



Good News From Good Shepherd

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

December, 2022

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
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Pastor, What Does This Mean?: What is the Common Service?

Pastor Michael Poynter

Every Sunday you will notice that we follow the same basic order for the Divine Service in which God (the Divine) comes into our presence and brings us (serves us with) His gifts through His Word and Sacraments. In this service we also respond to His Divine Service giving the Triune God thanks and praise. The basic structure of our "Sunday worship" is based on what has come to be known among Lutherans as "The Common Service."

The purest form of The Common Service is found on pages 15 of **The Lutheran Hymnal** (TLH), which is fondly referred to as "the old red hymnal" or Divine Service 3 found on pg 184 of our **Lutheran Service Book** (LSB). It has been the standard order of service for English speaking, American Lutherans since 1888.

The Common Service got its start through a joint endeavor by three Lutheran synods in the late 1800's, the General Council, the General Synod and the General Synod of the South. These three synods entered into this endeavor with the idea of taking the best parts of the sixteenth century Lutheran liturgies and reproduce them in English to form the purest Divine Service. Their guiding principle stated that, "The common consent of the pure Lutheran liturgies of the sixteenth century, and when there is not an entire agreement among them, the consent of the largest number of those of the greatest weight." (Common Service Book-1917, p306) In other word, this Common Service would consist of the parts that were common to all the Reformation liturgies and, in addition, it would also include those parts that were most prevalent among the various Lutheran liturgies.

The chief designers of this service were Dr. Beale M. Schmucker, Dr. Edward T. Horn, and Dr. George U. Wenner who, with others, sifted through a number of Reformation liturgies and pieced together a "pure" Lutheran liturgy. In the Preface to the Common Service of 1888, the joint committee stated that,

"The Common Service here presented is intended to reproduce in English the consensus of these pure Lutheran Liturgies. It is therefore no new Service, such as the personal tastes of those who have prepared it would have selected and arranged; but it is the old Lutheran Service, prepared by the men whom God raised up to reform the Service, as well as the doctrine and life of the Church... [and] The Lutheran Liturgies of the Sixteenth Century were not new and original works created by the Reformers, but they were chiefly revisions of the Services of the Latin Church... but the whole outline and structure of the Service of the Western [Latin] Church for a thousand years before the Reformation is preserved. Whatever seemed to the Reformers to be contrary to the pure teachings of Holy Scripture was removed, whatever was pure and Scriptural was retained in the old order of parts, and thus the continuous succession of pure Service was unbroken." (Common Service Book, 306—307)

With the publication of **The Lutheran Hymnal** in 1941, used by congregations in The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and the **Service Book and Hymnal** in 1958 (The American Lutheran Church (ALC) and the Lutheran Church of America (LCA)), the Common Service was adopted by the vast majority of Lutherans in America. It's amazing to think that in the 1960's when some seven million Lutherans went to church on Sunday, they were all using the same order for the Divine Service...The Common Service of 1888.

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Miracles

Many people do not believe in miracles. They think that miracles are unexplained events, having natural causes. They will study unusual events until they find those causes to prove there is no God.

These people do not believe that:

- Creation was a miracle.
- The parting of the Red Sea was a miracle.
- The virgin birth was a miracle.
- Jesus' healing of the man born blind was a miracle.
- Jesus' resurrection from the dead was a miracle.

They believe that there are natural explanations for those events or that they are made up stories.

But this is not what we believe. We do not believe these were unexplained events with natural causes. And we know that each of these events really happened. These are not made-up stories. 2 Peter 1:16 says, ***“For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.”***

No, we believe these events are true miracles as the word is defined in Webster's Dictionary:

A miracle is an extraordinary event manifesting divine (God's) intervention in human affairs.

Was it a miracle that God purposely created the heavens and the earth?

Was it a miracle when God purposefully parted the Red Sea to allow the Israelites to escape the pursuing Egyptian army?

Was it a miracle that God himself purposefully took on the form of man, born of a virgin so that he could take on the burden and penalty of our sin?

Was it a miracle that the sinless Jesus Christ was purposefully raised from the dead and by the same power of God purposefully raises those whose faith is in him?

Absolutely, these are miracles. These events did not naturally happen. They are miracles because they are the purposeful, extraordinary, intervening acts of a living and loving God. God's miracles are the focus of our worship each Christmas season. Let us worship God remembering that a miracle is God's purposeful intervention into our lives and especially remembering the miracle of the birth of his son, Jesus Christ, who intervened into our lives to save us from our sins. **David Smith, Head Elder (210.218.3685, Destax1962@gmail.com)**

Advent Services

Special Wednesday Advent Services:

November 30: Theme: Baptism: A Gift for All, Services at 3 PM and 7 PM

December 7: Baptism: A Gift that Gives, Services at 3 PM and 7 PM

December 14: Baptism: A Gift to Use, Services at 3 PM and 7 PM



There will be a Potluck dinner preceding the service at 6 pm. You are invited to join us.

A Message from Your President

Advent: Derived from the Latin 'ad' which is 'to' and 'venire' which is 'come'. The season is one of anticipation and expectation of what is 'to come'.



What is to come? The obvious and **assumed** answer is the celebration of the birth of Jesus, God's Son, the suffering servant of Isaiah, our Savior.

[Excerpted from LCMS StewardCast October-2022, bold highlights mine:] *Several years ago, the sainted Rev. Herb Mueller wrote a tremendous article while serving as president of the LCMS Southern Illinois District entitled "The Gospel Assumed Is the Gospel Denied." Later published in Concordia Pulpit Resources 15.3, this article nails the need for the faithful preacher to actually preach the Gospel. Mueller rightly points out that "assuming the Gospel is the height of arrogance. It is as if we are saying, 'We all know what God has done for us in Jesus, so we can go on to teach and learn other things today.'" This assumption of the Gospel in preaching has a deep impact on those who hear this preaching. Again, Mueller hits the nail on the head: "Without clear Gospel preaching, sanctification alone just becomes more law — law that makes God's people so self-righteous that we don't see our need for Jesus or so despairing that we don't believe His forgiveness is for us. When the Gospel is assumed, the sermon will not connect people with its power."*

*This last point causes pastors and steward leaders to sit up and take notice. For too long the objection has been raised that any kind of stewardship formation in the congregation is nothing but Law. Preaching of stewardship as Law alone has the negative impacts of which Rev. Mueller warned. It either leads to **the self-righteous steward claiming that they have "paid their fair share" or that they "should be given credit for their time and talents" even when their stewardship is lacking;** or it leads to such despair that any mention of "stewardship Sunday" will lead God's people to stay away from the Divine Service for fear that they will once again be beaten down and left for dead by the preaching on that Sunday.*

*... When stewardship is assumed, the Gospel is denied. For years steward leaders have known that we cannot assume that faithful stewardship will come about in the congregation without intentional effort. ... **Are we assuming the Gospel? The answer is repentance. It starts with preparation that is driven by the Bible and not the budget, the cross more than the cost, resurrection rather than result!***

I share this excerpt and encourage all of us to read and pray over this newsletter that was sent to us all. I confess, I too get caught up in the budget over the Bible and the cost over the cross when I know in my heart it should be the other way around.

Voter Actions: At the November voter meeting the congregation approved a budget that for me personally is 'fear-full' rather than 'faith-full' and more about cost than cross. It is my prayer and my hope that it will not be a self-fulfilling projection and that the agreed upon review in May will reveal our stepping out in faith as humble stewards of all God has blessed us with. General consensus was reached on providing interim giving statements to our membership. Tammy Vaughn, our Financial Secretary, will need assistance in this task.



The voters also approved the proposed budget of the Federation of Lutheran churches and welcomed a number of new members. Voters also reviewed property projects. More information was requested, but the general consensus was that after the basement flood fix, the sanctuary ceiling was a preferred next project over the awning.

Council Actions: The focus of the November meeting was the budget. There will be no meeting in December.

Marlis Norton, Council Pres.

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

HOPE: His Own Possession Eternally



Musical Notes:

Wanted: Instrumentalists and vocalists for the Christmas Eve services. If you would like to be part of our special pre-service music and/or participate in the service(s), please see Glen or Kim Leavens by December 11. Thank you.

Also, choir rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings after the 7 pm Advent services. Please join us.



The Children's Christmas Program

The Sunday School Christmas program will be Sunday morning Dec. 11 prior to the worship service at 10 a.m. The students have been working diligently during the Sunday School hour and are looking forward to sharing the story of our Savior's birth. Many thanks to the parents and teachers for the support in making this happen!

ALSO, please note that we will have Sunday School Dec. 18th but not on Christmas nor New Year's Day

Women's Auxiliary of the Federation - Mission Opportunities

Cookie Pack

The annual **Cookie Pack for Care Centers** will be in person on **Monday, December 6** at Christ Lutheran beginning at 9 a.m. This year we will only be seeking 'regular' cookies - NO diabetic versions needed, and please NO nuts and NO bar cookies. Make it a family affair! Get the kids involved! Deliver cookies by the dozens to church **by Sunday, Dec. 5** and they will get delivered to the event if you cannot attend to help assemble the boxes.



Sunday, December 11
We will be signing to our shut ins
and others in the community.
Please join us!
Pizza lunch will be provided!!!!!!

Christian Education



Women's Bible Breakfast • Saturday • December 10

Our second-Saturday Bible Breakfast next meets at 9 a.m. on Saturday, **December 10**. 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 will study Joy

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

After nearly two years, we finally completed the **Forgiveness** study and will now tackle **Job**. For Job there will be no book for the study. We will supplement the study with a guide developed by Dr. Reed Lessing.



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.

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

Pastor's Bible Study Sunday at 8:45 am Wednesdays at 7:00 pm



Adopt A Family Christmas Angel Tree

The Human Care Committee of Good Shepherd is again sponsoring the Adopt-A-Family Christmas Giving Program. As in the past we will adopt children in need from our community. We will provide Christmas gifts to brighten their holiday so they will know that they are remembered and loved on this most special holiday.

Please open your heart and consider sharing with these family by choosing a name from the Angel Tree located in the Gathering Area. Write your name on the Angel Tree list next to the tree. Purchase the items listed on the tag, attach it securely to the gift, and return the gift to the Gathering Area. All gifts must be wrapped and returned by December 18. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Givhan or Lynn Mitchell. May God bless your giving.

Thank You from Human Care

← Operation Child

There were 12 boxes collected.
What a blessing you are to the kids
who will receive these gifts.

Thanksgiving Baskets →

12 families received the baskets
you filled with Thanksgiving fixing.



December

Marijo Raap	Dec. 1
Vince Woolley	Dec. 1
Taylor Mason	Dec. 5
Shirley Duane	Dec. 18
Calvin Herr	Dec. 18
Dwayne Smith	Dec. 20
Ashlyn Brann	Dec. 21
Josh Molina	Dec. 28

January

Lee Brooks	January 3
Isaiah Warren	January 8
Kim Leavens	January 10
Zach Molina	January 15
Marian Brockhoff	January 17
Mary Givhan	January 31



Friday, Dec 9

Zion Lutheran Church

**White Elephant Gift
Exchange**

See Becky Aragon for details

November Events

OWLS Presentation



Boone County Hazardous Waste Collection



Whiz Kids Thanksgiving Dinner



2nd Annual Youth Thanksgiving Dinner Fundraiser And Cornhole Tournament



Cornhole Teams





Thanks to all who attended. \$650 were raised which will be used to support Youth Activities.

And the Winners Are

1st Place



2nd Place

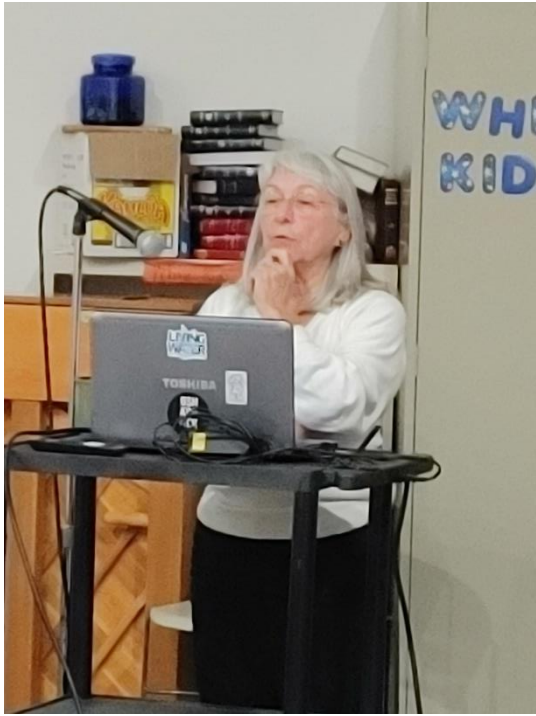


3rd Place



(Not pictured Paul and Kim)

Voters Meeting



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift. Jesus is here!



2 Corinthians 9:15

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