

# May 2017

# The Staff

## The Newsletter of Shepherd of the Glen Lutheran Church

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Sunday Worship & Sunday School 9:30 AM



*A community of Christians, called Together by the Holy Spirit, where all people Can come to know God's grace and grow in Faith, give and receive The love of Jesus Christ And of one another, and Serve one another and The community in which We live."*

Have you ever noticed just how busy this time of year is? Easter was particularly late this year, so it seems that all of a sudden the Spring activities are upon us. For me, this is a time of grandkid's birthdays, sports games, end of year concerts and "graduations," Mother's day, as well as a time when I tend to get busy with my other job as well. It's a wonderful time of year, but I find that May easily competes with December for sheer busy-ness. It's a time when we can finally get those plants in the ground once the danger of frost has past, and for many of us, a time to do spring cleaning. I've been opening the windows so that George the cat can watch "cat TV"—he loves to sit on the sill and watch birds and squirrels! But opening the windows has revealed a lot of cobwebs, dirt and grime, so before he puts his paws there, I have some cleaning to do! It's one more thing to do in an already busy season, but there's something satisfying about getting rid of the dirt that's been there all winter and having things polished. It makes my 20-some year old house seem new again!

We at SOTG just wrapped up a very successful Lenten project: New Life baskets for ex-offenders. These laundry baskets are filled with cleaning supplies and toiletries for self-care and will give good practical help to the men who

are released with nothing to set up housekeeping. But I think there's a deeper significance as well.

For these men, there's been a lot of "dirt" in their lives, enough that they landed in jail. The years they've spent incarcerated have been a time when they really couldn't do much to clean up what was left of their lives, their jobs, their relationships, and their guilt. Some of them get worse in the prison system and some barely (or don't) survive.

But there are some, in particular the men who attend the Wednesday worship services, who found that God used this time to give them a chance to reflect and develop the desire to clean up their lives-- to live as God intends them to live. They want their own space,

their own property, their own time, and their own lives, and they want those spaces, properties, times, and relationships to be clean. I believe that being able to clean whatever small area they can claim outside the prison walls could be a cathartic thing—those shining windows or mopped floors might just be a reflection of the cleaning up that has occurred on the inside as well. That internal cleaning up of their hearts will be a lifelong process, but seeing something they polished with their own hands that belongs to them can be a powerful metaphor for the possibility of a fresh start.

What do we have to clean up in our lives as well? What needs to be washed away so that we can live the way God intends for us? While the answer might be more obvious for those ex-offenders, we are no less in need of examining our lives and making fresh starts. Spring cleaning is a lot more than wiping the window sills and sweeping out cobwebs—it's a matter of the heart as well as the house.

Blessings and fresh starts to you this Spring season.

*Pastor Susan*



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Adult Education**

**Luther and the Reformation video and discussion:** This year marks the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the reformation so there's no better time to brush up on what it means to be a Lutheran. On May 7, right after worship, we will be showing Rick Steve's PBS special on Luther and the Reformation, then discussing topics about our church's origins and doctrine. Since it's a first-of-the-month fellowship Sunday, please plan to bring a dish to share for lunch (please reply to the Weekly Hello with what you are planning on bringing) and stay for the video and discussion. We will be finished around 12:30-12:45. While we're there, I'm going to ask which topics of interest you'd like to explore further about Luther or Lutheranism, and we will discuss those on subsequent Sundays.

**Tuesday Morning Bible Study:** Pastor Susan would like to offer a Bible study 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month beginning May 23, if we can get a group of at least 5-6 people who are interested. Please call or email her by May 16 to let her know if you are interested.

**Coffee Fellowship/Luncheon** will be held on May 7. Please respond to the "Hello" with what you would like to provide. Thank you.

**Our Lenten project this year, "New Life Kits", was a huge success!** 13 laundry baskets were filled to the brim with supplies, prayer shawls and letters of encouragement for the recently released ex-offenders from the prison system. Everyone who receives a

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basket from Shepherd of the Glen will know they are loved by God and that people care. They will know this because you were willing to spend the time to hand make prayer shawls, purchase items needed to help them begin a new life and sat down and wrote heartfelt words of encouragement to them. Thank you for putting God's words into action.



**UPDATE:** Sunday the 23, the container was filled with 105 box tops! Gavin Hein will be taking them to his school to donate!

**Box Tops for Education:** This will be an ongoing service project to help our schools. On many products there are coupons, like the one shown.

All you have to do is cut them out, bring them to church and place them in the container on the table in the narthex. Something so little can make a big difference! Thank you!

**Our next chance to serve at the Route 1 Day Center Meal will be on May 29.** As soon as the menu is finalized, the menu will be posted on the "Helping Hands Board", and publicized in the "Hello" and weekly bulletins. At that time volunteers will be needed to prepare and serve the food. Thank you.

**Mark your calendars - June 17<sup>th</sup> will be our Flea Market/Mini Book Sale!** If you have items you would like to donate to the flea market, please bring them and put them on the tables in the Sunday school room. We appreciate if the items could be brought in as soon as possible so the items can be priced. Thank you.

**For those who missed Humor Sunday**  
**Jesus is watching you!**

A burglar broke into a house one night. He shined his flashlight around, looking for valuables, and when he picked up a CD player to place in his pack, a strange, disembodied voice echoed from the dark saying, "Jesus is watching you."

He nearly jumped out of his skin, clicked his flashlight out, and froze. When he heard nothing more after a bit, he shook his head, promised himself a vacation after the next big score, then clicked the light on and began searching for more valuables. Just as he pulled the stereo out so he could disconnect the wires, clear as a bell he heard,

"Jesus is watching you." Freaked out, he shone his light around frantically, looking for the source of the voice. Finally, in the corner of the room, his flashlight beam came to rest on a parrot. "Did you say that?", he hissed at the parrot.

"Yep," the parrot confessed, then squawked, "I'm just trying to warn you."

The burglar relaxed. "Warn me, huh? Who in the world are you?"

"Moses," replied the bird.

"Moses?" the burglar laughed. "What kind of people would name a bird Moses?"

"The kind of people that would name a Rottweiler Jesus."

*Have a wonderfully joy filled day. God Bless.*

**Shepherd of the Glen**  
**Church Council Meeting Minutes**  
**April 18, 2017**

The meeting was called together with a reading "A Litany for Easter"

Minutes from the February 14, 2017 meeting were read and approved.

**Financial Reports:**

The Financial Secretary's report was distributed.

For the week ending March 31, 2017

Pledged Envelope Offerings:	\$14,500.00
Actual Envelope Offerings:	\$14,212.00
Loose Offerings	\$112.00 (year to date)
Building Fund	\$0.00
Gifts and Memorials	\$0.00
Miscellaneous Donations	\$0.00

The Treasurer's report was distributed.

March Envelope income: \$4,336.00

Year to date total income: \$5,277.50

Year to date expenses: \$4,506.57

Note: Giving has remained constant even though attendance is lower.

Financial reports were accepted as given.

**Board of Christian Education:**

A Coffee Fellowship was held in March and April. There will be a fellowship on May 7th. Sunday School continues to be held each Sunday.

**Board of Trustees Report:**

The Trustees have changed light bulbs and installed LED bulbs.

The insurance quote from National Church Group for property, umbrella and workman's compensation insurance was received. Since the quote is higher than we are currently paying to Church Mutual we will continue with Church Mutual. Church Mutual has a free program for safety sensors (one for fire and one for flood) which will be installed in the near future.

**Board of Deacons Report:**

We filled 11 "new life" baskets for ex-offenders.

Pastor Susan continues to talk with Rabbi Tobesman (Chaplin at Correctional Facility) about a date for him to come and speak with SOTG.

We discussed the time for a Bible Study. We decided to try to meet on Sundays and to hold a study on Martin Luther and the Reformation.

We decided to leave all other proposals from the Deacons as they currently are (service time, standing/sitting, passing of the peace, number of readings).

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

Pastor Susan Carole Roy will be the Supply Pastor on April 23; Patti Bush will be the Supply Organist on April 30.

Flea Market/Mini Book Sale—June 17

Synod Assembly—June 1-3

### **Pastors Report:**

Pastor Susan continues to meet with members and make Pastoral Care visits; prepare for services; prepare Bible study and meet with Boards and Synod clergy. She gave “ashes to go” and “communion to go” during Lent and led Holy week services. She conducts worship services for St. Dysmas on Wednesday mornings. Pastor Susan attended several interfaith gatherings. Pastor Susan continues to hold Friday morning “office hours” at the Dunkin Donuts on Route 97.

### **New Business:**

Trustees will hold a Work Day in May.

At the request of a Council member we discussed strengths and challenges of SOTG as well as any innovations we could initiate. The Council member greatly appreciates and thanks everyone for the lively hope filled discussion.

**The next Council meeting will be held on May 16, 2017 at 7:00 pm.**

### *St. Theresa's Prayer*



*“May today bring you peace within.  
May you trust God that you are exactly  
where you are meant to be.  
May you not forget the infinite possibilities  
that are born of faith.  
May you use the gifts that you have received,  
and pass on the love that has been given to you.  
May you be content knowing  
you are a child of God.  
Let His presence settle into your bones,  
and allow your soul the freedom to sing,  
dance, praise, and love.  
It is there for each and every one of us.”*