



# Good News From Good Shepherd

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

July, 2022

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**  
website: [www.gslcky.org](http://www.gslcky.org) 859.746.9066  
9066 Gunpowder Road Florence, KY 41042  
Church's Email: [secretary@gslcky.org](mailto:secretary@gslcky.org)

**Pastor Michael J. Poynter**  
[masappoynter@reagan.com](mailto:masappoynter@reagan.com) cell  
(513) 429-6778 (Call or text)

## A Message from Pastor Poynter

For my first newsletter article, I could not think of any better message than the teaching that reinvigorated me in my Christian faith and influenced me to become a pastor.

My good friend Steve Flo, who was a pastor at Grace Lutheran Church in De Soto, Missouri for 30 years, was a vicar at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Cincinnati during the 1987-1988 school year. During this time (and thereafter) he taught me many things about the teachings of the Lutheran Church; the most important of which was the Doctrine of Objective Justification.

The phrase "**Objective Justification**" is used by Lutheran theologians to express the Biblical teaching that all people are justified (forgiven) before God apart from their works. Our forgiveness is not based on who we are or by what we do. Instead, we are forgiven solely because of who Christ is and what He did for us, as our substitute, in His life, death, and resurrection. Our Justification is "objective." It stands apart from us. It is not dependent on us in any way. It's something that God accomplished alone through His Son.

Best of all, this justification has been fully secured by Christ for all people. There is no one in this world, past, present or future, who has not been forgiven of their sins 100%. Christ's atoning death has made complete satisfaction for all the sin committed by mankind, and for this reason God declares all people to be righteous in His sight. (objectively and universally justified; Romans 5, Colossians 2)

This, however, does not mean that all people are saved. As we well know, only those who believe (trust) in Jesus Christ shall be saved. (John 3:16-18) It is an objective truth that all people have been completely forgiven by God, but this objective forgiveness must be received and believed in order for an individual to be saved. This Objective Justification must be offered and taken hold of by faith. By the working of the Holy Spirit through the proclamation of the word, one receives faith; and faith immediately takes hold of this objective gift of forgiveness and says, "That's for me too." When this happens in a person's life, it becomes personal or subjective. (conversion) Our Lutheran theologians call this "Subjective Justification."

We might consider the sun as an example. The sun is objective. Its warmth and light is there for the whole world. However, if you live in a cave that warmth and light will not be applied to you subjectively or personally. The gift of the sun is for everyone but the cave dweller will never personally benefit from it unless he is moved outside of his rocky abode. Once in the sun, he can say, "that sun is for everyone including me!"

Here's another example. Imagine a king who pardons all the criminals in his kingdom. Everyone is forgiven of their crimes. The king then has messengers sent out to all the prisoners in the land to declare their release. Now, even though all had been "objectively" pardoned, none of the prisoners were (subjectively/personally) released from their jail cell until the news of their pardon was delivered and received. When each prisoner heard that the king pardoned all criminals, then each could say, "That includes me as well!"

The good news that all people are completely forgiven does no one any good unless this news is proclaimed to people and applied to their lives by the Holy Spirit through God's Word and Holy Sacraments.

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Below, I have given you an article entitled "**God's 100%,"** which was written by Pastor Flo back when he was a vicar. After enlightening me with this most fundamental Christian teaching, Steve gave me this article. It has since become one of my most treasured possessions and I pray that it will become one of yours as well.

I hope that what Pastor Flo and I have written here will reinvigorate you in your Christian faith. May God's Objective Forgiveness be the firm foundation for your relationship with God, and may we all take this message of what Christ did for all mankind and tell it to our family, friends, and neighbors. It is truly the greatest news that you, and they, will ever hear in your life. **Pastor Poynter Contact pastor at masappoynter@reagan.com or 513-429-6778**

### **God's 100%**

Isn't it "in" most of us to think that God loves us more, or is more pleased with us, if we try to please Him more? After all, that seems to be true for every other relationship we experience in this life. People generally like us more if we work at trying to be pleasing, interested, concerned, and willing to go along with them, than if we do not.

It is natural, then, for us to think that God is like that. Surely, we feel, He'll be more pleased with us if we serve more, obey more, or believe more.

Friend in Christ, this is how God is different from us and every other person in the world. His love for us is 100% right now. He couldn't be more pleased with us, even before we try. How can this be? Because God's love and pleasure for us is NOT based on what we do! His love for us is entirely based on His Son Jesus Christ.

What we do (or don't do) has no effect on God's love for us in Christ. His love is constant. It's like the sun. It constantly shines on us whether we have our eyes open or closed. But that's the problem, we can close our eyes, not only to the sun but also to God's love. Though we have no influence or control on getting God's love to shine on us (that's done by His grace), we do have control whether

we will deny that love and walk away from it. We can go the way of sin if we want. Our walking in sin means we turn our back on **God's 100%** approval and we start to move toward His 100% wrath. May God forbid that we should ever continue in that direction!

No, God loves us 100% right now. There's nothing we can do to make that love increase or decrease. We can only trust it or deny it. Denying it is the only unforgivable sin (it's called "unbelief"). Unbelief refuses to believe what Jesus has done.

Believe the Good News of **God's 100%** love for you RIGHT NOW. Even with all your faults and weaknesses, IN CHRIST God couldn't be more pleased with you RIGHT NOW. Isn't that the best news you ever heard? It's the GOSPEL and we have the privilege to share it with the rest of the world. **Share God's 100%** love with everyone. It will be the best news they ever heard. **Pastor Steve Flo**



### **A Message from Your President**

***It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. Gal. 5:1 (NKJV)***

Freedom isn't free. We see it on t-shirts, bumper stickers and numerous other places. We nod our heads in agreement. It is a statement of truth, both in the earthly realm and the spiritual. Our spiritual freedom, which we exercise in this world, certainly wasn't free. God made the ultimate sacrifice for those he surely desires to see in His everlasting kingdom.

But what exactly is this freedom that we have? According to Google's Oxford Language resource, freedom is defined as: 1) the power or right to act, speak, or think as one wants without hindrance or restraint; 2) the absence of subjection to foreign domination or despotic government; 3) the state of not being imprisoned or enslaved.



It would seem by the Oxford definition, that Christ's freedom isn't freedom at all. Those in Christ do have restraints in the Word of God, though He has overcome our subjection to the domination of Satan and his slavery. However, having the power or right neither equals nor infers being compelled to take any action, speech or thinking to which we have the right. There is an implied restraint of responsibility that comes with freedom as Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians.

***All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. 1 Cor. 6:12 (KJV)***

Being free does not imply carte blanche. Let us remember to exercise our freedom bounded by the loving restraint we are taught in the Word through Christ our ultimate freedom provider.

***You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. Gal. 5:13 (NIV)***

**Council Actions:** The council meeting in June was attended by our newly elected Christian Ministry Board Chair, Linnea Caldon. Thank you, Linnea! As a refresher, recall that this board coordinates our collective efforts in the areas of outreach, inreach (fellowship), stewardship and communications. If you have served in these areas, please consider continuation to provide a smooth transition supporting Linnea and our common mission. If you have not, please consider the talents you have been blessed with and apply them to the service of God's church.

The team reached consensus on the following items: ● Our financial status to date; ● Elder plans for addressing the non-active member list presented to voters with some form of personal contact; ● Next steps for transitioning the e-giving portal to Vanco and which funds will be featured; ● Consideration of worship materials for children; ● Status of GSL document archiving; ● Possible tech assistance (from application management to sanctuary sound) from the Ohio District; ● No meeting in July.

We received notification from the Ohio District that, despite our desire to the contrary, our Southwest Circuit 2 region would be merged with Circuit 1 for the 2023 National Convention. In so doing, the larger collective of churches will only have one lay and one pastoral delegate to the convention. If our Circuit 2 membership increases from its current 1436 to 1500 or more, the board of directors are empowered to change the merger decision.

**Marlis Norton, Council Pres.**

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

## **Christian Education Offerings**

### **Witnessing**

#### **A Six-week study beginning Saturday, July 16th at 10:00 a.m.**

As Christians, what is it we have to offer others? When the Spanish Franciscan monks moved into New Mexico in the early 1500's, they worked to convert the Indians to Christianity. The Indians initially joined this new group, but quickly turned away. The "god" they were introduced to didn't protect them from drought, attacks from rival Indians, or the diseases the Spanish brought from Europe. This new religion did not offer anything to the Indians.

People today wonder what it is Christianity has to offer. In Acts 3:1-6, Peter and John went to the temple to pray, and a man lame from birth asked them for money. Peter and John looked at him and said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" The man immediately rose up able to walk and praised God. Yet, today we cannot make the lame walk or the blind see. Those gifts were only given to the Apostles to share. What we learn from Acts is that we can only offer what Jesus has provided to us. And that is the gift of eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ.

Eternal life. That is what we have for ourselves; that is what we have to offer to others. Nothing more. Nothing less. We don't want to oversell Christianity by claiming it will vastly improve peoples' physical lives. Christianity does not provide wealth or health. Neither do we want to undersell it by thinking forgiveness of sins isn't meaningful today. Faith in Jesus Christ changes relationships with God for the better. It changes how we view and live our lives in a right relationship with God due to the forgiveness of our sins. It changes how we will spend eternity. What better offer is there than that?

People need to clearly hear this offer in order to have the proper expectations. We are not offering a prosperity gospel like the Indians in New Mexico were inappropriately expecting and did not receive. Some preach that type gospel today, but it does not save. We do not preach a gospel of salvation by good works. No one can achieve that type of salvation. Instead, we preach salvation through faith alone in Jesus Christ.

People need to clearly hear this offer now. We should not wait for our non-Christian friends to become sick or hospitalized to rally around them and pray for them. People who do not believe in Jesus are already dead in their sins. We must share what we have to offer now, a new eternal life in Christ Jesus.

Please join with Billy Mitchell as he leads a six-week study on Witnessing. In the study we remember the gift of salvation we have been provided and learn to share it clearly with others. The study will be held at church beginning Saturday, July 16th at 10:00 a.m. We look forward to seeing you there.

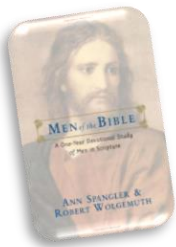


### **Women's Bible Breakfast • Saturday • August 13**

Our second-Saturday Bible Breakfast resumes at 9 a.m. on Saturday, **August 13**. It's not a misprint. We are skipping July accomodating busy summer schedules. When we reconvene In August, bring a dish to share or your own personal favorite if you prefer. God always provides just what we need. We'll continue the LWML Fruits of the Spirit study series and will focus on Goodness.

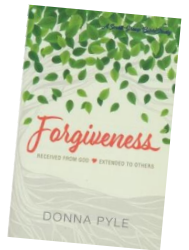
### **Women's Sunday Bible Study • *Forgiveness* • 8:45 a.m.**

Our small group meets in the Duchow Room. 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!



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

We are on a brief hiatus until July 19. On that day we will resume our discussion of Job. All are welcome. Join in any time. We study one person at a time, often in multiple sessions, no book required. If you wish to be included, let Lynn know and we'll get any necessary materials and the meeting invite to you.



**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**  
Topic: Judging Others. When How and When to Judge



### **Lutheran Bible Translators (LBT)** **Living Water - Experience Scripture**

Go to <https://lbt.org/livingwater/> to experience the scriptures in a whole new, bold, unique way. It's free by subscribing with your email address. You will receive notifications when a new chapter is ready for your listening pleasure and be able to access all books and chapters currently available beginning with Matthew.

Good Shepherd deliberately supports this incredible mission effort through budgeted giving based on our general offering so that all may have God's Word to hold in their hands and hear in their ears and in their hearts.

***How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? Romans 10:14***



## July

Lucas Edward Ostermeier July 4  
Liz Molina July 6  
Lori Raap July 7  
Steve Warren July 9  
Chelsea Wainscott July 12  
Terrell Frey July 13  
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  
Michelle Vezina 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  
Naomi Poynter August 23  
Becky Aragon August 25  
Will Vonderlage August 28

## SAVE THE DATE

*Trash for Cash Pickup*

*July 23, 2022, 9-11 am*

*Dixie Highway and Industrial Road*

**Giving Green to Keep Boone County Green**



Lutherans  
For Life

Did You Know...  
Lutherans For Life...

- **Assists For Life Christians** in offering the hope and help of the Good News of Jesus Christ to: women with an untimely pregnancy, women, men and families suffering under the guilt of an abortion, young people with questions and concerns about sexuality; and the elderly and those with disabilities or terminal illnesses.
- **Believes God gives the gift of life to all people** – from the moment of conception until natural death.
- **Witnesses** to the sanctity of human life through education based on the Word of God.
- **Serves** through individuals who volunteer at pregnancy care centers, with hospice, through prayer, and in a wide variety of caring activities.
- Is a **Recognized Service Organization (RSO)** of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.
- Is a **ministry partner** of the North American Lutheran Church.
- Is supported entirely by individual donations and grants. **Submitted by Jackie Vezina**



# June Events

## Trash for Cash Pick-Up



Ty brought many friends with him.



Believe it or not there's trash up here



Not much trash in that neighborhood!!!!!!





Linnea and Linda found lots of trash along the highway



**Join us on the next trash pick up  
Which will be held on July 23.  
This one will be used to match a grant from LCMS**



**After we finished with trash pick-up Ty and his friend helped move furniture for Marion**



# Grant Reasoner's Graduation Party

The Reasoners are former members at GSLC



Nora, Leah, Abby O'Grady, and Emily



Grant's Art Work



## Trail Life Boys Club Campout at Church



**They joined us for worship**



## Installation of Church Officers and Elders



## Elders and Pastor at Work



**Discussing plans to return to kneeling at the altar to receive communion.**







## Vacation Bible School

Saturday, July 9	Sunday, July 10
10 :00 – 2:00	9-9:45
Bible Adventure	Bible Adventure
Chew-Chew Lunch	Imagination Station
Loco Motion Game	On Track Video after service
Imagination Station (Crafts)	

**Registration Forms due now**  
**On Table in Entryway**  
**Join Us**  
**Bring a friend!**



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