



Good News From Good Shepherd

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

June 2020

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
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You Shall Do No Work

The summer holidays are upon us. We look forward to Memorial Day, the 4th of July and Labor Day because we don't have to go to work on these days. Yes, these are days of rest and relaxation.

Our summer holidays follow the church season in which we observed the death of Jesus on Good Friday, His resurrection on Easter Sunday and the birth of the church on Pentecost. It is no coincidence the Jewish festivals of Passover, the Feast of First Fruits and The Feast of Weeks correspond with these celebrations as they were instituted by God himself to point to Jesus.

Passover, on which Good Friday occurs, is the day the Jews were to sacrifice the lamb without blemish. The painting of the lamb's blood on their doorposts spared the Israelites from the angel of death that struck down the first-born Egyptian sons. The Bible tells us that Jesus is the sacrifice for our sins, our lamb without blemish:

1 Peter 1:18-19 ¹⁸ For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

The Feast of First Fruits is held on resurrection Sunday. According to Leviticus 23:10-14 the Israelites were to offer to God a sacrifice of the first of the barley harvest. The first fruits of the harvest relate to Jesus being the first resurrected to eternal life as described in 1 Corinthians:

1 Corinthians 15:20 ²⁰ But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

The Feast of Weeks was a one-day celebration which occurred 50 days after the Feast of First Fruits and is the same day on which the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples in the upper room. During this festival, the Jews were to take two loaves of leavened bread placed on one sheet and waive them before the Lord. The leaven represents our sinfulness and the two loaves represent both Jew and Gentile now being made one in Christ as the church. Ephesians refers to this:

Ephesians 3:6 ⁶ This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus

Good Friday, Easter Sunday, and Pentecost are sacred days for us in light of our Savior's sacrifice, resurrection, and sealing of us with his Holy Spirit. The understanding that his work for us was foretold through the Jewish festivals make them more meaningful, because it shows that our salvation was part of God's plan all along. Yet, God's requirements for the Jewish feasts show us one other aspect of our salvation: each of the feasts was a sacred assembly and God required *no work to be done*.

This begs the question of whether God added the rule against working to make sure we would have some rest and relaxation just like our summer holidays or he added it to make certain we would focus on the purpose of the feasts without being distracted by our jobs. I don't believe it is for either reason.

The Jewish feasts display for us God's role in his plan for our salvation; the sacrifice of the lamb, for instance, was ultimately performed by Jesus himself. But, through the feast, God also shows us our role in his plan for our salvation. *You shall do no work*.

As Christians, we believe that we are saved by faith alone in Jesus work on the cross and his resurrection from the dead, not by any work on our part. We cannot work our way into heaven. Paul says this plainly in his letter to the Ephesians:

Ephesians 2:8-9 ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God -- ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

This is a key Biblical truth, and as such, a tenet of the Lutheran church: we are saved through our faith alone in Christ alone. *You shall do no work.*

Isaiah 30:15 also says,

¹⁵ This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says: "In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength..."

When it comes to our salvation, the command to *do no work* doesn't mean rest and relaxation; no, it means repentance and *rest* from our attempts to work our way into heaven. If someone ever asks whether we are going to heaven, our response should be, "Yes, because of my faith in Jesus' death on the cross and in the power of his resurrection." We shouldn't ever say, "I hope so, if I've been good enough." We cannot get into heaven based on our works. We must follow the rules of the feasts: *You shall do no work.*

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Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. Isaiah 26:20



We celebrate the opening of our doors once again even as the challenges of living in these pandemic days continue. Yet Isaiah reminds us, even as we have been shutting our doors, church and home, sheltering in place and hiding ourselves until this indignant virus be overpast, it is but for a little moment in the scheme of God's timing.

When you consider the singular focus of the entire world is on an enemy it cannot see, who knows, but in such a time as this, that a similar singular focus is placed on a Savior it cannot see! Pray the Lord of All Creation gives us the privilege and opportunity to share our Hope in these times!

Virtual Meeting: Voter Assembly

At our Voter Assembly on **Sunday, May 17** we were able to successfully complete business via Zoom with 23 registered participants. The minutes together with the Zoom registration and poll reports will become the official account of the meeting and distributed to the congregation. The main item of business was the election of officers. The following will be seated July 1 for a two-year term ending June 30, 2022:

Office	Candidate	Elected Term	Office	Candidate	Elected Term
President	Marlis Norton	2nd	Elder	Glen Leavens	1st
Treasurer	Guddy Gawura	1st	Elder	Billy Mitchell	1st
Outreach	Julie Rath	2nd	Elder	Eric Berns	1st
Education	Mary Gihvan	1st			
Stewardship	Tammy Woolley	1st			
Communications	Jenn Ostermeier	2nd			

We will address the Constitution and Bylaws and two Fund Policies when we can come together for a special voter assembly and have the conversation needed to complete this business later in the year.

Virtual Meeting: Council in May

Council met virtually in May. The activities of the boards were shared with the congregation as prep for the Voter Assembly. We have faithful servants who are forwarding the missions of Good Shepherd overcoming the challenges of our need to distance. Inreach continues with Anniversary plans, Education is providing packages for at-home VBS activities, Outreach is continuing Charlie's Socks and making masks. Elders continue to refine our service options, our transition to Pastor Truax and the work of the Call Committee. **Council approved a maintenance expenditure that will allow Property to fix the lighting in our street sign with more reliable LEDs.**

Please remember your Council Servants and support them with your prayers, your encouragement, your gratitude and your time as you have the opportunity.

Now is when our works of faith and in faith are so desperately needed. From being a good citizen and following COVID guidelines especially as we are reopening our doors to our faithful financial support of our church. Now would be a grand time to take advantage of e-giving through our website especially if you are not comfortable yet worshipping in person. You can also mail your offerings and tithes to the church in c/o the Financial Secretary.



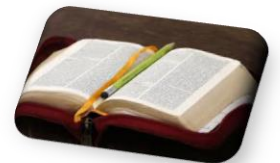
Marlis Norton, Council Pres.

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



Women's Sunday Bible Study • 11 a.m. Sunday via Zoom

We have Persevered and continue our study **Perseverance** through the book of Nehemiah by Donna Pyle.



Women's Bible Breakfast • Saturday • May 9 (Virtual)

Here's an idea ladies.... how about a Zoom study at 9 a.m. Saturday? We can stay cozy at home in our pjs and enjoy our breakfast and coffee while coming together over the next installment of A Time for Everything based on Ecclesiastes 3:8 - A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; *a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing*; Really?! How appropriate is that?!



Please contact me by email (mnorton6541@gmail.com) if you like the idea and would like a copy of the study via email.

Women's Auxiliary of the Federation • August Meeting Scheduled

The Executive Board is scheduled to meet at St Paul on Wednesday, August 12 provided we are cleared to meet in person. The Regular Meeting with Blanket Brigade will happen at the September meeting. More details to come later.

LWML Cincinnati Zone - Mission in Motion News

This event occurred as a conference call. We got confirmation that the June Ohio District Convention will be a virtual event. Delegates will get voting materials and instructions prior to the event. Our Cincinnati Zone president, Nicole, is chair of the 2021 National Convention Decorations Committee. The **National Convention will be in Lexington**. Please put **June 24-27, 2021** on your calendar now!



Yes Virginia, There will Be VBS but not at Church

VBS **was scheduled** to be held at Good Shepherd on June 8-12. However, with Coronavirus pandemic VBS will not be held in person VBS this year. The families that attended VBS last year will be receiving a VBS packet which will include a Bible lesson, Bible lesson activity, Bible craft suggestion, snack suggestion and a Bible lesson CD. We look forward to getting back together again next year.



"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." Galatians 6:20

Good Shepherd has a Care Team available to assist our members during times of need. If you need help during an illness or hospitalization of you or a loved one, such as help with meals, prayers, or other assistance, we ask that you contact any one of the following:

- Lynn Mitchell
email secretary@gslcky.org
Phone: 859-746-9066
- Mary Givhan
email: mtgivhan310507@hotmail.com
Phone: 513-295-5068
- Debbie Fitzpatrick
email: d.fitzpatrick@zoomtown.com
Phone: 859-689-2161
- Becky Aragon
email: markaragon91@hotmail.com
Phone: 858-750-2618
- David Smith
email: destax1962@gmail.com
Phone: 210-218-3685

We are here to serve and would like to help you. Also, if you are interested in helping by providing meals, transportation, sitting with a loved one, or serving on the prayer team, please let us know!



Thank you, Jerry Fitzpatrick and Dave Smith!! The old hallway into the sanctuary has been repainted and installed new light fixtures in the bathrooms next to the gathering area. On Saturday June 20th we will be having a post COVID19 church beautification work party (late spring clean-up) see below for many of the projects need to be completed.

The following items we will need volunteers for to complete.

1. Paint both bathrooms in The Family life Center.
2. Install smoke Alarms/Carbon monoxide detectors in the basement.
3. Power wash Sanctuary siding.
4. Replace door seals on entrance doors.
5. Replace exit lights in building.
6. Install water detector in basement.
7. Fix falling landscaping pavers next to the sidewalk next to the parking lot.
8. Wire brush and paint the wall for the handicap ramp to the old entrance.

These items also can anytime if you wish to accomplish a task. There are several more to list. Signup sheets will be posted on the bulletin board for people to sign-up for their favorite project. All materials and some tools needed to work on these projects will be supplied. Lunch will also be provided and drinks throughout the day. Why not bring the whole family there will be small projects for even the children to do and (working on possible games for the children) if parents wish to bring them.

Any questions or to sign-up contact Rob Nielsen (859.250.0151 or email to robnielsen61@gmail.com.)

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

PHIL. 4:6-7



A Coronavirus Prayer

Lord Jesus

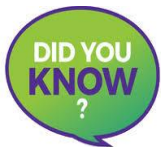
**When you walked with us on earth
You spread your healing power.**

**We place in your loving care
All who are affected by Coronavirus
Keep us strong in faith, hope and love.**

**Bring relief to the sick,
Console our bereaved,**

**Protect those who care for us.
We lift our prayers to you Lord,
And trust in your infinite mercy
As we wait for the daybreak.**

Amen!



" From Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Archives

Leading up to the 25th Anniversary, facts about of Good Shepherd will be included in each edition of the newsletter.



2002

- * **First Hispanic Fellowship Night**
- * **Dedication of stained-glass window in sanctuary by the Lawrence Family in memory of Ed's sisters**

2003

- * **Celebration of 35 years of ministry of Pastor Gil Duchow**

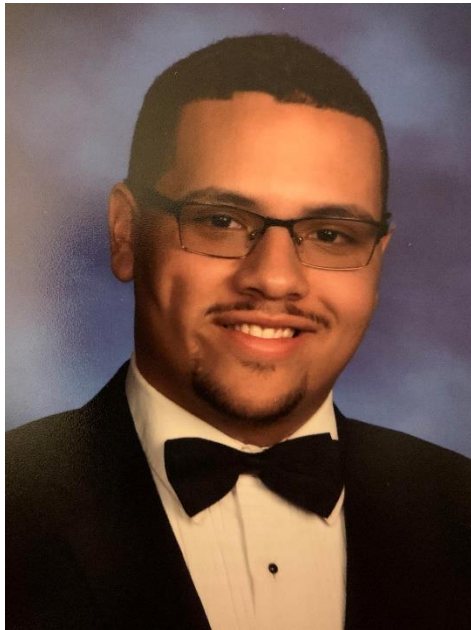
2004

- * **Vision Committee begins to investigate expanding church facilities due to growth**

Congratulations Graduates



Kelly Oberst is a 2020 graduate of Ryle High School. There she is a member the National Science, Math, English and French Honor Societies and she was also involved in the Ryle's Theatre program. Kelly is a 2019 Governor's Scholar alumni and maintained a 4.0+ gpa throughout her high school career. As an active member of her community, she has also volunteered at St Elizabeth Hospital for the past 2 ½ years and at Good Shepherd's VBS program for the past 6 summers. She has also volunteered for the Benton Family Farm for the past 10 years. In the fall, she will be majoring in Nursing and minoring in Psychology at the University of Louisville as a Henry Vogt Scholar and member of the Honor's Program. She is excited to begin the next chapter of her life. Kelly is the granddaughter of Steve and Lynda Oberst.



Erik Vezina graduated from Ryle High School this May 2020. Some of his accomplishments include finishing his Boy Scout Eagle rank from Troop 702 in Union. Erik's Eagle project created a seating area with benches outside of the Veterans Center at Thomas More University. He attended the National Jamboree in 2017, the World Jamboree in 2019, and Philmont in 2019. Erik was also involved in football at Ryle. He played football for four years earning a varsity letter. Erik was recognized by his coaches and team with the Burlsworth Character Award. This award recognizes students with outstanding character and sportsmanship. "The award honors the player who may or may not be a top athletic performer, but who represents the ideals and values that Brandon Burlsworth had: to give 100 percent on the field and to stand as a moral example to his team." Erik also had been involved in Percussion Ensemble throughout his time in high school. He really enjoyed playing the various percussion instruments. One of his favorite things to do was play bass drum in the Pep Band at the high school basketball games. Erik will be attending Thomas More University in the fall. After his time in college, he plans to join the military. Eric is the son of Michelle Vezina and grandson of Jackie and Fred Vezina.



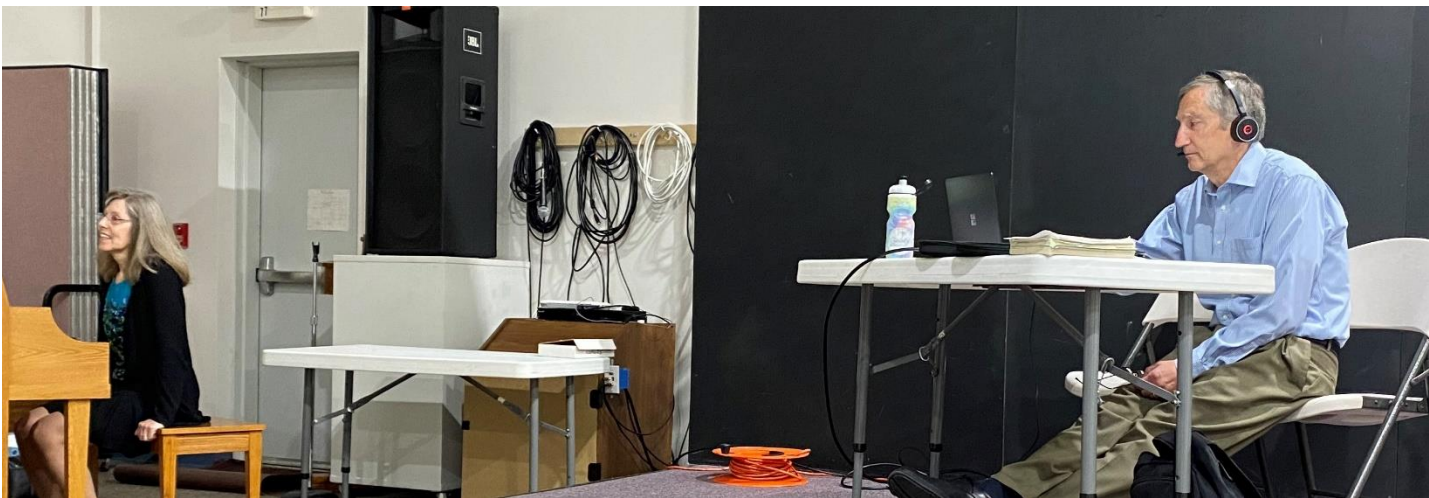
Laurel Prior graduated from Ryle High School. She will attend the University of Cincinnati where she will major in IT/Cyber Security. Laurel is the daughter of Richard and Libbie Prior.

Congratulations to all the 2020 Graduates. This has been a very unusual year for them. May God bless each of them as they pursue their chosen career.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

Back Together Again For Worship





Goodbye to the Reasoner Family



Happy Mother's Day Grandma Neu Jackie Vezina's Mother





Save the Date



Glen Leavens	June 2
Lia Olson	June 7
Emily Reasoner	June 8
Mark Leavens	June 10
Kohen Mason	June 10
Jennifer Ostermeier	June 10
Christine Reasoner	June 12
Jackie Vezina	June 17
Bethany Regan	June 21
Houstone Aragon	June 22
Collin Brann	June 23
Stewart Regan	June 25
Kelly Dunn	June 27

2021 Convention LWML 39th Biennial Convention Information



Date: June 24–27, 2021

Location: Lexington, Kentucky

Theme: Running the Race ... Looking to Jesus



NORTHERN KENTUCKY CHAPTER OF LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

Information:

CROSS THE BRIDGE FOR LIFE – Cancelled for 2020

In the interest of health and safety of CROSS THE BRIDGE FOR LIFE participants and their families, and to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, CROSS THE BRIDGE FOR LIFE 2020, scheduled for Sunday, June 7th, has been cancelled.

* * * * *

Care Net Pregnancy Services of Northern Kentucky seeks to educate, support and empower people before, during and after an unplanned pregnancy while uplifting the sanctity of human life. As Christians, we believe that every human life is valuable and worthy of protection because everyone is created in God’s image. To continue to meet the growing needs of the community in 2020, Care Net is conducting a volunteer drive. They are currently seeking passionate, pro-life volunteers willing to serve 3-4 hours per week. You can help impact the lives of women and men facing an unplanned pregnancy. If interested, please contact Volunteer Coordinator, Mary Goins, at 859-431-9178 or email volunteerhere@carenetky.org.

The sin of the world is paid for. God's Law has been kept perfectly on our behalf. The prophecies have all been fulfilled. Jesus Christ has finished it all! And that, dear Christians, should fill us with complete confidence in our salvation. Since Jesus has finished all these things in His self-sacrifice, we can be fully certain our sins are forgiven, and we have everlasting life!

St. Paul wrote: "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." (Rom. 12:1)

We hear the same teaching in 1 Peter. "As you come to him, a living stone, rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves, like living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 2:4-5)

It's the very thing Malachi foretold of the Lord, that He would come and purify His priestly people, that they may offer to Him an offering in righteousness. (Mal. 3:3)

So, what does this mean? In view of God's mercies – that is, because Jesus sacrificed Himself to make us pure, giving His entire self into death – Paul said that we are to sacrifice ourselves entirely to God, offering Him our whole lives. For our Savior did not give Himself for us in part. So, we do not give back to Him in part.

We don't offer ourselves to God just on Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings, for example. Rather, we give Him our whole selves, all the time. We understand that offering ourselves to God as living sacrifices involves the giving of our time. It requires us to be faithful stewards of the time He has given us. Yes, it means we devote to our Savior all our time. Otherwise we are not sacrificing our whole lives.

You see, God both teaches us, and has graciously qualified us, to present ourselves to Him as living sacrifices – to live as His holy priests, who offer Him acceptable sacrifices through Jesus Christ, all day, every day, in our various callings.

In the passages from Romans and 1 Peter, we hear several examples of Christian self-sacrifice: serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leading, showing mercy, living peaceably with others, submitting to governing authorities and those over us in the workplace, wives submitting to husbands, husbands honoring wives, showing compassion, and suffering patiently in doing good.

In all these things, and in all our other everyday activities, we sacrifice ourselves by using our time, not just for our own benefit, but also and especially for the well-being of others. Work time, school time, exercise time, study time, mealtime, chore time, recreation and relaxation time, even sleep time – it's all God's gift to us to use for purposes that please and honor Him.

This challenges us to think about the way we spend our time, how we utilize our talents, and the way we spend our treasures. Whatever it is I'm doing, am I doing it "for the Lord"? (Col. 3:23) Am I presenting God a living sacrifice? Am I conducting myself as a holy priest, whose sacrifice is acceptable to God?

Because our Lord sacrificed Himself wholly for us, we offer ourselves wholly to Him as living sacrifices. This is following Jesus in self-sacrifice. By His saving mercy, yes, our sacrifice is acceptable to God. For the sake of Jesus' finished work, God is pleased



What is a Dad?

A Dad is a person
Who is loving and kind,
And often he knows
What you have on your mind.
He's someone who listens,
suggests, and defends
A dad can be one
of your very best friends;
He's proud of your triumphs,
but when things go wrong,
A dad can be patient
and helpful and strong.
In all that you do,
a dad's love plays a part
There's always a place for him
deep in your heart
And each year that passes,
you're even more glad,
More grateful and proud
just to call him your dad!
Thank you Dad...
for listening and caring,
for giving and sharing,
but, especially, for just being you.

Author Unknown

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