



Good News From Good Shepherd

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

April, 2022

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And Then You Will Know That I am God

Miracle of miracles. Rarely do things happen that are so unlikely, so unexpected that it gets everyone's attention. The March Madness basketball tournament reminds us of those types of events. This year, St Peter's, a little school in New Jersey, made it into the Elite Eight play-off games. Nobody thought they would get past the first round of 32 teams. After all no one had ever heard of St Peter's before this.

St Peter's victories remind us of how God operates. He uses miracles like St Peter's, things that could never happen on their own, to prove to us that He exists and how powerful He is. He makes things happen that have absolutely no chance of ever coming to be by natural means in order to prove that He is God.

Look at what happened to Abraham and Sarah. God promised them a son, but God waited until they were "as good as dead" before allowing Isaac to be born. And look at what happened to Israel during the Exodus when their backs were to the Red Sea and Pharaoh's army was swooping down upon them. The Red Sea parted saving the Israelites flooding back over Pharaoh to destroy his army. Both occurred in such a way to make God known, and it got people's attention. As a result, Rahab said in Joshua 2:9-11 to the Israelites who were spying out the promised land:

"I know that the LORD has given you the land, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you. ¹⁰ For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction. ¹¹ And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the LORD your God, He is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath."

Rahab's statement was made 40 years after the Red Sea was parted. Even after all that time it still amazed people. That is how powerful an event it was. The book of Ezekiel is also full of prophecies and statements, each ending with something similar to "and they will know that **I am the LORD**," "and you shall know that **I am the LORD**," and "then the nations will know that **I am the LORD**." God has done many things throughout history to make himself known to all people. He does this because He wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. But the greatest thing he did for all mankind to see was the resurrection of His son on Easter morning. He did this for all the world to see. Paul put it this way to King Agrippa in Acts 26:26:

²⁶ For the king knows about these things, and to him I speak boldly. For I am persuaded that none of these things has escaped His notice, for this has not been done in a corner.

God told the world about the coming of His son through the prophets. He placed a big star in the sky for everyone to see on the day Jesus was born. God had Jesus crucified on the main road into Jerusalem so people would know He had died, and God allowed multitudes to see Jesus alive after the resurrection all so everyone would know that He is God. You may not pay attention to March Madness, but don't allow the resurrection to escape your notice. Take it to heart your whole life as Rahab did the parting of the Red Sea. Then you will know that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God, for your salvation's sake. **David Smith, Head Elder (210.218.3685, Destax1962@gmail.com)**

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A Message from Your President



"But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. ⁷ But go, tell..." Mark 16:6-7a (NKJV)

...It is finished... (John 19:30) Jesus' work on earth was finished. He saved his creation by completing His sacrifice. The law was fulfilled. On the following Sunday His resurrection put the final stamp on the bill of lading that was our salvation and handed it back to us with these words... **But go, tell....** Let us never forget the mission we are left with.... **Go, Tell....** and embrace it boldly.

Council Actions: In March, we made some financial decisions brought by the Property Board: 1) We approved an increase to the project estimate for repairing and painting the exterior of the Family Life Center. The new total is \$20,780; the working estimate was \$18,000. 2) We approved the hiring of an exterminator who will address outside and inside issues related to our mouse problem. We agreed to a non-contract maintenance arrangement at \$125/month after the initial installation and patching work was completed. 3) We approved a pre-billing arrangement with our cleaning service to assist them with a cash flow issue brought on by the pandemic and vehicle maintenance.

The **Nominating Committee** [Phillip Brann (chair), Mary Givhan, Guddy Gawura, Marlis Norton] continues to work to fill a ballot for the **May election** of these leadership positions: **President, Treasurer** and **Christian Ministry Chair**. Those currently serving as Property Chair and three Elders have already agreed to let their names stand for re-election. Prayerfully consider applying your special gifts to these positions in service to your Lord and His church. The terms of these positions will begin July 1 and continue through June 30, 2024.



Celebrate the progress of the **13th Month Campaign!** We have received and will have applied \$19,505 to principle already this year! God is Good! Our goal this first year of the campaign was \$20,000. It would seem that we have collectively embraced the idea of principle reduction! Thank you all for your sacrificial giving to this effort. Keep up the momentum! We can achieve our total goal of \$100,000 sooner than 5 years!

Things for Voters to Ponder

Related to the 13th Month Campaign: The question was raised if we could convert to a fixed rate mortgage. LCEF manages its rates and plans different than a bank. We can convert with some upfront fees, but not at our current rate of 3.625% and not a full term fixed rate, but a 5 year (at 4.375%) or 10 year (at 4.75%) fixed. More information will be shared in May at the voter meeting. In the meantime, please prayerfully consider your position on pursuing such a change, or not.

For e-Givers or folks who have pondered e-Giving: How important is flexibility to your e-Giving habits? Our current e-Giving function is limited to the General Fund and Credit/Debit payment methods.

- 1) Would you be more inclined to make greater use of e-Giving if you could have a choice of funds to give to?
- 2) Would you use e-Giving if you could also set up ACH vs Credit Card as a payment method? (ACH fees are lower.)
- 3) Would you be inclined to cover the processing fee of your e-Gift if given the option?

These questions will be posed again at the voter meeting. Please prayerfully consider your position on them.

Our Federation of Lutheran Churches is considering a new mission since we called Pastor Poynter away from the Campus Ministry the Federation funded. Our Federation has an opportunity to support a mission to local Arab communities through POBLO (People of the Book, Lutheran Outreach). POBLO is a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the LCMS and would manage the ministry and missionaries. The Federation would commit to a 5-year missionary program at \$74,000/per year. Does this opportunity excite you or do we have other ideas for local missions our collective churches could/should pursue through our Federation? [Good Shepherd currently supports the Federation as a local mission which includes Pastor Ewell, Chaplain to UCMC, education seminars and service events like the Flood Buckets this month.] As your representative, I'd like to report back your thoughts.

A most blessed Easter to you all! Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed!

So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell... Matthew 28:8

Marlis Norton, Council Pres.

Embraced by His Grace, Engaged in His Word, Empowered by His Spirit

Christian Education



Women's Bible Breakfast • Saturday • April 9

Our second Saturday Bible Breakfast resumes in April at 9 a.m. on Saturday, April 9. Bring a dish to share or your own personal favorite if you prefer. God always provides just what we need. We'll continue the LWML Fruits of the Spirit study series and, being in the Easter season, will focus on Faithfulness.

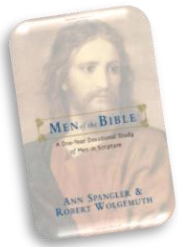
Women's Sunday Bible Study • *Forgiveness* • 8:45 a.m.

Our small group meets in the Duchow Room. Our study is *Forgiveness* by Donna Pyle(now Snow). The book is available from CPH for \$14.99. Please feel free to join in. It's not too late!



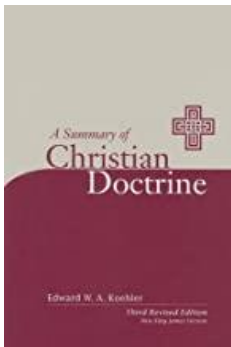
Women's Tuesday Bible Study • *Men of the Bible* • 9:30 am

We are meeting in person; providing zoom for those who prefer. All are welcome. Join in any time. We study one person each session, no book required. If you wish to be included, let Lynn know and we'll get the meeting invite to you.

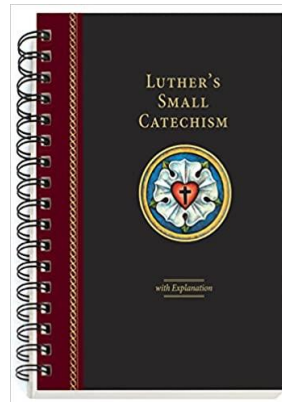


Women's Bible Study at Sherri Smith's Tuesdays 3-5 pm and 6-8 pm

All women are welcome to join WBS, including friends outside of GSLC. Contact Sherri who lives in Union at 210-854-2598 if interested.



Men's Bible Study Mondays – 10 Am A Summary of Christian Doctrine



Pastor's Bible Study Sunday at 8:45 am Tuesday at 7:00 pm Luther's Small Catechism

Women's Auxiliary Committee (of the Federation) • April 6 Zoom Meeting • 10 a.m.



The ladies will be gathering to, among other things, review the status of the **Blanket Brigade**, plan for the September in-person mission event hosted by Messiah and the **Ingathering** in October. At the September event we will gather to construct **Fidget Blankets** for distribution to Alzheimer care centers. More info to come. Anyone can join in the conversation. Look for the meeting invitation in your email and consider participating in September.

A big Thank You to **Janie Stickel, Kim Leavens and Kathy Nielsen** for donating your time and talent to the **Auxiliary's Blanket Brigade** mission on behalf of Good Shepherd! The

Auxiliary is hoping to nearly double its contribution to this mission this year. Final outcomes will be learned in the coming weeks.



Lent and Easter at Good Shepherd



Please join the family of Good Shepherd as we begin our Lenten services at 7 PM beginning on Wednesday, March 2. Lent is a season of preparation. We are preparing to celebrate Easter on April 17th and the church prepares by repentance. The observance of Lent is an opportunity to encourage and facilitate a closer look at our lives and Christ's sacrifice of His life for us.

While Lent leads us to repentance, it isn't to make us sad or to somehow get God's attention. It is to strengthen our faith. Part of that strengthening includes an increased awareness of our great need — which often means preaching the Law. Lent includes, and is mostly focused on, the solution to that need shown to us by the law: the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for our redemption. **Our theme this Lent is the ten commandments.** We are focused on commandments 2 through 10 during Lent and the First Commandment on Easter. The law will prepare us to repent and lead us to Christ.

Remaining Lent Services. All Services are at 7 PM during lent: Please mark your calendars.

April 6: Theme: Honor your father and your mother.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.

April 14: Maundy Thursday, service with communion. Theme: Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

April 15: Good Friday Tenebrae service. Theme: You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.

April 17: Easter Theme: You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

The commandments and explanations are taken from the Small Catechism which can be found online at <https://catechism.cph.org/en/10-commandments.html> Glen Leavens, Elder and Pastor Poynter



April

| | |
|------------------------|----------|
| Lisa Berns | April 1 |
| Karyl Juergens | April 2 |
| Fred Langsdale | April 2 |
| Liam Wesley Ostermeier | April 4 |
| Bryan Yri | April 13 |
| Dalton Aragon | April 22 |
| Taylor Woolley | April 27 |

May

| | |
|------------------------|--------|
| Leland Woolley | May 2 |
| Kim Warren | May 6 |
| Pastor Michael Poynter | May 6 |
| Tammy Vaughan | May 12 |
| Alain Duane | May 13 |
| Brittany Vonderlage | May 18 |
| Amanda Poynter | May 20 |



Charlie's Socks and Undie-Sunday Drive

Thank you to everyone who made a contribution to this project. We collected a total of :

150 pairs of socks

75 Undies

These items will be given to Matthew 25 Ministries to help the people of Ukraine.

"But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."

Hebrews 13:16

Operation Flood Bucket

Once again, on behalf of the Federation of Lutheran Churches of Cincinnati and Vicinity, Good Shepherd will be participating in making Flood Buckets to help those in need of clean-up supplies when natural disasters strike. We will be collecting donated items from April 10 – 24. There will be a poster with corresponding slips of paper with information for the needed item. Take as many slips for the items you are willing to donate! Return them to the fellowship hall grocery cart by April 24th. The buckets will be assembled at Peace Lutheran Church on Saturday, April 30th. The Youth Group will be assisting with assembling the buckets. Please contact Mary Givhan if you have any questions.



*Save The Date
Drive Through Food Pantry
Saturday, May 21
More information to come*



NORTHERN KENTUCKY CHAPTER OF LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

A huge "THANK YOU" to everyone who contributed to this year's *Baby Bottle Boomerang* in support of The New Hope Center in Erlanger, Kentucky. Our total contribution to date was \$444.30. However, this will get even higher since I have just received three additional baby bottles filled with loose change and dollar bills, which I will be delivering to New Hope shortly! Thank you, again, for supporting the important ministry of The New Hope Center and recognizing that all life is precious in God's eyes.

**Blessings,
Jackie Vezina**

March Events

Ash Wednesday Service



First Sunday Fellowship





Mary/Martha Ladies Fellowship Cleaning and Gleaning





Sarah Leavens Bridal Shower



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Newsletter April, 2022

Blessed Shall You Be

“Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.” (Deuteronomy 28:3-6)

This is God’s promise to the Israelites as they stood beyond the Jordan outside of the Promised Land. He promises blessing to His people. He will make them prosper, whether they are in the city or the field. He will make their fruit of their work to prosper, whether from the ground, their wombs, their flocks, or their herds. He will make them to prosper in all things, whether upon their coming in or their going out.

But there’s a catch. He would do this for Israel only “if you obey the voice of the LORD your God.” (Deut. 28:2b) If they did that, He would cause that “all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you.” (Deut. 28:2a). If they didn’t obey the voice of the Lord, if they didn’t keep the commandments of the Lord and “walk in his ways” (Deut. 28:9), they would be met with curse and woe. The blessings would be replaced with curses. Everything that the Lord promised to prosper and bless would be cursed and fail.

Thanks be to God that our Lord Jesus Christ has come into our flesh and fulfilled the law for us – in our place and for our benefit. Our Lord Jesus Christ died for us – in our place and for our benefit. Our Lord Jesus Christ is risen from the dead for us – in our place and for our benefit. By this we have justification before God. We are forgiven, clean, holy, and righteous. The blessing of God is promised to us in Christ Jesus. It depends upon his work, not ours.

All this is ours in Holy Baptism. For in Holy Baptism, God claims us as His own, makes us His children, His heirs, and His holy people. And so it is that the work of our hands and its fruit is holy because we are holy in Christ. It is pressed into His service, and it thereby becomes a blessing to us and to our neighbor.

For this great gift, our reception of the blessings of God because of Christ Jesus our Lord, it is our duty to thank and praise, serve, and obey Him. This is not in order to receive the blessings but because in Christ we already have. With this in mind, we sit down on the first day of the week and set aside as He has prospered us to give to His church for His work of blessing in our midst (1 Cor. 16:2).



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