



Good News From Good Shepherd

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

June, 2023

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Who Am I?

Sometimes we have a hard time defining just who we are. Are we defined by where we live? What school we went to? Or the job we have? For most of us, we don't go to school anymore and our jobs keep changing so who we are must change all of the time too.

But there is one great truth about us that never changes. The Bible says in Genesis 1:26-27 that we are created in God's image and Psalm 139:13-16 says that we are fearfully and wonderfully made. Those two verses say we are special, very special indeed. One may argue otherwise by asserting that our inherent image of God was broken when sin came into the world. But don't forget that Psalm 139 was written well after that. So even with our sinful nature, we are still fearfully and wonderfully made by God. We are still special.

And consider this. Despite our sin, Isaiah 43:1 says that we are redeemed. We are God's. Redeemed means to be bought back. We were bought back from our slavery to sin. We are no longer subject to the law requiring death for our sin. Jesus paid that price for us. In fact, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 says we were bought at a price and 1 Peter 1:18-19 says that price was the precious blood of Jesus Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He gave his life for our lives because we are special to God.

This is what I call "Step One" of salvation. Jesus died for the whole world – believers and unbelievers. He bought everyone back. It is why we sing, "He's got the whole world in His hands. He's got the whole wide world in His hands." Jesus purchased everyone. He owns us all.

When a person is purchased, they become the purchaser's property. In history, purchased people became slaves. But God does not view us in that way. Instead, Galatians 4:5 says that we were redeemed so that we might receive adoption to sonship, and Galatians 3:26-27 says that we are children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. God adopted us as his children through faith because we are special to Him. What a wonderful truth! This is what I call "Step Two" of salvation. Only those who have faith in Jesus become children of God. But it is even better than that.

Not only are we no longer a slave and are now God's children, Galatians 4:7 says we are also heirs. An heir is entitled to what the Father has. 1 Peter 1:4 says we have an inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade. We are so special to God, that he redeemed us, made us His children and made us His heirs. That is who we are. And who we are will never change.

When you are asked who you are, when you wonder whether you deserve respect, when you wonder whether you have any worth, remember what God did for you. He fearfully and wonderfully made you in His image. He redeemed you with His precious blood. He adopted you as His children, and he made you His heir. You have standing. You have worth. You are special. You are children of God almighty. Be humble yet, strong in your faith, and be confident in what God did for you because you are special.

Make sure your children understand who they are and that they too are special. **David Smith, Head Elder**

A Message from Your President



June, already, and another month of commemorations and celebrations of grads, flags and dads.

To all our graduates, congrats on your achieving a significant milestone in your life's journey. May you continue the path of life in faith, *worthy of the calling you have received*. (Eph 4:1).



Flag Day is June 14. Both President Wilson, in 1916, and President Coolidge, in 1927, issued proclamations asking for June 14 to be observed as the National Flag Day. But it wasn't until August 3, 1949, that Congress approved the national observance, and President Harry Truman signed it into law. Flag Day commemorates the adoption of the flag of the United States on June 14, 1777, by resolution of the Second Continental Congress. Each year the U.S. president delivers an address that proclaims the week of June 14 as National Flag Week, and all Americans are encouraged to fly U.S. flags during that week.



(<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Flag-Day>).

Recognizing Juneteenth (June 19) as a federal holiday also gives Americans the opportunity to contemplate the complicated processes of emancipation that took place after President Abraham Lincoln announced the Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862. Specifically, Juneteenth marks the day (June 19, 1865) when a Union Army general, Gordon Granger, arrived in Galveston, Texas and demanded that the state's 250,000 plus enslaved people be set free.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juneteenth#:~:text=The%20day%20was%20first%20recognized,%2C%20Opal%20Lee%2C%20and%20others.&text=Early%20celebrations%20date%20to%201866,centered%20community%20gatherings%20in%20Texas>.

Rounding out the celebrations is Father's Day on June 18. I would be remiss not to share my dad's pic and my gratitude for him, as my cousin put it, *the strong oak of the family*. Thanks, dad.



I pray we fly our Christian colors every day so that others may see Jesus in us. We are entering the vacation season when churches see their attendance and giving numbers drop sharply. I pray that we will not succumb to that practice, after all, we don't expect God to take a vacation from us and our needs, wants and cares.



Voter Actions: Thirty-three participants signed in for the voter meeting on Sunday, May 21.

ELECTIONS: The elections were conducted by affirmation of the presented slate. Thank you to all who were willing to serve in these roles for the coming two-year term beginning July 1. Vice President, Phillip Brann (incumbent); Secretary, Karen Neubauer (incumbent); Financial Secretary, Jerry Fitzpatrick; Head Elder, David Smith (incumbent); Elder, Keith Jurgens (incumbent). A special word of thanks to Tammy Vaughn who has served as Financial Secretary for the past 4 years. She has also agreed to assist Jerry as he learns the position.

FINANCIALS: The current financials through April were presented. Addressing the decision of the congregation at the November meeting to consider budget adjustments in the spring, it was the recommendation of council that we not make any budget adjustments at this time. Prior to the meeting closing the congregation decided by motion to apply the original salary increases effective July 1.

SYNOD PRESIDENT ELECTIONS: At the February voter meeting, Phillip Brann was elected as our lay voter in this election. The candidates were presented and Phillip has requested input from the congregation to achieve a vote that is representative. Contact Phillip or the office with your input. The presidential election will take place on-line from June 17 to July 11, 2023, and results will be announced by July 15.



Council Actions: The leadership team met on May 15 and discussed the following:

- Reviewed financial status in preparation for the voter meeting discussion.
- Acknowledged the struggle still happening regarding Facebook management so that recording can resume.
- Anticipated report from the committee considering security options.

Marlis Norton, Council Pres. *Embraced by His Grace, Engaged in His Word, Empowered by His Spirit*



Here's your chance to be a part of our Church Media Squad – that elite group of volunteers that maintains Facebook, the website, and publications. Good Shepherd is in need of a reporter for the Cincinnati Lutheran (the news publication of the Federation of Lutheran Churches) and an editor/producer for the Good Shepherd monthly Newsletter. The Cincinnati Lutheran is published quarterly with deadlines in early January, April, July and November. The content is typically a subset of the Good Shepherd newsletter. You've all seen both publications and the type of content currently each contains. This is your chance to serve Good Shepherd with your creative gifts. Please contact Mary Givhan or the office with your questions or offers to serve.

Christian Education

Women's Bible Breakfast • Saturday • June 10

We resume on the 10th after having been off for a number of special events. We meet at 9 a.m. for the food.

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. Topic specifics a surprise, but likely an LWML Quarterly offering or a LHF short series. We'll see where the Spirit leads.

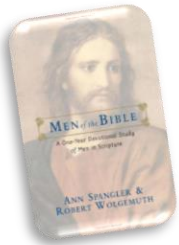


Women's Sunday Bible Study • *Job* • 8:45 a.m.

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 Daniel.



Men's Bible Study

Mondays 10 am

Pastor's Bible Study

Sunday Mornings 8:45

Wednesdays 7 pm

GREAT NEWS

It is my pleasure to announce that Good Shepherd Lutheran Church has been awarded a \$1,000 Matching Gift Grant from the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod's Million Dollar Life Match. Our grant entitled, "*Field of Dreams*" represents our church's \$1,000 donation, along with this Matching Grant, in support of The New Hope Center's newly renovated facility in Covington,

KY. The New Hope Center has outgrown their former Covington facility. The new location on Madison Avenue will have a lot more space to provide hope and support for couples experiencing an unplanned pregnancy. As Karen Class, Executive Director, explains, "Together, we are making life-saving, family-strengthening and Kingdom-building differences for today, tomorrow and generations to come. If we renovate it, they will come!"

Updates and further information will be forthcoming in the months ahead. In the meantime, I would like to personally thank everyone for your help in supporting this important project. **Blessings, Jackie Vezina**



June

Glen Leavens	June 2
Kohen Mason	June 10
Jennifer Ostermeier	June 10
Julie Poynter	June 12
Adam Ostermeier	June 13
Jackie Vezina	June 17
Houston Aragon	June 22
Colin Brann	June 23
Peggy Bacon	June 26
Jerry Fitzpatrick	June 27

July

Lucas Ostermeier,	July 4
Liz Molina	July 6
Lori Raap	July 7
Sharon Hoffmann	July 8
Steve Warren	July 9
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



Sunday School is in need of another Sunday School activity teacher. If you love working with young people and sharing your love of God via both crafts and games, please prayerfully consider joining us. This does NOT mean you have to commit to every Sunday. Please call or text Gerda at 513-384-9009.

Many heartfelt thanks to those that faithfully taught this past year: Jackie Vezina, Barb Barvincak, Dave Smith and Billy Mitchell. You are very much appreciated!!



We recognized our long serving Sunday School teachers, Barb Barvicak and Jackie Vezina for being the pillars of our Sunday School. Jackie started teaching with the beginning of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church back in 1994. Barb had taught in previous churches, but started here at Good Shepherd when her son, Paul was a toddler back in the late 1990's. Thank you, Jackie and Barb!! We love you!



May Events

Ladies High Tea



Trash for Cash Pick Up



Food Pantry for Acadia Senior Living



Serving Meals at Prince of Peace



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**O.W.L.S. at the
Ball Park**



Congratulations to Our Graduates



After graduation, Colin Brann plans to continue his job at Kroger. He was recently promoted to Asst Manager, Produce Dept. and is continuing to work his way up the ladder. He is keeping his option open to what the future holds.



Sarah will attend Concordia University Wisconsin and major in Psychology and minor in Communications



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