

Good News From Good Shepherd

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

John 10:11

May, 2021

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 9066 Gunpowder Road, Florence, KY 41042 859.746.9066 website: www.gslcky.org Church's Email: secretary @gslcky.org

The Body and Blood of Jesus

Last month our confirmands studied baptism, and in May, they will be studying communion. One of the questions sometimes asked is whether or not the bread and wine served becomes the body and blood of Jesus. After all, we state, "This is the body of Christ given for you" and "This is the blood of Christ shed for you." The short answer is, the bread remains bread and the wine remains wine. However, as Lutherans, we do believe the sacramental elements are the "true body and blood" of Jesus. And for good reason. The Large Catechism, says:

Now, what is the Sacrament of the Altar? Answer: It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, in and under the bread and wine which we Christians are commanded by the Word of Christ to eat and to drink.

Luther, similar to his discussion on baptismal water being just water without the Word, says the elements are merely bread and wine, but when comprehended in and connected with God's Word in faith, the bread and wine become much more. God's Word contains many promises all of which he has the desire, power and authority to fulfill. Included are his promises to forgive our sins and resurrect us from the dead. In communion, we celebrate God's deliverance on his promises to us. Still, what does "in and under" mean? These are not words used in the Bible and they are difficult to understand. Let's consider:

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 ³ For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; <u>do this in remembrance of me</u>." ²⁵ In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, <u>in remembrance of me</u>." ²⁶ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, <u>you proclaim</u> the Lord's death until he comes.

1 Corinthians 10:16 ¹⁶ Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks \underline{a} participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break \underline{a} participation in the body of Christ?

First, when we take communion, we *remember* what Jesus did for us on the cross, God's promises and our Lord's fulfillment of those promises.

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Second, when we take communion, we *proclaim* the Lord's death until he comes. This means more than telling others about the Lord's death. The Greek word can also mean to "declare," much like when we complete a customs declaration form which asks whether or not we have anything in our possession we need to disclose to the customs agent. When we take communion, we declare that we have in our possession the forgiveness of sins that God has promised us through our faith in Jesus Christ. Just as **Ephesians 1:7-8** says, "In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸ that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding."

And third, when we take communion, we *participate* in the benefits we claim through Christ. **Ephesians 1:13-14** says, "And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession..."

When people ask what we mean by "true body and blood," let's simply explain the gospel by remembering what Jesus has done, proclaiming the forgiveness of sins and eternal life available to all through faith, and explaining how they too may participate. For it is when we remember, proclaim and participate that we receive the true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ..

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



¹And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. ³ And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Acts 2:1-4

The call was accepted, the party's over. What now? Back to life as usual? After Jesus appeared to them in the upper room the disciples returned to their day jobs. I suspect they needed time to digest the highs and lows they just experienced. Passover (high); trial, crucifixion, death, burial (low); resurrected appearance (high); fear of the Jews (low). Jesus again appeared to them in Galilee, another high. Then it seems they had a short break before

Jesus directed them to the mount for His ascension (high and low - he's really gone this time, but left a promise) and their return to Jerusalem for the feast of Pentecost. Back to life pretty much as usual, before Jesus. Until...the promise of the Spirit was fulfilled. After that, nothing was ever the same again for these disciples.

It's my fervent prayer that now that the work of the call is fulfilled, that life at Good Shepherd will not be business as usual, but business as unusual and peculiar and fruitful as we, God's people of Good Shepherd, are filled with the Spirit and joy in the risen Lord that translates to renewed service to His church with vigor and purpose.

³⁹ For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the LORD our God shall call. Acts 2:39



A blessed Mother's Day to all our Good Shepherd moms and as much joy as your children bring you, I hope you share with them with even more joy that promise that is to your children, and to all that are afar off.





Council Actions: Technical difficulties resulted in a truncated meeting in April. Despite the challenges, the team conducted the needed business, the primary item being the approval of funding from the General fund the catered installation dinner with a cap of \$3200. We learned from Property that (budgeted) maintenance of the fire extinguishers cost \$450 and that the 200+ chairs approved for purchase earlier were now on site. The Nominating committee is working to secure a slate for May elections and the Stewardship committee is planning a digital deployment of time/talent/treasure forms.

And just a reminder, the **Nominating Committee** is tasked with seeking candidates for the May election that will implement the new structure approved in the bylaws. The positions to be filled by election in May include: Vice President, Secretary, Financial Secretary, Head Elder and one additional elder. The bylaw update: 1) eliminated term limits; 2) moved the Property Chair to even year election and 3) replaced 5 boards with a Christian Ministry board elected in even years. As the Property Chair and Christian Ministry chair are even year elections, candidates will be appointed for

one year in May. Please contact anyone on the Nominating Committee (Phillip Brann, Deb Fitzpatrick, Julie Rath) for questions or to express your interest in serving in one of the positions.

Watch for opportunities from the **Property board** to tackle the job jar that's getting pretty full with various maintenance tasks inside and outside the building! I would also like to acknowledge receipt of a gift from a past pastor of Good Shepherd, Pastor Duchow, specifically for debt reduction. Let's consider a campaign to do this in a bigger way soon!



Marlis Norton, Council Pres.

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

Christian Education



Women's Bible Breakfast ● Saturday ● May 8

Mark your calendars for the second Saturday in **May 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, May 5 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 will reconvene on April 11 and we'll continue to meet with appropriate distancing in the Duchow Room. A Zoom connection is provided for those not ready to meet in person. Our study is Forgiveness by Donna Pyle. The book is available from CPH for \$14.99. Please feel free to join in. It's not too late! We've only just begun Lesson 2.

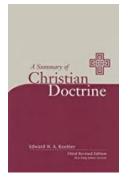


Women's Tuesday Bible Study ● Men of the Bible ● 9:30 am

We will begin meeting in person on April 27; 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.

Tuesday Bible Study at the Smiths All Ladies are welcome to join WBS. Beginning March 30, we will be studying *The Holiness of God.* Groups meet Tuesdays from 3-5 pm and from 6-8 pm at my home in Union. Contact **Sherri Smith 210-854-259** if you are interested.





Men's Bible Study

Tuesday night at 6 pm. A Summary of Christian Doctrine (The Men will not meet on Tuesday, May, 4)

Pastor Poynter will be leading an Adult Bible Study on Sunday Morning starting on May 23 at 8:45.





Plans are underway to hold a Weekend VBS in August for the kids at Good Shepherd. More information to come.

This will serve as a kick off for the return of in-person School which will start in September.



May		June		
Leland Woolley	May 2	Glen Leavens	June 2	
Kim Warren	May 6	Kohen Mason	June 10	
Tammy Vaughan	May 12	Jennifer Ostermeier	June 10	
Alain Duane	May 13	Adam Ostermeier	June 13	
Brittany Vonderlage	May 18	Jackie Vezina	June 17	
George Beck	May 26	Houston Aragon	June 22	
Karen Sladen	May 26	Colin Brann	June 23	
		Jerry Fitzpatrick	June 27	

Save The Date





New Hope Center is a faith-based, non-profit organization offering hope, help and healing for mothers, fathers and families facing an unplanned pregnancy.

Support Marlis Norton on her virtual. You can make a donation on her webpage at: https://secure.ministrysync.com/ministrysync/event/website/?m=5189088

Trash for Cash June 19, 2021

Giving Green to Keep Boone County Green

Good Shepherd has been awarded a Trash for Cash grant by the Boone County Public Works Department. We have been assigned **Frog Town Road**. We have the opportunity to earn up to \$1000. The funds will be used for Youth Activity. Want to help. Come join us on Saturday, June 19^h. All supplies needed for this project will be provided 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!!!!!!!



Church Work Day Party
May 22
Tasks and Sign-up Sheet on bulletin board
in FLC



Nametags

Please help Pastor Poynter, the Poynter family, new attendees, and visitors know who you are by wearing nametags like we did before Covid! This is a simple yet important way for us to get to know each other better and it prevents people from feeling uncomfortable when they can't remember someone's name.

The nametags will be located in the main entryway. If you don't have a nametag, please let the church office know so that one can be made by emailing Lynn at secretary@gslcky.org. Before you leave on Sunday, please return your name tag to the display tray, or if you are in

a hurry place it in the basket provided. Thanks for your continued support.

Entryway Display Table

The church is beginning to have more activities within the church again! Check out the display table as you first enter to see what is happening at GSLC. Don't forget to check the bulletin boards in the Life Center for a complete listing of all current activities, servant schedules, and the Altar Flower Chart.

If you are sponsoring an event and would like to schedule use of the display table to advertise your event, just contact our secretary, Lynn Mitchell, at secretary@gslcky.org or 859-746-9066. We encourage you to promote your event by standing by the display table, highlighting it for our members and encouraging them to participate.

Passing Out Handouts

If you have flyers, magazines, or newspapers that you would like to share with the congregation, we ask that you "own" what you are excited about. We ask you to stand by the usher at the top of the stairs by the Gathering Area to pass out and explain your handout for 1-3 Sundays. To keep the church from becoming cluttered, any handouts left after 2 weeks will either be taken away or placed in the church library.



Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Hebrews 13:2

Though I'm pretty certain they weren't angels, in March you welcomed a number of visitors to Good Shepherd, some of whom responded to your warmth not only with kind words, but also with monetary gifts. An example is below. In addition, the Gideons of Boone County have honored Good Shepherd's past support with gifts of bibles that acknowledge our participation. Let us continue in this service of welcoming and supporting all those who come, stranger and missionary.



Cood Shepherd Lutheran Church

Bibles

Will be distributed by members of The Gideons International to belt transform loses through the Word of God

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My daughter and I stopped by your Church a couple of weeks ago while on a mini variation. What a wonderful blussing everyone was with making us feel welcome. Enclosed is a little something to assist during these times. If anyone is even in our area, phase give us a case.

Lots Blussings,

Liva a Cisma

April Pictures Our Main Event



Welcome to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Rite of Installation of Reverend Michael J. Poynter April 25, 2021































LCMS Stewardship Ministry – June 2021

There are three conversions necessary to every man: the head, the heart, and the purse." Attributed to Luther, though yet to be located in his vast writings, this statement echoes what Jesus taught about hearts and treasures. He said, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Matthew 6:21; Luke 12:34)

But which conversion comes first? I submit that the order is this: first the head, then the purse, then the heart. Let's explore this topic.

Our Lord Jesus Christ dwelt among us to save us. He took on our flesh, fulfilled the demands of the law in our place, became sin for us, and suffered torture and death on our behalf. He did this in order that we would be free from sin, death, and hell. He gives us what He accomplished through Baptism, Absolution, and the Lord's Supper. And so, He doesn't just do it for us but gives it to us. He makes what He did ours by making us His. Thus, we are called by His name: Christians. We have a new life in Him.

Through the preaching of Law and Gospel, God grants us repentance, a changing of our minds. It is a conversion of the mind. We are called to turn away from our sins and turn toward Him for forgiveness, life, and salvation. For when God calls us away from something, He is, at the same time, calling us to something.

And thus, He calls us to a new life, with new deeds. This is the conversion of the purse. Jesus said that "it is easier for a camel to enter through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." (Matthew 19:24) "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Notice that our hearts follow our treasures, not the other way around. As Christians, God calls us to invest our treasures in His Kingdom to ensure that the gospel is preached and the sacraments are administered. He calls us to share all good things with the one who teaches us the doctrines of Christ. He calls us to be generous in giving to the church, for it is more blessed to give than to receive.

So where is your treasure? If it is not invested in the kingdom of God, then the only response is repentance – a conversion of the heart – and to begin doing just that. And as our Lord promised, where your treasure is there your heart will be also.

This is not to say that you earn your way into heaven. It is simply to say that as Christians, those who have been made to be temples of the Holy Spirit, who have been given a new life in Christ, who are dead to sin and now alive in Him, we are actually to live – think (conversion of the mind), do (conversion of the purse), and be (conversion of the heart) – a new life in Him. And when you fail, know that God in Christ loves and forgives you and still calls you away from that and to Himself.

NORTHERN KENTUCKY CHAPTER OF LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

Because of the health ramifications for large crowds that still exists, and after much discussion and prayer, the Steering Committee for *Cross the Bridge For Life* has decided that this event will not be able to be held again this year.

The pandemic, however, is still creating obstacles, as well as an upturn in financial needs for crisis-pregnancy centers and life-affirming agencies. This year the Committee is asking you to prayerfully consider donating directly to one of these agencies on your own, if you so desire. Agency names can be found under the New Link section on the <u>crossthebridgeforlife</u>. org website. Please make a notation to the agency that this is a "Paying it Forward" Cross the Bridge For Life 2021 Donation.

Thank you for your consideration. The Northern Kentucky Chapter of Lutherans For Life and the Steering Committee for the *Cross the Bridge For Life* look forward to the day when together we will join peacefully and prayerfully on the Purple People Bridge to stand for the sanctity of all human life.



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