



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

MAY, 2025

Volume 28- Issue 5

Editors: Lynn Dickerman
& Linda Tidmore



SHEPHERD OF THE GLADES LUTHERAN CHURCH

PASTOR'S PAGES . . .

They say a picture is worth a thousand words. The picture below is from one of our Wednesday morning bible study gatherings. Look at the fun we are having studying the bible! A special thank you to all our snowbirds who have returned home or are returning home soon for a very special and spiritually rewarding year. Worship attendance was fantastic during season this year. The bible studies were very well attended and informative, and the grief support groups were transformative. The fellowship activities were fun! There are many other pictures in this month's edition of the newsletter (page 8) that demonstrate what is possible when God is at the center of what we do as a church. A special thank you to everyone who made Easter worship services so uplifting. Christ is Risen. Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!



Now that we have moved past the busyness of snowbird season, it can initially feel very quiet with fewer people in church and at activities. But this year, it is my hope that we do not take a vacation from our faith life and activities just because the snowbirds have gone North for the spring and summer. We will continue to offer Sunday School and mid-week bible study over the summer months. We will also continue to host a free family movie matinee each month. This year will be a great opportunity for us to be intentional about inviting others who live in Naples all year to join us for worship and some fun activities.

PASTOR'S PAGES (CONTINUED) . . .

2025 will be a year for growth for Shepherd of the Glades. What fun activities would you like to see us do this summer and early fall? What fun faith activities might we try that will reach out to the community and help us grow spiritually? Maybe we organize a spiritual retreat. Maybe we organize a trip to the Synod office or one of the seminaries. Maybe we work with other churches and organize a Vacation Bible School for children or better yet - a Vacation Bible School just for adults! Maybe we have an outdoor picnic together after worship. Maybe we go together on a sunset cruise to enjoy the beauty of God's creation. Maybe a deep water fishing expedition as a church group. Maybe we just have dinner parties in the homes of members to get to know each other better. I hope you are getting the idea. There are so many wonderful things we can do together that build both faith and community. This is what I call "Holy Dreaming." What would you like to see us do? Are you willing to help organize the event? We now have a Director for Discipleship that can help us organize and have some fun together. So what are you waiting for? Easter is the season of new life and resurrection! What new life would you like to see Shepherd of the Glades experience during this off season time? Let's have some fun together! Christ is Risen. He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

+ Pastor Jeff

HUMOR IS MEDICINE FOR THE SOUL . . .

What did the tree tell her son before a big game? I'm rooting for you.

What kind of flowers are best for Mother's Day? Mums.

Why is a computer so smart? It listens to its motherboard.

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



PRAYER CHANGES THINGS . . .

Shepherd of the Glades Prayer Warriors will continue year round, if you wish to join or have a request, please contact the church office.

COUNCIL CORNER . . .

MARCH 11, 2025, COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES (unapproved)

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

Call to order by President Penny Morken

Devotions by Charlotte Wahlig

A motion to approve the minutes of March 11, 2025 was made, seconded and approved as written.

Pastors Report:

Meetings: *Weekly Staff meetings; *Property committee; Regular communication with Pastor Orlando Camerez of Iglesia Conexion; *Pastor DJ and Haitian Baptist Church leaders *Caloosa Conference, *family memorial arrangements.

Bible Studies Weekly 10 AM Wednesday bible study. The Saturday afternoon Book of Revelation Bible study is now complete and the women's bible study will be held in April. Weekly Sunday school will continue throughout the year during worship.

Grief Support Group: Marcia Schacht, Lynn Dickerman and myself continue a closed small group grief support ministry each month for those who have completed the grief support workshop. The current group that is meeting weekly in the grief support workshop will be invited to join the closed group upon completion of their group completing the 12-week workshop.

Pastoral Calls: Congregation home visits/member visits (5) Home bound communions (6) Hospital/Hospice/clinic/rehab visits (10). **Memorial services** The memorial service for Susie Espersen was Saturday March 2nd at 10 AM. A private family interment in Shepherd of the Glades memorial garden is scheduled for Monday, April 14th at 10 AM for August Visas. August is the father of Gloria Blaho. **Pastoral Business- Synod Assembly** Synod assembly is June 12-14th in Orlando. Steve and Sue Kautz will be our voting members for assembly and Mary Winsor (director for discipleship) will be registered as a young adult at large from our congregation.

Holy Week and Easter Schedule: Maundy Thursday Worship will be at 5:30PM, Good Friday Tenebrae service will be at 7:00PM. Easter Sunrise service at 7 AM, 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM. Children's "Alleluia" hunt will be after sunrise service, children's easter egg hunt will be between the 8:30 and 10:30 services. **Upcoming Calendar Events:** Pastor Jeff will be on vacation June 2nd-9th. Synod assembly is June 12th-14th. Pastor will be celebrating a first birthday party with his granddaughter in Virginia June 19-26th.

Treasurer Report: March income is more than expenses. Funds are transferred from the Sebe Church Growth account to cover the Director of Discipleship salary each month. This transfer is not reflected in the expenses. March income is more than budget. The Year-to-date income is more than year-to-date expenses. The investment account decreased in value.

Committee Reports:

Director for Discipleship - 3 visitations within the past month - 1 bible study led for Pastor when he had family in town - Working with Pastor and congregation member deciding on the amount of Easter baskets to be made up for homebound congregation members. Should be able to deliver 9 before Easter - Blessing Bag project is coming to a head. The congregation was very generous and receptive to the new idea. This upcoming Sunday (Palm Sunday) they will be put together alongside the backpacks for Grace Place. 110 is the expected number of bags we will be able to make up to distribute to the homeless population in our area - Habitat for Humanity tour went very well. About a dozen congregation members attended. Many had lots of questions for the tour guides and the guides were a wealth of information. We have been invited to send a congregation member to their quarterly Mission Committee meetings, composed of faith representatives from various religious organizations and institutions in Naples - Continue attending grief group, weekly Wednesday bible studies, and Sew Sews - Organized the blessing of the quilts made by Sew Sews with the church office and Pastor. Will be dropping those off at St. Mathews House and the shelter for women and children within the next week or so - Planned the date for the next movie matinee with Pastor.

COUNCIL CORNER (CONTINUED) . . .

It will be April 27th after Sunday morning's service - Continue to help lead Wednesday night Lenten services and soup suppers which continue to go well. Our last one will be this Wednesday. Submitted by: Mary Winsor.

Evangelism /Local Missions Committee:

The Evangelism Committee continues to gather supplies for the Grace Place backpack project. 60 backpacks will be filled on Palm Sunday after the service. 20 of the backpacks will be given to 2nd graders and the remaining 40 will be distributed among students in grades 3 through 5. The Sew-Sew group has now completed 39 quilts. They will continue to meet weekly through the month of April and plan on meeting once a month during the summer. The quilts are to be divided between St. Matthew's House and the Women's Shelter, both in Naples, and will be delivered in April. The group wants to extend a huge thank you to Sandy Haberman for the donation of a sewing machine and to everyone who continues to send in donations of needed materials. All donations are greatly appreciated. Local Missions Committee: A huge thank you to everyone for another outstanding amount of food donations during the month of March. These donations will be taken to St. Mathews House. Please remember to drop off boxes or sturdy bags to help with transferring the food. Thank You. Submitted by Becky McDanel and Pam Bhathena, co-Chair.

Endowment Committee: As of February 28, 2025, this fund has decreased since January, 2025. Submitted by Charlotte Wahlig.

Property Committee Report: This committee reports that all light posts have been repainted. Additional updates for the property will be evaluated and given to the council for approval. Submitted by Bill Nicklay.

Worship & Music Committee: Megan reports she continues to gather members to form a choir for Sunday Easter services and will also have musical instruments. Choir practice has begun, and she is arranging for special music scheduled for Easter Sunday services, along with music during prelude and communion for upcoming services. Submitted by Brad Caulder.

Fellowship Committee: Lenten Soup Suppers continue to be served following the Wednesday evening church service. (free will offering) - The annual Farewell Brunch was well attended on March 30th, 90 people. A variety of delicious home cooked breakfast dishes were served - everyone enjoyed each other's company before bidding farewell and safe travels to those travelling back North for the summer. A free will offering was collected. An inventory will be done soon to determine what supplies are needed. Submitted by Sue Kautz.

Education Committee Report: Classes for children are offered each Sunday. Easter egg hunt with Easter Bunnies for children Easter Sunday after the 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. services. Submitted by Bonny Dery.

A motion to approve the Pastor's Report, Treasurer's Report, and all Committee Reports were motioned for approval, seconded and passed.

New Business: - Assistance in landscaping and maintaining the flowers planted was discussed by Penny Morken. Our flowers need to have a steady water supply. This will be further discussed with the Property Committee - Ministry Minutes will be presented next regarding our Fellowship Committee.

Old Business: Discussion on Chapter 5 of Canoeing the Mountains - "Preparing for the Unknown". This chapter spoke a lot about trust and what we are trying to do by keeping our congregation informed. This is where our Ministry Minutes and activities like packing the backpacks for Grace Place are appreciated.

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

Next meeting: May 13, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Devotions: Pam Bhathena

Respectfully submitted:

Pam Bhathena, Council Secretary

NEWS IN THE SHEEPFOLD . . .



HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAYS TO . . .

May 1	Louise Kalbaugh
May 2	Lori Cook
May 3	Donia Mrozek
May 4	David Larson
May 5	Nikki Wykstra
May 7	Cynthia Tillman
May 9	Bonnie Brisky
May 10	Ben Pletsch
May 10	Sandra Haberman
May 12	Paul Smith
May 12	Larry Tommingo
May 19	Betty Baker
May 19	Gary Salisbury
May 21	Lynn Karle
May 23	Marlene Grzywinski
May 25	Sandy Lofthouse
May 26	Nadine Kelly
May 26	Karen Peterson
May 27	Virginia Madison
May 28	Thomas Knotek
May 29	Stephanie Bernabei

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!

MAY ANNIVERSARIES . . . HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

May 3	Rich & Becky McDanel
May 4	Jay & Ardelle Berthe
May 5	John & Suzanne Yuhaschek
May 7	Gary & Bobbie Ramsey
May 10	Larry & Charlotte Gulden



RECEIVED HIS VICTORY . . .

Kent Adams received his victory in the Lord on Tuesday, April 22, 2025 in Minnesota. Arrangements are pending.



WE GET LETTERS . . .

Dear Pastor Jeff and Friends at Shepherd of the Glades,

The popularity and success of our Bone Builders Class is due in large part to having the use of Hanson Hall. We are so grateful, and we all thank you for making it possible.

Many Blessings,
Bone Builders

CARING CONNECTIONS . . .

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following people in your thoughts and prayers:

Donna Accetta	Mary Gehr	Peter Newell
The Kent Adams family	Myrka Gonzalez	Eric Nolle
Rod Barikmo & Family	Kelsay Hocanson	Vernon Rasmussen
Ron Blasig	Pastor Bob Hoffman	The Sebe family
Theresa Chiorazzi	Kari	Family of Leila Sellman
Kate Connell	Jean	Cornelia Setzkorn
Adam Cowles	Joe	Jim Shaw
Jackson Drum	Anita & Nick Lehr	The Elaine Sima family
Vicki Dunlop	Desiree Lentini	Micah Smith
David Einink	Sandy Lofthouse	Ryan Smith
Family of Susie Espersen	Family of Bill Marderness	The Swain Family
Gail Fesnak	Ed Michael	Family of Marvin Thor
Shelia Gardeneer	Patty Musielak	
Barbara Gega	Willie Nation	

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: Four Months Ended April 30, 2025

	Actual	Budget	Difference: Favorable (Unfavorable)
Operating Income	\$139,727	\$168,836	(\$29,109)
Operating Expense	\$124,690	\$141,446	\$16,756
Net Income (Deficit)	\$15,037	\$27,390	(\$12,353)

Our Easter attendance was down from last year, perhaps because Easter came late this year. April did not provide the bump in income that we had projected. Our spending, however is well below budget, so our net income is positive, though less than we had projected. Thank you all who faithfully support the work and mission of SOTG!

HAPPENINGS AT SOTG . . .

Palm Sunday began with a procession with palms, remembering Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem.



After Palm Sunday service, people stayed to help fill both backpacks for Grace Place and Blessing Bags for the homeless.



Easter began with a lovely Easter sunrise service celebrated in the courtyard. Special music was provided and beautiful lilies decorated the altar while several members of the congregation enjoyed watching the children in the Easter egg hunt held after the 8:30 a.m. worship service.



FROM OUR DIRECTOR FOR DISCIPLESHIP. . .

Hello SOTG! I hope this spring season finds you well. The past month has been such a busy one, especially with our projects on Palm Sunday and Holy Week services. It was so lovely to see so many of you throughout the past two weeks, and to celebrate Jesus's resurrection. On Palm Sunday we put together the backpacks for Grace Place, as well as the Blessing Bags for those we see in need on the streets. I am so happy to say that after church on Palm Sunday we were able to put together 114 bags! This is all thanks to your generosity and willingness to do something new in order to better meet the needs of our neighbors in our community. Many people took bags with them, which was awesome! I have already had folks excitedly tell me of their experiences giving them away, and asking for more. We still have plenty to give out, and there will be a space in the narthex for you to grab them to replenish the ones you've given away. We will also continuously be accepting donations of supplies for when we run out of bags, so that we may make more bags in the future when the need arises. If you are curious about the concept of the Blessing Bags but are unsure of how to go about giving them away, or if you have any questions or comments regarding them, I would love to chat with you! Feel free to call the office or send me an email.



Now that Lent is over and Easter has passed, many of our seasonal members have returned north. I wanted to say it has been a pleasure to meet and talk with you all, and I look forward to seeing you all next season! With that said, many of you (myself included) might be wondering: What's next? With the summer months approaching, we are used to things slowing down, but all too often, that means we see each other less. My hope for these months ahead is that we continue to plan and get together as a community. There have been a few people who have suggested various ideas here and there: congregational cookout or picnic, a monthly volunteering group, dinner parties, a spiritual retreat, etc. All are just ideas and nothing is set in stone, so if you have an idea or activity you think others would enjoy doing together, I would love to hear it! I'm excited to see what we come up with and to continue connecting with you all in the month to come.

With joy,

Mary



With Summer quickly approaching learn about Thrivent Membership and Benefits. You can help make a positive impact in your community!

MAY 2025 | ANYTIME ON DEMAND

Thrivent 101

Join the Thrivent Member Network - Southeast Region for an educational webinar to learn about your member benefits and how you can make an impact in the communities where you live, work and worship.

We'll cover it all, from Thrivent Action Teams, to Thrivent Choice. We will also include educational resources, free and discounted services and so much more. Whether you are a new member or just need a refresher, you won't want to miss this!

RSVP: bit.ly/ThriventMember101

MAY 2025 | ANYTIME ON DEMAND

Have You Used Your Action Team?

We all want to give back, but sometimes it's hard to know where to begin. Thrivent Action Teams are a great way to make a positive impact in your community. Simply gather a team of neighbors or friends for a fundraiser, educational event or service activity.

Thrivent offers all the resources you need to get started, including up to \$250 in seed money. Watch this 12-minute on-demand video to learn more about this member benefit and take you step by step on how to apply for your Thrivent Action Team!

RSVP: bit.ly/3T7XEI5

No products will be sold at our events. For additional disclosures, see 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.

MONTH AT A GLANCE . . .

MAY, 2025



SUN	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1 7:00 – 8:00 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP 2:00-3:30 P.M. “UNDERSTANDING YOUR GRIEF” CLASS	2 10:00 – 11:30 A.M. WOMEN’S AA GROUP	3
4 THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER 9:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP	5 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 12 NOON AA MIXED GROUP	6	7 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 10:00 A.M. PASTOR JEFF’S BIBLE STUDY	8 7:00 – 8:00 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP	9	10
11 FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER MOTHER’S DAY 9:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP	12 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 12 NOON AA MIXED GROUP	13 6:00 P.M. CHURCH COUNCIL MGT	14 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 10:00 A.M. PASTOR JEFF’S BIBLE STUDY	15 7:00 – 8:00 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP	16 10:00 – 11:30 A.M. WOMEN’S AA GROUP	17
18 FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 9:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP	19 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 12 NOON AA MIXED GROUP DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS	20	21 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	22 7:00 – 8:00 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP	23	24
25 SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 9:30 A.M. LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP	26 MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 12 NOON AA MIXED GROUP	27	28 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. BONE BUILDERS 10:00 A.M. PASTOR JEFF’S BIBLE STUDY	29 7:00 – 8:00 P.M. AA MIXED GROUP	30	31

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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]
Mary Winsor, Director for Discipleship
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**