



Good News From Good Shepherd

"I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd gives His life for the sheep."
John 10:11

April 2020

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Who are you looking for?

John 20:11-16 ¹¹ but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. ¹³ They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." ¹⁴ At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ "Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher).

Things certainly are crazy right now. We are all pretty much stuck at home. People have been laid off from their jobs, leaving them wondering how to pay their bills. Some people are afraid of getting ill from this virus. We can't even attend church in person. This isn't how it is supposed to be. At this point we don't even know what's coming next. It is disheartening.

Things weren't as they were supposed to be for the disciples or for Mary in the John passage quoted above either. The disciples were stuck hiding in the upper room in fear for their own lives. In their minds, Jesus wasn't supposed to die. His death left them adrift, wondering what was next. They were also disheartened.

To make matters worse, Mary went to Jesus' grave and found it empty. This caused her to be even more distraught. "Why would someone take her Lord's body", she wanted to know from the person she thought was the gardener? But the "gardener" asked her a very important question, "Who is it you are looking for?"

Like Mary, it is important for us to consider who it is we are looking for. Are we even looking for anyone at all? God promised us he would never leave us nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). So how intently do we watch for him on a daily basis? In normal times, when we get up in the morning to prepare for our day, do we pray for God to act in our lives and then do we watch for him to do so? Or do we push through life on our own? When we go to school or work, do we look for God's protective hand when we are dealing with difficult people or situations? Do we trust him to be involved? Or do we just handle it? -- ***I will never leave you nor forsake you.***

At times like these, do we look for Jesus amidst the empty shelves of the grocery store? Do we look for Jesus amongst the unemployed? -- ***I will never leave you nor forsake you.***

Mary thought she was on her own. She was looking for a dead teacher, but she found a risen Savior. We have that same Savior, a Savior who wants to help us and who is involved in our lives. It is important for us to trust him and look for him as he acts within our lives too, because he will never leave nor forsake us.

David Smith, Head elder

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Please reach out to any one of the elders if you have concerns or need any assistance.

Glen Leavens - 508.769.6451

Vince Woolley - 859.801.5598

Ryan Reasoner - 513.305.8674

Keith Juergens - 859.380.9637

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A Message from your President

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:23-25 (NIV)

SPUR ONE ANOTHER ON.....NOT GIVE UP MEETING.... How do we do this when we are instructed that not collectively doing and not collectively meeting is the singular best way to stop the pandemic in its tracks?! A conundrum or an opportunity for invention and creativity? Our NEED for the CHURCH in COMMUNITY is nevermore needful than in such a time as this. Below is material 'stolen' from Pastor Steve Newberg of Ascension Lutheran Church in Charlotte, NC, in his weekly emailed encouragement and reminders to his church.

It seems to me that in the midst of all the Social distancing, **we ought to find ways to reach out to everyone we don't see.** Also, we should pray continually and share that peace of God with everyone who does not have it. **Please share the reassurance of the Gospel!**

Below is an excerpt from C. S. Lewis's The Screwtape Letters which gets at the importance of sticking ['connecting' sic] with Church even, and especially, in a crisis.

My Dear Wormwood,

Plagues are a most effective weapon given to us by our father below. Normally, Christians are quite comfortable in receiving the dreaded sacraments and gathering in their prayers and other heinous Arts. But if you can stir up a hysteria by means of a plague so that they cut themselves off from our enemies gifts to them, the torment of isolation will drive them to despair and season them quite deliciously much to our delight.

Get them to forget about their usual practices of prayer, fasting and alms giving and encourage them to become gluttons, slanderers, and lose all regard for their neighbor thinking only about themselves and their immediate needs. Storing up treasures which we can send moth and rust to destroy further sweetening their torment.

If you can, help them to redefine their usual words like "church" and "fellowship" and "ministry" so that they feel comfortable cutting themselves off from our enemies care and they can be tempted all the more.

Yes, Wormwood, a plague is a tried and true method of taking their eyes off our enemy and getting them to worship their own bodies. A most desirable position for we tempters. Never let a good crisis go to waste!

*Your Affectionate Uncle,
Screwtape*

Find ways to reach out and share the reassurance of the Gospel! Memo to self - don't over think it! You have a laptop, a phone, pen, paper, mailbox, legs that walk the neighborhood and a car. Be deliberate, take opportunities presented and make them where they are not. Email an acquaintance, phone a friend or write/call a shut-in. When out for necessities, pick up a spare staple or two for the GSL Pantry. I believe we will see examples throughout this newsletter of how all of us, children and adults can thwart the 'plague' of distance and mess up ol' Screwtape's plan!

And another thought, since we must stay at home during this season of Lent, let us take the new found time to be in the Word of God. Accept the 'rest' and offer the sacrifice of time to forge relationships - with our Savior Jesus - in addition to family and neighbors.

Council News

Council Secretary Needed - Still



Our leadership team is still in need of a Council Secretary. The secretary term continues through June of 2021 at which time the appointee would be eligible for a full elected term. Please prayerfully consider the gifts you have been blessed with that could be used in service to the church in this role. The guidelines for the position are posted on the FLC bulletin board - when you get to see it again

When we could still in fact meet together in March pre-COVID, which seems like a lifetime ago, our council was blessed to consider and reach consensus on a second long term arrangement for pastoral service with Pastor Truax, to begin the end of May.

Looking ahead to 2021, the council was in consensus that Good Shepherd should/could host the March 2021 Federation-sponsored Education event. The speaker will be Dr. Greg Seltz, former Lutheran Hour Speaker and currently heading the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty in Washington DC.



We were also blessed with a number of confirmations from sitting council members who are willing to let their names stand for re-election come May. The nominating committee will continue to seek willing candidates for all positions. If you are moved to serve in any area, whether there is a candidate or not, please make your willingness known to any current council member!

Office	Occupant	Terms Elected	Standing for Re-election
President	Marlis Norton	1	Yes
Treasurer	Kathy Mecksroth	2	No
Outreach	Julie Rath	1	Yes
Education	Mary Gihvan		Yes
Stewardship	Tammy Woolley		Yes
Communications	Jenn Ostermeier	1	?
Elder	Glen Leavens		?
Elder	Vince Woolley	2	No
Elder	Craig Speicher	1	No

Praying, that we are **not giving up meeting together** (use the technology we are blessed to have!), **as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more** (and in unique ways!) Serve as we are blessed for the kingdom work that is before us at Good Shepherd. Now is when our works of faith and in faith are so desperately needed. From being a good citizen and following COVID guidelines to finding ways to be a positive spiritual and physical presence in our families and communities. This also includes our faithful financial support of our church while we may not be meeting, yet knowing expenses continue. Now would be a grand time to take advantage of e-giving through our website. You can also mail your offerings and tithes to the church in c/o the Financial Secretary.

Marlis Norton, Council President.
Embraced by His Grace, Engaged in His Word, Empowered by His Spirit



Women's Sunday Bible Study • Between Services Eventually....

While the study is on hiatus until we can meet as a group ... the experience of **Perseverance** is in full swing! Continue in this word and bring your rich insights to the conversation when we can meet again.... for our personal journey of **Perseverance** through the book of Nehemiah by Donna Pyle. We meet in the Duchow Room.



Women's Bible Breakfast • Saturday • May 9 (Maybe)

The breakfast is cancelled for April. Pray the Lord of Salvation will grant us a May full of renewed life and fellowship!

Women's Auxiliary of the Federation • April Meetings Cancelled

The Executive Board (April 8) and Regular Meeting with Blanket Brigade (April 22) are cancelled. The Executive Board is exploring options for a Summer meeting. The Blanket Brigade will happen at the September meeting. More details to come later.



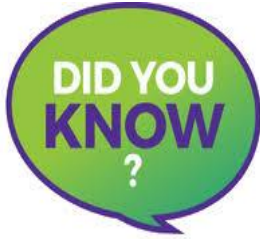
LWML Cincinnati Zone - Mission in Motion

Good Shepherd • April 26, 2-4 p.m.

No word yet on specific details or whether it will even happen due to our on-going battle with COVID-19. Pray for relief and watch for details!



From Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Archives



Leading up to the 25th Anniversary, facts about of Good Shepherd will be included in each edition of the newsletter.



- **1997**
 - * Renovation begins on Gunpowder Road Facility
 - * First Sunday Worship Service & Sunday School at Gunpowder Facility
 - * First Vacation Bible School at Gunpowder Facility (30 children registered)
 - * First Float Entry in Florence Y'All Parade (Won 1st Place Trophy)
- **1998**
 - * First Confirmation (3)
 - * First Vicar (Dale Brynestad)
 - * First Adult Choir
 - * First Worship in newly completed sanctuary (180 attended)



NORTHERN KENTUCKY CHAPTER OF LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

Update:

- The Baby Bottle Boomerang results are in – Good Shepherd donated \$355.35 to the ministry of the New Hope Center in Crestview Hills, KY. Thanks to everyone who donated. What a wonderful witness to God's great love!



• For Your Information

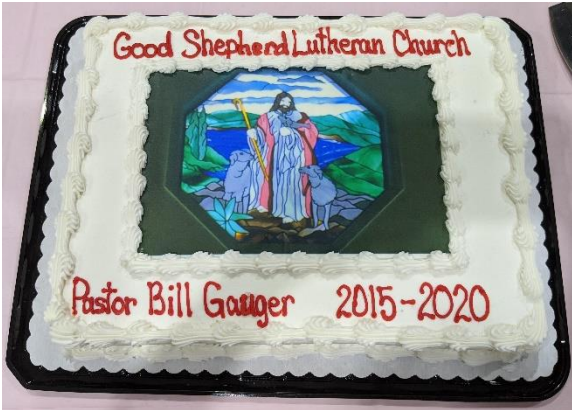
• **Word of Hope**

- Word of Hope exists to bring the healing found in Christ to those whose hearts have been broken by abortion. As a ministry of Lutherans for Life, Word of Hope is a unique 24/7 national crisis hotline devoted to intervening on behalf of life issues and imparting the value of all human life as divinely created and redeemed by Jesus Christ from the standpoint of Lutheran doctrine. Word of Hope wants to reach those who are silently suffering with the effects of a past abortion or who are considering a life-ending decision. (888-217-8679 or info@word-of-hope.org)

- **Deaconess Dr. Chrissie Gillet, Word of Hope Director**

March Events

Pastor Bill's Last Day



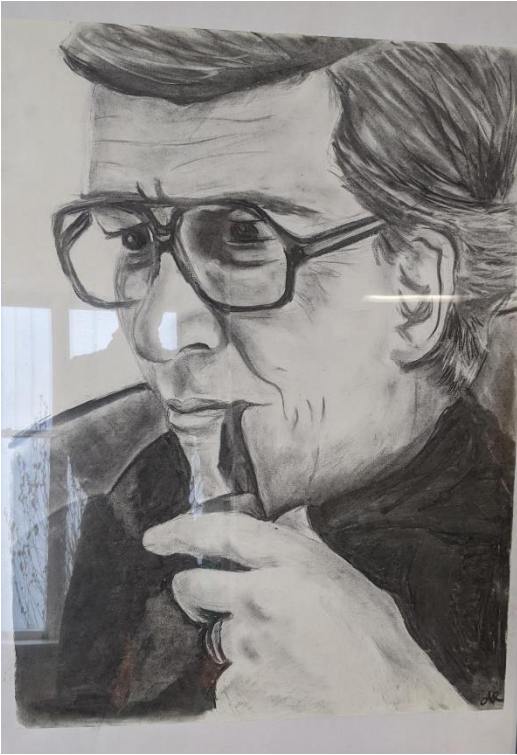
Linda Kuhn's Birthday Gathering



Ladies Day at the Movies



Hank Raap's Memorial Service



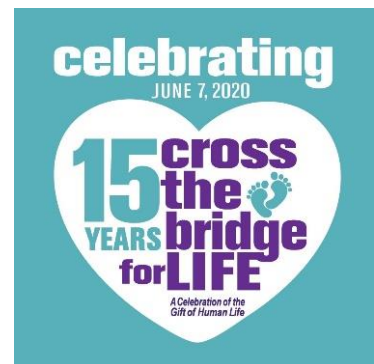
Food Pantry Need Fulfilled

Thank you, members of Good Shepherd, for supplying our food pantry with needed food staples. The plea was made and you responded immediately.



Save the Date

Lisa Berns	April 1
Karyl Juergens	April 2
Fred Langsdale	April 2
Irene Nue	April 2
Logan Langsdale	April 3
Liam Ostermeier	April 4
Oliver Olson	April 9
Bryan Yri	April 13
Caroline Regan	April 18
Sarah Leavens	April 20
Nora Hayes	April 21
Dalton Aragon	April 22
Mark Aragon	April 25
Taylor Woolley	April 27
Leah O'Grady	April 29



**The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry – April 2020**

On the topic of stewardship, one of the most common questions a person might ask is *not* whether a Christian should give to their church. Everyone knows this. Of course, Christians should give to their church. The most common question: “How much should I give?” But what they really mean is this: “Should Christians give a tithe of their income to their local congregation?” So, let’s look at why you should or should not tithe.

Following are some reasons often offered for why Christians *shouldn’t* give a tithe to their church.

Some say you shouldn’t tithe because it isn’t expressly commanded in the New Testament. Lacking that command, there is no “Thus saith the Lord” and no “should” for giving a tithe to your congregation.

Others say that Christians give to their congregation in ways much broader than money. They give of their time and their talents, and these, together with treasures (money), add up to more than a tithe.

Still others say they give of their treasures to other things besides their congregation, and they want to support those things alongside their church.

And there are those who think Christians shouldn’t tithe because of fear. If they tithe, they are afraid their gift will be misused, and they are afraid they won’t have enough to get the things they use, want, or need.

Following are some reasons for why Christians *should* give a tithe to their church.

Even though the New Testament doesn’t specifically command Christians to give a tithe, the Old Testament people were commanded to tithe and did. On top of this, St. Paul often describes the giving Christians are to do in similar terms as a tithe: a regular and generous proportion of the first fruits of their income (1 Cor. 6:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:7–23; 2 Cor. 9:2–7).

But here’s another way to think about it. What was the point of the tithe in the Old Testament? Where did it go? The reason for the Old Testament tithe was to support the full ministry of the Levites. They were not given any land because they had no time to farm; their full-time job was the ministry.

What does it say in the New Testament? “The Lord has commanded that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel” (1 Cor. 9:14). This is the verse that Luther put in the *Small Catechism’s* Table of Duties to cover what Christians owe to the support of the ministry.

It seems clear from both the Old and the New Testaments that the tithe is the goal of Christians in their giving. But what if we’re not there yet? How should we handle this? What are we to do?

Let’s answer this by asking a different question about something entirely different. What would you say to your adult children who only attended church quarterly or once a month? There, is after all, no passage in the New Testament that requires Christians to go to church weekly. Hebrews 10:25 is the closest we have, and it states simply for Christians to not neglect gathering together. Even though there is no passage that commands Christians to gather weekly, that is the implicit expectation throughout the Old and New Testaments. It is the goal.

So, what would you say to that son or daughter? I’d expect that conversation would be something like this: “I’m glad you’re still going to church. It is a wonderful blessing to hear God’s promises of forgiveness, life, and salvation, and to receive His gifts in the Word and the Sacraments. But you can do better, and it will only be a blessing to you. There is a better way, and I’d really like you to try to attain it.”

This same conversation is how we should approach the topic of the tithe. It’s not specifically commanded in the New Testament, but it sure seems like the implicit expectation of both the Old and New Testaments. So, the church is ecstatic that you’re giving when you’re giving in all these ways – time, talents, and treasures.

Encouraging Word

Deuteronomy 31:6 "Be Strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you."

Isaiah 41:10 "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

Isaiah 40:31. "But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint"

Joshua 1:9 "... the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Matthew 11:28 "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

2 Corinthians 12:9 "But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

2 Thessalonians 3:3 " But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one."

Ephesians 6:10 "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might."

Psalm 46: 1, 11: God is our refuge and strength, A^lvery present help in trouble... The Lord of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our refuge.

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