



Good News From Good Shepherd

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

January, 2023

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
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Pastor, What Does This Mean?

How is our Divine Service on Sunday morning structured?

From the earliest days of Christianity, there has been two major parts to the Divine Service on Sunday morning (sometimes referred to as the worship service). Through the ages, these two parts might be designated with such phrases as "Scripture and Sacrifice" or "Message and Meal." Another designation for these two parts that came about in the Middle Ages was the "Mass of the Catechumens" and the "Mass of the Faithful." These phrases put the emphasis on the worshiper's relation to the congregation. In the first half of the service, Catechumens were still learning what Christ had done for them (Baptized Members), whereas the faithful (Communicant Members) were being reminded of God's continual goodness towards them. In this the faithful were being prepared for the second half of the service the reception of the very body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins.

Sadly, by the time of the Reformation, the two parts were designated as "Ante-communion and Communion." These names placed the Lord's Supper above preaching, making it the mountaintop (main) event with preaching as merely a preparatory (ante) activity. In 1526, when Martin Luther made his visitation to the various congregations within the state of Saxony, preaching was rarely heard in some congregations because the Lord's Supper was so heavily emphasized.

Lutherans typically designate these two major parts as the "Service of the Word" and the "Service of the Sacrament," emphasizing the importance of both Preaching and Holy Communion. The Divine Service on Sunday will have in a sense two mountaintop experiences where Christ himself will service us with His Word and His Supper assuring us that indeed we have forgiveness, life, and salvation.

The liturgy for each of the Divine Services in our hymnal (Lutheran Service Book-LSB) do not start with the "Service of the Word," but with "Confession and Absolution." In our bulletin as well, the beginning of the service is designated as "The Preparation" in which we confess our sins and receive God's Absolution (forgiveness). Why does that part stand separate from the Divine Service?

In the days before the Lutheran Reformation, Confession was a rite exercised before attending the Divine Service and typically in another area of the church building such as in a side chapel. A "Service of Confession and Exhortation to Communion" was offered to those who had announced their desire to receive the Lord's Supper.

The fathers of the Lutheran Reformation appreciated the spiritual value in this preparatory confession and absolution. Here they saw an opportunity for the faithful to be reminded of their Baptism into Christ and have the opportunity by contrition and repentance to drown and kill the old Adam with all its sins and evil lusts, so that the new man could come forth and arise. As Lutheran dioceses began reforming the liturgies in their respective providence, the Rite of Confession and Absolution was being added as a Service of Preparation before the start of the Divine Service. In this introductory act, the Lutheran Church, by its positive declaration of forgiveness to all who believe on the name of the Triune God, grounds the entire service upon the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ. **Pastor Mike Poynter**

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A Message from Your President

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15 (NIV)

Just for fun I searched the NIV for the word 'resolution'. It wasn't found. The verse chosen as the 'best result' was the one above from 2 Timothy. It's a great choice for considering our 2023 resolution. Let's resolve corporately and individually to.....



Do your [our] best... Whatever you do, work at it **with all your heart**, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, Colossians 3:23 (NIV)

to present yourself to God as one approved, ... Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and **pleasing to God**—this is your true and proper worship. Romans 12:1 (NIV)

a worker ... As God's co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." (Isaiah 49:8) I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation. 2 Corinthians 6: 1-2 (NIV)

who does not need to be ashamed For I am **not ashamed** of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. Romans 1:16 (NIV)

and who correctly handles the word of truth. ...

Psalms 119:43 Never take your **word of truth** from my mouth, for I have put my hope in your laws.

2 Corinthians 4:2 Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the **word of God**. On the contrary, by setting forth the **truth** plainly we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight **of God**.

If we take action on such a resolution, we will be busy indeed in God's mission, doing our best sacrificially; pleasing God as co-workers, unashamed of His gospel power; spending time feeding on and feeding others with the simple truth of salvation!

Council Actions: The leadership team did not meet in December. Our next meeting is Monday, January 9.



Marlis Norton, Council Pres.

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

Christian Education

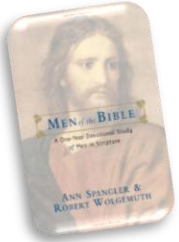


Women's Bible Breakfast • Saturday • February 11

We will meet at on Saturday, **January 14**. But will resume on February 11. Bring a dish to share or your own personal favorite if you prefer. God always provides just what we need. 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.

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



February

January

Lee Brooks	January 3
Isaiah Warren	January 8
Kim Leavens	January 10
Shane Waite	January 12
Zach Molina	January 15
Marian Brockhoff	January 17
Mary Givhan	January 31

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 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

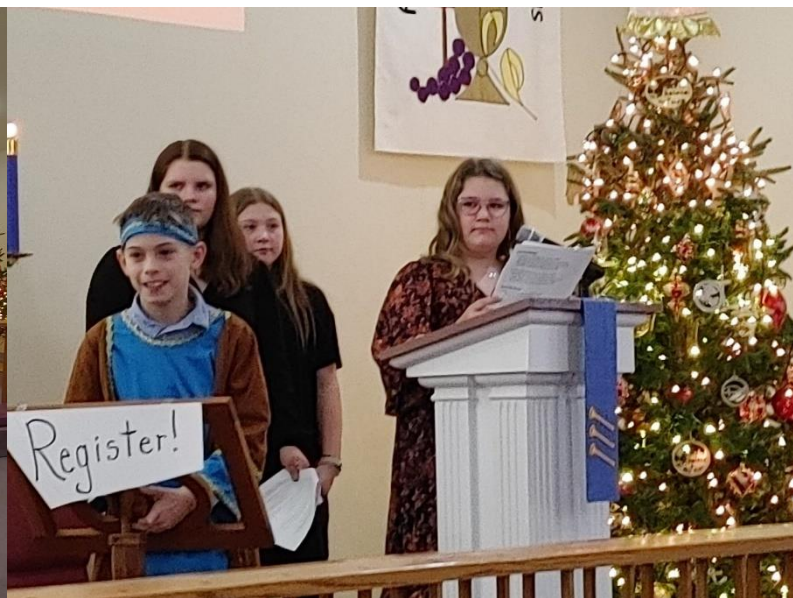


December Events

Decorating the Church for the Holiday



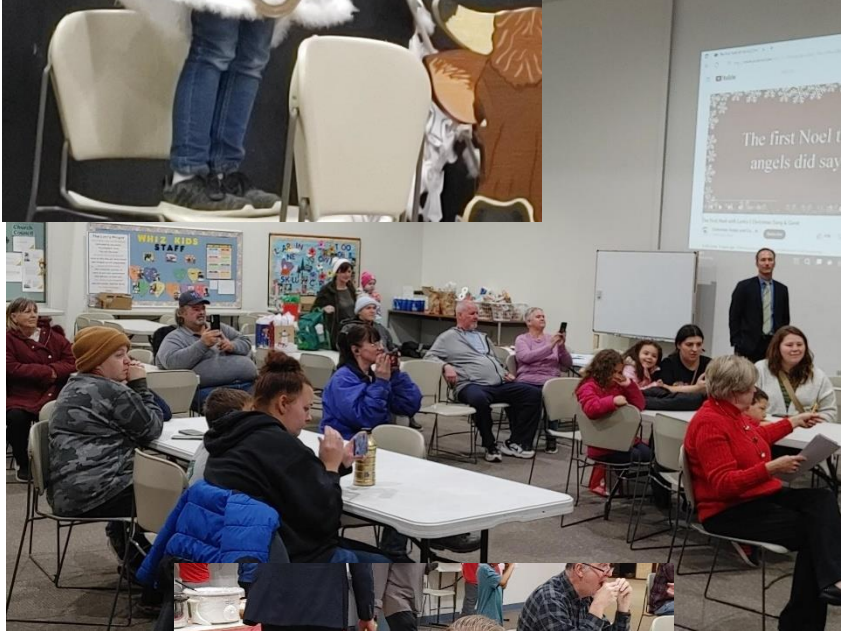
Sunday School Christmas Play



O.W.L.S. at the Ark



Whiz Kids Christmas Play



Caroling to the Shut Ins



Edna and Elmer Gorger



Vonnie and Calvin Herr



Virginia and Fred Langsdale



Marion Brockhoff

Special Music On Christmas Day



Ashlyn Brann



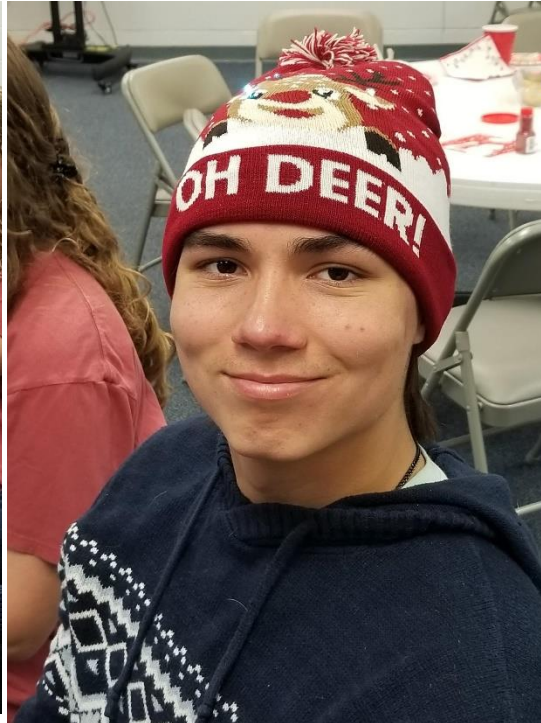
Jillian Cottrell



Jacob Brann



Youth Christmas Party



Angel Tree Gift Distribution



**Thank you to everyone who gave gifts to the
33 children and 5 seniors on the Angel Tree.
Your generosity was exceptional.**

**You are a blessing to those who received
your gifts.**



Ordination and Installation of Rev. Chris Caughey. New pastor at Trinity-Maysville and St. Paul-Chatham, Ky. December 11, 2022 at St. Paul-Chatham near Augusta, KY

Left to right front row:

Rev M Poynter; Rev Kelvin Wilson-Ohio Dist. President; Rev Dr Chris Caughey; Rev Dr Cary Larson-President of the AALC; Rev Allen Stuckwisch-Messiah LC Cincinnati and Circuit Visitor West.

Second row right to left:

Rev Tim Beck-St Paul LC and Cincinnati-Circuit Visitor East; other pastors of the AALC

Women's Auxiliary Committee • Cookie Pack • Thank you!

The Cookie Pack which took place at Christ Lutheran Church, Compton Rd, Cincinnati, on December 5 was another success! Thank you to all the donors from Good Shepherd and others. We received 30 finished boxes which were distributed to the folks at the Acadia Senior Living apartments. They were a sweet surprise and much appreciated. If you missed the opportunity to participate, the event is annual. Mark your calendar for the first Monday of December, 2023!



NORTHERN KENTUCKY CHAPTER OF LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

January is the beginning of the New Year, as well as the start-up to our Annual Baby Bottle Boomerang in support of The New Hope Center! Empty baby bottles will be in a basket near the front door as you enter church. Please prayerfully consider taking a bottle home and filling it with change or a check made out to *The New Hope Center*. Then **BOOMERANG** it back to church where the bottles will be collected and given in support of New Hope's important ministry. Starting Dates and Return Dates for the bottles will be listed in the Voice.

The New Hope Center continues to help and give hope to women who find themselves with an unexpected pregnancy. The Center provides free pregnancy tests, ultrasounds and counseling.

Thank you for partnering with us to save babies and strengthen families. Jackie Vezina





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