



Good News From Good Shepherd

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

January 2020

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Dear Friends in Christ:

It's February – a month where love is emphasized in our culture. The flower, greeting card and chocolate industries are all reminding us that Valentine's Day is February 14th. As a single man, I used to view days such as Valentine's Day and Sweetest Day with a bit of cynicism, calling the latter a "Hallmark Holiday." I reasoned that they were mainly designed to spur profits rather than to express affection for those you love. (Why no, there was no jealousy of married folks involved, none whatsoever!) But seriously, even though my marital status has changed, one part of this has not: I still think that it's important to express your love for your loved ones on a daily basis, not just on certain days on the calendar.

In doing so, we reflect (though imperfectly) the love that God has for us. In the midst of personal struggle, the prophet Jeremiah still confesses in Lamentation 3:22-23, "the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." The Explanation of the First Article of the Apostles' Creed reminds us that "He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life" and "all this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy..."

As I think further of love, I remember the phrase in our culture that begins, "if you love something, let it go." Actually, only this beginning is relevant to what my family has been going through. Last month I shared how Janice and I had assumed temporary custody of a young man named Jordan, a 10-year-old fifth grader. This month I share how we recently needed to relinquish custody back to the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. This was done to ensure that Jordan can receive the specialized treatment that he needs. We struggled with making this decision, but we did so out of love for Jordan, knowing that it was best for him. We are grateful to still have an opportunity to be part of his life, and continue to ask for your prayers.

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Our heavenly Father loved us so much that He let His beloved Son go. He sent Him from heaven to the world that we had corrupted, to suffer and die for our sins. We are grateful for the boundless love for us that our Lord showed in doing this. He lived up to His own words: greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends (John 15:13). As friends of Jesus, may we – to the best of our ability – continue to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves (see Luke 10:27).

In Christ,
Pastor Bill

This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. John 15:12 (KJV)



Council News:

At the January meeting, the council was most blessed to welcome Phillip Brann as newly appoint Vice President filling a term that runs through June 2021. Please reach out to Phillip and thank him for serving and continue to pray for your council leadership.

The Stewardship team has reported to you the results of the fall pledge drive. For those who have not yet taken advantage of this step of faith, you are encouraged to do so. When we do, the value of the faith equity far surpasses our gifts! Thank you to the families who have made pledges and gifts already. We are well on our way to funding our Anniversary celebration outside the operational budget.

We've delayed a bit on taking next steps in our pursuit of CAT directives while the elders organize a prayerful direction.

We are getting closer to using the funds set aside for the church roof - replacing the 20-year old shingles, improving drainage and addressing the west side leak over that sanctuary hallway. The Property team is seeking quotes and insurance guidance and will have a plan in the coming weeks.

There was engaging discussion around the bylaw updates at the town hall discussion on January 19. A proposed position of Assistant Treasurer was well received. The specifics of the position are being refined, but the general consensus settled on these points: (a) it is a voluntary post that will assist the Treasurer with bookkeeping tasks, (b) it will be a non-signatory, non-trustee position and, therefore, will not need definition in the bylaws. And praise to our Lord, we already have a volunteer! The next steps will be to re-distribute the constitution and bylaws for a further review at the February voter assembly. The Finance Committee will work on defining the Assistant Treasurer post.



And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Hebrews 10:24

What good work is awaiting you?

What is our Lord Jesus calling you to? What new thing will you trust Him to lead you through? The Big Game is upon us and we have a Coach with a no-fail game plan! What could be better and more exciting?

Our Treasurer, **Kathy Meckstroth**, will become a 'free agent' as of June when she terms out of her position on our Council. Kathy, together with the support of **Jason Raap** and others on the Finance Committee, has streamlined our financial processes using Quick Books online. It's a tremendous work and we are so grateful for her faithful and diligent service in getting us modernized. (*Give her a well-deserved hug!!*) This is a crucial role on our GSL council team and for our church family in general. We need to collectively search our individual gifts and talents list and heed the call of our Coach to discern who of us will stand for that position in the May election. The **Nominating Committee** will take shape in February seeking servants for that position and these: President, Outreach Chair, Education, Stewardship, Communications, and three (3) Elders. The Nominating Committee's job is to **provoke [us] unto love and to good works**. I trust they will do an excellent job and we will respond in kind!



Let's together:

- ✓ serve in a new or first-ever capacity
- ✓ prepare our hearts to serve and participate in at least one Bible study offering this year
- ✓ continue to extend our faith walk in tithing what the Lord has seen fit to lend us in our time here
- ✓ be deliberately informed and actively participate in the business of the church
- ✓ practice daily devotion time

Praying that we all are **provoked to love** and serve as we are blessed for the kingdom work that is before us at Good Shepherd.

Marlis Norton, Council Pres.

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



No Greater Gift than Love

“But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

(1Cor. 12:31)

More excellent way. These sound like comparatives. They are, if you are talking about us. But these words that the Holy Spirit gives to Paul are not about us. They are only and always about what He desires us to have! The Lord wants you to know that your simple gifts are in no way simplistic. They are glory! But not your glory. They are His glory. If you read the entire chapter of 1 Corinthians 12 you see some fantastic gifts being called lower gifts. Healing. Tongues. Interpretation. These are all fantastic if you were to have them. It is hard to see any way in which these are lesser gifts. That is until you read what the Lord desires as a higher gift. 1 Corinthians 13 talks about it. The higher gift is love! There is no greater gift than love. Jesus talks about that in John 15:13 when He says that “greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life *for his friend.*” *This is the kind of love that we have been given.* God loved the world so much that He gave us Jesus. Jesus loved us so much that He died and rose. There is no greater gift of love. Jesus says so! And this greater love that God has given us in Jesus is an active love! It is given so that we can give it away. That is what our stewardship is all about. Giving freely of the greater love that we have been given! The financial gifts we render are indeed lesser gifts. It doesn’t mean that they aren’t important or valuable. But they are lesser if they are not connected to love. The love they are connected to by the Holy Spirit is a love that comes from the Lord, through us, to others. We become a conduit of love that flows out to those who need it. This involves service. This involves activity. It also involves financial resources. When taken together, packaged in love, these simple gifts do amazing things! Let’s see together what the Lord will do with these simple gifts! s Jesus. The Jesus– who is the Savior revealed to us.

Prayer: Blessed Lord, we give You but Your own in all these gifts we bring to You this day and throughout this year. Fill our heart with a love of the Lord, a love of the Gospel and a love for our neighbors that will lead us to give of all of ourselves so that they may know the extravagant, radical love of God that comes in Jesus Christ! **Amen**

Submitted by Tammy Woolley, Stewardship Chair

Stewardship Update:

The Stewardship Committee wants to thank you for all of the commitment pledges that were turned in and for your support of GSLC and its ministries. Our 2020 Member Commitment Pledges have been tallied and the results are listed below. If you have not yet completed a commitment pledge for 2020, they are still available for you to add your pledge to those already committed for 2020. GSLC has been much blessed and should continue this positive direction to fulfill our mission to God's church, our community and neighbors in this New Year.

General Fund Pledges		\$116,360.00
Additional Pledges		13,760.00
(25 th Anniversary	2850.00	
Emergency	8110.00	
Mortgage	2,200.00	
Building	600.00)	
Total Pledges		\$130,120.00

Tammy Woolley, Stewardship Chair



Choir News After a busy fall season and a well-deserved “after-Christmas” break, choir rehearsal will resume on Wednesday, March 4, immediately after the evening Lent service. We will rehearse on Wednesday evenings during March to prepare special music for Holy Week and Easter services. Please note that we will NOT have choir on Ash

Wednesday. Hope to see and hear many of you at choir practice as we make a joyful noise unto the Lord. Thank you. Kim Leavens.



Ladies Luncheon

All the Women of Good Shepherd Are Invited to Come to Our Annual Ladies Luncheon at the Greyhound Tavern (2500 Dixie Hwy, Fort Mitchell) Saturday, February 15, 2020 at 12:30 pm

Please plan to come. All ladies are welcome!!

karen.sladen@yahoo.com (203) 313-4359/cell

New Women's Bible Study • Sundays • Between Services

Join us for a journey of Perseverance through the book of Nehemiah by Donna Pyle. We meet in the Duchow Room.



Women's Bible Breakfast • Saturday, February 8 • 9 a.m. at Church

Join in and be blessed by the food for body and soul. If you can bring a dish to share, great, but certainly not required! Mostly come as you are and enjoy the fellowship. We continue with the *Time for Everything* series from Women of Faith

Secret Sister Sign Up is now underway. If you want to be a part of the Secret Sister Program, sign up today. Please check the bulletin board in the Family Life Center for details. Your special Secret Sister from last year will be revealed at the Ladies Luncheon on February 15.



January Events



Constitution and By Law Discussion
On January 19, Congregational President Maris Norton led a discussion of proposed changes to GSLC constitution and bylaws. Further discussion will take place at the Voters' Meeting on February 23.



City Wide Youth Lock-In



On January 18 the youths of Good Shepherd participated in a city-wide lock in at Grace Lutheran Church





Come and help support Good Shepherd's American Heritage Girls troop 0608 for a Valentine's Day Dinner. See the flyer in the Family Life Center on the bulletin board. All church congregation members, family and friends are invited.
Saturday February 15th 4-7pm.



Patricia Gage	Feb 1
Mike Rath	Feb 3
John Gumm	Feb 5
Sarah Gamel	Feb 6
Ryan Reasoner	Feb 7
Dave Schneider	Feb 7
Allison Shaw	Feb 9
Jillian Cottrell	Feb 14
Danielle Holloway	Feb 16
Nicole Vaughn	Feb 16
Drew Langsdale	Feb 17
Leroy Raap	Feb 17
Tammy Woolley	Feb 17
Lynda Oberst	Feb 18
Macy Gumm	Feb 19
Janice Gauger	Feb 20



- Feb 6 OWLS Luncheon – Noon-FLC
- Feb 8 Women's Bible Breakfast – 9:00 am
- Feb 15 Ladies Luncheon – Greyhound Tavern – 12:30 pm
- Feb 16 Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Dalton Aragon – 2:00 pm FLC
- Feb 23 Secret Sister Sign-Up forms due
- Feb 23 Voters' Meeting FLC
- Feb 26 Ash Wednesday Service



Flower Chart

Feb 2	Calvin & Bonnie Herr – In Memory of Tim & Todd Herr and 62 nd Anniversary
Feb 9	Hank Raap
Feb 16	Leroy Raapy Janice Gauger – Birthday
Feb 23	The Woolleys – Tammy's Birthday Vince and Tammy's Anniversary

Faith Walk

1. Each day thank your Faithful God for fulfilling all His promises to you in Christ Jesus.
2. Participate daily in the study of God's Word.
3. Search the Bible for God's many promises. Make a top ten list of your personal favorites.
4. Keep a "Promise Journal" and note how God keeps His promises to you every day.
5. By the power of the Holy Spirit, share with at least one person the promise of the hope you have in Christ Jesus.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Newsletter Article – February 2020

Of the three things a person is not to talk about in polite company – religion, politics, and money – the church is called, in one way or another, to talk about all three. Perhaps this is the reason why teaching about stewardship often seems to be an afterthought. It's something that happens only out of necessity when financial constraints are already nipping at the heels.

There is a more excellent way. Stewardship shouldn't be the kind of teaching that comes up only when there is a financial crunch. It should be part and parcel of the ongoing instruction of Christians as they live out their faith in their vocations – members of their family, their society, and their church. This teaching touches upon every facet of our lives; it stakes a claim upon our time, our presence, our prayers, and our possessions.

Stewardship begins with the acknowledgment that we are stewards. A steward is a manager of someone else's possessions. In Christian stewardship, we recognize, according to the Apostles' Creed, that God is the owner of all things as the Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. And in His fatherly divine goodness and mercy, He gives us what is His to manage here below.

The principal virtue for stewards is faithfulness. As St. Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth:

"Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful." (1 Cor. 4:2)

Stewards must manage that which belongs to the owner according to the owner's wishes. That is what it means to be faithful in stewardship. That raises a question: How are Christian stewards to be faithful in their managing of what God has entrusted to them to manage? In other words, what are the specific duties of a Christian steward?

This depends upon what God has revealed in His Word for each of our vocations in life as those in a family (fathers, mothers, husbands, wives, children), society (governors or citizens), and the church (pastors or laity). The Table of Duties from Luther's Small Catechism lays this out in helpful and orderly way. Let's look just at what the laity (hearers as it is labeled in the catechism) owe their pastors:

"In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel." (1 Cor. 9:14)

"Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows." (Gal. 6:6–7)

"Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, 'You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,' and, 'The laborer deserves his wages.'" (1 Tim. 5:17–18)

"We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves." (1 Thess. 5:12–13)

"Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you." (Heb. 13:17)

We can see that the Lord commands hearers to support the work of the ministry with the gifts God endowed them – their time, their presence, their prayers, and their possessions. This is the means by which God blesses His people with His gifts: the ministry with the support of those whom they serve, and the hearers with the work of the ministry.

St. Paul expounds upon this further in his letters to the church at Corinth. He instructs them to give regularly (1 Cor. 16:1–2), proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:12), and generously (2 Cor. 8:20) of our first-fruits (1 Cor. 16:2) with a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7), and love (2 Cor. 8:23).

All of this teaching is set forth squarely within the context of stations to which God calls us. This is always appropriate for the church to speak because it instructs God's people in how they are to live out their faith as His stewards under those who are created, redeemed, and sanctified by Him.





Charlie's Socks and Undie-Sunday Drive

The annual socks and underwear collection will begin on the first Sunday in March, March 1. Last year this drive was a great success. Over 200 pairs of socks and underwear collected and distributed to kids and adults in Northern Kentucky. Please consider participating in this worthwhile cause. We are requesting new socks for all ages, men, women and children. Donations of new underwear for boys and girls would also be greatly appreciated. You can drop your donations in a collection bin in the entryway.

“But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.”
Hebrews 13:16

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