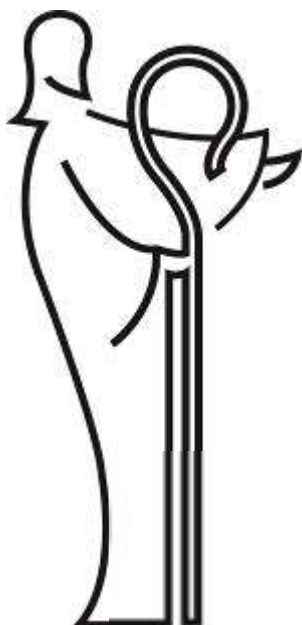


THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

The Parish Paper of Shepherd of the Glades Lutheran Church
6020 Rattlesnake Hammock Road (Corner of Santa Barbara)
Naples Florida 34113

OCTOBER, 2024
Volume 27- Issue 10
Editors: Lynn Dickerman
& Linda Tidmore



SHEPHERD OF THE GLADES LUTHERAN CHURCH

“The Grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen” If I were to ask you which book of the bible this verse is found, you might think it is from one of the many letters Paul wrote to the early churches. You would be correct. However, would you be surprised if I told you that this is how the book of Revelation ends? When we think about or hear about the book of Revelation, we often have visions of creatures that look like something out of a horror movie or sometimes we envision images of the rapture and those left behind. Most people simply do not have any desire to study the book of Revelation because it can be so horrifying and confusing. But I recently attended the Bishop’s fall theological conference where our speaker, Barbara R. Rossing, presented a very different perspective of the book of Revelation. Barbara Rossing achieved her Masters of Divinity at Yale College and a Doctorate of Theology at Harvard Divinity School. She is currently a professor of the New Testament at Lutheran School of Theology (LSTC seminary) in Chicago. Rossing is also the author of two publications about the book of Revelation; *“Journey through Revelation: Apocalyptic Hope for Today”* and *“The Rapture Exposed.”* Both of these publications focus on hope for the future for those who believe in Jesus rather than violence and fear of the end times.



The title of Rossing’s presentation was *“The Lamb’s alternative power story for the healing of creation.”* Within her presentation, Rossing argued that *“The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all”* at the end of Revelation includes all of creation and not just all the saints as found in many translations. With regard to interpreting this book of the bible as the end of the earth and God’s judgment, Rossing argued that the judgment of God in Chapter 11 will bring destruction to *“those who destroy the earth.”* (Verse 18) and not destruction of the earth. With regard to the new heaven and new earth that God will create, Rossing argues that the Greek can be translated as *“renewed”* rather than new. As I understood Rossing, the apocalyptic texts are not about God destroying and creating a new earth but rather sending judgment and destruction on those who destroy the earth in order to renew it. The apocalyptic texts are a way of acknowledging and exposing the evil that exists in the world. The apocalyptic texts are not a prediction of what is to come, but rather a diagnosis of what is wrong in the world and exposing the systems that oppress people and destroy God’s good creation. Just as Toto in the Wizard of Oz pulls back the curtain and exposes that the great Wizard of Oz is not what he appeared to be, John’s book of Revelation pulls back the curtain to reveal that God is much more powerful than the Roman government that is oppressing the people with violence and threats. There is no need to fear the powers of this world. God will destroy those who destroy God’s good creation and will save those who love and believe in Jesus. God will renew the earth and heaven with goodness.

PASTOR'S PAGES (CONTINUED) . . .

In the words of a child, “The book of Revelation is easy to understand ... God wins!” There is no darkness in this world that the light of Christ cannot overcome. Jesus is the Lamb of God. In a world where there is violence and bloodshed, the Lamb of God has come and will prevail. In a world where we grieve and mourn our dead, there is hope in Jesus, the Lamb of God. Jesus will return and take us home to a place where suffering and pain and death are no more. Jesus, the Lamb of God is our apocalyptic hope for today. If you are interested in learning more about this perspective of the book of Revelation, please let me know. I plan on doing a bible study on Revelation this winter if there is enough interest. God wins is a good summary, but I look forward to studying this book of the bible with you and learning more about the hope it provides for a world that is weary and afraid of what the future will bring.

God bless,

Pastor Jeff

A BIT OF HISTORY . . .

On Nov. 1, 731 AD, Pope Gregory III consecrated a chapel in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome to all Christian martyrs and ordered an annual observance in the city. By the ninth century, the first day of November was celebrated throughout the church as “All Saints” or “All Hallows,” with the day before known as “All Hallows' Eve,” shortened over time to “Halloween.” So, was it simply accidental that Luther selected October 31st to nail his “Disputation on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences” document onto the church door? Certainly not. He knew that with the following day being All Saints, the church would be full as people came to see the relics at the Castle Church amassed by Frederick the Wise, Elector of Saxony, who founded the University of Wittenberg. Luther's calculated risk paid off and while there was a long lead-up to this moment, many see Oct. 31, 1517 as the definitive beginning of the Reformation.

PRAYER CHANGES THINGS . . .

Hello, Shepherd of the Glades. I am confident to address you all this way for we are all the real church. I have an unlimited FREE offer to all. It is effective, proven, and FREE. This offer is available no matter your location. It is prayer. For the season of stress, more people, traffic and challenges, God offers us an opportunity to take it ALL to our creator who loves and cares for us beyond measure and leave it in His hands and to be present with Him in unlimited peace, grace, and wisdom. The prayer warriors are ordinary people trusting God to do the best for each of us. Please let the office know if you wish to be added to the list receiving prayer requests or if you have a prayer request.

COUNCIL CORNER . . .

SHEPHERD OF THE GLADES LUTHERAN CHURCH SEPTEMBER 10, 2024, COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Members in attendance: Pastor Unga, Bob Tidmore, Doug Walck, Charlotte Wahlig, Bonney Dery, Pam Bhathena, John Sherman, Penny Morken, Becky McDanel, Brad Caulder, and Colleen Hoffman. Absent: Gunar Strungs

Devotions: Charlotte Wahlig

A motion to approve the minutes of May 7, 2024, Council meeting was made, seconded, and approved as written.

Pastor's Report - Over these summer months, Pastor Jeff attended monthly Caloosa Conference rostered leaders meetings and Avow Hospice Spiritual advisory board meetings. The second grief support group has completed their study time. We are planning another educational grief support group opportunity in January. The emergency response memorandum of Understanding (terms of use contract) with Florida Southwestern State College - Collier Campus - is completed and ready to be signed. Synod Assembly was held June 3rd - 5th. Pastor Bob and Colleen Hoffman attended as voting members of Shepherd of the Glades. We each attended very helpful and informative workshops that will be discussed as a temple talk near the end of the year. Some of the workshop materials have already been put to good use. Please prayerfully consider who we might invite to be our voting members for the 2025 Synod Assembly. Pastor Jeff officiated at a double baptism at Shepherd of the Glades on Sunday, July 11th for Grayson Michael Brown and Austin Carl Ciampa. Pastor Jeff conducted memorial services for the following: Elaine Sima - May 29th; Ken Sebe - August 9th; and a non-member Bryan Rutledge - August 14th. A memorial service is scheduled off site for Linda Lentini on September 28th. The office staff retreat was very successful this year. We discussed the possibility of changes to the website and AV process. We are currently training others to run the AV system. We need to update our website to help capture potential new attendees and members. We also discussed possible changes to the Council committee structure and additional staff and/or volunteers to help during season. We have received an estate gift from Bob Goodrich, designated for the Endowment Fund. As we gear up for our December annual meeting, we will need to provide someone for the Nominating Committee in place of Ken Sebe. For those who joined us in January, we want to hold a meeting to discuss their role on Council and provide any assistance needed. At the end of 2024, the following persons will have served their 3-year term. Brad Caulder, Penny Morken, John Sherman, and Doug Walck. Brad and Penny are eligible for another 3-year term. John is also eligible. Doug has served 5 years on the Council so he is not eligible for another full term this calendar year.

Pastor Jeff will be gone September 16-18 to attend the Florida Bahamas Synod Fall Theological Conference. This conference is a required event for all rostered leaders in the ELCA.

Treasurer's Report – Bob Tidmore reported our Truist Investment account increased during the month of July. Our July income was more than budget only because we delayed payment of June expenses until July. Our year-to-date income was less than our year-to-date expenses. When we receive a stock donation as part of a pledge, the

COUNCIL CORNER (CONTINUED) . . .

stock goes into our investment account and not into our checking account directly. Both the Pastor's and Treasurer's reports were motioned for approval, seconded and passed.

Committee Reports:

Endowment - Charlotte reported the Endowment Fund during the summer months has increased thanks to gifts we have received. Committee members are suggesting holding any fund payments till after hurricane season in case there is any church building damage. They also ask Council members to let them know individual needs within the congregation.

Property – Doug explained during the summer months we had a few air-conditioning repairs due to the age of the equipment. We now have a service contract from “Key to Cool Heating & Cooling” for a semiannual preventative maintenance program which includes 2 maintenance visits per year for all eleven units on all parts and labor. We also had issues with our fire alarm system and security system. Doug and Pastor will continue to work with EPS to resolve these issues. Our debris pile of branches is increasing. The committee will wait till after hurricane season to clear the debris pile.

Evangelism – Becky inquired about the status of our new directories. Pastor explained one directory is available in the office for each household. Please notify staff when you will be picking up your copy.

Social Concerns – During the summer months we distributed the backpacks in July to Grace Place and we filled the food pantry each month for St. Mathews. A member suggested we start a program to fill grocery bags, perhaps during the Thanksgiving holiday season. A suggestion was made that we include items needed to donate in the weekly church bulletin. We could suggest a particular item each week. Pam will meet with the committee to further discuss this matter as this could be a meaningful outreach in our community.

Worship & Music – John announced we have started working with the folk group to plan additional music. Pastor noted any additional music should always go through Megan to coordinate the Sunday music schedule.

New Business:

Bob pointed out there are many new condos being built in the area. We should think about how we can spread the word to be part of our church community. Pastor will work on updating our website to encourage people to visit our church. We should form a committee to study this topic.

Pastor presented a Memorandum of Understanding to the council, received from Florida Southwestern State College. He explained that in the event there was an emergency on campus, we would be hosting students and parents and any others to come here as a safe place to be picked up. The memorandum states that they would take full responsibility for anything that happens on the grounds or any damage done while on our facility. We, as a church, have an opportunity to be a safe place within the community.

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

Next meeting will be October 8, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. Devotions: Gunar Strungs

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Bhatena, Council Secretary

NEWS IN THE SHEEPFOLD . . .



HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS TO . . .

10/03/2024	Janet Connell
10/06/2024	Charlotte Gulden
10/07/2024	Kelli Ungs
10/10/2024	Jim Sauer
10/11/2024	Kathryn Williams
10/12/2024	Carolyn Fee
10/12/2024	Diane Roforth-Smith
10/13/2024	Jane Limpus
10/13/2024	Larry Gulden
10/20/2024	Brian Cook
10/24/2024	Anita Lehr
10/25/2024	Linda Stover
10/25/2024	Diana Snover
10/26/2024	Judy Kobs
10/26/2024	Dinna Myers
10/27/2024	Don Johnson

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!



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES . . .

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

10/05/2024	Scott & Bonnie Kischer
10/15/2024	Michael & Lynn Karle
10/18/2024	Tom & Sally Moore
10/22/2024	John & Mary Sherman
10/26/2024	Paul & Earnie Keller
10/30/2024	Milan & Gloria Blaho



LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE . . .

What's a mummy's favorite kind of music?
Wrap!

Why do ghosts like to ride in elevators?
It raises their spirits!

Why didn't the skeleton go see the scary movie?
He didn't have the guts!

What part of the street do skeletons live on?
The dead end!

What is Dracula's favorite circus act?
He always go for the juggler!

CARING CONNECTIONS . . .

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following people in your thoughts and prayers:

Rod Barikmo & Family	The Linda Lentini Family	The Elaine Sima Family
Pam Bhathena	Sandy Lofthouse	John Simmons
Ron Blasig	Bill Marderness	Micah Smith
Kathryn Connell	Irma Median	Ryan Smith
Family of Alan Espersen	Ed Michael	Stanley
Lisa Marie Farnsworth	Millie	Family of Raymond Swaby
Gail Fesnak	Patty Musielak	The Swain Family
Shelia Gardeneer	Ashley Nell	The Tommingo Family
Seanna (Kai) Grandinetti	Peter Newell	Michelle Wessler
Family of Charlie Hoffman	The Parker family	Kathy Williams
Richard Jonas	Rick	Lanna Williams
Joe	Family of Rita Rosensteele	Family of Joyce Zaleznik
Pastor Carl Kelly	Leila Sellman	
Anita & Nick Lehr	The Sebe 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: Nine Months Ended September 30, 2024

	Actual	Budget	Difference: Favorable (Unfavorable)
Operating Income	\$226,262	\$280,631	(\$54,369)
Operating Expense	\$286,396	\$301,324	\$14,928
Net Income (Deficit)	(\$60,134)	(\$20,693)	(\$39,441)

This month's giving was better than it has been, although we are still operating at a deficit. We look forward to cooler temperatures and the return of our northern SOTG families. Thanks again to all our faithful summer givers!

ALL HALLOW'S EVE OUTREACH . . .

We are celebrating All Hallow's Eve again this year with a community outreach "Trunk or Treat" Halloween celebration. Anyone who wants to participate in this fun activity, October 31st, dresses up in the spirit of the night, puts their goodies in their trunk, decorates their car for Halloween, drives to Church at 6:00 p.m. opens their trunk, and waits for the children to arrive. If you don't want to come on Halloween but would like to donate candy to give away, your candy donations will be gladly accepted at the church office. Last year all our candy was gone by the end of the evening! Any questions, call Kelli Unga or the church office. This should be a spooky good time!!



REFORMATION SUNDAY . . .

Reformation Day, annually occurring on October 31, honors Luther's posting of his 95 Theses on the Castle Church doors in Wittenberg, Germany, on October 31, 1517. These 95 Theses sparked the Reformation and were translated and spread across Germany within weeks. This spark ignited a flame that spread across Europe and became known as the Protestant Reformation. Luther desired to engage in a discussion over the medieval practice of selling indulgences. By challenging the church's authority and its doctrine, Luther reclaimed for Christianity the central doctrine of salvation-justification by grace alone, through faith alone in Christ alone. In the U.S. this holiday is often observed on the Sunday preceding Halloween, or All Saints' Day eve.

2025 CALENDARS . . .

The 2025 "God's Creation" scripture calendars are on their way! By the first Sunday in October, they should be available for purchase at \$8 each after the service. They make great Christmas gifts! Proceeds from the calendars will benefit an outreach program. You may also purchase them at the church office Monday through Friday, 9:30-5:00 p.m. We'll let you know as soon as we have them in hand.

HELPING OTHERS . . .

The 2024 UNDY SUNDAY Campaign is approaching. Undy Sunday provides an ample supply of underwear and socks for the thousands of needy elementary school students within Collier County. This year there are three ways to support these children.



1. There will be collection containers marked “Undy Sunday” at the church for two collection weekends, October 20th and 27th. Please bring new and unused underwear and socks in sizes small, medium, and large for children ages 5-14.
2. The Undy Sunday team has a Charity Wish List where you can find current socks and undies needs! <https://a.co/bBkflng>
3. You may make a monetary donation using their secure online donor portal: Give to Undy Sunday—Catholic Charities Diocese of Venice (catholiccharitiesdov.org). All monetary donations will be used to purchase underwear and socks for the needy children.

Any questions or comments, please feel free to contact our staff: Allegra (239-793-0059) or Esmeralda (239-455-2655) at: allegra.belliard@catholiccharitiesdov.org or esmeralda.alvarado@catholiccharitiesdov.org

NOT GROWING WEARY IN WELL DOING . . .

Our Sew-Sew quilters are starting their mission again! They will meet on Tuesday, October 8, 2024 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in Hanson Hall, and every Tuesday thereafter during season. Everyone is welcome and no sewing experience is required.

JUST IN TIME FOR ALL SAINTS SUNDAY . . .



At Shepherd of the Glades we have a Memorial Garden on the other side of the courtyard where those wishing to, may have their cremains interred. Those with cremated remains in our garden have memorial plates with their names and dates of birth and death placed on a memorial plaque. Recently, Connee Zeman commissioned the creation of a new solid bronze plaque in memory of her husband, Tony Zeman. Tony was on Council as our treasurer for a number of years. Our Property Committee is planning to install this new plaque on the right hand side of the garden very soon. Thank you, Connee, for your thoughtfulness and kindness!

Happy Autumn, Happy October!
Don't forget, Pastor Appreciation Day is Sunday, October 13, 2024.
Thank you to all of our pastors and clergy for all you do!

OCTOBER 1, 2024 | 1:00 PM OR 9:30 PM ET

[The Washington Update with Jeff Bush](#)

How does what's happening in Washington affect your bottom line? During The Washington Update, get non-partisan analysis from expert Jeff Bush. His insights give perspective to the changing landscape in the nation's capital and its impact on taxes, investments and retirement planning.

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

OCTOBER 1 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2024 | ON DEMAND

[ON DEMAND: The 5 Languages of Appreciation in the Workplace](#)

Do you want to learn how to improve workplace relationships? Join Thrivent along with Dr. Gary Chapman where he will teach you to effectively communicate authentic appreciation and encouragement to employees, co-workers, and leaders. Learn tools to improve staff morale, create a more positive workplace and increase staff engagement.

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

OCTOBER 29, 2024 | 1:00 PM OR 9:30 PM ET

[Maximizing Social Security Benefits with Mary Beth Franklin](#)

When it comes to claiming Social Security, age matters. And so do your marital status, work history and many other factors. Discover what you need to know from Mary Beth Franklin, an expert and author of "Maximizing Social Security Benefits." Mary Beth Franklin has built her career educating pre-retirees on important concepts that can enhance their retirement. During her presentation, she will discuss keys that married couples and divorced individuals should understand, as well as the difference between Social Security retirement and survivor benefits. Attendees will learn the pros and cons of delaying benefits until full retirement age or later, and also valid reasons for claiming early.

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

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



OCTOBER, 2024



SUN	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1	2 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 9:00-11:00 A.M.- EGA 10:00 A.M. PASTOR JEFF'S BIBLE STUDY	3 7:00 – 8:00 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP	4 10:00 – 11:30 A.M. WOMEN'S AA GROUP NEWSKETTER MAILING	5
6 TWENTIETH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST 9:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP	7 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 12 NOON AA MIXED GROUP	8 8:30-11:00 A.M. SEW-SEWS 6:00 P.M.— COUNCIL MTG.	9 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 10:00 A.M. PASTOR JEFF'S BIBLE STUDY	10 7:00 – 8:00 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP	11	12
13 TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF PENTECOST 9:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP	14 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 12 NOON AA MIXED GROUP	15 8:30-11:00 A.M. SEW-SEWS	16 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 10:00 A.M. PASTOR JEFF'S BIBLE STUDY	17 2:00-3:30 P.M. GRIEF SUPPORT 7:00 – 8:00 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP	18 DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS	19
20 TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF PENTECOST 9:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP	21 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 12 NOON AA MIXED GROUP	22 8:30-11:00 A.M. SEW-SEWS	23 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 10:00 A.M. PASTOR JEFF'S BIBLE STUDY	24 7:00 – 8:00 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP	25 10:00 – 11:30 A.M. WOMEN'S AA GROUP 10:00 A.M. WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY	26
27 REFORMATION SUNDAY 9:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP	28 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 12 NOON AA MIXED GROUP	29 8:30-11:00 A.M. SEW-SEWS	30 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 10:00 A.M. PASTOR JEFF'S BIBLE STUDY	31 7:00 – 8:00 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP 6:00-8:00 P.M. TRUNK OR TREAT		

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

**NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
NAPLES, FL
PERMIT # 18**

Dated material mailed October 4, 2024
Please deliver between October 4 - October 8, 2024

**This Parish Paper is from:
Shepherd of the Glades Lutheran Church
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Web Page: <http://www.sotgweb.org>
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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 Ungs, 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**