



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

SEPTEMBER, 2024

Volume 27- Issue 9

Editors: Lynn Dickerman
& Linda Tidmore



**SHEPHERD OF THE GLADES
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

PASTOR'S PAGES . . .

In one of the Florida Bahamas Synod Conferences on Ministry for rostered ministers, the speaker shared a quote from Ronald Heifetz and Marty Linsky about leadership. The quote said, "Leadership is disappointing your own people at a rate they can absorb." Initially, you might wonder why a leader would disappoint their "own people." Think of it this way. A leader is not a leader but rather a follower when they only follow what the people want and expect them to do. The truth is that no person can lead any group of people and keep everyone happy about every decision that is made. If you don't believe me, simply read the bible stories of Jesus and his interactions with the disciples or of any of the prophets as they led the people. We just heard from the Gospel of John that many of Jesus' disciples turned and walked away from Jesus and his leadership because it was too hard. The 12 that remained would eventually transform the world by doing what Jesus taught. So good leadership is about understanding that you are not going to make everyone happy. Furthermore, it is not your job as a leader to make everyone happy. It is the job of a good leader to disappoint those who have entrusted them with leadership at a rate that the people can absorb. The keynote speaker, Rev. Dr. Tod Bolsinger then shared the following definition of his own. "Leadership is energizing a community of people toward their own transformation in order to accomplish a shared mission." This is the type of leader I aspire to be as your Pastor. One who will occasionally disappoint you at a rate you can absorb while at the same time energizing this faith community toward transformation in our faith life in Christ. But what exactly is our "shared mission" as a faith community at Shepherd of the Glades Lutheran Church?



The mission statement of Shepherd of the Glades is, "Transforming lives through the Living Word of God." These few words guide our shared mission. God's word transforms lives every time we gather for Worship. Like the first disciples, the Living Word of Jesus Christ transforms our hearts and our lives. When we leave Worship, we are a new creation filled with the love of God in Christ Jesus and sent into the world to make a positive impact. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, **"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"** As your Spiritual leader, I see our shared mission of transforming lives not only during Worship, but in the work we do together for the sake of the Gospel. From Sew-Sews creating quilts to provide comfort to those in need; to the food that is blessed and sent to feed the hungry; to sharing the buildings God has given us with AA groups, community groups and two non ELCA Christian Mission congregations; to the grief support groups for those suffering with loss; to providing financial assistance to those who have experienced natural disasters and human made disasters; to supporting local ministries that help children get a good education; AND SO MUCH MORE! Working together in our shared mission as a faith community energizes us and transforms us as we experience Christ's love at work in our world and community. All of this is only possible when everyone works together to accomplish our shared goals. When the staff began planning a volunteer recognition for everyone who gives their time to the church, we recognized that there are nearly 100 people doing all this work. So thank you for your time and energy to make Christ known and transform lives. That is the Good News. Now for the challenging words from your Spiritual leader.

PASTOR'S PAGES (CONTINUED) . . .

The Christian Church in North America and throughout Europe is experiencing decline in attendance and in participation. We are currently blessed with a stable to slight increase in attendance due to population growth. But I do not believe that trend is sustainable. Some churches have tried techniques and programs that have worked in the past to get people to come to church and found them unsuccessful. So what can the church do to get people to engage in our shared mission? For a fresh perspective on how to be a church in mission, I highly recommend reading “Canoeing the Mountains” by Tod Bolsinger. This book presents a fresh look at why new and innovative church programs are no longer successful. It is my hope that as we seek to be faithful followers of Jesus who are led by the Holy Spirit, we will be open to new ways of thinking about what God is calling us to do. Remember, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. May we be bold in our proclamation of Christ in new and exciting ways as we move forward.

God bless you!

Pastor Jeff

FOOD FOR THE SOUL . . .

“Autumn teaches us the beauty of letting go. Growth requires release—it’s what the trees do.”

Ka’ala, @alohakaala

“Autumn is the season to find contentment at home by paying attention to what we already have.”

Unknown

“Autumn is the mellower season, and what we lose in flowers we more than gain in fruits.”

Samuel Butler

My mother once said: “Hate has 4 letters but so does Love. Enemies has 7 letters but so does Friend. Lying has 5 letters but so does Truth. Cry has 3 letters but so does Joy. Negativity has 10 letters but so does Positivity.”

Life is 2 sided, choose the better side of it.

PRAYER CHANGES THINGS . . .

Dear Lord, OHHHHH! Amen. A sigh so great can be the best prayer we offer God. Prayer is the communication between ourselves and our creator. Prayer has always been simple, instant communication in times of great sadness, fear, or joy. Prayer is an opportunity to share ourselves with others. God always answers prayer, sometimes yes, sometimes no, and sometimes not now. We are the body of Christ together holding each other in prayer. I am inviting all to join the Prayer Warriors in holding others before the Lord. Please also let the church office know if there is a prayer request.

NEWS IN THE SHEEPFOLD . . .



HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS TO . . .

9/01/2024	Inger Gotterup
9/01/2024	Barbara Modjeska
9/02/2024	Pat Barrack
9/08/2024	Kellen Snover
9/09/2024	Bobbie Ramsey
9/11/2024	Noel Bischoff
9/16/2024	Thomas Cianflone
9/20/2024	Larry Spees
9/20/2024	Karen Kuzel
9/21/2024	Terry Hansen
9/22/2024	Pamula Leimer
9/26/2024	David Ochoa
9/27/2024	Pamela Bhatena
9/27/2024	Susan Espersen
9/28/2024	H. Peter Lyberg
9/28/2024	Lynn Roland
9/29/2024	Kathy Heldman

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!



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES . . . HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

9/01/2024	Ron & Barb Modjeska
9/03/2024	Clay & Betty Baker
9/05/2024	Vern & Helen Rasmussen
9/16/2024	Andrea & Kathy Heldman
9/16/2024	Adam & Diana Cowles
9/17/2024	Jim & Betty Sauer
9/22/2024	Guy & Pat Cooper
9/26/2024	David Ochoa & Myrka Gonzalez



LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE . . .

How does a cucumber become a pickle? Well, it's a jarring experience!

I bought a thesaurus, but when I got home and opened it, all the pages were blank. I have no words to describe how angry I am.

An elderly woman had just returned home from an evening church service when she realized there was an intruder in her home. Seeing that he was in the act of stealing her valuables, the women yelled, "Stop! Acts 2:38!" Hearing her, the burglar stopped in his tracks and stood motionless. The woman calmly called the police and explained what was going on. Later, as an officer cuffed the man, he asked him, "Why did you just stand there? All the woman did was yell a Bible verse at you." "Bible verse?" the burglar exclaimed. "She said she had an ax and two .38s!"

CARING CONNECTIONS . . .

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following people in your thoughts and prayers:

Rod Barikmo & Family	The Linda Lentini Family	The Sebe Family
Family of Valerie Becker	The Lipke family	The Elaine Sima Family
Family of Carol Christian	Family of Dr. Robert Lubanski	John Simmons
Kathryn Connell	Marilyn Malinowski	Micah Smith
Family of Alan Espersen	Mary McDonald	Ryan Smith
Lisa Marie Farnsworth	Irma Median	Stanley
Gail Fesnak	Ed Michael	Family of Raymond Swaby
Shelia Gardeneer	Millie	The Swain Family
Seanna (Kai) Grandinetti	Patty Musielak	Marvin Thor
Family of Charlie Hoffman	Ashley Nell	The Tommingo Family
Family of Jackie Jacobs	Peter Newell	The Ungs Family
Richard Jonas	The Parker family	Michelle Wessler
Joe	Rick	Lanna Williams
Pastor Carl Kelly	Family of Rita Rosensteele	Family of Joyce Zaleznik
Anita & Nick Lehr	Leila Sellman	

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: Eight Months Ended August 31, 2024

	Actual	Budget	Difference: Favorable (Unfavorable)
Operating Income	\$205,351	\$248,971	(\$43,620)
Operating Expense	\$258,754	\$267,338	\$8,584
Net Income (Deficit)	(\$53,403)	(\$18,367)	(\$35,036)

This month has been the leanest month financially so far this year. People are still away while those here full time often escape the heat during August. Thank you to all our faithful givers during these lean summer months!

In SEPTEMBER 2024, you can celebrate Baby Safety Month, National Waffle Week, and Miniature Golf Day! Your Thrivent Member Network celebrates YOU, by offering the following online and in-person Thrivent Events! Everyone is invited!

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>

SEPTEMBER 09, 2024 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 29, 2024 | ON DEMAND

[Leadership Investments: Strategies for Success with Craig Groeschel](#)

How do you strategically invest your resources to fulfill your mission? Join Thrivent along with pastor Craig Groeschel where he will unpack four common allocation mistakes and teach you how to invest your resources to accomplish your future goals and objectives.

RSVP - <https://bit.ly/CraigG2024>

SEPTEMBER 10, 2024 | 1:00 PM AND 7:30 PM ET

[21st Century Medicare Planning to Protect Your Healthcare Rights and Retirement Savings with Emily Gang](#)

How to Avoid Confusion About Medicare

If you're confused about Medicare, join the crowd, and discover ways to make plan decisions that are best for you. Medicare Coach Emily Gang offers an overview of Medicare and suggestions for choosing your plan and saving money once you're enrolled.

RSVP - <https://bit.ly/4egyAQH>

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 or see what's happening at 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



SEPTEMBER, 2024



SUN	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST 9:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP	2 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED 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 2:00 - 3:30 P.M. GREIF SUPPORT 7:00 – 8:00 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP	6 10:00 – 11:30 A.M. WOMEN'S AA GROUP NEWSKETTER MAILING	7
8 SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST 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	14
15 SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST 9:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING 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 NO BIBLE STUDY	19 7:00 – 8:00 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP	20 10:00 – 11:30 A.M. WOMEN'S AA GROUP	21
22 EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST 9:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP	23 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 12 NOON AA MIXED GROUP	24 8:30-11:00 A.M. SEW-SEWS	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 DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS	28
29 NINETEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST 9:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP	30 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 12 NOON AA MIXED GROUP					

CONFERENCE ON MINISTRY

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

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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**