



Good News From Good Shepherd

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

April, 2021

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
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We are Saved by Faith Alone

“In order that the subject might be made quite clear...we receive forgiveness of sins for Christ’s sake through faith alone” and “...through faith alone we are justified.” (Article IV, Justification in The Apology to the Augsburg Confession).

Ephesians 2:8-9 “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

What else, besides having faith, must we do to receive forgiveness of sins and to be justified? The obvious answer is nothing. That’s what faith alone means. Could God have chosen to save us through the use of physical means like water in baptism? Yes, maybe. However, he didn’t. He chose a different way. He chose to justify and save us by our faith alone. Yet, as Lutherans, we participate in practices we call the “**Means of Grace.**” What do we mean by the Means of Grace? It is not a phrase found in the Bible. However, it is a phrase we Lutherans use to help explain a deep truth of God’s grace.

“Baptism, the Lord’s Supper, and Holy Absolution, along with God’s Word as it is written, preached, and shared are sometimes called, ‘**the Means of Grace,**’ because through them, as through earthly elements, the triune God delivers His gifts of forgiveness of sin, life and salvation” (Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation, Means of Grace Question 292, emphasis added). Although God’s Word by itself is a Means of Grace, “along with God’s Word” means “connected with,” not “independent of.” Therefore, the earthly elements of baptism and the Lord’s Supper are considered Means of Grace, only when they are connected with and contain the pronouncement of God’s Word.

This is because **Romans 10:17**, says, “17 Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.” Luther in the Small Catechism in answer to his question, “How can water do such great things?” states that, “It is not the water indeed that does them, but the word of God which is in and with the water, and faith, which trusts such word of God in the water. For without the word of God the water is simple water and no baptism.” With respect to the Lord’s Supper, the Explanation of the Small Catechism under Question 356 states, “Without Jesus’ words, there would be no sacrament...”

The Augsburg Confession, Article XIII: Of the Use of the Sacraments, states: · “Of the Use of the Sacraments they teach that the Sacraments were ordained, not only to be marks of profession among men, but rather to be signs and testimonies of the will of God toward us, instituted to awaken and confirm faith in those who use them. Wherefore we must so use the Sacraments that faith be added to believe the promises which are offered and set forth through the Sacraments.”

They therefore condemn those who teach that the Sacraments justify by the outward act, and who do not teach that, in the use of the Sacraments, faith which believes that sins are forgiven, is required.

Could God have chosen to save us through the use of physical means like water in baptism? That is the wrong question. The proper question is, “How did God choose to save us?”

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Ephesians 2:8-9 “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

No one should say, “Because my parents had me baptized as a baby, I am saved.” Nor should anyone say, “My sins are forgiven because I took communion today.” No one’s actions other than Jesus’, especially not our own, have the power to save us. Earthly elements do not have the power to save us. Instead, we declare that we receive forgiveness of sins for Christ’s sake through faith in Jesus’ death and resurrection, and through faith alone in Jesus Christ, we are justified. We participate in the **Means of Grace** in order to hear God’s promises to forgive our sins and to grant us everlasting life as declared by the **Word of God** which is spoken during the sacraments. And through the hearing of that Word, we awaken and confirm our faith in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

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

The Rev. Michael Poynter
5556 Anstaett Rd.
Batavia, Ohio 45103

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
9066 Gunpowder Rd
Florence, KY 41042

Dear Members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,

Greetings in the name of our crucified and risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

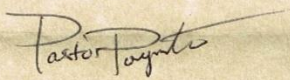
I have been deeply humbled and honored by the Call extended to serve as your Pastor. After consultation with my family and my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, along with much thought and many prayers, I have decided to accept the Divine Call to serve as the pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

I want to express my sincere thanks for your patience over the last several weeks as I have weighed this decision. I also want to express my appreciation for all of the time that the leaders of the congregation have given in providing information and answering my many questions. I will soon be in contact with you to determine the date and details of my installation.

With much enthusiasm I look forward to working with you in the service of our Savior. May it be our prayer that our love and sacrifice for one another will be reflective of the love and sacrifice our Savior continues to shower upon us.

Finally, I would also encourage you to remember the Federation of Lutheran Churches in Cincinnati in your prayers as they enter into a situation where my position will be left vacant.

Yours in Christ,



The Rev. Michael Poynter

cc: Mr. Dan Huss, President of The Federation of Lutheran Churches of Cincinnati and Vicinity
cc: The Rev. Dr. Kevin Wilson, President of the Ohio District of the LC-MS
cc: The Rev. Milton Berner, Circuit Counselor



It is with great pleasure and thanksgiving to God our Father that we celebrate Pastor Poynter’s acceptance to serve as Good Shepherd’s pastor. We look forward to his leadership and teaching, and we pray that God’s Kingdom will continue to flourish and grow as we join with Pastor Poynter in ministry over the coming years. Please keep Pastor Poynter and his family in your prayers as he transitions from his work at the Federation to full time status with us

Also please thank the call committee for their hard work and hours of dedication over the last year. They are:

Lisa Brown Becky Aragon Karen Sladen Bill Shaw
Phil Brann Terry Frey Eric Berns Marlis Norton David Smith

David Smith, Head Elder



Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this? John 11:25-26 KJV

Do you? Do you really believe His words? Do you believe Him? in Him? Is He really your resurrection and life? What difference does it make if we believe it or not? That's really the question. What difference does it make in our lives? What impact does my belief have on the lives of others? Would anyone know we believe this incredible Jesus by our thoughts, words, and actions? Would even Jesus recognize us as believers in Him? Has our Lenten journey strengthened our resolve, our faith, seen improvement in our spiritual behaviors?

We've had an extra year to prepare our hearts for the incredible, joyous celebration that is Easter. With the recent acceptance of the pastoral call, there is even more to celebrate. And just as with Christmas, it is my fervent prayer that the jubilation will not end with one day's festivities, but that the joy shared in the risen Lord will translate to renewed service to His church with vigor and purpose.

Matthew 9:37 - Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;

There are many opportunities to serve the Lord's church and through the church. We all been blessed with gifts to share for the purpose of the kingdom. Now is not the time to bury that treasure, but to be bold and offer it up to the Giver with interest. When offered an opportunity to do so by a tap on the shoulder from a fellow member or the Spirit Himself speaking to our heart, I hope we will respond with joy and YES!

2 Corinthians 1:20 - For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.



Council Actions: At the March meeting, the council reached consensus on the following: 1) Should pastor accept the call and moving assistance not be necessary, deplete the Pastor Relocation fund by applying it to salary; 2) investigate pricing and possibly apply for a tech upgrade grant for the sanctuary offered by the LCMS; 3) Nominating Committee is Phillip B, Deb F, and Julie R. A motion to purchase 2 laptops, one for the office secretary and one for the treasurer with a purchase limit of \$1500 passed. The property board will take care of the purchase.

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.

The description of the Christian Ministry board per the bylaws and the election cycle follow. As 2021 is an odd year, the Christian Ministry and Property board chairs will be appointments for one year until the normal election cycle begins. The Christian Ministry chair can be viewed as a coordinator position working with three other folks (or more) of their choice to provide guidance for the continuation of those activities which the congregation supports in the area of fellowship (in-reach), missions (outreach) and stewardship (website and all resources).

There are no specific requirements for numbers of activities, meetings or agendas. Though five boards were eliminated, the folks active on those boards will be a great resource for the new board chair in supporting those activities that are dear to them, the church and the community.

Should you be approached by the nominating committee as a possible candidate for the Christian Ministry board chair, do not be fearful or timid. God does not call the equipped, He equips the called!



The Board of Christian Ministry

A. This board shall consist of the board chair and at least three (3) additional. Members shall be appointed by the board chair with the oversight of the church council.

B. This board shall have responsibility for nurturing activities for the membership, directing outreach missions and ministries, promoting engagement in stewardship, and communication of the same.

ARTICLE E: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A. Officers of the congregation, board chairs and elders must be voting members. All terms of office shall be two years.

B. The office of president, treasurer, the board of Christian ministry chair, board of property chair and approximately half of the elders will be elected in the second quarter of even numbered years, taking office on July 1.



Federation Seminar with Dr. Greg Seltz: Special thanks go to **Leroy Raap** for assisting with the technical needs on March 20 and **Deb Fitzpatrick** for providing fellowship resources. The seminar drew a number of folks to Good Shepherd from around the Federation and on zoom. Dr. Seltz spoke to our need to be ready to give an answer in both a spiritual and public forum. More can be learned about the work Dr. Seltz performs as our representative to our government in DC at the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty site: lcrifreedom.org

Marlis Norton, Council Pres.

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



Women's Bible Breakfast • Saturday • April 10

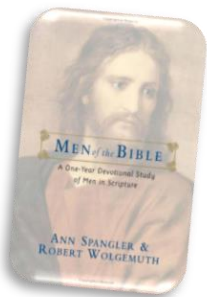
Mark your calendars for the second Saturday in **April at 9 a.m.** We'll use studies from the LWML Quarterly. We will be on-site for those who wish to attend. You are encouraged to bring your own favorite breakfast and are not required to share. If you wish to share a dish, awesome. We take all the necessary precautions of masking, distancing and cleanliness around service items. If you wish to participate remotely, let me know by Wednesday, April 7 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 are meeting on line through at least March. 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.



March 20, 2021
 Federation Education Seminar
 Speaker:
 Rev. Dr. Greg Seltz
 Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty Washington D.C.
 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church



April

- Lisa Berns
- Karyl Juergens
- Fred Langsdale
- Logan Langsdale
- Liam Wesley Ostermeier
- Bryan Yri
- Dalton Aragon
- Mark Aragon
- Taylor Woolley

- April 1
- April 2
- April 2
- April 3
- April 4
- April 13
- April 22
- April 25
- April 27

May

- Leland Woolley
- Kim Warren
- Tammy Vaughan
- Alain Duane
- Brittany Vonderlage
- George Beck
- Karen Sladen

- May 2
- May 6
- May 12
- May 13
- May 18
- May 26
- May 26

March Events

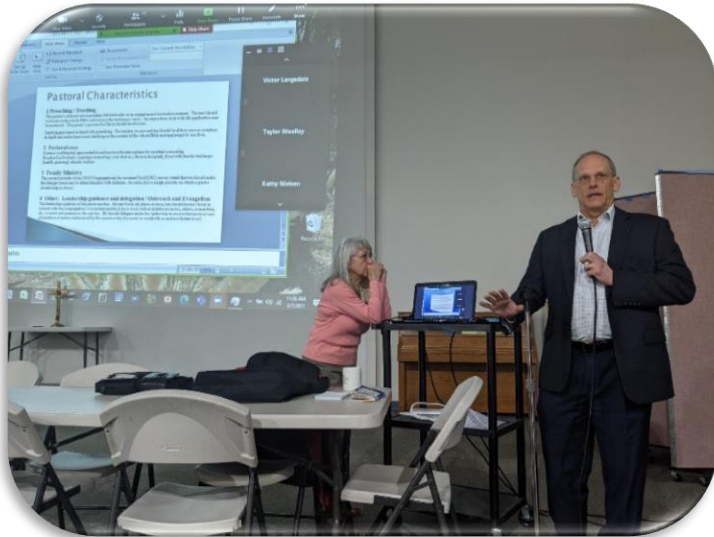
Drive Through Food Pantry





Thanks to all the volunteers. It was a success!!!!!!

Pastoral Call Meeting



Palm Sunday



Many Parents and Grandparents Joined Us for Palm Sunday



Parents of Ryan Birk

Madelyn and Jillian Cottrell's Grandmother



Andy Gawura's Sister, Niece and Grandniece

Lisa and Eric Bern's Son

Easter Sunday Preparations



Easter Baskets for the kids

Decorating the Altar with flowers

Easter Sunday



Brown
Gawuras
Woolleys
Smith Juergens
Brothy
Brann's mom

Please pray for
Andy Gawura
Robert Stevens, sister
Mike Newman, friend
Rachel Magee, friend
Dorothy Ruschau, friend
Bill Ruschau, husband
Lynnette Frodenko



Fellowship After Service



Thank You



*Many thanks and much appreciation to Mary Givhan, Leroy Raap, Mike Rath, Barb Barvincak, and Glen Leavens for sharing your musical gifts with the congregation during the Lent, Holy Week, and Easter services..
Kim Leavens*

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Congratulations



*To Stewart and Bethany Regan
on the birth of their
son George born in February
William and Caroline look very
happy!!!!*