



Good News From Good Shepherd

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

February, 2021

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The Gift of the Holy Spirit

Romans 5:1-5 is a beautiful section of scripture that lists some of the gifts we have received as Christians because of our justification by faith in Christ Jesus. Paul starts by saying, "Therefore, since we have been justified by faith..."

This phrase states what makes a person a Christian. We are justified by faith in Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 1:9 takes this a little further by declaring that this means we are "obtaining the outcome of our faith, the salvation of our souls." All true Christians believe in and rely on this truth, and this common belief is what makes all believers in Jesus brothers and sisters in Christ, regardless of the denomination to which they belong.

Paul, in Romans 5, also uses this opportunity to describe what this means to us: "Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have..." ¹Peace with God, ² Access by faith, ³ Rejoicing in hope of the glory of God, ³ Rejoicing in our sufferings, ⁵ God's love, and ⁵ **The Holy Spirit who has been given to us.**

All of these things have been given to us through our faith in Christ Jesus. Even the Holy Spirit who was promised to us by Jesus himself:

John 14:16-17 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...

We could have a big debate over when we received the Holy Spirit. Was it at our physical baptism as infants? Was it at the point in our lives as children or adults when we came to believe in Jesus? There are adults who have never been physically baptized who have come to faith in Jesus for their salvation. The Holy Spirit is working in their lives. The great commission is for us to reach out to and share the Gospel with nonbelievers so they too may come to faith.

The publication, **THE THEOLOGY AND PRACTICE OF HOLY BAPTISM | ADDENDUM: OTHER QUESTIONS ABOUT BAPTISM** on Page 26, question 4 puts it this way:

With regard to when God creates faith, we might revisit Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus regarding our new birth by the Holy Spirit. There Jesus states, "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit" (John 3:8). Picking up on this verse, the Augsburg Confession notes that the Holy Spirit creates faith "where and when it pleases God in those who hear the gospel." That would include Baptism, where God has connected His Gospel Word to water (AC V 3; KW 41).

"The Holy Spirit creates faith "where and when it pleases God in those who hear the gospel."" This may include physical baptism of the infant where the Gospel is preached or it may not. It may include situations in which a person shares the gospel with a child or an adult friend or it may not. It may include when a person hears the Word of God in a sermon at church or through a radio program or it may not. Where or when a person receives or responds to the Holy Spirit and expresses faith in God is a mystery to us. It happens "where and when it pleases God."

What we do know is that, as Christians, we have the Holy Spirit now. We are not to wonder whether or not we have received the Spirit or waste our time arguing over when he came to us. **1 Corinthians 3:16** bluntly states, "Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?"

And because we have the Holy Spirit, we are called to live and walk according to the Spirit and set our minds on the things of the Spirit:

Romans 8:5-6 ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

Galatians 5:16 ¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

Because we have faith in Jesus, the Holy Spirit lives within us. It is not a feeling; it is a fact. We must honor that fact by allowing the Holy Spirit to help us change our mindset with respect to how we live our lives and how we respond to temptations, frustrations, anxiety. We must walk in the way of the Spirit as outlined in **Galatians 5**. We must also be prepared to give an answer to those who want to know the reason for the joy and hope we have. We can do this by sharing with others how God has worked in our lives and why we put our faith in Jesus. Then prayerfully, God will direct the Holy Spirit to work in those people's lives to create faith for their justification, "where and when it pleases God."

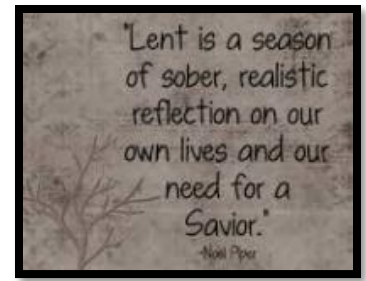
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LENT = REPENT

In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Matthew 3:1-2



Lent begins this month with Ash Wednesday. It is a somber time in the church marked in varying degrees by fasting and sacrifice as we look to repent and mourn our sinful condition which nailed our Savior to the cross. And how do we respond to that? By giving up chocolate? Really?

I'd like to suggest a bit more rigor - reflection, confession, turning, risk taking and real change. Now is the opportune time change up the diet, confess and sacrifice those behaviors, bad habits and failings that plague us and keep us from a healthy life style - Christ-like living. Consider this diet change:

- Instead of feasting on gossip, how about giving it up for a good helping of edifying and encouragement?
- Instead of feasting on envy, how about giving it up for a good helping of contentment and gratitude?
- Instead of feasting on worry, how about giving it up for a good helping of faith and trust?
- Instead of feasting on resentment, how about giving it up for a good helping of forgiveness and compassion?
- Instead of feasting on assumption, how about getting the facts straight up and directly? (I learned this lesson just last month through council, so it's fresh on my mind!)

You get the idea and I hope you get fat on all the good stuff during Lent! I guarantee you will lose weight - the weight of the world and your sin - and gain a lightness in your step with a Savior who walks alongside ready to join you at His feast table.



Your Council got busy again in January after taking December off.

Now that our constitution and bylaws are approved, you can expect to see that topic on the agenda for the voter meeting coming this month - February 21. The agenda will include discussion on how to best move into the new structure through the election process and where we are with our financial status and call committee.

The results of the congregational voting are in regarding the LCMS Synod Convention Referendum question: Shall the Synod add a year to the current 2019–2022 triennium, allowing districts to hold their conventions in either 2021 or 2022, and moving the upcoming national Synod Convention from 2022 to 2023? [Thereafter, the triennium cycle will continue forward from 2023 in three-year increments, as before (i.e., with district conventions held in 2025, 2028, etc., and Synod Conventions held in 2026, 2029, etc.).] Twenty-two unique voters participated (15 is a quorum for a vote) on or before January 22 as requested and voted unanimously 'Yes' to the question. This result has been captured in a spreadsheet for the record and our vote has been cast at the site designated by the Synod.

The boards have been active on your behalf. Property has worked with American Heritage Boys and they will be joining the American Heritage Girls using the FLC on opposite Monday's beginning sometime in February. And have you noticed our sign! The lights are bright once again! Please thank Rob Nielsen when you see him! Inreach and the Care Team continue their service to our members and the stewardship board continues researching how to move our pledging and time/talent commitments to an online format, making it more convenient.

December YTD	Actual	Budget	Over/Under
General Fund	\$ 185,135.97	\$ 245,642.00	\$ (60,506.03)
Operating Expenses	\$ 154,763.62	\$ 248,285.00	\$ (93,521.38)
Variance	\$ 30,372.35	\$ (2643.00)	

As always, a reminder that financially we need to be prepared to support a new shepherd, when he arrives. Please pray for wisdom and fearless faith in these matters.

Marlis Norton, Council Pres.

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

Services for Lent

Please join us each Wednesday in Lent at 7 PM, beginning with a service of communion and ashes on Ash Wednesday, February 17. We will be hosting all services on Zoom as well. This year we will reflect on Jesus and the places of the passion. During Lent, the church's worship assumes a more penitential character.

The places where the passion of our Lord took place hold special meaning to Christians the world over. These places remind us that Jesus walked this earth and stood in locations we can still find today to carry out his mission of salvation. This was no sightseeing trip for our Savior. There was a serious reason he came to be at certain places and at particular times to suffer and die and rise again. He was fulfilling the will of his Father who desired that we be forgiven and given a place in heaven with him forever.

Ash Wednesday	2/17/2021, service with communion and ashes
Midweek of Lent 1	2/24/2021: Bethany: Jesus is anointed for burial by his friend Mary, at her home in this small town.
Midweek of Lent 2	3/3/2021 The Mount of Olives: The disciples sing a hymn with Jesus before they head out to this place of prayer.
Midweek of Lent 3	3/10/2021 The Garden of Gethsemane: Jesus is betrayed and arrested in this garden under cover of darkness.
Midweek of Lent 4	3/17/2021 The Courtyard: While Jesus is put on trial before the high priest, Peter denies Jesus in this place.
Midweek of Lent 5	3/24/2021 Pilate's Judgment Hall: Pilate is positioned here to set Jesus free, but turns him over to be crucified instead.

In addition, we will celebrate Holy Week with these services:

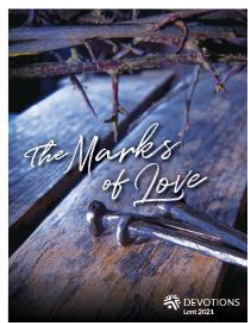
Palm Sunday	3/28/2021
Maundy Thursday	4/1/2021, service with communion
Good Friday	4/2/2021
Easter	4/4/2021

We are looking forward to the Easter joy on April 4. This is a new year. Last year we were only able to have a service for Easter on Zoom and not in the church. How blessed are we to enjoy a worship service together this year.

As a child, I was taught by my friends that we should give something up for Lent. I am going to suggest that the people of Good Shepherd take up something new and work on deepening our understanding and appreciation for the 40 days of Lent.

Let us together aim to take up during Lent those things that we've let fall by the wayside as we've lived our lives socially distant from Jesus and His church. You may want to take up a daily devotion or take up the practice of regular daily prayers. If we've been away from the gathering of God's people in worship, we could take up participating in the Divine Service on Sundays as well as the mid-week Lenten services.

What a difference Lent could be for us and make in us if we would take up reading God's Word daily, intentionally speaking the Gospel to one person a week, showing the love of Christ to the poor and needy through acts of mercy, or listening to recorded sermons or Bible studies. **Glen Leavens, Elder**



Lent Devotion Following the narrative of Mark's Gospel, *The Marks of Love* explores the life and ministry of Jesus. The tragedy of Golgotha is met with the triumph of the resurrection on Easter morning. Along the way, we learn of Jesus' deep compassion for those He loved and served, including those who put Him to death.

No story in human history is like the narrative of Jesus' Passion. In it we see God in the flesh, coming to seek and to save the lost. In *The Marks of Love*, we meet a Savior who endured life's hardships, suffered our pain, and bore the weight of our sins. Each left its mark on Him as He pressed on to the cross, giving His life for ours, appeasing God's wrath against sin, and rising victorious over sin, death, and the devil.

Pick up your copy in the Gathering Area.



Women's Sunday Bible Study • 11 a.m. • Sunday • February 14

Our small group has paused due to covid. When we regroup in February, we'll continue to meet with appropriate distancing in the Duchow Room. A Zoom connection is provided 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. It's not too late! We've only finished Lesson 1 and begin Lesson 2 on the 5th.

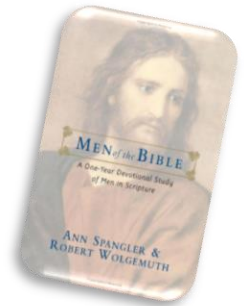


Women's Bible Breakfast • Saturday • February 13

Mark your calendars for the second Saturday in **February at 9 a.m.** We'll 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. 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, February 10 and a Zoom session will be set up and the study emailed to you.

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

We are meeting on line through at least March. 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.



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



Welcome to All the Ladies of Good Shepherd! It is that fun time of year for the Ladies Luncheon! Due to the pandemic, we will be joining together on Zoom instead. All the Ladies of Good Shepherd are invited to get together for a Special Ladies Brunch on Saturday, February 20th, at 9:00 a.m. Fix yourself a cup of tea or coffee along with your

favorite breakfast/lunch dish and we will share in the joys of being sisters in Christ. At this zoom Brunch, the Secret Sister that you prayed for all 2020 yearlong will be revealed! More information will follow, but if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Karen Sladen at karen.sladen@yahoo.com or 203.313.4359/cell

. *A friend loves at all times, and a 'sister' is born for a time of adversity! Proverbs 17:17*

Mark Your Calendar – Drive Through Food Pantry, March 6

Because of the Coronavirus pandemic we have not been able to host a Food Distribution. There are many who depend on Good Shepherd to help them feed their family. The Human Care Committee decided that this could be done in a safe and socially distancing way by hosting a Drive Through Food Pantry. Instead of the families coming into the Family Life Center to "shop" we will prepare bags of groceries that will be delivered to the family's car. The food items will be somewhat limited, but they will be filled with everyday staples that families can use. We will need volunteers to help pack the bags and be available on the day of distributions. More information will be sent out later. Please consider volunteering for this event.



Patricia Gage	February 1
Mike Rath	February 3
John Gumm	February 5
Sarah Gamel	February 6
Dave Schneider	February 7
Allison Shaw	February 9
Jillian Cottrell	February 14
Nicole Vaughan	February 16
Drew Langsdale	February 17
Leroy Raap	February 17
Tammy Woolley	February 17
Lynda Oberst	February 18
Macy Gumm	February 19
Melanie Cottrell	February 27
Paul Barvincak	February 28

Godly Living in a Pagan World – It’s Not All About Us

LWML Winter Bible Study

February 6, 10 am

Presented by Pastor Mark Etter

Bethany Lutheran Church

If joining Zoom (video and audio)

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5689744742?pwd=bH](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5689744742?pwd=bHRqRURFa2tzSGpWMUhhISVhJdEVTUT09)

RqRURFa2tzSGpWMUhhISVhJdEVTUT09

• Meeting ID: 568 974 4742

• Password: 460574

If joining by phone (audio only)

• 1-929-205-6099

• Meeting ID 5689744742#

• Password 460574#

Mark your calendar! Good Shepherd has the privilege of hosting this Federation event and welcoming Dr. Seltz to speak to us about his work on our behalf in DC. Zoom access will be provided. The event will be in the FLC.

March 20, 2021
Federation Education Seminar
9:00 to 12:15

Speaker:

Rev. Dr. Greg Seltz
Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty
Washington D.C.

Host:

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Florence KY



Topics

- Session 01 - A Two-Kingdoms – One Mission: The Church in Action for The Sake Of The Community And The Gospel.
- Session 02 – God at Work – A Two Kingdom Exercise in The American Context: Concerns, Trends, Victories, Engagement
- Session 03 - Set Free to Live Freely for Others! A 2 Kingdom engagement of the Culture for the sake of the mission of the Church!!



Each year, MOST Ministries provides recycled eyeglasses to people living in the developing nations around the world. Generous individuals, churches and organizations across the US. collect and send used eyeglasses to MOST Ministries, where they are then sorted, tested and repackaged by volunteers for distribution on the mission field by our team members. Through the generosity of Good Shepherd members 12 pairs and 5 glass cases have been collected. Thank you for supporting this ministry - **Karen Sladen, Organizer.**

Phil. 1:6

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:



God asks us to trust and continue to do good. It is our faith that we rely on when we see that we need to “move a mountain”. As you know the Stewardship Committee has been running the God’s Army- Building God’s Kingdom Capital Campaign to raise money for the Pastoral Relocation and Building Fund. The totals as of 01-03-21 are \$7,525.00 Pastoral Relocation and \$2,985.00 for Building Fund.

As the GSLC Call Committee begins to review the new names of the Pastors that have been presented to us from Pastor Wilson it is also a good time to review our heart’s intention and our stewardship importance to our church. The StewardCast (LCMS edition) from December 2020, title is not to confuse Christmas with Stewardship, even though the two of these work hand in hand there are 11 other months of the year that need our attention. The General Fund ended the year \$60k behind budget. With COVID and the situations we have to work with or around for our jobs it has been exhausting this past year for many. We do not want anyone to over task themselves or over extend themselves. We are working on our Time/Talent/Treasure electronic version and hope to have it out soon for your faithful responses. If you would prefer a paper one, please email me, call me or catch me in person and I can get a hard copy for you. Thank you for all that you do for GSLC and all of the wonderful gifts that you have given to our beautiful church. Tammy Woolley – Stewardship Committee Chair

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