



Good News From Good Shepherd

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

December, 2020

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
9066 Gunpowder Road, Florence, KY 41042
859.746.9066

website: www.gslcky.org
Church's Email: secretary@gslcky.org

Be Sober-minded

In Zephaniah 1:12, God warns those who say, “The LORD will not do good, nor will he do ill.” This was aimed at those who don’t believe in God; or, even if they do believe, those who don’t think God will punish them for their sin. It is easy for believers to get caught up in this mindset too. With Covid, the threat of governmental shut-downs of the economy, grocery stores out of certain goods, accusations of police brutality across the country, riots, and national election stress, it is easy for believers to think that God “will not do good,” God will not act to intervene. This perspective can lead us to worry and to take matters into our own hands without seeking God.

But God sends a very different message to believers, a message of encouragement. He does not want our thinking to be clouded by doubt. **1 Peter 5:6-8** says,

⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷ casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. ⁸ Be sober-minded; be watchful.

Being “sober-minded” means to think clearly in trust of God. In other words, don’t over-react to situations and allow worry or anxiety to cloud your judgement. Being sober-minded means we should be watchful for how God will act next.

When we are sober-minded, we are able to look back and see that God has acted through the birth of our Lord Jesus and his sacrifice for our redemption. Like Simeon we are able to say that our eyes have seen God’s salvation. As we participate in our Advent services, let us sing for joy, taking comfort in and not forgetting what God has already done for us.

When we are sober-minded, we are able to watch and see that God acts through his Spirit to help us today. John 14:16-17, says ¹⁶ “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.”

Let us take comfort in and not forget what blessings God has been pouring out on us today. As a church, God is acting today having providing both Pastor Richeson and Pastor Truax to us. Neither were available until the exact Sundays we needed them. God has allowed us to open our doors to worship beginning in June, and God has allowed us to remain open today with a combined in-house and Zoom attendance equal to pre-COVID numbers. He intervenes the same way in the world and our personal homes as well. When we are sober-minded, we are able to look forward to and see the rich inheritance that God acts to provide for us in the future:

1 Peter 1:3-5 ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

As we prepare to call a pastor, let us let us pray deeply for the Holy Spirit’s guidance. He will provide the right pastor for us as a congregation. And God will continue to lead us in our spiritual walk with him.

Let us be sober-minded and draw courage from our Lord Jesus’ acts of intervention, looking back on the salvation He has worked for us in his coming, seeing the blessings he pours out on us today, and watching for our inheritance still to come both now and forevermore.

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

Table of Content

From the Head Elder	page 1
A Message from Your President	page 2
Advent Services	page 3
Advent Devotion	page 3
Stewardship	page 4
Capital Campaign	
Stewardship Baskets	
Time, Talent, Treasure	
Women’s Ministry	page 5
Communion at Home Request	page 5
November Events	page 6-8
Thank You	page 9
Birthdays	page 9
LCMS Newsletter	page 9



Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that **hope** in the LORD. **Psalm 31:24**



Now the God of hope fill you with all **joy** and **peace** in believing, that you may abound in **hope**, through the power of the Holy Ghost. **Romans 15:13**

And you shall have **joy** and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth. **Luke 1:14**

The LORD thy God in the midst of you is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over you with joy; he will rest in his **love**, he will joy over you with singing. **Zephaniah 3:14**

As we turn the corner on this year and head into Advent, we do so with an even greater focus on the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love that our gracious God so richly affords and for which we are exceedingly desperate. As in all dark times, may the Light that is Jesus, shine more brightly on and warm more deeply our hearts in this season.

Council in November - In person and online



Council reached consensus on these items: 1) the proposed 2021 budget to be presented to voters on November 11; 2) exploring funding the building fund from unused operating expenses at year end; 3) posting our property to enhance safety; 3) foregoing a December meeting.

Voter Meeting in November - In person and online

Voters approved the **2021 budget**, which is much the same as 2020 with a consistent need of \$20k a month in giving to support a pastor, the mortgage, property and ministries. It was noted that we currently lag behind that expectation in our revenue plan. While the stewardship board is conducting a fall campaign focused on anticipated needs for moving a pastor and for the building fund, we need, as a church body, to elevate our level of giving to what it was at the beginning of the year, pre-COVID and pre-vacancy. **Please pray for wisdom and fearless faith in this matter -moving forward in joy with hope for the future.**

October YTD	Actual	Budget	Over/Under
General Fund	\$ 153,562.48	\$ 203,160.00	\$ (49,597.52)
Expenses	\$ 133,377.77	\$ 211,023.26	\$ (77,654.49)
Variance	\$ 20,184.71	\$ (7,863.26)	

In other Voter news...

The modified constitution and bylaws were emailed to the Ohio District on Monday, November 16, as directed by the voters. Notification was received that it was forwarded to the committee chair the same day. Now we wait.

Voters also confirmed lay delegates to the June 2021 Ohio District Convention. Marlis will serve as delegate and Tammy Woolley will serve as alternate.

Finally, I pray that we all experience as never before the **hope, peace, joy** and **love** that our heavenly Father so graciously blesses us with, not only in this season, but every day in every way. A blessed Christmas to you all.

Marlis Norton, Council Pres.

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



Advent Services

We all need something different this year. The services in Advent during the Wednesdays in December will be held in person and on Zoom beginning at 7 PM.

Advent is a time for preparation and finding rest from the world. Our series “Prepare Ye” will be led by the Elders. In this worship series for traditional worship for Advent, we contemplate the many ways we prepare ourselves for the coming of the Christ Child on Christmas, taking cues from the psalms of old and from those whom God chose to play a part in the story of our Lord’s birth. As we draw near to the manger bed of our Savior from sin and death, our hearts prepare him room for his everlasting love.

December 2: Ponder (Psalm 48:9): We consider ways in which we can ponder the meaning of the birth of our Savior through the reading of Scripture and through reflection. Mary serves as a model for us in this pondering in the Annunciation.

December 9: Praise (Psalm 30:4): We celebrate the upcoming arrival of our Savior through songs and shouts of praise as we prepare for him. Elizabeth, in her greeting of Mary, provides a benchmark for rejoicing with others over the good news of salvation in Jesus, even as we wait.

December 16: Proclaim (Psalm 145:6): We contemplate how we can prepare ourselves and others for the arrival of Jesus through our proclaiming. John the Baptist stands as the forerunner of all future proclaimers of Christ and gives us the courage to use our own voices to proclaim our devotion to the One who is born to save.

We will collect favorite Christmas hymns during the first two weeks and sing selections from them in the service on the 16th.

We will have our Christmas Eve candlelight service held in person and on Zoom at both 5:00 PM and 7:00PM

Join us as we turn to our God in preparation for the New Year on New Year’s Eve in person and on Zoom beginning at 7 PM.



Advent Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries

God With Us

What better news is there than to know that God is always by our side! In *God with Us*, we learn again what God the Father has done—He has kept His promise. In so doing, He has announced that grace and forgiveness are available to all, freely given in the birth of Jesus: God’s Son, our Savior. He is Immanuel, “God with us.”

The story of God coming to earth as a human child is a profound one. In *God with Us*, we find no aloof divinity who is unconcerned and remote somewhere in the cosmos. Rather, He is deeply involved in all our affairs—our joys as well as our heartaches. He *knows* us for He became one of us. At Christmastime, we celebrate the birth of Jesus, Lord of the universe, Savior of the world, Shepherd of our lives.

Please pick up your Advent Devotion, ***God With Us***, before you leave church. They are on the coffee table in the Gathering Area. You may also access it online at <https://www.lhm.org/advent/>

Stewardship Committee

God's Army-Building God's Kingdom Capital Campaign

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank everyone for participating in the Basket Raffle. A grand total **\$680.00** was raised. These funds will be added to the Pastor Relocation part of the Campaign. Remember that the Capital Campaign, **"God's Army-Building God's Kingdom"** is still in motion until January 3, 2021. There are envelopes on the table by the office for each area we are working on for which you can put your donation. Drop it in the offering plate. At present the designated funds totals are: **Pastoral Relocation-** \$5485.00 and **Building:** \$1985.00 (totals from Oct/Nov). Again, thank you from the Stewardship Committee.

2 Corinthians 9:7 *Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.*

Stewardship Basket Raffle

Basket	Donated By	Won By
Chocolate Lover's	Nancy Krenk	B J Baker
Movie Night and Snacks	Eric and Lisa Berns	Lynn Mitchell
Christmas Cookies	Vince and Tammy Woolley	Becky Aragon
Spa	Sharon Snowden	Roberta W.
"Yes, I Canned"	Mary Givhan	Eric and Lisa Berns
Children's Books	Marlis Norton	Tamara Calabro
Christmas Baking Basket	Vince and Tammy Woolley	David Krenk
Candles Galore	Vince and Tammy Woolley	Terri Bernstein
Clean Car	Debbie Fitzpatrick	Corbin Krenk
Tea, Cookies and Inspiration	Karen Sladen	Nancy Krenk
Chocolate and Games	Phillip and Jessica Brann	Mary Givhan
"Our Daily Bread"	Kathy Meckstroth	Gail T.

Time, Talent, Treasure Request

In the next few weeks, you will see that we are trying to make our Time/Talent/Treasure request for our church into an electronic version. We will still have hard copy available and can be mailed to you. Our goal is to work with all generations of our church to find the areas that each person loves to work in and see that they are happy with those positions. Please watch The Voice for future announcements. The electronic version will be sent to email address that the church Office has on file. If your email address needs to be updated, please contact Lynn in the Office Monday – Thursday from 10am - 2pm.

1 John 3:18 Dear Children, let us not love with words or speech, but with actions and in truth.



Women's Sunday Bible Study • 11 a.m. • Sunday • December 13

Our small group is on brief hiatus til December 13 due to holiday and covid conflicts. We meet with appropriate distancing on Sundays in the Duchow Room and provide a Zoom connection for those not ready to meet in person. Our study is Forgiveness by Donna Pyle. The book is available from CPH for \$14.99. Please feel free to join in.



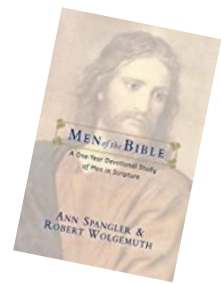
Women's Bible Breakfast • Saturday • December 12

Mark your calendars for the second Saturday in **December at 9 a.m.** We'll have a special Christmas featured study in December. 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. It is current medical understanding that the virus is not transmitted via food. We will take all the necessary precautions of masking, distancing and cleanliness around service items. If you wish to participate remotely, let me know by Wednesday, December 9 and a Zoom session will be set up and the study emailed to



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

We are meeting at church. All are welcome. Join in any time. We study one person each session, no book required.



Tuesday Bible Study at the Smith's We will take an in-depth look at this life-changing book focusing on our justification, sanctification and glorification. There is space in the 3-5 pm group at my home. Contact me if you are interested or have questions.

Sherri Smith 210-854-259



Angel Tree: Good Shepherd will once again have the opportunity to provide gifts for children in our community whose family has limited resources. The Angel Tree will be available after Thanksgiving. Deadline for returning gifts is December 13.



Communion at Home Request

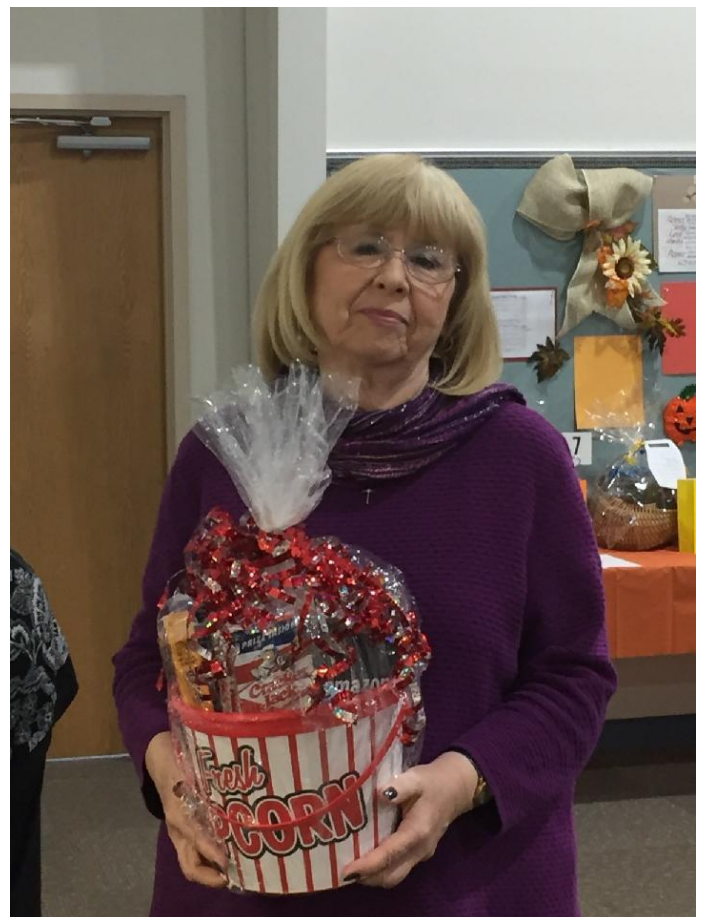


Pictured here is Calvin Herr serving communion to Karen Sladen at her home. Calvin is a retired LCMS pastor.

If you are not attending in person service and would like to receive communion at home, please contact Lynn in the church office at 859.746.9066 to make arrangements.

November Events

Raffle Basket Winners
(In attendance at drawing)



Thanks "Giving" Basket Distribution



Church Christmas Decorating





Marijo Raap	Dec 1
Vincent Woolley	Dec 1
Taylor Mason	Dec 5
Craig Speicher	Dec 8
Shirley Duane	Dec 18
Calvin Herr	Dec 18
Ashlyn Brann	Dec 21
Justin O'Grady	Dec 22
Josh Molina	Dec 28

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

We hear the proclamation of the message of the angels: "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11). We mingle our voices with theirs as we sing, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased" (Luke 2:14)! We receive the proclaimed Savior, Christ the Lord, not wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in manger but wrapped in bread and wine placed into our mouths for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. We feast in great joy indeed because of this great blessing from our Lord and God.

God's people in ancient Israel also feasted with great joy. The Lord showered His abundant blessing on His people. And He commanded them to feast upon it (Deuteronomy 16). The people were to go to the place appointed, where the Lord would make His name dwell, and give offerings, each man as he was able, according to the blessing of the Lord that He had given them (Deut. 16:10, 15, 17).

And there the Lord would bless them with joy as they feasted upon what the Lord had provided. They ate of the choice parts of their offerings. They enjoyed the company of all the people of God as they together heard His promises of blessing, sang of His bountiful goodness, and partook of what He gave.

We feast on the Word who became flesh to dwell among us, not just during Christmas but throughout all the year. We feast not just on the salvation He has wrought for us in His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, but we feast also on all the temporal blessings that God gives out of His fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us. We enjoy the rich bounty that God provides, not only in Word and Sacrament, but also in house and home, property and income, family and friends.

Let us then, as did our brothers in the faith from ancient Israel, give as we are able, according to the blessing of the Lord our God that He has given us. Let us, like them, give generously of the first fruits of our income, which He gives, so that all may know and enjoy the salvation He gives and the joy we have in the Savior born in the city of David, who is Christ the Lord.

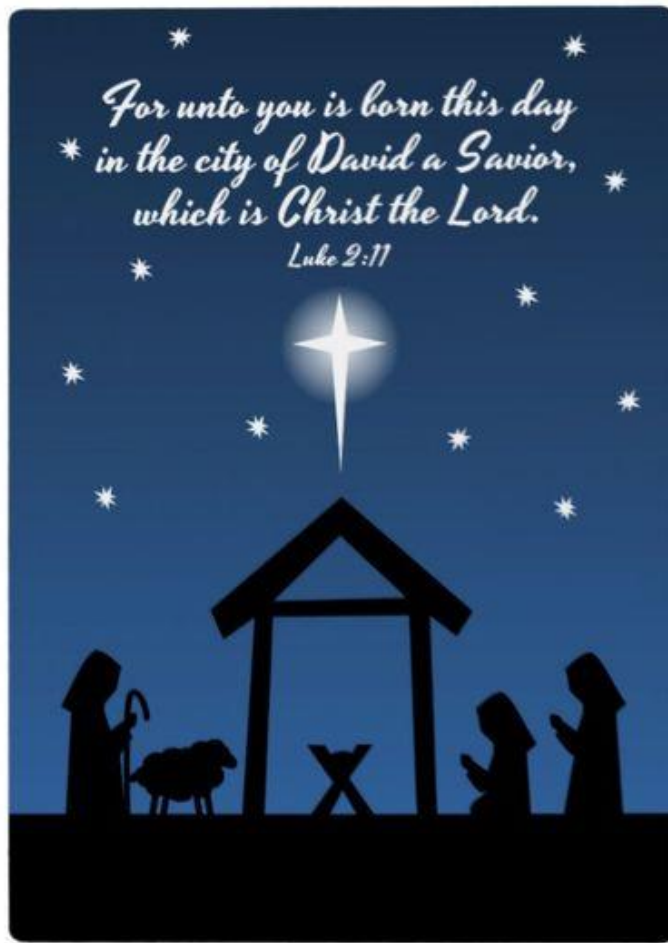
Thank you from Bill and Linda Walton

Never feel alone. There is a great Care Team at Good Shepherd. Thanks to them and all my church friends for their continued prayers for Bill and me. Bill has a long road ahead of him now with Cardiac Care at Gateway. And a big thank you for the gift basket full of my favorite things. God bless you.

"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith."

Galatian 6:10





Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
9066 Gunpowder Road
Florence, KY 41042

