



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

MARCH, 2025
Volume 28- Issue 3
Editors: Lynn Dickerman
& Linda Tidmore



*Our Lenten Services
begin at 5:30 p.m.
every Wednesday
during Lent with soup
supper to follow.*

LENT
fast + pray + give

A photograph of a wooden cross with a purple cloth draped over it, set against a purple background. The cross is made of light-colored wood and the cloth is a vibrant purple. The background is a gradient of purple shades.

**SHEPHERD OF THE GLADES
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

PASTOR'S PAGES . . .

It is hard for me to believe that it is already March. On March 5th, we will observe Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the Lenten season. You are invited to come forward on Ash Wednesday and receive ashes on your forehead in the form of a cross and hear the words, "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return." These words are found in Genesis chapter 3:19. Adam and Eve had disobeyed God and ate of the forbidden fruit. During Lent, we are invited to remember that we have sinned against God and against our neighbor. Because of sin, we will die and return to the dust. The consequences of sin is death. Lent is a time for us to intentionally take the time to reflect on the ways we do not love God with our whole heart, soul and might, and how we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. During this church season, God invites us to change our way of thinking and living and remember that following Jesus and his way gives us life. Though we are dust, and to dust we will return, we have the Easter resurrection promise to hold on to. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will also be united with him in a resurrection like his. Thanks be to God!



This year we will be doing a few things differently during Lent. The first thing that will be different is that our offering will be used to create "blessing bags" for the homeless in our area. Perhaps you have driven up to someone with a sign that is asking for help, but you didn't want to give them cash because they might not use your donation for food or other necessities. Now when you see someone you feel called to help, you will be able to hand them a "blessing bag" that will include many helpful hygiene and snack items along with a paper that will tell them where they can go for food and shelter assistance. You will be able to help someone and not worry that they will misuse your gift! You will provide the opportunity to give that person some dignity. Our director for discipleship, Mary Winsor will help us with this project. Look for more information in her article in this newsletter.

Another change for Lent this year will be inviting you to provide or help serve soup for our weekly soup supper after services. There will be a sign up sheet available for each Wednesday so that you can volunteer to provide a soup, or help serve soup, or both. In the event we do not have enough volunteers to provide soup, we will be purchasing soups to fill the gap. Please consider sharing your offering of food and/or service for these fun meals together. And finally, we will have the opportunity to learn the Holden Evening Prayer for our mid-week prayer services.

PASTOR'S PAGES (CONTINUED) . . .

It is a very relaxing meditation that will bring peace to your heart. If you have never experienced the Holden Evening Prayer, look it up on YouTube. The readings and message portion of the service will include short talks on local ministries that we support and the impact they make. As we remember we are dust and to dust we shall return, this peaceful liturgy and prayer service will help us remember to love God and love our neighbors until that glorious day we see Jesus face to face. Have a very blessed and meaningful Lenten season.

In God's gracious grip,

+ Pastor Jeff

PRAYER CHANGES THINGS . . .

Good day to all of Shepherd of the Glades! As I look around I can hear and see the changing signs of spring beginning, even here in SW Florida. The lilies are growing taller. The daylight is longer and birds are singing. I am reminded that seasons continue to change. I am thankful for a God who is always present and unchanging. A Creator who loves, cares and wants to be a part of every moment of our lives. Prayer is a consistent opportunity to communicate with God. Prayer lets us share everyday, every part of our lives with the one who created and loves us unconditionally. The Prayer Warriors invite you to join in the communication. If you would like to pray for others or you have a prayer request please contact the office. Please know dear church you are being held in prayer before our gracious loving God who wants a continuous line of communication with each of us.

Shepherd of the Glades Prayer Warriors

A SEASON OF LENT . . .

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025 with an Ash Wednesday service at 5:30 p.m. with communion and imposition of ashes, followed by a soup supper in Hanson Hall served by the Fellowship ladies of Shepherd of the Glades. Every Wednesday during Lent, from March 5 through April 9, there will be a Lenten service using the Holden Evening Prayer format, and each Wednesday service will be followed by soup supper in Hanson Hall. We would love your assistance in providing homemade soups and serving the soup on Wednesday evenings during Lent. There are sign up sheets in the Narthex for anyone desiring to help by either bringing soup or serving the soup. Please make this a priority during this holy season.

COUNCIL CORNER . . .

SHEPHERD OF THE GLADES LUTHERAN CHURCH (Unapproved) FEBRUARY 11, 2025, COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

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

Call to order by President Penny Morken. Devotions by: Bonny Derry

A motion to approve the minutes of January 14, 2025, was made, seconded, and approved as written.

Pastor's Report: No official Pastoral acts for the record since January council meeting. Thank you to everyone who helped make the mission fair such a success. Your leadership is greatly appreciated! Thank you for my vacation time. It was very renewing to be with our son, daughter-in-law and granddaughter for her 2nd birthday party! **Regular meetings:** Caloosa Conference, Pastor's text study, SOTG weekly Wednesday bible study, NEW book of Revelation Saturday bible study. **Pastoral calls:** Congregation home bound communions, Member home visit, hospital calls, and one hospice call. Attended memorial for Marvin Thor at Marco Lutheran. It was a very nice service and was well attended. Marvin's wife is buried in the memorial garden, and it will be his final resting place as well. **New Business:** Welcome to our newest staff member, Mary Winsor! Mary will be submitting reports to the council as the director for discipleship. She has been the assisting minister each Sunday since her arrival and has been very helpful in many areas. Mary will be coming with me to home bound and hospital visits as she is available and will be assisting me as needed. Please read her report. **Upcoming events:** Strawberry Sundae Sunday this week-February 16th. Invite a neighbor. Memorial service for Susie Esperson, TBA, John Sherman Oldies "Reunion" concert Saturday February 22nd at 2:00pm. ASH WEDNESDAY-March 5th.

Treasurers Report: January income is higher than expenses and the Investment account also increased.

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

Director for Discipleship: Week 1, Spent most of the time getting to know Shepherd of the Glades. Time spent in-office learning how things and systems in the office are used and learning about the daily and weekly happenings and routine of the church and the use of its buildings including HOA meetings, Bone Builders, etc. Attended Sew Sews and the weekly Wednesday morning bible study. Established when I have time off each week. Went with Pastor Jeff for a visitation to a homebound church member. Helped to lead service for the first time on Sunday. Met and introduced myself to people over at the Hispanic church. **Week 2,** Spent Tuesday morning with the Sew Sew quilters. Joined Pastor Jeff on his weekly text study Zoom meeting. Led bible study on Wednesday morning in place of Pastor Jeff while he was gone. (Went well and the conversation flowed nicely.) Met with Pastor Tara about service for Sunday and coordinated with her regarding who would do and say what. **Week 3,** Led Sunday morning service with Tara and spent time after church getting to know more congregation members. Visited Grace Place for the first time and connected with their volunteer coordinator there regarding potential further partnerships with them and us. Pastor Jeff was gone part of the week, so I spent some time planning out my year here at SOTG in accordance with the flow of season and off season (regarding seasonal members and church attendance.)

Future Endeavors/Plans: - Start a (hopefully) monthly service day with members of SOTG at Grace Place. Need to gauge the level of interest and availability from congregation members. - Continue to visit homebound congregation members with pastor Jeff, eventually creating a

COUNCIL CORNER (CONTINUED) . . .

_rotation cycle between him and I in order to visit at-home members as frequently as possible. – Megan has expressed interest in starting up the choir again, as have a few members, so I will be contacting her to do that. Would be in conjunction or rotation with John’s folk group. – Preparing to help lead Wednesday night Lent services with Pastor Jeff.

Committee Reports: **Property Committee** – The roof repair of Hanson Hall is complete. A light pole has rusted to the point of collapse. It will be moved slightly and replaced. Also looking into additional lights between the parking lot and Hanson Hall. Submitted by: Bill Nicklay. **Evangelism/Local Missions Committee** – The Evangelism/Missions committee table at the ministry fair was visited by many. It is the hope of the committee to get more individuals interested and involved. The sew sew group has completed 12 more quilts since starting back up full time in October. There are now 6 ladies (3 seasonal) coming every Tuesday morning. There is a concern with the sewing machines in Hanson Hall. The ladies aren’t able to get any of them to work. Thank you to all who donated food for St. Matthew’s. Full carts are such a blessing. Submitted by: Becky McDanel, Pam Bhatena Co-chair. **Education Committee** – 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 **Endowment Committee** – The Endowment Committee met on February 2nd. Two primary issues were discussed. The first was regarding whether the fund should be moved from the current manager, ELCA Ministry Growth Fund, to a self-managed account under Committee control. The committee noted that the ELCA Ministry Fund is slow to release money to us upon request. However, the growth pattern has been very successful, based on extensive research by Gunar Strungs. The seven-member committee voted 6 to 1 in favor of continuing our investment with the ELCA Ministry Growth Fund. The second issue was regarding setting a new “base” amount for the fund. The base is the amount of money retained in the fund earmarked only for investment; the proceeds of those investments are then available as endowment grants. The majority of the Committee favored resetting the base amount. There will be further discussion of this issue at future meeting. Submitted by: Charlotte Wahlig and Gunar Strungs

Old Business: Continued discussions, led by Penny Morken, on Canoeing the Mountains, Chapter 3. We continued exploring what it means to become leaders who find new ways of facing the mountains ahead of us.

Council meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m. with a prayer from Pastor Jeff.

Next meeting: March 11, 2025 – 6:00 p.m. Devotions: Penny Morken

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Bhatena, Council Secretary

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



NEWS IN THE SHEEPFOLD . . .



HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAYS TO . . .

March 2	Lillian Hydes
March 2	Scott Krenz
March 4	Carole Martin
March 8	Sandra Maki
March 9	Rich McDanel
March 10	Ken Drum
March 13	Lorna Gauthier
March 13	Steve Kautz
March 16	Lisa Willman
March 16	Susan Evans
March 17	Ron Ripke
March 18	Bonny Dery
March 19	Connee Zeman
March 19	Bob Hoffman
March 19	Linda Zaleznik
March 19	Jeff Ungs
March 22	Beverly Adams
March 22	Brad Puerner
March 22	Brandan Cowles
March 24	Colleen Hoffman
March 25	Karen Johnson
March 26	Nicholas Lehr
March 27	Megan Cianflone
March 28	Sue Kautz
March 31	Rod Barikmo
March 31	Beverly Green

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!

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES . . . HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

March 14 Arvid & Marlou Pickett



RECEIVED HER VICTORY . . .

Susan Espersen received her victory in the Lord on Thursday, January 30, 2025. Memorial service will be held on March 22, 2025 at SOTG at 10:00 a.m.



LENTEN FOOD FOR THE SOUL . . .

"Lent is a time for discipline, for confession, for honesty, not because God is mean or fault-finding or finger-pointing but because he wants us to know the joy of being cleaned out, ready for all the good things he now has in store.

N.T. Wright

"... the liturgical traditions of the Church, all its cycles and services, exist, first of all, in order to help us recover the vision and the taste of that new life which we so easily lose and betray, so that we may repent and return to it. ... It is through her liturgical life that the Church reveals to us something of that which "the ear has not heard, the eye has not seen, and what has not yet entered the heart of man, but which God has prepared for those who love Him."

Alexander Schmemmann

CARING CONNECTIONS . . .

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following people in your thoughts and prayers:

Charlie & Lauren Alves	Mary Gehr	Peter Newell
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
Family of Susie Espersen	The Linda Lentini family	Micah Smith
The Fetzer family	Sandy Lofthouse	Ryan Smith
Gail Fesnak	Family of Bill Marderness	The Swain Family
Shelia Gardeneer	Ed Michael	Family of Marvin Thor
Barbara Gega	Willie Nation	Walter

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: Two Months Ended February 28, 2025

	Actual	Budget	Difference: Favorable (Unfavorable)
Operating Income	\$72,918	\$92,712	(\$19,794)
Operating Expense	\$67,941	\$83,785	\$ 15,844
Net Income (Deficit)	\$4,977	\$8,927	(\$3,950)

Some folks give their stewardship gifts up front in the new year, which accounts for our income being so good last month. We are starting to fall behind in our actual income opposed to budget. Fortunately, our expenses have been below budget, leaving us with a positive net so far this year. A hearty thank you to our faithful givers!

HAPPENINGS AT SOTG . . .

Sunday February 16, 2025 we celebrated our Sundae Sunday. Below are some pictures of the women that served this sweet treat, and others that fully enjoyed eating the sundaes.



UPCOMING EVENTS . . .

Sunday, March 2nd we will be showing a “Family Movie” at 1:00 p.m. Popcorn and treats will be available.

Be sure to mark your calendars to attend the “Farewell Luncheon” which will be held after worship services on Sunday, March 30, 2025. Good food and fellowship to be enjoyed!

EASTER IS AROUND THE CORNER . . .

EASTER LILY ORDER FORM!

Please help us beautify our sanctuary in celebration of our Savior’s resurrection this Easter! Lilies will be placed around the altar for Easter worship services. You may take your lily home after the last service. Please order one or more lilies by completing the form below. The cost is \$20 per lily. The deadline for ordering is Friday, April 4, 2025. Please place your order form in the offering plate, leave in the basket in the narthex, or deliver to the Church office.

I would like to order _____ lilies at \$20 each, dedicated as indicated below:
(Please print)

Bulletin Dedication #1: _____

Bulletin Dedication #2: _____

Bulletin Dedication #3: _____

Bulletin Dedication #4: _____

FROM OUR DIRECTOR FOR DISCIPLESHIP. . .

Hello SOTG! It has officially been over a month since I joined you all in January! It's so hard to believe that. The month has absolutely flown by! I have spent this time settling into my routine here at the church and getting to know you all as a congregation. It has been lovely to meet and greet you all before and after Sunday services, during bible studies, at Sew Sews, and in the office day to day. I am truly grateful to be here and I feel blessed to have this opportunity to work alongside you and serve this congregation.



On Tuesday the 18th of March I will be leading a group with Habitat for Humanity of Collier County on an educational tour to learn about how they work and serve our community here in Naples. The tour will begin at 9 am and last about 2 hours. They will provide transportation from the church to a few of their worksites and will explain more about how their organization works to help those who lack adequate housing here in our area. If you are interested please contact the church office or sign up on the sign-up sheet starting Sunday the 2nd before or after church. This will be a great way to learn more about an amazing Christian organization that does the Lord's work in our area as well as spend time with fellow members of our church community!

As we approach this year's Lenten season, Pastor Jeff and I thought of a way to give back to our community each week. Upon moving to Naples, I've noticed (and I'm sure many of you too) that we have a significant number of people in need on our streets who often hold up signs asking for help in the form of money and food. I know that some of us may feel that we want to help, but we're unsure of how best to do that. Something my previous congregations have done is put together "Blessing Bags." These bags are filled with water, snacks, toiletries, sunscreen, socks, etc. You can keep them in your car, and when you see someone in need, you can hand them a bag. During Lent, a list of supplies needed will be found in the Narthex along with a designated bin. Offerings during our weekly Wednesday evening prayer services will go towards buying additional supplies. As a way to wrap up the Lenten season, together we'll fill these bags after the last Sunday's service before Easter. The bags will be at church for any member or guest to take with them and keep in their car as they feel led. I look forward to seeing all of the supplies everyone brings, and to putting these bags to use in our community!

Thank you all for a great first month! I look forward to this Lenten season with all of you.

Peace and blessings to you,

Mary Winsor

Contact Info: Please contact the church office.

March 2025

From Retirement Income and Estate Planning to Tax Efficient Investing and, yes, even Baseball!

Thrivent invites you to join us for the following March Events:

MARCH 05, 2025 | 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM ET OR 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM ET

MARCH 06, 2025 | 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM ET

[Golden Strategies with Eric Bilger](#)

Join us to learn from special guest speaker, Eric W. Bilger, FIC Financial Advisor for Thrivent, as he shares strategies around managing your retirement income and assets, estate planning and tax efficient investing. This webinar is designed for anyone who will be retiring soon, has recently retired, or is well into their retirement.

RSVP: <https://bit.ly/Golden2025>

MARCH 24, 2025 | BUFFET STARTS @ 11:00 AM, GAME STARTS @ 1:00 PM ET

[Thrivent Afternoon with the Minnesota Twins vs Pittsburgh Pirates](#)

Lee Health Sports Complex; 14100 6 Mile Cypress Parkway, Fort Myers, FL 33912

Join us for an unforgettable afternoon at spring training in Ft. Myers with the Minnesota Twins! You're invited to enjoy great company, delicious food, and a spirit of generosity as we watch the Twins take on the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Thrivent is proud to partner with the Catedral de Adoração Food Pantry, supporting the greater Ft. Myers community for this event. See event details on what to bring to support.

Register to attend the event or indicate you'd like to receive a recording.

RSVP: <https://bit.ly/MinnTwins2025>

No products will be sold at our events. For additional disclosures, see [Thrivent.com/social](https://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.



MARCH, 2025

SUN	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1 1:00 P.M. PASTOR'S B.S. IN REVELATION
2 TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD 9:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP 1:00 P.M. "MOVIE AFTERNOON"	3 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 12 NOON AA MIXED GROUP	4 8:30-11:00 A.M. SEW-SEWS	5 ASH WED. 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 10:00 A.M. PASTOR JEFF'S BIBLE STUDY 5:30 P.M. ASH WEDNESDAY	6 7:00 – 8:00 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP 2:00-3:30 P.M. "UNDERSTANDING YOUR GRIEF" CLASS	7 10:00 – 11:30 A.M. WOMEN'S AA GROUP	8 1:00 P.M. PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY IN REVELATION
9 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT 9:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP	10 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 12 NOON AA MIXED GROUP	11 8:30-11:00 A.M. SEW-SEWS 6:00 P.M. COUNCIL MTG.	12 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 10:00 A.M. PASTOR JEFF'S BIBLE STUDY 5:30 P.M. LENTEN SERVICE	13 7:00 – 8:00 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP 2:00-3:30 P.M. "UNDERSTANDING YOUR GRIEF" CLASS	14	15 1:00 P.M. PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY IN REVELATION
16 SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT 9:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP	17 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 12 NOON AA MIXED GROUP	18 8:30-11:00 A.M. SEW-SEWS	19 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 10:00 A.M. PASTOR JEFF'S BIBLE STUDY 2:00-3:30 P.M. GRIEF SUPPORT 5:30 P.M. LENTEN SERVICE	20 7:00 – 8:00 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS 2:00-3:30 P.M. "UNDERSTANDING YOUR GRIEF" CLASS	21 10:00 – 11:30 A.M. WOMEN'S AA GROUP	22 10:00 A.M. SUSIE ESPERSEN'S SERVICE 1:00 P.M. PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY IN REVELATION
23 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT 9:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP	24 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 12 NOON AA MIXED GROUP	25 8:30-11:00 A.M. SEW-SEWS	26 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 10:00 A.M. PASTOR JEFF'S BIBLE STUDY 5:30 P.M. LENTEN SERVICE	27 7:00 – 8:00 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP 2:00-3:30 P.M. "UNDERSTANDING YOUR GRIEF" CLASS	28 10:00 A.M. WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY	29 1:00 P.M. PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY IN REVELATION
30 FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT 9:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP FAREWELL LUNCH	31 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 12 NOON AA MIXED GROUP					

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**This Parish Paper is from:
Shepherd of the Glades Lutheran Church
6020 Rattlesnake Hammock Road (Corner of Santa Barbara Blvd.)
Naples, FL 34113
(239) 775.0696 FAX: (239) 793.2465
Web Page: <http://www.sotgweb.org>
Email: sotg6020@gmail.com**

**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]
Mary Winsor, Director of Discipleship
Megan Cianflone, Director of Music
Penny Morcken, Council President
Lynn Dickerman and Linda Tidmore, Admin. Assistants to the Pastor
Rev. H. Peter Lyberg, Pastor Emeritus**