



Good News From Good Shepherd

"I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd gives His life for the sheep."

John 10:11

July, 2021

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
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Freedom

During this time of year, we celebrate the freedoms we have as citizens of the United States. We have freedom to come and go as we please, freedom to pursue the education and job which suits our fancy, and freedom to worship God without persecution. While we thank God for these freedoms, we sometimes forget to also thank God for the freedoms we have in Christ.

When thinking about the freedom we have in Christ, we typically remember our freedom from the punishment our sinful nature deserves. After all, "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). However, Romans 8:1-2, says "there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ² because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death."

What a wonderful gift from God. We are no longer subject to judgement and have passed from a death sentence to life everlasting! Yet, there is more. Christ gives us other freedoms as well by removing the fears we have in our lives that cause us to commit individual acts of sin.

For example, **we fear being taken advantage of.** This can occur when someone says or does something nasty to us out of malice or because they are simply having a bad day. To prevent our being taken advantage of, we tend to lash out at those who offend us instead of being kind to them. In John 17:11, Jesus prays for God to protect us. This gives us confidence that God will take care of us and bless us when we respond with kindness. Remembering this frees us from the need to lash out to protect ourselves.

We fear not getting what we need or want. Because of this fear, we tend to become demanding instead of patient or we may even take things that don't belong to us. Matthew 6:31-33 states God's promise to provide for us saying, "So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." This gives us confidence that God will provide for us and bless us if we rely upon him. Remembering this frees us from our perceived need to lie, cheat or steal in order to get what we want.

We fear not being significant. This fear drives us to seek glory for ourselves. But James 1:12 says, "Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him." This gives us the confidence that God knows each one of us and will bless us in the ages to come. Remembering this frees us from the need to take for ourselves credit that rightly belongs to another and frees us to lift up others instead of ourselves.

We fear not being loved. This may be the worst of all fears, and it causes us to be possessive or to, as they say, look for love in all the wrong places. But again Matthew 19:27-29 records, ²⁷ Peter answered him, "We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?" ²⁸ Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ²⁹ And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life." We know God loves us. If he didn't Jesus wouldn't

Table of Content

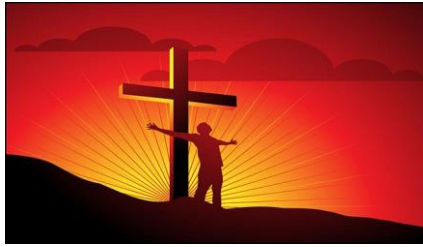
From the Head Elder	page 1-2
A Message from Your President	page 2-3
Christian Education Opportunities	page 3-4
Library News	page 4
LWML Convention Highlights	page 5
Weekend VBS	page 6
Birthdays	page 7
Save the Date	
Trash for Cash	page 7
June Events	page 8-9
Lutheran for Life White Crosses	page 10
Adopt-a-chap	page 10
Stewardship Newsletter	page 11

Freedom continued

have bothered to die for us. He gives us the confidence that God has provided us a family of fellow believers larger than we could ever have imagined. Remembering this frees us from the need to seek the wrong kind of love and allows us to love others with an agape love instead.

God has indeed freed us, not only from the ultimate penalty of our sin, but the daily hold of sin on our lives. Let us celebrate our freedoms in Christ and live in a manner worthy of those freedoms.

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



A Message from Your President



Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance. Psalms 33:12

On July 4 we celebrate, and rightly so, the providence, perseverance and courage of our national forefathers to stand up to oppressive rule and declare independence for the colonies of America. They couldn't imagine the level of struggle that would ensue and the number of years and lost lives it would take to establish and secure that freedom to pursue life, liberty and happiness.

While we're enjoying the family, food and fireworks of this holiday, it's a great time to contemplate our ultimate freedom and the sacrifice it required.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, Luke 4:18



Recently returned from the wilderness and His temptation, Jesus was in the synagogue at Nazareth where he read the above passage from Isaiah 61 and declared its fulfillment to his listeners. Unlike the men of the colonies, Jesus knew exactly what the sacrifice would be and the time, blood and perseverance it would require. Take some time to ponder the truth of that independence and really celebrate!

Freedom makes a huge requirement of every human being. With freedom comes responsibility. For the person who is unwilling to grow up, the person who does not want to carry his own weight, this is a frightening prospect. Eleanor Roosevelt

Freedom in Christ carries its own weighty responsibility. Are we grown up? Are we willing to carry our own weight? Are we afraid to do so? Jesus was crystal clear in his final directive: **GO ye!... and.... Lo, I am with you always...** (Matthew 28:29-30). We've got our marching orders and we've got an all-powerful Captain. What are we waiting for? Don't overcomplicate it. GO to your neighbor, the grocery clerk, the postal worker, the restaurant server and share the reason for your joy and celebration. Jesus has set me free! Don't know Jesus? Come,

Council Actions: A number of consensus decisions were made including: 1) moving the library to make better use of those resources and the space they occupy; 2) ensuring the upcoming youth canoe trip will appropriately protect GSL and the youth; 3) posting the mission and vision statements on the website. Prior to doing so, the CAT committee will be

A Message from Your President continued

reconvened to consider the statements in view of our current congregational priorities. These statements have not been reviewed/modified since 2007.

Formally, the council voted to approve the White Cross display, making our statement in support of the sanctity of life as God intended. Informally, we learned that the maintenance and painting of the FLC stucco will add about \$11,000 to the needs of the building fund. Later in the week we learned that we would receive an LCEF Connecting Grant of \$500 to improve our technology and online service experience. Praise God!

We are still in need of a volunteer for appointment to the position of Secretary. The Secretary is a voting member of council and a trustee, responsible for recording the minutes of both council and voter meetings. Council typically meets not more than 11 times a year and voters meet at least three times. Access to email and Word makes the job easier. Please consider this service opportunity and contact any council member or prayerfully consider a direct ask.

The Stewardship Board reminds us to complete our pledges of time and treasure. If you need the forms resent, contact the office. You simply download the form, complete it, save it, attach it and send it back. Keepin' it simple.

Marlis Norton, Council Pres.

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

Christian Education

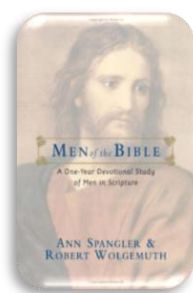


Women's Bible Breakfast • Saturday • July 10

Mark your calendars for the second Saturday in **July at 9 a.m.** We 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. We take all the necessary precautions of masking, distancing and cleanliness around service items. If you wish to participate remotely, let me know by Wednesday, July 7 and a Zoom session will be set up and the study emailed to you.

Women's Sunday Bible Study • *Forgiveness* • 11 a.m.

Our small group meets in the Duchow Room. Though not optimal for this study, a Zoom connection is provided for those not able to meet in person. Our study is *Forgiveness* by Donna Pyle (now Snow). The book is available from CPH for \$14.99. Please feel free to join in. It's not too late! We're only just completed the second week of study out of 8!



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

We are meeting in person; providing zoom for those who prefer. 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.

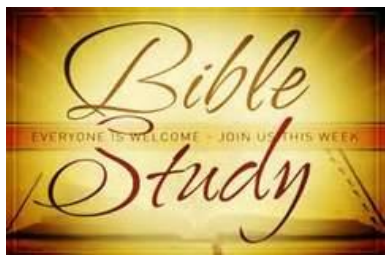
Women's Bible Study at Sherri Smith's *Jeremiah* Tuesdays 3-5 pm and 6-8 pm

All women are welcome to join WBS, including friends outside of GSLC. We are discussing *Jeremiah*, a book that speaks to our country today as much as it did in Jeremiah's day. Contact Sherri who lives in Union at 210-854-2598 if interested.



Men's Bible Study

**Monday mornings at 9 am. *A Summary of Christian Doctrine*
Will not meet on July 5. Resume on July 12**



Summary of Christian Doctrine
A New Heaven and a New Earth.
Sunday Morning Bible Study
Sunday morning 8:45 am
Wednesday evening 7:00 pm

Led by Pastor Poynter



LIBRARY NEWS

Did you know that the church has a library that is available to all, including children? The library is currently located in the room next to the church office. Have you ever used the library? We are also placing a suggestion/comment box for you to use. Or if you would prefer, you may email me at klmeckstroth01@gmail.com or the church secretary. Please add library to the subject line so that we can respond accordingly. Each

comment will be taken seriously and if you leave contact information, there will be a written reply. We are especially interested in if the library is being used, what would make it more appealing to use, what kinds of books you would like to see included, and if you do not use the library, why not?

Featured books this month include three devotional booklets:

1. ***God's Wisdom for Your Life—Men's Edition***. Yes, we have books for all
2. ***Chicken Soup for the Soul, Healthy Living Series on Breast Cancer***
3. ***Because of the Cross***—excerpt: "Rejoice in the knowledge that because of the cross, death in this life brings life everlasting".

We have many devotional books for men, women, families, teens and children. Check them out.

For All: The process for borrowing is easy. Just sign your name on the card and leave the card in a small basket labeled for cards. We are using the card information for statistics about the use of the library, so it is important that these cards be left when you borrow a book. Then return the book to the marked basket for returns. There is no due date, just when you are finished. The Librarian will match up the cards and return the books to the shelves. A catalogue is also being prepared to let you know what books and topics are available.

Let's all make this library a thing to us. **Kathy Meckstroth, The Librarian**



LWML National Convention, Lexington, KY, a Grand Success!

Didn't attend convention or missed parts of the convention?

Watch the sessions at livestream.com/TheLWML.

All sessions are archived for you to view at your convenience!



[Go to Livestream](#)



Parade of all 71(!) mission nations ↑

The LWML National Convention was a rousing success. The convention committee pulled off a mini miracle - having only two months to pivot fully from a likely on-line to an all out on-site event! Scores of volunteers were necessary and willing and got the job done. KUDOS TO ALL!! God was walking with all of them all the way! All are invited to go to LWML.ORG and click the [Go to Livestream](#) link and enjoy it at your leisure.

Highly recommended : The message of Rev. Dr. David Maier, LCMS Michigan District President, in the Thursday worship service beginning at about minute 43; the message of past LWML National President Linda Reiser on Friday afternoon beginning at about minute 38; and also on Friday, the Mites in Action speaker Pastor John Carrier, Camp Restore Detroit, at about 2:36 into the recording. You'll find Missionary Gary, Mission Central, at about 2:13 into the Saturday morning session to get your mission wakeup call! But don't just cherry-pick the recordings, you'll want the full experience after these highlights! Check out all the info about the work God is doing through LWML!



← Host Committee (Ohio, Michigan, Indiana) District Banners

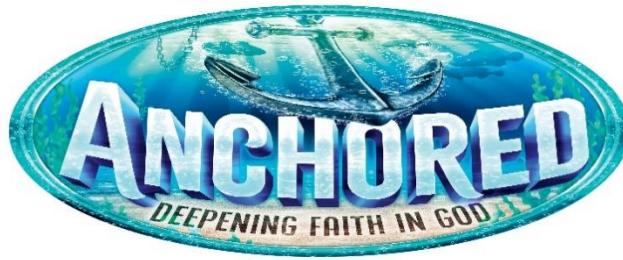
The White Charger finished the race and the convention! →



← Olivia (IN Dist), Marlis, Carla Elenz (MI Dist)

Marlis and Carla → Elenz





Weekend VBS
August 21-22, 2021
10:00 am – 2:00 pm

VBS is back. This year we will have an abbreviated form of VBS which will be held on August 21 starting at 10:00 am and end at 2:00 pm. On Sunday morning, August 22, we will share our VBS experience with the congregation. Registration is opened only to the youths at Good Shepherd and any friend they would like to invite. This VBS is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear, and touch. Team-building games, cool Bible songs, and multisensory Bible adventures Please join us.

Volunteers are also needed.

VBS Registration Form

1.	_____	_____	_____	_____
	Name	Age	M/F	Grade Completed
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
	Name	Age	M/F	Grade Completed
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
	Name	Age	M/F	Grade Completed

Name of Parent(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____ Cell #: _____

Email address: _____

Emergency Contact _____ Phone Number _____

Allegories, other medical condition or special need

Photo Release: I hereby grant the above-named church permission to copyright and use photographs/videos taken at VBS of the minor designated above in any manner or form for any purpose lawful at any time. I waive any right that I may have to inspect or approve the finished product or written copy, that may be used in conjunction therewith, or the use to which it may be applied.

Parent Signature

Date



July

Lucas Edward Ostermeier	July 4
Liz Molina	July 6
Lori Raap	July 7
Steve Warren	July 9
Chelsea Wainscott	July 12
Terry Frey	July 13
Jennifer Gumm	July 16
Billy Mitchell	July 23
David Smith	July 23
Kathy Nielsen	July 27
Jackie Raap	July 27
Wyatt Woolley	July 27
Marc Vonderlage	July 29

August

Alberta Caughey	August 1
Steve Oberst	August 2
Madelyn Cottrell	August 5
Vonnie Herr	August 6
Susan Speicher	August 11
Sharon Snowden	August 13
Eric Berns	August 15
Bryan Molina	August 16
Sherri Smith	August 20
Debbie Fitzpatrick	August 23
Becky Aragon	August 25
Connor Gumm	August 28
Will Vonderlage	August 28

Save The Date

Trash for Cash

Rescheduled

July 17, 2021

Giving Green to Keep Boone County Green

Due to bad weather on June 19, Trash for Cash Pickup is scheduled for July 19 Please join us. A sign-up sheet will be placed on the Activity Board in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Givhan (mtgivhan310507@hotmail.com or 513.295.5068). Please join us!!!!!!



June Events

Glen and Tammy greet a youth group from Bethlehem Lutheran School, Ossian, Indiana



Fellowship After Church Service



Youth Game Day



NORTHERN KENTUCKY LUTHERANS FOR LIFE



The White Cross display will again grace the lawns of Good Shepherd for 2 weeks beginning Saturday, July 24, 2021 and ending on Saturday, August 7th. This “Memorial of the Innocents” represents 4,000 lives a day that are aborted in this country.

Placing the White Cross display is a huge undertaking that requires many hands on, but the effect is very moving and well worth it. “Stringers” will begin the process at 8 a.m. to be followed by the “Placers” at 9 a.m. Mr. Sendelbach, the owner and builder of the display, will be on hand to supervise. Some hammers will be available, but feel free to bring your own. A sign-up sheet can be found in the Family Life Center. Everyone is welcome to participate!

Raising the crosses is a wonderful experience for the whole family. It shows the community that Good Shepherd chooses Jesus and respects the sanctity of all human life. We are all children of God!



Adopt –a-chap”



The “Adopt-a-Chap” program connects LCMS congregations with the Synod’s Ministry to the Armed Forces (MAF) by matching LCMS chaplains with those who wish to support and encourage them. No financial commitment or aid is needed or expected. The congregation and the adopted chaplain stays in regular contact. Congregation members pray for the chaplain and his family, and, in turn,

learn about his specialized ministry in the military context. To begin the “Adopt-a-Chap” process, contact the MAF office at 314-996-1337 or send an email to alicia.hinton@lcms.org and indicate a desire to “adopt a chap.”

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Newsletter

July 2021

“For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery” (Galatians 5:1).

We celebrate this month because of the freedoms and liberties our country has afforded us. We are right to do this. We should be thankful for these liberties – the freedom to gather together to worship and to live out what believe in our daily lives.

But freedom and liberty in our age have devolved. It has become a freedom from duty instead of a freedom for it. Indeed, freedom and liberty in our age has turned into licentiousness – a license to do what we want, when we want. This license is a submission again to a yoke of slavery. For freedom as license to do what we desire when we desire it means we are slaves to our desires and slaves to our passions.

Christ died to set us free from our desires. In Holy Baptism, our Old Adam is drowned and put to death along with all sin and evil desires so that a new man may arise and live before God in righteousness and purity. In Christ, we are a new creation. We are set free from the passions of the flesh so that we are free to do our duty and bear fruits of the Spirit.

Our duty is what God calls us to do as members of a family, society, and the Church. God calls us to believe in His Word and gladly hear and learn it. He calls us to pray for all people. He calls us to live in faith toward Him and in fervent love for our neighbor. He calls us to put the gifts He gives to us in His service. God calls parents provide for their children and raise them in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

And God calls children to honor their parents and provide and care for them when they are no longer able to do so themselves. God calls the government to punish those who do evil and to reward those who do good. He calls citizens to pay their taxes and honor the governing officials as God’s servants. He calls pastors to preach and teach the Gospel, repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And He calls hearers to support those who teach them with every good thing.

Christ died to set us free from the works of our selfish flesh, giving us the freedom and liberty to do our duty. Stand firm, then, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.





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