or to make a prayer request.

## **HOPE AND HEALING . . .**

When you lose someone close to you, sometimes it takes more than time to mend our broken hearts. Some people benefit from sharing their grief and thoughts with others with the help of a guide. There is no wrong or right way to grieve. The important thing is to do the work of grieving. Shepherd of the Glades would like to offer the option of a closed grief support group from a Christian perspective. The group would be 12 weeks long, using the book, "Understanding your Grief: Ten Essential Touchstones for Finding Hope and Healing Your Heart" by Dr. Alan Wolfelt, one of America's leading grief counselors for over 20 years. The materials for the group have a cost of \$26 per person. Please call the church office for more information or to register.

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

**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!**

"Only God Himself fully appreciates the influence of a Christian mother in the molding of character in her children."

*Billy Graham*

# **COUNCIL CORNER . . .**

## **SHEPHERD OF THE GLADES LUTHERAN CHURCH APRIL 9, 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, Bonny Dery, Pam Bhatena, Gunar Strungs, Penny Morken, and Colleen Hoffman.

Absent: Becky McDanel and Brad Caulder

Devotions: Penny Morken

A motion to approve the minutes of March 12, 2024, Council meeting was made, seconded, and approved as written.

Pastor's Report- Meetings: East Naples Ministerial lunch meeting, Avow Hospice Spiritual Board, New member luncheon and welcome, Weekly Staff meetings: Property committee, Regular communication with Pastor Orlando Camerez of Iglesia Conexion, Pastor DJ and Haitian Baptist Church leaders and Caloosa Conference. Bible Studies- Eight people attend the weekly 10am Wednesday bible study, but attendance is expected to go down. The bible study will continue to be available online. The bible study that Marcia Schacht is leading will be concluding this month and resume in the Fall. Worship-March average attendance was the highest it has been since 2019. Easter Sunday in person attendance was 406. There were also 92 people who watched online Easter Sunday. He thanked John Sherman for the creation of the newly formed folk group. Thank you to Megan Cianflone for her work getting additional musicians to participate in our Worship. The seasonal member prayer of Godspeed during Worship and brunch went very well. Thank you to the fellowship committee for their hard work all season, but especially for this event. The food was delicious and the fellowship divine. It is Pastor Jeff's hope and intention to have altar assistants (assisting minister) very soon. He will train anyone interested in helping with the liturgy, the prayers, and assisting with communion. He will also work with Linda on training ushers, Jan with getting more readers, and Donia to recruit more people to assist with the altar guild. He would like to see more members participating in Worship leadership, including people trained to do the A/V system.

New Pastoral Business-Pastor Bob covered most of the home bound visitations during March, Pastor Jeff made Hospital/Hospice/clinic rehab visits. Pastor Jeff will be taking some time off during weekdays at the end of April. His #2 granddaughter arrives in early June. He will take a week off then and for the week of her Baptism, scheduled for July 28<sup>th</sup>. During May 30<sup>th</sup> – June 2<sup>nd</sup> Pastor will attend the Synod assembly. Volunteers are needed to fill in for the office during our staff retreat from August 19-23<sup>rd</sup> to answer the phones and pass along any emergencies that may need attention.

Old Business-New member Sunday was April 7<sup>th</sup>. We received seven new members! Most of them plan to be very active in the church and participate in committees. A reminder that the First Communion celebration for Kellen Snover is now scheduled for May 26<sup>th</sup>.

Treasurer's Report- Bob Tidmore reported our Truist Investment account increased during the month of March. Our March income was more than budgeted, and our year-to-date income was more than our year-to-date expenses. Bob noted that our insurance will be due in June.

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

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

### **Committee Reports:**

**Parish Relations:** Penny announced there has been a good attendance at worship services and fellowship events.

**Endowment:** Charlotte explained the Endowment Fund showed an increase as of the end of February and pointed out the fund is still growing. **Property:** Doug thanked Lynn Dickerman for an excellent job putting together a vendor list which was distributed to Council Members. Doug explained Hanson Hall's carpet needs cleaning. A new rod has been purchased to hold the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary banner.

**Fellowship:** Penny reported 80 people attended the See-You-Again Brunch. The Fellowship committee has had a very busy year with good responses.

**Education:** Bonny noted it is a great joy when all 3 children attend Sunday School during Worship.

**Evangelism:** Happily, we received seven new members.

**Social Concerns:** The food cart on Easter was overflowing and distributed to St. Mathew's House, thanks to all. Quilts from Sew-Sews will be dedicated in April.

**Worship and Music:** John announced the Folk Group was very excited about the formation of this group. Many compliments were received. Colleen will look for additional people interested in joining the group.

**New Business:** Discussion on worship and music enhancement for our Worship services. All suggestions for additional musicians/vocalists should be discussed with our director of music, Megan Cianflone.

**Old Business:** Penny gave a final report of all the expenses for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. All expenses have been submitted and paid. The Grace Place Backpack Program was our outreach to the community and had an outstanding response. An announcement to the congregation will be given for a cash donation to help fill the 81 donated backpacks.

**Updates:** Pastor requested a few items be changed in the new congregational directory. Once these changes are made the directory should be completed by mid-May. **Reminder:** Resealing of parking lot and markings will begin May 6, 2024.

Closing Devotion: Pastor Jeff

The Council meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Next Meeting will be May 14, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. with devotions by Pam Bhatena

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Bhatena, Council Secretary

## **LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE . . .**

Child: Why is a computer so smart?

Mom: It listens to its motherboard.

Someone ripped the fifth page from my calendar! Now I'm dismayed!!!

I was happily watching the Bermuda Philharmonic Orchestra, when the guy on the triangle disappeared!

# NEWS IN THE SHEEPFOLD . . .



## HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAYS TO . . .

5/01/2024	Louise Kalbaugh
5/02/2024	Lori Cook
5/03/2024	Donia Mrozek
5/04/2024	Dave Larson
5/05/2024	Nicki Wykstra
5/07/2024	Cynthia Tillman
5/08/2024	Joan Heimlich
5/09/2024	Bonnie Brisky
5/10/2024	Ben Pletsch
5/12/2024	Paul Smith
5/12/2024	Larry Tommingo
5/18/2024	Marv Thor
5/18/2024	Bob Trendel
5/19/2024	Betty Baker
5/19/2024	Gary Salisbury
5/21/2024	Lynn Karle
5/23/2024	Marlene Grzywinski
5/25/2024	Sandy Lofthouse
5/26/2024	Nadine Kelly
5/26/2024	Karen Peterson
5/27/2024	Virginia Madison
5/28/2024	Thomas Knotek
5/29/2024	Stephanie Bernabei

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!



## MAY ANNIVERSARIES . . . HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

5/03/2024	Rich & Becky McDanel
5/04/2024	Jay & Ardele Berthe
5/05/2024	John & Suzanne Yuhaschek
5/07/2024	Gary & Bobbie Ramsey
5/10/2024	Larry & Charlotte Gulden

## RECEIVED HER VICTORY IN THE LORD . . .

5/12/2024	Larry Tommingo
5/18/2024	Marv Thor
5/18/2024	Bob Trendel
5/19/2024	Betty Baker

Linda Lentini received her victory in the Lord on Thursday, April 18, 2024. Funeral arrangements will be announced as they become available.



## OUR BROTHER'S KEEPER . . .

Our Sew-Sew group is always hard at work! On Sunday, April 12th, they displayed quilts they made to be donated to St. Matthew's House House and The Shelter for Abused Women & Children.



## CARING CONNECTIONS . . .

### PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following people in your thoughts and prayers:

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

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: Four Months Ended April 30, 2024

	Actual	Budget	Difference: Favorable (Unfavorable)
Operating Income	\$126,507	\$151,522	(\$25,015)
Operating Expense	\$126,815	\$123,692	(\$3,123)
Net Income (Deficit)	(\$308)	\$27,830	(\$28,138)

We greatly overestimated budgetary income for April, resulting in a big shortfall in income. However, we almost broke even for the year to date. In May/June we have a couple of large expenses coming: the parking lot sealing and annual insurance.

## GETTING TO KNOW YOU . . .

On Sunday, April 7, 2024, Shepherd of the Glades welcomed the following new members. Please warmly welcome them!



Steve & Sue Kautz joined SOTG by affirmation of faith and letter of transfer from Hales Corners Lutheran, Hales Corners, WI

Steve & Sue moved to Naples from WI three years ago. They started attending SOTG as the guests of Pete & Karen Peterson. Both are retired. Steve was an electrical engineer, and Sue was an executive assistant. They have one daughter and two grandchildren.

Bobbie & Gary Ramsey joined SOTG by letter of transfer from St. Peters Episcopal Church, Lakewood, OH and by affirmation of faith.

Bobbie & Gary have been married for 13 years and are newly retired. Bobbie was a health care executive and Gary was the owner of Commercial Interior Resources. Gary is an avid golfer, Bobbie enjoys flower arranging, and they both enjoy sailing.



Larry & Bev Spees joined SOTG as associate members by affirmation of faith.

Larry & Bev have been married for 63 years. Larry is a retired professor of education & psychology. Bev is a retired elementary teacher. Bev went to school with Pastor Lyberg. Larry enjoys watercolor painting, and Bev enjoys sewing and cross stitching.



Linda Zaleznik joined SOTG by affirmation of faith.

Linda is a recent widow. Linda became familiar with us through meeting here in a community group. She has worked in customer service at Winn Dixie and in the seafood department at Publix. She enjoys cooking.





## **AH, SWEET FELLOWSHIP . . .**

On Sunday April 7th, the Fellowship Committee hosted a luncheon to send off our seasonal family as they head back north! As was mentioned in the 50 Year Anniversary Celebration, "We do like to eat! And some things don't change!"



**A BIG THANK YOU** to all who made this occasion a festive one, those who organized, cooked, set-up, and served!

## **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**



## THRIVENT UPDATES . . .



Haven't attended a Thrivent Member Network Online Event yet? Give it a try!  
We help Christians find financial clarity, enabling lives full of meaning and gratitude.  
All are welcome to attend our FREE virtual events.  
Join us for these events in May 2024!

MAY 07, 2024 | 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM ET

MAY 07, 2024 | 7:30 PM – 8:30 PM ET

### Savvy Tax Strategies

Fact #1: Taxes can be complicated.

Fact #2: No one wants to pay more than their fair share.

When it comes to taxes and your retirement, a little knowledge can go a long way - and maybe even help you save more of your hard-earned money.

Join us for this virtual workshop, Savvy Tax Strategies. During this workshop, we will cut through the jargon and complexity to help you understand how to create an efficient retirement tax strategy. Explore how to help dodge the Social Security "tax trap" and learn more about the recently passed SECURE Act. You'll also learn how to avoid common - and costly mistakes with your investments, health care and estate.

RSVP: <https://bit.ly/3SIrpbI>

MAY 21, 2024 | 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM ET

MAY 21, 2024 | 7:30 PM – 8:30 PM ET

### Savvy Social Security

When should I file for Social Security benefits? Will I pay taxes on my Social Security benefits? If I file and continue to work, how will my benefits be affected?

When it comes to Social Security and your retirement, a little knowledge can go a long way. Join us for this virtual workshop, Savvy Social Security, presented by Thrivent financial professional, Mike Fuehrmeyer.

During this workshop, you will learn how to help determine the ideal time to apply and ways to maximize your Social Security benefits while minimizing taxes on those benefits. Careful planning can help you get the most out of your Social Security benefits.

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

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.

## PARKING LOT WORK . . .

The parking lot sealing is scheduled to be done May 6th thru May 10th, and will be done in three parts. Day 1 & 2 (May 6th & 7th) the men will be working on the Santa Barbara Road side. (Enter the driveway on Rattlesnake Hammock Road). Day 3 & 4 (May 8th & 9th) they will be working on the Rattlesnake Hammock Road Side. (Enter the driveway on Santa Barbara Road). Friday, May 10th they will be painting the parking lines. Thank you for your cooperation.

**MONTH AT A GLANCE . . .**

**MAY, 2024**



SUN	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS  9:00-11:00 A.M. EMROIDERERS' GUILD  NO BIBLE STUDY	<b>2</b> 7:00 – 8:00 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP	<b>3</b> 9:30 – 11:30 A.M. WOMEN'S AA GROUP	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  9:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP	<b>6</b> 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS  12 NOON AA MIXED GROUP	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS  10:00 A.M. PASTOR JEFF'S BIBLE STUDY	<b>9</b> 7:00 – 8:00 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER & MOTHER'S DAY  9:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP	<b>13</b> 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS  12 NOON AA MIXED GROUP	<b>14</b> 6:00 P.M. CHURCH COUNCIL MTG.	<b>15</b> 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS  10:00 A.M. PASTOR JEFF'S BIBLE STUDY	<b>16</b> 7:00 – 8:00 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP	<b>17</b> 9:30 – 11:30 A.M. WOMEN'S AA GROUP	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> PENTECOST SUNDAY  9:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP	<b>20</b> 9:00 - 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS  12 NOON AA MIXED GROUP  DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 9:00 - 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS  10:00 A.M. PASTOR JEFF'S BIBLE STUDY	<b>23</b> 7:00 – 8:00 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY  9:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP	<b>27</b> MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE UNAVAILABLE	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 9:00 - 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS  NO BIBLE STUDY	<b>30</b> 7:00 – 8:00 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP	<b>31</b>	

Shepherd of the Glades Lutheran Church  
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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**