



Good News From Good Shepherd

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

March 2020

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
9066 Gunpowder Road
Florence, KY 41042
(859)746-9066

Rev. William Gauger
www.gslicky.org
Pastor's Email: pastor@gslicky.org
Church's Email: secretary@gslicky.org

Dear Friends in Christ,

I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. (Ephesians 1:16)

I write my last newsletter article as your pastor with a grateful heart.

Above all, I am thankful to my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ for dying for my sins and granting me eternal life.

I am also thankful (and humbled) that He would use me – an imperfect sinner – to serve His kingdom as one of His under-shepherds.

I am thankful for the opportunity to serve Good Shepherd at a special time in its history.

I am grateful for your prayers for me, my ministry and my family. This is the place where God gave me a wife and stepdaughter, and we will always remember that. A pastor getting married is something that not many congregations get to experience, and we appreciate your flexibility in the way we designed the worship service and reception, as well as your support of our family. And thank you again to the many people who helped us handle the details of our wedding day.

I am thankful for your servant hearts and your eagerness to serve your Lord and His people, whether it be through time, talent or treasure.

I am grateful for your words of support, and for your forgiving heart when I made mistakes.

I am thankful for your prayers as I depart to serve the Lord in another mission field. It will be a blessing to be located much closer to my aging parents. I'm very grateful for that too.

But this is not the end. We will meet again, whether it's in this life or the next, for I echo the sentiments of Saint Paul in 1 Corinthians 1:4: ***I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus.***

Our new address will be 30331 Peddle Beach Circle, Genoa, IL 60135. My email and cell number remain BillGauger72@aol.com and 217.853.7689, respectively.

In Christ,
Pastor Bill

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Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. 1 Corinthians 1:10 (KJV)



Council News

February's Council meeting focused on financials, a first vetting of a proposed update/replacement of our Undesignated Funds Trigger policy and making sure we had all the topics for the coming voter assembly covered. Our church leadership continues to be blessed by new servants and welcomes Lisa Brown as an assistant to the treasurer.

As we look ahead to the May voter assembly and elections, we'll be looking for more and new servants. The Nominating Committee (Phillip Brann, Mary Gihvan, Marlis Norton) will be initiating conversations in their efforts to fill a slate of nominees. The current roster status is below. At the voter assembly, it was incorrectly reported that Julie Rath was terming out of Outreach. She is not, it was a typo. She is eligible for a second term. Those with blank terms-elected are mid-term appointees eligible for full term elections.

Office	Occupant	Terms Elected	Continuing?
President	Marlis Norton	1	
Treasurer	Kathy Meckstroth	2	No
Outreach	Julie Rath	1	
Education	Mary Gihvan		
Stewardship	Tammy Woolley		
Communications	Jenn Ostermeier	1	
Elder	Glen Leavens		
Elder	Vince Woolley	2	No
Elder	Craig Speicher	1	No



Council Secretary Needed

Our leadership team is in need of a Council Secretary. We give thanks for the faithful service rendered to the congregation by **Lisa Berns** and regretfully accept her choice to step down at this time. The secretary term continues through June of 2021 at which time the appointee would be eligible for a full elected term. Please prayerfully consider the gifts you have been blessed with that could be used in service to the church in this role. The guidelines for the position will be posted on the FLC bulletin board



Voter News

First the good news.... We had one of our largest attendance counts, 36! for a voter assembly. Thank you to all who participated in this important work of the church. The big news came from elders with the announcement that we have been blessed by the Lord of the Church with a full-time vacancy pastor willing to also take on shut-in visitation, confirmation and adult Bible study!



The not so good news is our financials. We have lost the momentum we had last fall, not sure why. It is extremely important that we continue to meet the revenue expectations of our budget so that we may be prepared for the future expenses expected around pastoral transition and the unexpected. For example, we are ready to begin the re-roofing and related repairs. We have funds on hand designated to that purpose. The hope is that unforeseen issues and/or damage are not discovered that may drain that fund with future items still on the hit list.

The conversation on the constitution and bylaw changes (dated 1-25-2020 in a prior distribution) was productive and constructive. The updates will be distributed with the goal of having a final reading and vote at the May voter assembly. The congregation will also receive the existing and proposed updated version of our Undesignated Funds Trigger Policy (newly named Operating Reserve Policy) that is intended to better clarify when and for what our operating reserves (emergency funds) may be used. Finally, as we begin our vacancy, take on the call process, seating of a call committee and congregation survey, it is all so important that we keep the counsel of **1 Corinthians 1:10** top of mind and heart. This is a time to come

together, learn about and from one another and **all speak the same thing**. Lent is a perfect time to reflect, pray, study, work out any conflicts and clear agendas, so that there are **no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment**. Practicing this discipline will better equip us to discern who we are as a family of God and whom He has chosen to lead us.

Praying without ceasing (1 Thes. 5:17) that we all are **perfectly joined together and in the same judgment** and serve as we are blessed for the kingdom work that is before us at Good Shepherd.

Marlis Norton, Council Pres.

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



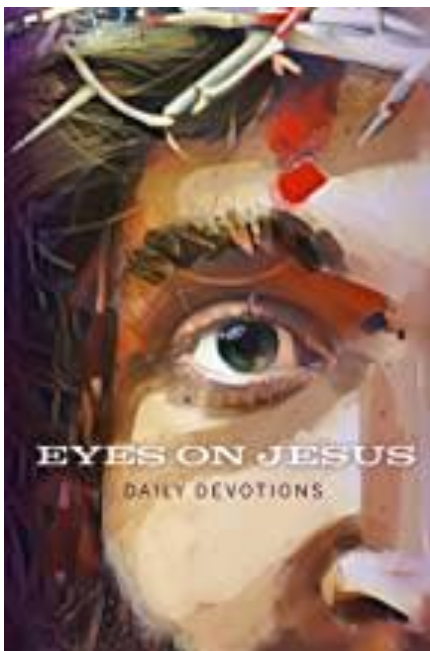
Meet Our Vice President

Phillip is a lifelong resident of Northern Kentucky and currently lives in Florence with his wife, Jessica, and their three children: Colin (14), Jacob (4), and Ashlyn (3). Previously, the Branns attended Union Presbyterian Church where Phillip served as an Elder and Church Treasurer. They sought out Good Shepherd, as they believe there is authority in scripture, and while the world is constantly changing, God's word has not.

Phillip has spent his entire career working in finance. He spent the last 9 years working with individuals and families as a financial planner. Previous to that, he spent 13 years as a trust officer helping clients with trust, estate, and multi-generational

tax planning. In their 3 years at Good Shepherd, they have made many friends and look forward to continuing to grow with the church.

Devotion for Lent 2020



"Fix your eyes on Jesus."

When the people in the Passion narrative looked at Jesus, what did they see?

Eyes on Jesus asks us to look at Jesus through various Biblical character's viewpoints, learning how they saw Jesus. Did they misunderstand Him? Did they recognize Him as the Son of God?

Using Scripture passages from the Gospel of Mark, challenge yourself to consider what you see when you look at Jesus.

With devotions specifically made for children, the **Eyes on Jesus Calendar** helps children and families fix their eyes on Jesus throughout the Lenten season with Scripture readings, prayers, and questions that connect faith and life. This calendar can be used on its own, or use it alongside the corresponding *Eyes on Jesus Daily Devotions for Lent and Easter*.

You may pick up your copy in the Gathering Area.



LENT

Our Personal Seasons of Lent

There are times in our lives when nothing appears to be going our way. We can feel overwhelmed, alone, or forgotten by our families and friends and worse yet, by God himself. We pray, but hear no answer. We read God's word but are not encouraged. We are at a loss for what to do in our lives. These times can occur any time of

the year, any day, any hour. These times, whenever they occur, are our personal seasons of Lent.

Psalms 22 expresses the depth of our feelings when it proclaims in verses 1 and 2:

Psalm 22:1-2 ¹My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning? ²O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest.

There is no comfort for us in these words, just an expression of how we feel. And so, in our personal seasons of Lent, we are tempted to focus on our own pain. That is, until we realize that these are the same words our Lord spoke on the cross as he hung there abandoned by his Father, waiting to die for our sins. Then we know we are not alone. Our Lord Jesus went through the ultimate season of Lent.

"Yet", the psalmist declares in Psalm 22:3, "God is holy." It is clear from this statement that, despite what appears to be an unmerciful silence on God's part, the psalmist understands God is in charge. We remember the Garden of Gethsemane when Jesus prayed for the Father to take his cup from him, but also prayed, "Nevertheless, not my will, but yours be done." We pray earnestly for God to relieve us from our personal seasons of Lent. But we rarely pray for God's will to be done in our lives, even though we do not understand the outcomes.

Psalm 22:9 ⁹ Yet you are he who took me from the womb; you made me trust you at my mother's breasts. ¹⁰ On you was I cast from my birth, and from my mother's womb, you have been my God.

God formed us and God created us. He knows what we need. In our personal seasons of Lent, because God is holy, we must remember to trust Him. Trusting God doesn't mean we cannot turn to Him in our time of need. Our trust in God means we can and should turn to Him, even if we don't immediately hear His voice. I love this section in Habakkuk:

Habakkuk 3:17-18 ¹⁷ Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, ¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior.

No matter how dismal life appears, in our personal seasons of Lent we are called to persevere in our trust in the Lord. This is shown by the psalmist as he continues to cry out to God in Psalm 22 verses 19 – 21:

Psalm 22: 19-21 ¹⁹ But you, O LORD, do not be far off! O you my help, come quickly to my aid! ²⁰ Deliver my soul from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dog! ²¹ Save me from the mouth of the lion! You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!

Our cries should not be cries of panic though. They should be cries of expectation that our God will hear us. He will deliver us. In our personal seasons of Lent, we are called to cry out to God.

In Psalm 22:21 the psalmist completes his sentence with the recognition that, in the midst of his cries, God has already rescued him. "You have rescued me...", he acknowledges. And we are already saved by God's grace and sanctified by him. This leads the psalmist and us to sing praises to God.

Psalm 22:22-24 ²² I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation, I will praise you: ²³ You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him, and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel! ²⁴ For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and he has not hidden his face from him, but has heard, when he cried to him.

Just as God the Father did not abhor his son, but heard his cries and raised him from the dead, God has heard our cries. He has raised us up and seated us with Christ at the right hand of God. This should lead us to glorify God and tell of His name to others during our personal seasons of Lent.

As we mediate and worship during this Lenten season, let us remember how Jesus trusted his Father and persevered in his season of Lent. And let us persevere in our personal seasons of Lent by acknowledging that God is holy, by trusting him, by crying out to him, and by giving him the glory forever and ever. Amen

David Smith, Head Elder



The Word is a Gift

"... the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward" (Ps. 19:9–11

God's Word is a treasure. Nothing in all the world possesses the value of the Word. It has such great value because of what it can do. The world was created by it. This Word became flesh and redeemed us. This Word claimed us as God's own precious child in the waters of Holy Baptism. The Word has done this and so many other things. It has inestimable power and therefore unsearchable value. It is the Word of which we are ultimately stewards. Nothing you have has any value compared to this Word. How we use the worldly gifts which the Lord has entrusted us for the extension of this Word in the world is really the end goal of our stewardship. As we use this Word in our own lives and share it in the lives of others, there is indeed great reward. This return on investment is not measured in dollars and cents. It is marked by calling sinners to repentance and setting them free to be everything the Lord has given them to be and do. God's ultimate goal for faithful stewards is to use their simple gifts in such a way that souls are rescued from death and given an eternal life that has a value and reward that is literally out of this world!.

Prayer: Word of Life, You speak to us with a power and a tenderness that we can never fully appreciate or understand. It is sweet in our ears and sweeter as it is spoken with our lips and lives. Grant us the simple gift of faith, which seeks to share this treasure with those around us so that they may know this sweetness as well! **Amen**

Submitted by Tammy Woolley, Stewardship Chair

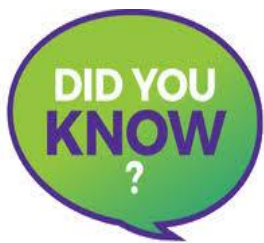


Charlie's Socks and Undies-Sunday Drive

The annual socks and underwear collection has begun. Please consider participating in this worthwhile cause. We are requesting new socks for all ages, men, women and children. Donations of new underwear for boys and girls would also be greatly appreciated. You can drop your donations in a collection bin in the entryway.

"But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased." Hebrews 13:16

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.

In 1996:

- Installation of Pastor Gil Duchow as Mission Developer
- Good Shepherd held its first Youth Catechism Class
- First Sunday School Rally Day held
- Ohio District Lutheran Church Extension Fund Board of Directors purchased 4 acres with building on Gunpowder Road





Choir News Choir news—Adult choir rehearsals begin Wednesday, March 4! Yes, the time has come for us to gather together and prepare special music for Holy Week and Easter. The choir will meet immediately after the Wednesday evening services through April 1. Please join us. Thank you. Kim Leavens



On March 25th our American Heritage Girls Troop KY0608 will be hosting a Wednesday Lenten Meal of soups and bread for our congregation. They will be starting to serve the meal at 6pm. Service will be following at 7pm. Come meet and enjoy a meal and support the girls.



Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

Join the Thrivent Member Network on Saturday, March 21 – Mid-America Region to help pack 100,000 meals for children in need, and see hope in action!

Invite your family, small group, members of your church and friends to volunteer with you at Hope in Action Day, a Hands Against Hunger event. Together we'll save the lives of children locally, regionally and internationally. We need 320 volunteers – ages 3 to 103 – to help us pack 100,000 meals. Use the "Join Us" button above to register and get additional information.

Plus, we're working to raise \$25,000 to support this pack and the Hands Against Hunger program. You can make a personal donation [online](#). Or, if you are eligible for [Thrivent Choice Dollars](#) and have 2019 Dollars left, designate those to A Child's Hope International between now and March 31 and they will count toward our goal.

If you have questions, email us at mid-americaatmn@thrivent.com

Saturday

Mar 21

09:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Hope in Action Day

The Hope Factory | 2430 E Kemper Rd
Cincinnati, OH

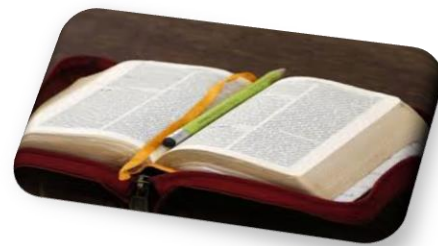
[Join Us!](#)

Thrivent Choice Dollars

This is a reminder that if you have not designated your Thrivent Choice Dollars for 2019, you have until March 31, 2020 to pick your charitable entity. Good Shepherd Lutheran, Florence, KY is one of those that is a charitable entity in the Thrivent choices. Please consider GSLC when designating your Choice Dollars. This money is used for all kinds of things at GSLC—VBS items, outreach emergency needs, Altar care, Youth events, etc. These monies are monitored/dispersed separately from the General Fund. Thank you for your contributions. Thrivent Choice Dollars can be accessed via thrivent.com/thriventchoice or 1-800-847-4836 (Choice).

Women's Bible Study • Sundays • Between Services

Join us for a journey of **Perseverance** through the book of Nehemiah by Donna Pyle. We meet in the Duchow Room.



Women's Bible Breakfast • Saturday, March 14 • 9 a.m. at Church



Join in and be blessed by the food for body and soul. If you can bring a dish to share, great! Mostly come as you are and enjoy the fellowship. We continue with the *Time for Everything* series from Women of Faith.

Women's Conference at the Ark Encounter

As many of you may know, I volunteer every week with Answers in Genesis along with a few other members of GSLC. AIG is the parent ministry of the Ark Encounter and the Creation Museum. I work in the department that puts together local conferences, and Bev and George Beck help our department during the actual events. Every year we host a women's conference in the spring, which I would like to invite you to! This year's topic is **Truth: Uncovering the Lies Women Believe**.

Kay Arthur will be the key-note speaker, and AIG is including **annual passes to both the Creation Museum and the Ark Encounter in the conference price!** You may take advantage of their gardens, displays, speakers, learning labs, and zoos throughout the upcoming year. The keynote speaker, Kay Arthur, is very well known. She has written Bible studies, hosted a Christian radio program, and written Christian books with her Precept Ministries for decades!



The conference will be held at the Ark Encounter March 27-28, with a pre-conference featuring Kay Arthur the evening of the 26th. The total cost for the conference including the annual passes to both the Ark Encounter and the Creation Museum is only \$150, or \$140 if you are aged 60 or older.

Visit [<http://www.ansersingenesis.org/>]<http://www.AnswersInGenesis.org> for more details on speakers, schedules, and topics, please, and scroll down to the Events link on the right side, clicking on Truth: Uncovering the Lies Women Believe.

Let me know if you are interested so GSLC ladies can carpool and sit together. I will ask you to register individually because the annual passes are only offered for the individual sign-ups, but not the group pricing. Thanks for considering this.

Sherri Smith (david.sherri@sbcglobal.net) 210-854-2598)

February Events Ladies Luncheon



Dalton Aragon's Eagle Scout's Honor Court



Eagle Scout is the highest achievement or **rank** attainable in the **Scouts** BSA program of the Boy **Scouts** of America (BSA). Since its inception in 1911, only four percent of **Scouts** have earned this **rank** after a lengthy review process. The **Eagle Scout** rank has been earned by over 2.5 million youth.

Dalton's Eagle Scout project was to remodel the Nursery. What a difference he has made in making this a more child friendly area. We are so proud of you for your achievement.



Youth Game Night Hosted by the Warrens



Andy Gawura and some of his custom-made pieces that are on the mantel in the Gathering Area. The mantel and fireplace inset are also made by Andy.



We have contracted a roofing company to replace the asphalt shingle roof over the sanctuary and original house. The project will begin in April as the weather warms up and forecast will allow. Please be patient as the roof is replaced. The goal is to have it completed during the week and tie any loose ends on a Saturday and not to disturb our Sunday worship services. Any questions or concerns contact Rob Nielsen



Phillip Brann	March 4
William Regan	March 5
Susan Schneider	March 8
Linda Kuhn	March 9
Crystal O'Grady	March 10
Lenton Woolley	March 15
Maleah Siren	March 20
Beverly Beck	March 22
Kerry Snowden	March 23
Stephanie Daniels	March 27

March 1	Charlie's Socks/Undies Sunday Begins
March 4	Mid-Week Lenten Service
March 8	Daylight Savings Time Begins
March 8	Farewell Reception for Pastor Bill
March 11	Mid-Week Lenten Service
March 13-15	Youth Gathering in Columbus
March 18	Mid-Week Lenten Service
March 25	Mid-Week Lenten Service
March 29	Charlie's Socks/Undies Sunday Ends



Flower Chart

March 1	The Barvincaks—Paul's Birthday
March 8	Pastor and Janice's Anniversary
March 14	The Woolleys—Lenton's Birthday
March 22	Hank Raap
March 29	Andy and Guddy Gawura Anniversary

Faith Walk

1. Each day thank your Faithful God for fulfilling all His promises to you in Christ Jesus.
2. Participate daily in the study of God's Word.
3. Search the Bible for God's many promises. Make a top ten list of your personal favorites.
4. Keep a "Promise Journal" and note how God keeps His promises to you every day.
5. By the power of the Holy Spirit, share with at least one person the promise of the hope you have in Christ Jesus.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Newsletter Article – March 2020

We are at the beginning of Lent. During the Lenten season, the church calls to our attention the sufficiency of what God gives. It points to the sufficiency of God's grace in the atoning work of Jesus. It shows us the sufficiency of faith in Jesus' work for us. It makes known the sufficiency of God's Word in faith and life.

But Lent doesn't just remind us of the sufficiency of God's spiritual gifts, the gifts that pertain to our redemption and salvation. Lent also reminds us of the sufficiency of the physical, temporal gifts of God, those that pertain to this body and life. In other words, it reminds us of the importance of godly contentment and of outward discipline and training of the body.

This outward training of the body teaches us not to give in to every desire of our flesh but to learn to say no to them. And it does this in such a way that if you fail, it is no sin. It is a way to practice without putting yourself into a compromising situation.

The easiest example of this is fasting. When you fast, you are practicing saying no to the desires of your body. But if you fail in this, if you break your fast, you have not sinned. You have, though, learned something about how your flesh works, how difficult it is to fight against it, and how you need help from above in order to do it.

There is another example of this. It is alms-giving. This is an increase in giving to the church and its mission during this time. We all know that our flesh finds security in money and stuff. By committing to give more to the church, you are training your flesh. You are, by this outward discipline, training yourself to be content with what God gives. You are practicing saying "no" to your desires. Again, if you fail, you have not sinned. But you've learned just how powerful your flesh is in leading you instead of you leading it. You've learned how you need help from above in being content with what God gives.

This is why St. Paul instructs young Pastor Timothy in this way:

"But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and[a] we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs." (1 Tim 6:6–10)

Our sufficiency is not of ourselves; it is in God. Let us learn this without sin by training our flesh this Lenten season.





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