

# 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

**AUGUST, 2024**  
**Volume 27- Issue 8**  
Editors: Lynn Dickerman  
& Linda Tidmore

*“But the Lord stood with  
me and gave me strength.”*  
—2 Timothy 4:17



**SHEPHERD OF THE GLADES  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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

The 2024 ELCA National Youth Gathering was a huge success with 16,000 youth in attendance. Although Shepherd of the Glades did not have any youth who attended this gathering, I am looking ahead to 2027 for the potential to take some youth to Minneapolis Minnesota! The ELCA National Youth Gathering was scheduled to take place in Minneapolis in 2021 but due to COVID, was canceled. The 2024 gathering took place in New Orleans, Louisiana. When youth and adults attend the national convention, they experience a life changing faith conference. According to the ELCA website, 34% of ordained ministers in the church attended an ELCA or predecessor youth gathering when they were young. And if you consider only the ministers that are 45 or younger, 49% of ordained ministers attend the gathering as a youth. That is an incredible statistic. So what happens at these gatherings that has such an impact on the faith life of the participants?



With the exception of the 2024 gathering, I have been present at every triennial ELCA National Youth Gathering since 2003, and I was sad to miss this one! I will begin with something that impressed me the most at my first youth gathering. I had not attended a national church gathering as a youth so it was all new to me. The first thing that impressed me was the fact that so many ELCA youth from all over the country gathered in a large stadium (NFL stadiums) for worship because there was not an ELCA church large enough to hold all of us! The presence of thousands of other Lutherans working and worshipping together in one place leaves an impact on you. And it is obvious that there is power in numbers, but each gathering of the ELCA youth raises an incredible amount of funds for the ELCA world hunger campaign. In 2018 (the most recent gathering due to covid) the youth gathering attendees raised over 1 million dollars thanks to matching funds from generous donors. I do not have the final ELCA world hunger offering numbers from the 2024 gathering, but I know that \$250,000 was offered as matching funds! When you see and hear these kinds of generous offerings and know that hundreds of thousands of people who are hungry will have food to eat, it touches your heart, and it changes your perspective. When you see the church doing what Jesus commanded the disciples to do when they encountered the 5000 plus hungry people, it gives you hope.

Another thing that happens at every gathering that changes your faith perspective is when you see the attendees go out into the community on their assigned work day. Jesus did not say, go out and fill the church pews on Sunday. He said go, therefore, and teach all nations. And when asked what is the greatest commandment Jesus said love God with all your heart, soul and mind and all your strength and love your neighbor as yourself. What better way to teach people about the love of God in Jesus Christ than to serve others? One full day is dedicated to serving the community that is hosting the youth gathering. Where else in our society do youth learn the value and joy of serving others with no expectation of reward or payback? The youth are taught that because Jesus has shown us how to live and how to love, we are compelled to love our neighbor as ourselves. I have seen youth working hard in poverty stricken neighborhoods to help bring about a better environment for those who live there. I have seen the walls of racism come down through the work of the youth attending the gathering. One of the most touching scenes I remember was when the youth worked in the inner city of Detroit. One local said she used to hate white people, but now has seen what these youth did for them and has changed her mind and her heart. When she asked the youth why they were doing this, they replied they were there for the ELCA Church and wanted to make a difference and show Christ's love for all people. One of the recipients of the work at that same gathering, a local homeless shelter, asked if they could come and see what this conference was all about. They were granted permission and joined the

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

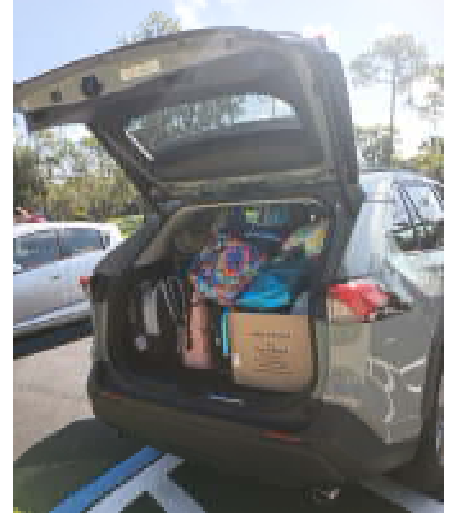
youth gathering for a session of worship. They could not express their thanks and gratitude enough, and they said they just couldn't believe what they had experienced. Over and over again, they just kept saying, "Thank you Jesus!"

Please feel free to ask me more about other experiences at the ELCA youth gatherings I have attended over the years. I can tell you that I believe one of the reasons so many youth in attendance end up serving either as an ordained minister or some other capacity in the community is because they encountered the living Christ. Jesus is more than worship on Sunday. And when we experience the joy that God intends for our lives, it is hard to return to business as usual. If we do not have any youth that go to the national gathering in 2027, we can still financially support youth who otherwise may not be able to afford to go. Pray about this with me, and let's see what great things God will do. Have a blessed summer, and we will see you in Church!

Pastor Jeff

## **GRACE PLACE BACKPACKS DELIVERED . . .**

As part of our 50th Anniversary Community Outreach Project, our congregation filled eighty-one backpacks with needed school supplies. The backpacks and school supplies were generously donated by members of our congregation and by a \$250 grant from Thrivent Financial to Grace Place. Grace Place, located in Golden Gate, provides pathways out of poverty by educating children and their families through an emphasis on literacy and success in school. The filled backpacks were picked up by Grace Place and will be given to identified children/families prior to the start of the school year. A heart-filled thank you goes out to everyone who participated in this "God's Work, Our Hands" project. Photos from the project follow.



## **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.

# NEWS IN THE SHEEPFOLD . . .



## HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAYS TO . . .

8/02/2024 Renna Knotek  
8/04/2024 Bev Spees  
8/06/2024 Jay Berthe  
8/06/2024 Joan Maywood  
8/06/2024 Tom Moore  
8/08/2024 Ron Modjeska  
8/08/2024 David Willits  
8/08/2024 Deborah Moeser  
8/10/2024 Ginny Trendel  
8/10/2024 Phil Willman  
8/10/2024 Steve Snover  
8/16/2024 John Jordan  
8/17/2024 Don Bohler  
8/17/2024 Elouise Larson  
8/19/2024 Lynn Dickerman  
8/21/2024 Scott Kischer  
8/22/2024 Betty Sauer  
8/23/2024 Bob Saaranen  
8/23/2024 Lori Bernabei  
8/26/2024 Carole Michel  
8/29/2024 Nancy Bullock  
8/29/2024 Jenna Snover  
8/30/2024 Christine Willits  
8/31/2024 Charlotte Wahlig

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!



## AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES . . .

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

8/02/2024 Michael & Heidi Dziubla  
8/04/2024 Yerry & Virginia Madison  
8/04/2024 Hank & Leslie Beers  
8/06/2024 Don & Vi Bohler  
8/11/2024 Doc & Sandy Lofthouse  
8/14/2024 Bob & Colleen Hoffman  
8/14/2024 Ron & Jane Limpus  
8/18/2024 Chuck & Barb Keller  
8/20/2024 Tom & Vicki Dunlop  
8/24/2024 Don & Karen Johnson  
8/27/2024 Kenny & Shelly Musselman  
8/29/2024 William & Brenda Charleston  
8/30/2024 Bill & Doris Marderness

## **BAPTISMS . . .**

On Sunday, July 14th, Grayson Michael Brown and Austin Carl Ciampa were baptized.





## CARING CONNECTIONS . . .

### PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following people in your thoughts and prayers:

Rod Barikmo & Family	Anita & Nick Lehr	Don Sebo
Valerie Becker	The Linda Lentini Family	Leila Sellman
Family of Carol Christian	The Lipke family	The Sebe Family
Kathryn Connell	Family of Dr. Robert Lubanski	The Elaine Sima Family
Family of Alan Espersen	Marilyn Malinowski	John Simmons
Lisa Marie Farnsworth	Mary McDonald	Micah Smith
Gail Fesnak	Al & Pat McFadden	Stanley
Shelia Gardeneer	Irma Median	Family of Raymond Swaby
Seanna (Kai) Grandinetti	Ed Michael	The Swain Family
Charlie Hoffman & Family	Patty Musielak	Marvin Thor
Ingrid Hoerz	Ashley Nell	The Tommingo Family
Family of Jackie Jacobs	Peter Newell	The Ungs Family
Joe	Judy Quandt	Michelle Wessler
Richard Jonas	The Parker family	Lanna Williams
The Kramer family	Arlene Schamberger	Joyce Zaleznik
John Labate		

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: Seven Months Ended July 31, 2024

	Actual	Budget	Difference: Favorable (Unfavorable)
Operating Income	\$192,304	\$217,081	(\$24,777)
Operating Expense	\$234,170	\$238,950	\$4,780
Net Income (Deficit)	(\$41,866)	(\$21,869)	(\$19,997)

The lean summer months are still with us! People are away and vacationing. We appreciate our faithful givers and those who have increased giving, especially during the summer!

## THRIVENT UPDATES . . .

**thrivent**

Beat the Summer heat this August 2024

Join us for our online and in-person Thrivent Events below!

JULY 25, 2024 - AUGUST 31, 2024 | MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

Regional Member Appreciation Events

To show our gratitude for your membership, you are invited to attend one of our in-person Member Appreciation Events with the Southeast Thrivent Member Network. Find the event nearest you by using the RSVP web address below.

RSVP – <https://bit.ly/MemberGratitude>

AUGUST 1, 2024 – AUGUST 31, 2024 | ON DEMAND

John Cecchino - Financial Foundations: Your Blueprint to Thrive

What can you do to help ensure a stable financial future while managing your savings, expenses and credit? How can you be prepared to handle financial setbacks? Join us as we welcome Thrivent expert, John Cecchino, to discuss the foundational steps you can take to help set yourself up for financial stability. Get on demand access to this webinar simply by registering. You will receive the link to the full video after registering as well as in a follow-up email from Eventbrite.

RSVP - <https://bit.ly/JohnC2024>

AUGUST 2, 2024 – SEPTEMBER 8, 2024 | MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

Summer Baseball Series

To show our gratitude for your membership, you are invited to join Thrivent for some all-star fun at the ballpark! Enjoy special discounted ticket prices, food, and fellowship. Find the location nearest you by using the RSVP link below.

RSVP - <https://bit.ly/ThriventBaseball>

AUGUST 9, 2024 – NOVEMBER 23, 2024 | MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

The 5 Love Languages® with Dr. Gary Chapman

Join the Southeast Thrivent Member Network for a chance to see Dr. Gary Chapman, the beloved author of The 5 Love Languages® in person in 2024.

Find the location nearest you by using the RSVP link below.

RSVP - <https://bit.ly/GaryChapman2024>

No products will be sold at our events. For additional disclosures, see [Thrivent.com/social](https://Thrivent.com/social). Contact us at [SoutheastTMN@thrivent.com](mailto:SoutheastTMN@thrivent.com) or see what's happening at [thrivent.com/southeast](https://thrivent.com/southeast) or at [Facebook.com/SoutheastTMN](https://Facebook.com/SoutheastTMN).

Questions about Thrivent? Want to become a member?

Call Thrivent Financial Associate David Contessa at (239) 300-5139.

## 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



# AUGUST, 2024



SUN	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS  10:00 A.M. PASTOR JEFF'S BIBLE STUDY	<b>1</b>  2:00 - 3:30 P.M. GREIF SUPPORT  7:00 – 8:00 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP	<b>2</b> 10:00 – 11:30 A.M. WOMEN'S AA GROUP  NEWSKETTER MAILING	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> ELEVENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST  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>	<b>7</b> 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS  10:00 A.M. PASTOR JEFF'S BIBLE STUDY	<b>8</b> 2:00-3:30 P.M. GRIEF SUPPORT  7:00 – 8:00 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> TWELFTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST  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>	<b>14</b> 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS  10:00 A.M. PASTOR JEFF'S BIBLE STUDY	<b>15</b> 2:00-3:30 P.M. GRIEF SUPPORT  7:00 – 8:00 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP	<b>16</b> 10:00 – 11:30 A.M. WOMEN'S AA GROUP	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> THIRTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST  9:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP	<b>19</b> 12 NOON AA MIXED GROUP	<b>20</b> 7:00 A.M. -7:00 P.M.  PRIMARY ELECTION	<b>21</b> NO BIBLE STUDY	<b>22</b> NO GRIEF SUPPORT MTG  7:00 – 8:00 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP	<b>23</b> DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS	<b>24</b>
<b>Staff Retreat-Office open 9:30 am-1:30 pm this week</b>						
<b>25</b> FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST  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-SEWS	<b>28</b> 9:00 - 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS  10:00 A.M. PASTOR JEFF'S BIBLE STUDY	<b>29</b> 2:00-3:30 P.M. GRIEF SUPPORT  7:00 – 8:00 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

Shepherd of the Glades Lutheran Church  
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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**