



Good News From Good Shepherd

"I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd gives His life for the sheep."

John 10:11

August, 2021

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
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FAITH

I have faith, but...

How often I have lived with the "buts" of my faith. For example, when I'm sick, I pray for God to heal me, but I wonder if it is his will to heal me. I pray for God to give my son that good job he interviewed for, but I don't know if God wants him to have it. My "buts" make my faith seem small. I strive to grow my faith and relate to the man in Mark 9:24 whose son was tormented with a demon. When asking Jesus to heal his son, he exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" In order to grow my faith and eliminate the "buts," I must consistently exercise my faith or else it atrophies and weakens.

A daily must do exercise is to read God's word. When I read, I see over and over again the true nature of God's character. He is compassionate and gracious and, his word tells me that he has removed my sin from me "as far as the east is from the west (Psalm 103:12). Scripture like this strengthens my faith, and makes my "buts" smaller.

Another exercise that truly helps me grow my faith is to remember his power as shown in his actions throughout history. His power exhibited in the creation of the earth, the freeing of the Israelites from slavery, the fulfillment of prophecy, and, of course, Jesus' resurrection are all examples of his power to accomplish his saving plan for us. He promised us forgiveness of sins and eternal life, and in his resurrection, he delivered on that promise. Reflecting on how God has powerfully acted in the past increases my faith that he will act in my life now, making my remaining "buts" smaller.

My faith is exercised when I think back on God's involvement in my personal life. After considering it, I have seen God active in my life starting from when I was a little kid all the way through today. He has seen me through some tough school and work issues and helped me juggle work and family life. Remembering that God has answered prayers and taken care of me in the past increases the confidence I have through faith that God will take care of me today and decreases the "buts" that sometimes remain.

I exercise my faith when I have fellowship with other believers and worship together with them. The iron of my faith is sharpened when my friends encourage my faith in Jesus by telling me stories of how God has helped them in their own struggles and will help me in mine as well. Likewise, my faith is strengthened when I see others thankfully worshipping God each Sunday morning. I know I am not alone. Fellowship and worship increase my faith and make my "buts" fade away.

My faith is exercised when I participate in communion. Knowing that my savior suffered and died for my sins greatly strengthens my faith, as I know I cannot undo the salvation he has achieved for me. I know that I am sealed with his Spirit and I am a child of God. What does that make of the "buts" in my life?

But really, my faith grows the most when I realize that it is not the size of my faith that matters, it is the object of my faith, my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, that makes my faith effective. He overcomes all of my "buts" because my God is the one true God and besides him there is no other. He is the one who acts. He is the one who saves. My salvation isn't dependent on me. Because I am saved by faith, any "buts" I think I have left in my life go away...Thanks be to God.

David Smith, Head Elder 210.218.3685, Destax1962@gmail.com

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A Message from Your President

Council Actions: A number of consensus decisions were made at the July meeting including: 1) recording the LCEF Connecting Grant (\$500) in the Building Fund to be used for enhancing the Wi-Fi and Zoom experience of our remote Sunday attendees; 2) review the CAT action items at the next council meeting from which will come the agenda to reconvene and additionally reassess the Mission and Vision statements; 3) Post the existing Mission and Vision statements to the website if that action will assist with achieving non-profit office discounts sought by Property.



Property presented an estimate for the upgrade to the Wi-Fi in the building (not to exceed \$1000). Council approved the motion.

We are still in need of a volunteer for appointment to **the position of Secretary**. The Secretary is a voting member of council and a trustee, responsible for recording the minutes of both council and voter meetings. Council typically meets not more than 11 times a year and voters meet at least three times. Access to email and Word makes the job easier. Please consider this service opportunity and contact any council member or prayerfully consider a direct ask.

Thank you to all who have responded to the Stewardship committee effort toward pledges of time and treasure. Remember the forms can be completed electronically. If you need the forms resent, contact the office. You simply download the form, complete it, save it, attach it and send it back. Keepin' it simple. Also thank you for the faithful 15 pledges to date that total \$104,060. Having this understanding encourages and informs the planning and projecting the council does on behalf of the congregation. Higher participation continues to be a goal of the Stewardship committee. Continue to prayerfully consider the time and gifts you are blessed with and how God is directing you to use them to fulfill your place in His plan.



Thank you also to those former board chairs who have agreed to continue serving and representing the areas of fellowship, outreach, stewardship and communication on the Christian ministry board, making the transition to the new structure a smooth one.



Federation of Lutheran Churches - Cincinnati & Vicinity (LC-MS)

Good Shepherd is a member of the Federation by virtue of being an LCMS church in the vicinity of Cincinnati. The objectives of your Federation is to foster love and Christian fellowship, to do institutional mission and social welfare work, to advance Christian education, to sponsor joint gatherings and group promotional activities important to the Lutheran Church, and to conduct all such other work as would tend to the glory of God and the welfare of others. **This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Federation's founding.**

A recent example of acting on those objectives was the seminar at Good Shepherd with Dr. Seltz of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty. The Federation made that possible. Past activities have been the Flood Bucket effort, joint Reformation Service, quarterly newspaper (Cincinnati Lutheran), **financially supporting GSL when it was a new church plant** and so much more.



A current project is to determine whether the churches in our Federation could collectively support volunteers to work with **LERT - the Lutheran Early Response Team**. The Federation would offer to cover the cost of a Basic LERT Training session. Let me know of your interest or check the article in the recent copy of the Cincinnati Lutheran for contact info. Also go to the new LERT website: <https://www.lcms-lert.org/> ([LERT](#)) to learn about what our volunteers do.

Marlis Norton, Council Pres.

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

Christian Education

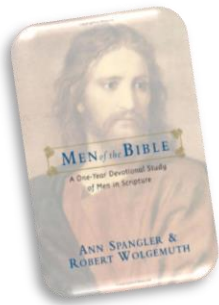
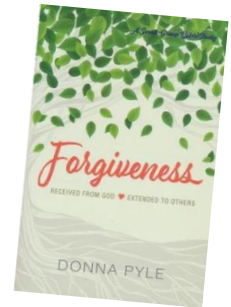


Women's Bible Breakfast • Saturday • September 11

We will not meet in August and will resume in September. We use studies from the LWML Quarterly. We will be on-site for those who wish to attend. You are encouraged to bring your own favorite breakfast and are not required to share. If you wish to share a dish, awesome. If you wish to participate remotely, let me know by Wednesday, September 8 and a Zoom session will be set up and the study emailed to you.

Women's Sunday Bible Study • *Forgiveness* • 8:45 a.m. (Note the time change!)

Our small group meets in the Duchow Room. Though not optimal for this study, a Zoom connection is provided for those not able to meet in person. 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!

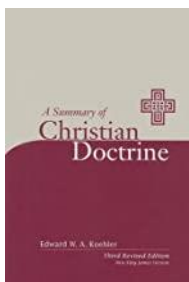


Women's Tuesday Bible Study • *Men of the Bible* • 9:30 am

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. Our current subject is David.

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

All women are welcome to join WBS, including friends outside of GSLC. We are discussing *Jeremiah*, a book that speaks to our country today as much as it did in Jeremiah's day. Contact Sherri who lives in Union at 210-854-2598 if interested.



Men's Bible Study

Monday mornings at 9 am. *A Summary of Christian Doctrine*

Summary of Christian Doctrine

A New Heaven and a New Earth.

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Sunday morning 8:45 am

Wednesday evening 7:00 pm

Led by Pastor Poynter



LWML Mites Collection will continue through Aug. 8

Fill your baggies and return them by August 8. Every mite counts when given to the glory of God for His missions. Our March collection totaled just over \$145. The Ohio District and National LWML have grants totals of \$95k and \$2.2m respectively waiting for funding in this triennium. Check out both lists at <https://www.lwml.org/mission-grants> and LWMLOhio.org.





Weekend VBS
August 21-22, 2021
10:00 am – 2:00 pm

VBS is back. This year we will have an abbreviated form of VBS which will be held on August 21 starting at 10:00 am and end at 2:00 pm. On Sunday morning, August 22, we will share our VBS experience with the congregation. Registration is opened only to the youths at Good Shepherd and any friend they would like to invite. This VBS is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear, and touch. Team-building games, cool Bible songs, and multisensory Bible adventures Please join us.

Volunteers are also needed.

VBS Registration Form

1.	_____	_____	_____	_____
	Name	Age	M/F	Grade Completed
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
	Name	Age	M/F	Grade Completed
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
	Name	Age	M/F	Grade Completed

Name of Parent(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____ Cell #: _____

Email address: _____

Emergency Contact _____ Phone Number _____

Allegories, other medical condition or special need _____

Photo Release: I hereby grant the above-named church permission to copyright and use photographs/videos taken at VBS of the minor designated above in any manner or form for any purpose lawful at any time. I waive any right that I may have to inspect or approve the finished product or written copy, that may be used in conjunction therewith, or the use to which it may be applied.

Parent Signature _____

Date _____



August

Alberta Caughey	August 1
Steve Oberst	August 2
Madelyn Cottrell	August 5
Vonnie Herr	August 6
Susan Speicher	August 11
Sharon Snowden	August 13
Eric Berns	August 15
Bryan Molina	August 16
Sherri Smith	August 20
Debbie Fitzpatrick	August 23
Becky Aragon	August 25
Connor Gumm	August 28
Will Vonderlage	August 28

September

Sophie Vonderlage	September 1
Linda Walton	September 4
Bill Shaw	September 6
Lenten Vincent Woolley	September 16
Keith Juergens	September 17
Amber Raap	September 18
Katelyn Aragon	September 21
Jason Raap	September 22
Faith Warren	September 22



Thank you, Amanda, for sharing your gift of music.



*Paul Barvincak is engaged.
Congratulations!!!!!!*

Trash for Cash Pick Up July 17 Thanks to all who helped



Donatos pizza driver saw us picking up trash. Went back to store and brought us Pizza.

This couple gave us cold water.Awww.

July Events

Fellowship After Church Service

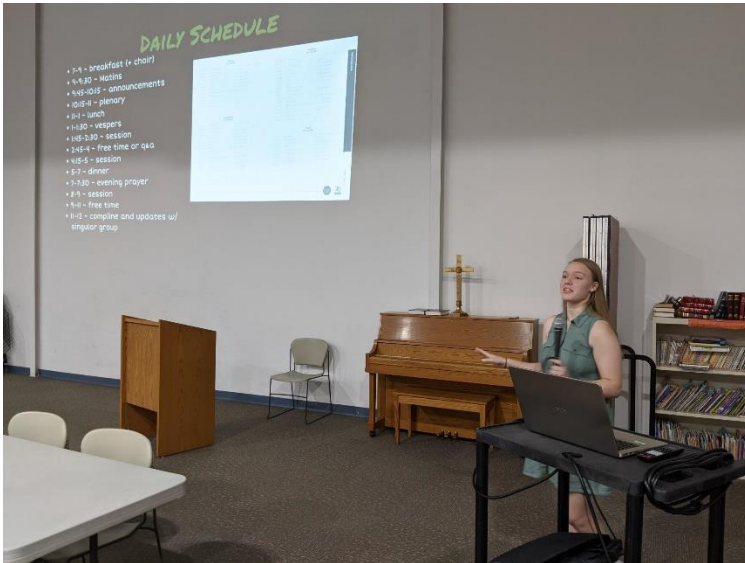
Billy and Jessica talking to a visitor



Budding young artists



Amanda giving a presentation about Higher Ground Youth Event



Smile for the camera



Leroy and Lori celebrate 40 years of marriage

After Memorial Service Meal for Linda Kuhn's Mom Lois



NORTHERN KENTUCKY LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

White Cross Display
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church



Upcoming Youth Events

Sunday, August 8th Swimming at the Aragons after church.
Lunch will be provided. Families are welcome to stay and socialize!

Saturday, August 14th Canoeing on the Little Miami.
The congregation is more than welcome to join us. RSVP to Becky by Thursday, August 4th!



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