

**July 2016**

# **The Staff**

**The Newsletter of Shepherd of the Glen Lutheran Church**

**Sunday Worship 9:30 AM**

The first week of June was The Big Event of the year for the Delaware/Maryland synod that we are a part of—the annual synod assembly in Ocean City. Just between us, I usually find the 9AM to 9:30 PM meetings tedious and tiresome—I'd really rather “cut class” and go socialize or actually go feel the sand on my toes. Putting an extrovert in a room full of Lutherans, especially my pastor and seminary buddies, is like setting a dieter down in a pastry shop! But there's business to take care of. It really does take a lot to provide the support structure for all the congregations we have in the Del/Md Synod, and what we do to make sure that structure is there is important. So, as hard as it is for the fidgety extrovert that I am, I do my best to stay in my seat and pay attention!

But even this fidgety extrovert got caught up in the events and decisions that needed to be made. There were some “memorials” (fancy church word for proposals) that were discussed such as one allowing for a congregation to withdraw because they disagree with the 2009 Sexuality Statement (yeah that's still being discussed!) and one that proposed greater outreach to persons of color, especially in terms of attracting a more diverse pastors. There were reports from various synod committees (and yeah, that is usually as boring as it sounds, but so very necessary and I thank God for the people willing to do the nuts and bolts of synod administration).

There was also very spirit-filled worship, and the keynote speaker, Pr. Dave Dauber, was dynamic. I just couldn't scribble notes fast enough because the points he made were all so apt and rang so very true. He talked about the nostalgia for the past—how church was the “norm” in the 1950's, and in fact people went to show just how normal they were. Now, as he said, if you go to church you're a little weird. Church-going isn't the norm anymore, but that doesn't mean that people aren't spiritually hungry—they're just not trusting church for spiritual guidance.

There are lots of reasons for this, from clergy sex scandals to it simply not being part of something people were raised to do, but it's no surprise to hear it's now the cultural norm not to go to church. There's a lot of hand-wringing in churches over this, but we can see this as an opportunity. We can be freed up! The culture and church are no longer bound together. We can stop worrying about the minutia that don't matter and get back to the message of Jesus. We can go from being “consumers of care” to going outside our walls and to care for and talk to others. We can get back to the radical message of God's love that people need to hear, but don't think they'll find in church.

I see this all the time talking to people in places like Dunkin Donuts and Smokin Hot. The need is there, and if we Lutherans don't speak up about the theology of grace and inclusiveness that we embrace, the only Christian voice people will hear is one that sounds judgmental and hypocritical. The Holy Spirit is on the move in the world! What if we're on the cusp of another Reformation? How exciting to be living in these times!

The big item for the assembly was the election of a new bishop. Ecclesiastical ballot can be a bit lengthy. First ballot, any ordained pastor can be nominated (I was among that long list nominated and quickly filled out the forms to withdraw my name!) Voting continues until a designated majority is reached and can go on for many ballots. When the field was narrowed to five candidates, each came to the various geographic conferences and spoke/answered questions for 15 minutes—kind of like church speed dating. All were articulate and demonstrated faith and leadership.

When the field was narrowed to three, they each, Bp. Wolfgang, Herz-Lane, Pr. Bill Gohl, and Pr. Ginny Price spoke in front of the plenary group. After another ballot it was narrowed to Bp. Wolfgang and Pr. Bill Gohl, and they spoke again Saturday morning before the final vote.

When the final votes were tabulated, Pr. Bill Gohl had won 227 to 225. That's close, but rather than it being an occasion for division, there were immediate calls for prayer from the assembly for each of the candidates and for the church. Deep appreciation was expressed for Bishop Wolfgang's service, and for Pr. Gohl's willingness to serve. In the midst of this contentious political season in our country, it was heartening to see how people of faith handle division—with prayer and compassion.

This will mean changes for the synod, I'm sure, though we're not sure what those changes will mean. Pr. Gohl spoke of the need for care and support for struggling churches and pastors and necessary streamlining of the synodical structure, while simultaneously encouraging new expressions of what it means to be church. He is currently pastor of Epiphany Lutheran in Baltimore City and is married to Arwyn Gohl, who is also a pastor. They have 4 children, and I count Bill and Arwyn among my valued colleagues and friends.

During his sermon at the last worship, Bishop Wolfgang preached about how God is always bringing new beginnings. This is a new beginning for the church body which we here at Shepherd of the Glen are part of.

This world is a broken one—the terrible tragedy at the Pulse Nightclub on June 12 is a shocking and heart wrenching reminder of that. But we are resurrection people who boldly proclaim that love is greater than hate and will always, always win out. That doesn't absolve us of responsibility to go beyond prayer and words to action, but we know that we are a part of something greater than any of us individually-- manifest in our churches on a congregational level, synod level, and as part of the eternal kingdom of God.

As we enter the renewing days of summer—look for new beginnings. They are all around us.

Peace to you, sisters and brothers,

*Pastor Susan*

## Church Council Meeting held on June 9, 2016

The meeting was called together with the Reading from the *Christian Century*, part of their "Century Marks" series.

**Minutes from the May 10, 2016** meeting were read and approved.

### Financial Reports:

The **Financial Secretary's report** was distributed.

For the week ending May 31, 2016:

Pledged Envelope Offerings:	\$26,278.15
Actual Envelope Offerings:	\$24,449.00 (93%)
Loose Offerings	\$451.00 (year to date)
Building Fund	\$800.00 (year to date)
Gifts and Memorials	\$3,465.00
Miscellaneous Donations	\$1,134.54 (Boy Scouts)/\$101.00 (Rt.1)/ \$600.00 (LWR Sheep)/ \$165.00 (St. Dysmas)

The **Treasurer's report** was distributed.

May Envelope income:	\$5,102.00
Year to date total income:	\$28,824.04
Year to date expenses:	\$24,955.55

A line item has been added to the Budget/Financial Report for the Administrative Assistant position. Monies to fund this line item were taken from the Pastoral Call line.

Financial reports were accepted as given.

### Board of Christian Education:

Coffee Fellowship was held on June 5. The next one will be on August 7.

Sunday School will resume in the fall.

We have a Prayer Shawl group. Anyone interested in knitting or crocheting is invited to join the group to make Prayer Shawls. Linda Hunt has already made several Prayer Shawls which will be blessed on Sunday June 12.

### Board of Trustees Report:

A Spring work day was held on May 21.

The organ has been repaired and cleaned.

The field will be mowed the week of June 6th.

The heat pump in the Sanctuary needs repair. Air handler #2 will be fixed within the next week at a cost of \$700 by the Sickler HVAC Company.

### Board of Deacons Report:

Pastor Susan will give a full report on the Synod Assembly in the July *Staff*.

Hymns have been selected for July. In addition, the list of hymns is in the Narthex for those who liked the hymns on any given Sunday to record their wish to sing the hymn again in the future.

Any hymns not in the Red Hymnal and inserted into the Bulletin will be printed in a larger font.

A clarification on the Friday morning “Office Hours” at Dunkin Donuts—this time is by way of community outreach and is in addition to any other traditional pastoral care offered to the congregation. Pastor Susan is always available on her cell phone.

Arrangements for Pastor Susan’s July vacation dates have been made. Substitute Pastors will be paid \$160 and 54 cents per mile for each Sunday that they serve.

We chose September 25<sup>th</sup> as the date for the outdoor worship and church picnic.

Summer Benevolence projects—Prayer Shawls and “Veggie Drop”.

We discussed the need for a pouring chalice for Communion. A motion was made and passed to purchase a pouring chalice.

#### **Pastors Report:**

Pastor Susan attended the Synod Assembly on June 1-4.

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.

Pastor Susan led worship services at the Central Maryland Correctional Facility on May 11, 18 and June 8.

Pastor Susan has attended clergy meetings such as the Baltimore West Conference, Washington Interfaith Conference and Jewish Islamic Dialogue Society.

#### **Call Committee:**

The Call Committee completed a draft of the Ministry Site Profile which was reviewed by the Council.

A motion was made and passed to accept the Ministry Site Profile with corrections/changes.

**The next Council meeting will be held on July 12, 2016 at 7:00 pm. There will be no Council meeting in August.**

Respectfully submitted, Gretchen Wright, Secretary

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***The Flea Market / Mini Book Sale*** results were not as favorable as in years past. I blame the weather on that, not just for that particular day. I think the succession of rain filled Saturdays prior to last Saturday played a part in it as well. We made \$53.70 in the flea section and \$284.75 @ the mini book sale. The total was \$338.45.

In comparison in the most recent past we earned: 2015 \$1,001.96, 2014 \$558.50, 2013 \$729.71 & 2012 \$559.09.

Thanks once again to everyone who helped. A special thanks to those of you who got out of bed so early in the morning to help us set up.

*Carole Kramer*

***Mark your calendar for outdoor worship and church picnic at SOTG on***

***September 25.*** More details will follow but in the meantime, if you have any ideas on how to make this a fun and meaningful event, contact Pr. Susan, Linda Krause or any church council member.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS CONT.**

### ***Enjoyed a Hymn and would like to sing it again?***



A piece of paper in the narthex contains the selected hymns for the services and locations for individuals to place their initials next to the hymn they would like to sing again. Some hymns may be unfamiliar to some congregants. If you have trouble initially following the hymn but later catch on and decide you would like to sing it again, maybe after the choir has practiced it and can help carry the melody, please initial it. Or if the font on the printed hymn is too small to read or as in the case June 5 it was on green paper making it difficult to read, but the tune was nice, please initial it. If you would like to add a comment such as “Choir Support” or “Larger Font” or anything, please asterisk the hymn to the left and make a comment at the bottom of the page. Other hymns you would like to sing can be added to the comments section.

Our ***Prayer Shawl Ministry*** is up and going! On Sunday, June 12, we blessed 4 prayer shawls, and so far two have been distributed to home-bound members. So far, all the shawls are the work of Linda Hunt’s amazing and prolific knitting needles, but we’re hoping to get a knitting group going. If you know of someone who might appreciate this wonderful sign of God’s warmth from SOTG (doesn’t need to be a member) please let Pastor Susan know.



***“The Shepherds Table”*** is in business! Bring your extra produce or cut flowers from your garden to church on Sunday and place them on the table in the narthex. The rest of us can take what we like and leave a donation for hunger. At the end of the summer, we’ll send in our donation, help others, and get healthier ourselves in the process.

If you have neighbors with plentiful gardens, please encourage them to send their extra in with you or drop it by on Sunday morning.

### ***Stop by Dunkin Donuts at Rt 97 and 144 Friday mornings from 10-11 AM.***

Pastor Susan is “in” to chat, pray and connect with you or anyone who the Holy Spirit sends by.

### ***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.

### **Help request 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! The next fellowship will be on August 7th.