



# 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

**FEBRUARY, 2025**

**Volume 28- Issue 2**

Editors: Lynn Dickerman  
& Linda Tidmore



**SHEPHERD OF THE GLADES  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

## PASTOR'S PAGES . . .

When we think of February, we often think of Valentine's day and love. As Christians, we are invited to follow Jesus' example of love for one another not only on February 14th, but every day! An expert in the Law of Moses approached Jesus and asked him, "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" I find it interesting that someone who is an expert in the law would even ask this question. We are familiar with the answer Jesus gives. Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." How could someone who is known as being an expert in the law of Moses and the commandments not know this? Many scholars believe that the expert knew the answer but like the Pharisees and Sadducees he was attempting to trip up or trap Jesus in his teaching. He wanted to demonstrate his power and authority over Jesus. But Jesus was not foolish. He knew the scriptures and he understood that others had been abusing God's Word. They were using the Word of God as a weapon and a tool of justification for their mean spirited actions. The religious leaders even took homes from widows instead of making sure they were cared for by fellow believers. They loved power more than they loved people. Jesus addressed this when he says to the Pharisees and Sadducees, "You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God." The power of God is demonstrated through compassion and love for those in need.



No one who is a believer wants to be in error or not know the scriptures or the power of God. So how do we prevent falling into the trap the religious experts had fallen into in the time of Jesus? How do we remain focused on loving God and loving one another as the greatest commandments of God? One obvious way is to listen to or read God's Word daily. We have access to audio bibles online and daily devotions that help us recognize when someone is speaking the Word of God, is a prophet, and when they are abusing God's Word for their worldly gain the way the Pharisees and Sadducees did. I invite you to pick up a daily devotional at the church and to join us for our Wednesday morning bible study from 10- 11AM. Each week, we study the readings for the upcoming Sunday. This helps us think about and talk about the scriptures in our modern context before we hear them in worship. **Beginning Saturday, February 15th at 1:00 PM** I will offer a bible study on the Book of Revelation. This bible study will be focused on God's grace and not the rapture. The rapture is a concept that was not invented until the 1830's. Please let the office know in advance if you plan to attend so that we can have sufficient materials available.

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

Finally, as I have shared in our stewardship series, actions speak louder than words. The church will offer a ministry fair highlighting the many ways we demonstrate love of God and love of neighbor. The ministry fair was rescheduled for Sunday February 9th after worship. Join us for the fun and games and pray about what's in you for this. Dear Church, I love you. But more importantly, God loves you. Happy Valentines day!

+ Pastor Jeff

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

February, the month of Love. I find that communication with those I love brings me great joy, peace, and a closer relationship. What is prayer? It is our communication with our creator. It is a time of quiet listening and sharing our hearts. I am inviting anyone who wishes to, to join our prayer warriors. Just let the office know. I also encourage anyone with something that is weighting on their heart to let the office know of that prayer request. What a great blessing it is to know we can all come before our God with our deepest longings, fears and joys. Keeping all of you held up before the Lord.

Shepherd of the Glades Prayer Warriors

## **GRATITUDE IS AN ATTITUDE . . .**

In December our "Giving Tree" benefited Lutheran Service of Florida. This is from Marta Martinez, Office Manager:

"Good morning, Shepherd of the Glades!

Just wanted to thank you once again for all the happy faces we had on Saturday, December 20, 2024 at the Christmas event. Thank you for making this a dream come true. LSF hopes that this can be done for our community next year because of the impact it made on these children. Photos are included."



We thank all our Christmas Giving Tree donors for their generosity and giving spirit!

## **COUNCIL CORNER . . .**

### **SHEPHERD OF THE GLADES LUTHERAN CHURCH (Unapproved) JANUARY 14, 2025, COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Members in attendance: Pastor Ungs, Bonny Dery, Penny Morken, Pam Bhatena, Bob Tidmore, James Caulder, Charlotte Wahlig, Gunar Strungs, William Nicklay, Becky McDanel, Sue Kautz, and Colleen Hoffman.**

**Call to order by President Bonny Dery**

**Devotions by: Pastor Ungs**

**A motion to approve the minutes of December 10, 2024, was made, seconded, and approved as written.**

**The election of Executive Committee and Committee Liaisons for 2025 are as follows:**

**Executive Committee: Penny Morken – President, Brad Caulder – Vice President, Pam Bhatena – Secretary, Bob Tidmore – Treasurer.**

**Committee Liaisons: Parish Relations: Penny Morken, Endowment: Charlotte Wahlig-Gunar Strungs Co-chair, Property: Bill Nicklay, Stewardship: Colleen Hoffman, Fellowship: Sue Kautz, Education: Bonny Dery, Evangelism/Publicity/ Local Mission: Becky McDanel-Pam Bhatena Co-chair, Worship and Music: Brad Caulder.**

**Pastor's Report: Thank you and welcome to Bill Nicklay and Sue Kautz, our new 2025 council members. I have no official Pastoral acts to report from December.**

**Christmas Eve Worship candlelight service was wonderful, and I thank Megan for her work in securing special music for the services. Average weekly Worship attendance in December was up by 4 from 2023 and was the highest December attendance average since 2016. However, this includes online attendance.**

**The executive committee interviewed and hired Mary Winsor as the director for discipleship. She will move here on Friday, January 17th and will be working on Sunday, January 19th. A new grief support group will begin in January. Invitations are being sent out so if you know someone who may be interested, please let me or Lynn know. The adult bible study on the Book of Revelation will begin on Saturday, February 15th. As you can hear in the prayers of the people during Worship, we have had many people who have been hospitalized or had surgery. I have made many hospital and home visits in December, and I do my best to see all our shut ins as often as I am able. I am hopeful that Mary will be able to assist with some of this work.**

**Treasurers Report: The Truist Investment account increased during December and the income was more than budgeted. December expenses were less than budgeted, and our year-to-date income was less than our year-to-date expenses. This deficit was made up by a withdrawal of funds from the investment account and from 2023 funds.**

**A motion to approve the Pastor's and Treasurer's reports were motioned for approval, seconded and passed.**



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

### New Business:

Discussions with the council members reviewing the function of each church committee was led by Pastor Jeff along with an explanation of our various bank accounts that are set up for our church.

### Committee Reports:

**Fellowship** – The committee has two new co-chairs as Leslie Beers resigned due to moving out of state. The two new co-chairs are Lynne Gervais and Liz McQuire. The committee had a very successful bake sale in December. January 12 will be a Welcome Back luncheon with a good response of 97 people signed up to attend. Submitted by: Penny Morken.

**Evangelism** – The Giving Tree was a huge success. All ornaments were taken and the gifts delivered to Lutheran Services of Florida and siblings of students at Mike Davis Elementary. Thanks to everyone who generously participated. The sew-sew group started back up after the holiday break. The group is still looking for someone to help with sharpening their dull scissors. If anyone can help with this or knows someone, please contact the church. The group wishes to thank all who have donated supplies. They are greatly appreciated. Submitted by: Becky McDanel

**Education** – We continue to offer Sunday School for children during the Sunday service and Charlotte Wahlig assisted by Becky McDanel are our teachers. Submitted by: Bonny Dery.

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

Next Meeting will be February 22, 2025

Devotions by: Bonny Dery

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Bhatena, Council Secretary

## **LAUGHTER IS GOOD MEDICINE . . .**

Did Adam & Eve ever have a date? No, they had an apple!

What did the painter tell his girlfriend? I love you with all my art!

Why shouldn't you fall in love with a pastry chef? He'll dessert you!

What did the paper clip say to the magnet? I'm very attracted to you!

What did the gardener say to his/her date? I dig you!

What's Cupid's favorite band? Kiss!

What did the cucumber say to the pickle? You mean a great dill to me!

What did one watermelon say to the other? You're one in a melon

## NEWS IN THE SHEEPFOLD . . .



### HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS TO . . .

February 1	Michael Klieber
February 2	Ardelle Berthe
February 10	Yerry Madison
February 11	John Speidel
February 12	Michael Cowles
February 16	Ron Limpus
February 18	Cindy Quehl
February 21	Bob Tidmore
February 23	Becky McDanel
February 26	Margarete Krehan
February 27	Patricia Clark
February 28	Jan Wolfe

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!

### FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES . . .

#### **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:**

February 4	Larry & Maryann Buettner
February 6	Gary & Linda Salisbury
February 11	Rod & Marilyn Barikmo
February 15	Deborah Moeser & Andrea Track
February 16	Larry & Barb Tommingo



## RECEIVED THEIR VICTORY IN THE LORD . . .

Marvin Thor received his victory in the Lord on Thursday, January 16, 2025 at Avow Hospice. Arrangements for his celebration of life are tentatively scheduled for February 8, 2025 at Marco Lutheran Church.



## 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:

Charlie & Lauren Alves	Mary Gehr	Linda Nolle
Rod Barikmo & Family	Family of Nola Halverson	The Parker family
Ron Blasig	Alison Heck	Vernon Rasmussen
Theresa Chiorazzi	Pastor Bob Hoffman	The Sebe family
Kate Connell	Joe	Family of Leila Sellman
Pastor Fred Davison	Pastor Carl Kelly	Cornelia Setzkorn
Family of Marilyn Day	Lauren	Jim Shaw
Vicki Dunlop	Anita & Nick Lehr	The Elaine Sima family
Ron Eickhoff	The Linda Lentini family	Micah Smith
Susie Espersen	Sandy Lofthouse	Ryan Smith
The Fetzer family	Family of Bill Marderness	The Swain Family
Gail Fesnak	Ed Michael	Family of Marvin Thor
Shelia Gardeneer	Willie Nation	Walter
Barbara Gega	Peter Newell	

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: One Month Ended January 31, 2025

	Actual	Budget	Difference: Favorable (Unfavorable)
Operating Income	\$43,426	\$43,681	(\$255)
Operating Expense	\$31,580	\$45,119	\$13,539
Net Income (Deficit)	\$11,846	\$1,438	\$13,284

January is off to a good start! We were pretty much on target with income. Expenses were only short of expectations because the reroofing project on Hanson Hall was delayed because of weather and so did not come out of the January expense budget. Thanks to all who have generously given to the mission of Shepherd of the Glades.



# HAPPENINGS AT SOTG . . .

## WELCOME BACK LUNCHEON

On January 12th Shepherd of the Glades held their annual “Welcome Back Luncheon”, renewing fellowship and connections with all our returning “snow birds”!



Many thanks to our hard working Fellowship Committee who organized and hosted this lovely event and to our Property Committee for kindly setting up tables and chairs. Members of the Fellowship Committee:

- Leslie Beers
- Lori Bernabei
- Noel Bishoff
- Brenda Charleston
- Pat Cumor
- Lynne Gervais
- Marlene Grzywinski
- Sue Kautz
- Doris Marderness
- Liz McGuire
- Diane Myers
- Betty Sauer
- Jennifer White



## FROM OUR DIRECTOR FOR DISCIPLESHIP. . .

Hello, Shepherd of the Glades! Mary Winsor here. I wanted to formally introduce myself again to those of you who have not seen or met me yet! I have accepted the position of Director for Discipleship here at Shepherd of the Glades Lutheran Church, and I am so excited to get to know you all and jump right into working here! Some of you might be asking yourselves: “What exactly does the Director of Discipleship do?” *Well, it means many things. I will be helping to organize activities and ministries, coordinating who is doing what, and planning for future endeavors. You will also see me on Sunday morning worship helping out in various capacities as well as weeknight services during Lent and Advent. I will be doing my best to be an active and engaged employee through the various projects and ministries of the church!*



### A Bit About Me:

I am a Florida native, born in St. Petersburg and most recently residing in the West Palm Beach area. As a kid, I moved around a lot due to my father being a pastor. My family lived in Iowa for eight years, so I claim both FL and IA as home. I earned my B.A. in International Relations from Cottey College in Nevada, Missouri through which I also had the opportunity to study abroad in Costa Rica for two semesters my junior year. After graduating, I lived and volunteered in Mexico City for a year through the ELCA’s Young Adults in Global Mission program. I served at a migrant shelter and attended a local Lutheran church there. I am the oldest of four daughters and I enjoy spending time at home with my sisters, parents, and our two family cats! I also enjoy various hobbies such as reading, baking & cooking, exploring nature parks, going to the beach, practicing my Spanish, and various arts and crafts.

I am so excited to begin a year of serving you all here at Shepherd of the Glades! Having grown up in the church, a job where I get to live out my faith daily and connect with church and community members is ideal. When you see me at church (or in public) please introduce yourself to me! It might take me a bit of time to remember everyone’s names, but I will do my best! Please reach out to me if you have any ideas for service or ministry projects, want to volunteer for anything specific in the church, if you have any questions for me, or if you just want to chat! I look forward to meeting you all, getting to know you and this church community better, and connecting with you during Sunday morning service, fellowship activities, ministry projects, and more!

Peace,

Mary Winsor

Please call the office for Mary’s contact information.

February 2025

Feeling stressed with your financial situation in the new year?

Here are some ideas that could help.

Also, don't forget to join us for our free online event below.

## FEBRUARY 25, 2025 | 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM ET (VIRTUAL EVENT)

[What's Your Retirement Style? Discover What Works for You with Dr. Wade Pfau](#)

Join us for "What's Your Retirement Style", an exclusive conversation with Dr. Wade Pfau, to learn how crafting the right plan today can help ensure you're ready for the journey.

- Think about whether you prefer retirement income that depends on market growth, or that is guaranteed no matter how long you live.
- Discover how much flexibility or security you want in your retirement income strategy.
- Identify your own income style based on your unique preferences.

**RSVP** - <https://bit.ly/DRWADE>

### 8 ways to combat financial stress

When we're feeling stressed financially, it can be challenging to understand the next step we need to take, much less take it. Leslie Talbot, marketing strategist in product and advice sales at Thrivent, offers these ways to help you make purposeful decisions for your future.

#### 1. Prepare for the 'certainty of uncertainty.'

Have three to six months of [emergency savings](#), which can help with home repairs or unforeseen purchases. Set a series of milestones like \$100, \$500 or \$1,000. You also could use personally meaningful milestones like one month's mortgage or rent and work your way up toward your goal of three to six months. And once you've used your emergency fund, don't forget to replenish it before the next incident strikes.

#### 2. Protect your family with insurance.

By planning ahead, you can reduce the financial stress of an unexpected health emergency or death, allowing your loved ones to focus on what truly matters in a difficult time. See if your employer offers life insurance as an employee benefit. Combining this with an additional policy may help you get to a meaningful amount of coverage for your family. If disability insurance is offered through your employer, consider signing up. Adding individual supplemental disability income insurance to an existing group plan can help lower overall coverage costs.

#### 3. Establish a spending plan.

Whether you use an app, a spreadsheet or a more creative method, the best [budget](#) is one you can stick to.

#### 4. Use credit wisely.

The best way to use a credit card is to pay off the full balance every month. Keep your credit utilization (the amount you owe compared to your available credit) under 30%.

#### 5. Make a plan to tackle debt.

Always pay at least the minimum payment on all of your credit accounts. If you have high-interest debt, such as credit cards or payday loans, try to negotiate a lower rate with the lender or work with your bank or credit union to explore lower-interest options while you [pay down your debt](#).

#### 6. Take small steps toward your goals.

Save early and work on increasing your saving as your situation improves. Every little bit helps. Schedule a transfer of a few dollars to your savings account every payday. When you get a raise, immediately increase the amount of your automatic savings transfer before the dollars are spent.

#### 7. Take advantage of a company match in your retirement savings plan.

At a minimum, contribute what the company will match, if you can. It's free money you shouldn't leave on the table.

#### 8. Contact your Thrivent financial advisor.

They can guide you toward financial clarity and also direct you to resources for debt management, such as [Money Canvas](#)™.

*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).

**For More Info Call Thrivent Financial Associate David Contessa at (239) 300-5139.**



# FEBRUARY, 2025

SUN	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1
<b>2</b> FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 9:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP 10:30 A.M. ENDOWMENT MTG.	<b>3</b> 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS  12 NOON AA MIXED GROUP	<b>4</b> 8:30-11:00 A.M. SEW-SEWS	<b>5</b> 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS  10:00 A.M. PASTOR JEFF'S BIBLE STUDY	<b>6</b>  7:00 – 8:00 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP	<b>7</b>  10:00 – 11:30 A.M. WOMEN'S AA GROUP	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 9:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP MINISTRY FAIR	<b>10</b> 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS  12 NOON AA MIXED GROUP	<b>11</b> 8:30-11:00 A.M. SEW-SEWS  6:00 P.M. COUNCIL MTG.	<b>12</b> 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS  10:00 A.M. PASTOR JEFF'S BIBLE STUDY	<b>13</b>  7:00 – 8:00 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP  2:00-3:30 P.M. "UNDERSTANDING YOUR GRIEF"	<b>14</b>  VALENTINE'S DAY	<b>15</b>  1:00 P.M. PASTOR'S B.S. IN REVELATION
<b>16</b> SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 9:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP STRAWBERRY SUNDAY	<b>17</b> 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS  12 NOON AA MIXED GROUP	<b>18</b> 8:30-11:00 A.M. SEW-SEWS	<b>19</b> 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS  2:00-3:30 P.M. GRIEF SUPPORT  10:00 A.M. PASTOR JEFF'S BIBLE STUDY	<b>20</b> 7:00 – 8:00 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP  DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS  2:00-3:30 P.M. "UNDERSTANDING YOUR GRIEF" CLASS	<b>21</b>  10:00 – 11:30 A.M. WOMEN'S AA GROUP	<b>22</b>  1:00 P.M. PASTOR'S B.S. IN REVELATION
<b>23</b> SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 9:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP ANNUAL MEETING	<b>24</b> 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS  12 NOON AA MIXED GROUP	<b>25</b> 8:30-11:00 A.M. SEW-SEWS	<b>26</b> 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS  10:00 A.M. PASTOR JEFF'S BIBLE STUDY	<b>27</b> 7:00 – 8:00 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP  2:00-3:30 P.M. "UNDERSTANDING YOUR GRIEF" CLASS	<b>28</b>  10:00 A.M. WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY	



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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  
Penny Morken, Council President  
Lynn Dickerman and Linda Tidmore, Admin. Assistants to the Pastor  
Rev. H. Peter Lyberg, Pastor Emeritus**