

# June 2016

# The Staff

## The Newsletter of Shepherd of the Glen Lutheran Church

Sunday Worship & School 9:30 AM

With the birth of my latest grandchild, I've been realizing that the photos in my house (not to mention my office at church!) are in serious need of an update. While there's lots of pictures of grandchildren # 1, 2 and 3, there's very few of grandchild 4 and none of my two newest grandkids. And I really need to rotate out some of the older photos, like my now married-with-their-own-kids kids on the soccer fields at Bushy Park. That's been a long time ago now!

It's fun to look through old pictures, and in a lot of ways bittersweet. There are wonderful memories of events like weddings, baptisms, graduations,--even soccer games!--that take us back and preserve a wonderful time, but also bring us a realization that things have changed and we miss those people and times. A couple weeks ago, I was looking through some cabinets in my office and I found some delightful photos of people and events at Shepherd of the Glen. Lots of kids having fun inside and outside of the building (there was a picture of Pastor Jim dressed up as what looked like a mad scientist for what I guess is VBS—looked like great fun and that gave me a big smile!). There were events like Relay for Life, ski trips, hay rides, pool parties, even one of what looked like a band set up on the front lawn --wonderful stuff!

What a magnificent foundation this church has created in just 40 years! When we look at old photos, sometimes we feel a wistfulness and wish we could go back to what was. I feel like that when I look at the pictures on my walls of a very much younger me with three little kids and all the happy times we had. But then I realize that, if time stayed there, I wouldn't be hanging new pictures of the latest grandkids. Something's been lost, for sure, but there are gains I couldn't have imagined when I was the young mom cheering my kids on at soccer games or graduations and wishing those moments would never end.

Things have changed at church too, and in our wistfulness, missing and wishing, it's tempting to just want to "go back." But God doesn't move us back, God only moves us forward. God is at work in this process of looking back and appreciating the past, but God never lets us stay there and bids us to look to the future. That's where this church is now as the church council, executive committee, call committee and *all* of you courageously ask the question, "What next?"

One of my favorite Bible verses is 2Corinthians 5:17-- *So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!* That happens every June as the Earth turns green and plants take root. It happens in our individual lives as we grow up, grow older and let go of some things and move on to what is next; it happens in our church as well.

In this season of planting and new growth, as the rains bring the foundation for what is about to spring forth and we wait for the sun to warm the soil, may God give us all the discernment and hope that a new creation is God's promise.

*Peace +*

*Pastor Susan*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**



**Attention gardeners!** This summer, bring your extra produce in to church each Sunday. Those of us who don't have green thumbs or vegetable gardens can "buy" it for a donation, and at the end of the summer we'll donate the proceeds to help the hungry. If you have gardening neighbors, encourage them to drop all those extra zucchinis and tomatoes (or whatever is growing like crazy) off any Sunday morning.

**Saturday June 4. Flea Market/Mini Book Sale** will be held from 8 am to 1 pm. Set up will be at 6:30 am. If you can help, please let Carole Kramer. Thank you!

## "We covered the sheep with wool and sent the love of Christ across the globe!"



One BAAA-utiful flock! Thanks to your generosity, our “Good Shepherd Campaign” was a rousing success and we raised enough to send 6 sheep to Burkina Faso. The sheep will be sent through Lutheran World Relief to families who will use them for wool, milk, breeding and meat. This will mean a sustainable livelihood for these families, and more political stability in that region. We filled our cardboard sheep with wool balls (made and donated by Stephanie Ransom) to show just how warm and fuzzy our hearts are too! Thanks to all who contributed and especially to Stephanie for the sheep and wool and to Laney and Gavin for sound effects.

**Pastor Susan will be at Synod Assembly June 1-4.** The synod is electing a new bishop, so keep all the voting delegates in your prayers for wisdom and discernment.

**Route 1 Day Center Meal – *Thank you,*** to all who served and donated food.

### **Help requests from Christian Ed.:**

If you plan to contribute to a coffee fellowship, please sign up so as to avoid duplication. Your help is greatly appreciated! A big **thank you** goes out to those who helped volunteer this past year for Sunday School.

Do you know someone, member or not, who is **in need of pastoral care**? Please let Pastor Susan know, or feel free to give them her phone number to call directly.

## Church Council Meeting held on May 10, 2016

The meeting was called together with the Reading of Psalm 66 and passages from *Unbinding the Gospel*.

Minutes from the April 12, 2016 meeting were read and approved.

### **Financial Reports:**

The Financial Secretary's report was distributed.

For the week ending April 30, 2016:

Pledged Envelope Offerings:	\$20,305.85
Actual Envelope Offerings:	\$19,528.00 (96.2%)
Loose Offerings	\$411.00 (year to date)
Building Fund	\$650.00 (year to date)
Gifts and Memorials	\$3,465.00
Miscellaneous Donation	\$1,134.54 (Boy Scouts)/\$101.00 (Rt.1)

The Treasurer's report was distributed.

April Envelope income:	\$3,964.00
Year to date total income:	\$22,935.04
Year to date expenses:	\$20,260.41

A line item has been added to the Budget/Financial Report for the Administrative Assistant position. Dennis has prepared all of the necessary paperwork for the Administrative Assistant

A motion was made and seconded: the Executive Committee of the Council will receive applications until May 22; after which the Executive Committee will review the applications and call for a vote from the entire Council on the selection.

Financial reports were accepted as given.

### **Board of Christian Education:**

Coffee Fellowships were held on April 24 and May 1.

Christian Ed is still in need of teachers to lead Sunday school lessons. Please sign up if you can offer this service. All assistant teachers' slots have been filled. The last day of Sunday school is May 22.

We are at the beginning stages of organizing a Prayer Shawl group. Anyone interested in knitting or crocheting is invited to join the group to make Prayer Shawls.

### **Board of Trustees Report:**

A Spring work day has been scheduled for May 21. It will concentrate on indoor tasks such as window washing and chair cleaning. A sign-up sheet has been posted with both jobs and for volunteers.

The organ repair will take place on May 11.

### **Board of Deacons Report:**

Linda K. will be posting the monthly volunteer schedule for the coming month on the bulletin board. This way volunteers can see if they are available at the assigned times or not and replacements can be found well in advance.

On May 29 Gerry Rickel from St. Dysmas will be in attendance. A free will offering will be taken for St. Dysmas.

Setting 10 will be used for the worship service beginning on May 29.

Route 1 Day Center meal will be on May 30. Please see Linda K. if you can provide some of the food.

The Flea Market will take place on June 4. Volunteers are needed for set up and clean up. Any donations for the sale are welcome.

Anne G. will be looking into the Toys for Tots drop box for Christmas donations.

### **Pastors Report:**

Pastor Susan continues to meet with members and make Pastoral Care visits.

Pastor Susan continues to hold Friday morning "office hours" at the Dunkin Donuts on Route 97.

We discussed the possibility of a Church picnic during the summer. Tom C. investigated the possibility of a pavilion but all were taken for the summer. We may hold an outdoor worship and picnic at the Church. August 21 or 28 were suggested as possible dates.

### **Call Committee:**

The Call Committee continues to put together our Ministry Site Profile with the Synod. 19 parishioner surveys were returned which will help with this site profile. The completed report should be ready for Council review by the next Council meeting.

**The next Council meeting will be held on June 9, 2016 at 7:00 pm. (note date change)**