



Good News From Good Shepherd

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

February, 2023

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Oh Come, Oh Come Immanuel

The season of Lent begins this month. I look forward to it and to being able to sing my favorite Lenten hymn –
Oh Come, Oh Come, Immanuel.

People may wonder how I can have this one as my favorite Lenten hymn. Apparently, I cannot tell my Advent hymns from my Lenten hymns. In reality, we are not bound by anyone's tradition. We can sing Christmas or any hymns whenever we want. And I have good reasons for wanting to sing this hymn during Lent.

As I reflect on my sinful nature, I know I cannot save myself. I need God to save me. The first two lines of the hymn express the despair I feel because my sin has trapped me like a slave. Those lines move me as if they were my own words pleading with God to redeem me just like Israel:

***O come, O come, Immanuel
And ransom captive Israel***

Ever since Adam and Eve were cast out of the Garden of Eden, man has been in exile awaiting the savior promised in Genesis 3:15. Being in the same state, I sing the next line of the hymn which describes my troubled heart:

***That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear***

Longingly, I wait for my savior during Lent. I look forward to his coming and sing the next verse which continues my plea for God's salvation:

***O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny
From depths of Hell Thy people save
And give them victory o'er the grave***

This is exactly what Christ did for us on the cross. Jesus paid the ransom for my and all of our sins with his own blood so we would no longer be under the penalty of death. He saved all of us from Satan's tyranny. He freed us all from the depths of hell and gave victory over the grave to all those who put their faith in him. This is why we celebrate Lent and Easter. Thanks be to God Almighty.

As we worship during Lent this year, reflect on the words of this hymn. Feel the cry for mercy expressed in the hymn, take to heart Jesus' redemptive act on the cross, and claim his victory for your own. Perhaps Kim will be kind enough to play this hymn for us this Lenten season so we can shout for joy together knowing that our Lord has come in his resurrection glory saving us from the grave!

Rejoice, Rejoice, Immanuel has come to us o' Israel!

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

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A Message from Your President

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD
THAT HE GAVE
HIS ONLY
BEGOTTEN
SON SO
THAT WHOEVER
BELIEVES IN HIM
SHALL NOT PERISH
BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

Why does the church exist? And I don't mean the building.

Jesus was pretty specific in his final instructions to his disciples. He covered all the bases:

Therefore, go and make...

What: Disciples
Who/Where: All nations
How: Baptizing and teaching
When: No timeline implies Now, Always...

The point is, the church was directed to action, a moving church, going. Jesus also taught us through the New Testament writer of Hebrews to "... consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV)

In my perspective, these things must be in balance, going to the nations and staying in fellowship. If the church becomes introverted, with focus primarily on the staying in fellowship, serving only itself, it is not fulfilling the command. If the church is always on the go and not refreshing and strengthening itself with sacramental fellowship and encouragement it will not be efficient and burn itself out.

I also acknowledge that a going church doesn't mean all its members are on some exotic mission trip somewhere. God calls those whose heart and faith are moved to do his will in those places in that way. The calling of our churches is to support and send those whom he has called in our stead and to engage in those local missions where we are equipped to share His grace, Word and forgiveness.



Opportunities exist for Good Shepherd on both levels. We send and support: Rev. Shauen Trump in East Africa and Lutheran Bible Translators with 48 programs of translation activities that span the globe. Locally some of our members engage in Whiz Kids, numerous smaller initiatives and now will have the opportunity to engage with POBLO and its mission in the Cincinnati area through our Federation.

I raise this to remind us that with increased discussions and concerns over the budget, it is but a means, a tool, not a goal/end. It is my constant prayer that we would be a mission church always - focused on God's will, not on our fear. For encouragement, see the most recent issue of StewardCast sent to everyone.

Council Actions: The leadership team met on January 9 and came to consensus on a number of items including: Concluding the transition to Vanco from PayPal on the website; communicating to the congregation financial conditions; preparing the following for the February voter meeting: Building project details, Financial assessment, LCMS Convention nominations and lay voter appointment. The team also received the following reports:

Treasurer: Mortgage interest rate increased from 3.625% to 4.125%. Our payment will not increase.

Financial Sec: Totals of the 13 Pledges received for 2023 are: General, \$90,600; Building, \$1460; Mortgage, \$2500.

Christian Ministry: Look forward to Lenten dinners and a new Fellowship sign-up; successfully distributed Food Baskets, Operation Christmas Child boxes and Angel Giving Tree gifts.

Elders: Weekly offering will be brought forward for blessing beginning in February.

Marlis Norton, Council Pres.

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

2022 Financial Results

The 2022 actual financial results have been updated:

	2022 Actual	2022 Budget	Difference	2021 Actual
Offerings	222,385	261,850	(39,465)	232,208
Total Exp	(247,885)	(259,112)	11,227	(209,135)
Net	(25,500)	2,738	(28,238)	23,073

In October, we communicated that anticipated giving would be under budget. Actual 2022 figures reflect that giving was, in-fact, \$39,465 below budget and our net available cash decreased by \$25,500.

When the congregation called Pastor Poynter in 2021, it agreed to increase giving to handle the higher salary budget that would be required. It appears that we have not done so.

As a result, as of January 1, 2023, the congregation has only approximately \$37,500 of available cash remaining (not counting emergency reserves), and if giving is not increased in 2023, the available cash will likely be depleted by the end of 2023. To prevent this, giving must be increased this year.

Assuming the congregation has 55 giving units (families), the \$39,465 deficit equates to \$718 per family for the year. While many cannot afford to give more due to their fixed incomes and inflation, a number of our families do have the ability to give more. For those who can, I ask that you prayerfully consider giving a multiple of the per family deficit, in addition to your normal giving, to help make our budget for this coming year.

Thank you for your help and consideration. May God continue to bless Good Shepherd.

Christian Education

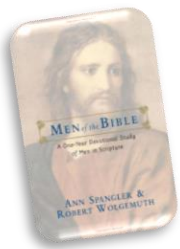


Women's Bible Breakfast • Saturday • February 11

We meet at 9 a.m. Bring a dish to share or your own personal favorite if you prefer. God always provides just what we need. The study begins at 9:30 a.m. We'll conclude the LWML Fruits of the Spirit study series with the study of Patience.

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

For Job there will be no book. 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 study one person at a time, often in multiple sessions, no book required, so join in any time. We have just begun looking at Jeremiah - the lengthiest book in the Bible.

Men's Bible Study

Mondays 10 am

Pastor's Bible Study
Sunday Mornings 8:45
Wednesdays 7 pm



February

Patricia Gage
Kim Hoffmann
Mike Rath
Sarah Gamel
Dave Schneider
Allison Shaw
Jillian Cottrell
Sarah Poynter
Nicole Vaughan
Leroy Raap
Tammy Woolley
Lynda Oberst
Heidi Densel
Melanie Cottrell
Paul Barvincak

February 1
February 3
February 3
February 6
February 7
February 9
February 14
February 15
February 16
February 17
February 17
February 18
February 26
February 27
February 28

March

Brann, Phillip	March 4
Schneider, Susan	March 8
Kuhn, Linda	March 9
Brooks, Jeanne	March 15
Woolley, Lenton	March 15
Siren, Maleah	March 20
Densel, Matthew	March 29



Flood Bucket Needs



Federation Churches have been very active in disaster relief efforts. In the spring, we had our third Flood Bucket collection event. Three hundred and fifty flood buckets with cleaning supplies were sent to those affected by the Western Kentucky tornadoes that devastated towns last year. Mary Bates, director of North American Lutheran Churches (NALC) Disaster Response, stated they had given out all the flood buckets we gave them plus all they had in stock, and their warehouse is now empty of flood buckets. Another collection is underway.

Please have your donation of supplies ready for assembling on **Feb. 25 at Peace Lutheran.**



Women's Auxiliary Committee • Blanket Brigade

We expect to receive the materials for about three dozen receiving blankets. They will be distributed soon with a requested completion date of **April 1**. The task consists of some cutting, pressing a narrow hem and sewing the hem. Once that is complete, Women's Auxiliary labels are pressed on.

Our three dozen blankets will be a portion of the 200+ we expect to complete through our sister churches of the Federation. These are part of the larger ongoing mission of supplying UCMC new mother's with a gift of encouragement to take home.



LWML -Lutheran Women's Missionary League, Cincinnati Zone • March 11

Good Shepherd Ladies: Please join All the LCMS Lutheran churches in Cincinnati in this effort of the LWML. Bring donations of socks, undies, and T-shirts for adults and children. All donations will be gathered and sorted on **Saturday March 11 beginning at 9:30 a.m.** for distribution to Immanuel Lutheran's Kids Church and to Prince of Peace Lutheran homeless. **St. Mark's Lutheran (Milford)** will host this event titled "Ohio District- We Serve You with Gladness" from 9:30 am until 2:00 pm. This event will be divided into three parts: Ohio District Presentation by Co-Chairmen Liz Underwood and Nicole Dowdell (highlighting how they serve the zones), the servant event (sorting what is collected for distribution), light lunch, and our zone meeting (where details of the upcoming Missions In Motion will be provided, the nominating committee will be reporting candidates for President and Secretary, and a bylaws committee will be reporting on their progress in updating the bylaws to align with the updates of the Ohio District Bylaws at the last district convention). It is important that all our women participate in these decisions. All women are encouraged to attend all portions, or whatever fits into their schedule. (Snow date on Saturday March 25.)



Federation of Lutheran Churches • POBLO Initiative and Flood Buckets

International Fellowship Centers–POBLO missionaries to be ready in early 2023! [Excerpt from Cincinnati Lutheran]

Ramey Yousef, his wife Miriam, and their three daughters, Nour, Nagham, and Nada, were selected as the missionary family POBLO (People of the Book Lutheran Outreach) is bringing to Cincinnati. Their visas are being processed. First, the Yousef family will go to POBLO's headquarters in Michigan, where they will receive training to prepare them for missionary work in the U.S. After a month or two, they will come to Cincinnati to open International Fellowship Centers. These centers will provide services such as citizenship classes, teaching English as a second language, job readiness training, and other services attractive to immigrants from the Middle East. **Volunteers Will Be Needed!** There will be many opportunities for volunteers to help the Yousefs and the many activities that will take place in the centers. Rev. Farrukh Khan, Director of Development for POBLO, will be sharing volunteer opportunities with our pastor(s) as the time to open the centers becomes more definite.



Ramey and Miriam



Nour, Nagham, and Nada

January Events

Glen and Kim bike trip out of the country



Taking Down Christmas Decorations



**February 19
Potato Bar Fundraiser
for Voter's Meeting**

**February 20
Skiing at Perfect North
More information to come**

Youth Lock In





Purses With A Purpose

Thanks to everyone who donated their gently used purses for this project. We have plenty! Please join us after the Women's Bible Breakfast on Saturday, February 11 to stuff these purses with items that women who are experiencing homelessness can use.



Lent Begins Wednesday, February 22

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