



Good News From Good Shepherd

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

April, 2023

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

Pastor Michael J. Poynter
masappoynter@reagan.com cell
(513) 429-6778 (Call or text)

Our Testimonies

In February, a visitor unexpectedly gave her testimony to the congregation. I was not at church that day to hear what she had to say, but it has made me reflect on my testimony - how God has worked in my life to strengthen my faith in Him and in His gospel message.

Paul certainly did not shy away from giving his testimony. His account of his conversion on the Damascus Road was told in Acts 13, Acts 22, and Acts 26. He also told accounts of his beatings and hardships on his missionary journeys, such as in 2 Corinthians 11:23-33.

As for me, I remember attending my great-grandmother's funeral when I was 5 or 6 years old. When I got home, I asked my mom why people were sad. Didn't they know great-grandma was in heaven with Jesus? Obviously, someone taught me the gospel at a young age.

However, I was still a child needing to grow in my faith. I did not turn to God in times of trouble or pray much. Thankfully, during my life, God has reached out to me in many different ways to strengthen my faith in Him. When I did pray, God answered many prayers proving to me that he exists. During high school, I began flipping open my Bible to read a little each night. I never knew to which passage the Bible was going to open. Yet, the Lord led me to the right passages for me to clearly see his Gospel message. I flipped open to, "Be holy for I am holy" (Lev 11:45), "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23), and "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23). I learned about justification by grace alone through faith alone by flipping the Bible open. No one walked me through it. God's word is sufficient. Still, I had a meager faith, at best. I did not handle life's challenges by turning to God first.

When, I went to college I was too busy to read the Bible or attend a local church. It wasn't until I graduated, got married and had my own children that I went to church again. Unfortunately, church did not help me with life's struggles. It took divorce, hardships at work, and financial struggles to lead me down a path of seeking the Lord and His help. I began listening to Biblical radio sermons and flipping my Bible open again in prayer. The more I read and listened to God's word, the more I could see God's answers to my prayers. And I was amazed at how the passages I flipped open to each morning helped me with some aspect of my day. I just had to pay attention.

I could tell a myriad of stories about how God has acted in my life. Remembering these past experiences has drawn me closer to God and shown me that he is a God who cares about my daily life. He exclaims, "I took care of you before. I'll keep caring for you in the future." If only I had paid attention to God earlier. If only I had remembered my past experiences of God acting in my life sooner. If only I would remember my own testimony today. Then it would be easier for me to face each new day in faith.

By His grace, God has allowed me to share my testimony, my experiences of God acting in my life, to help other people. This is one way we evangelize. We are told not to bury our "coins" (Luke 19:11-27). But our testimonies are not just for others; they are truly, first and foremost, for ourselves. Our testimonies remind us of how God has acted in our past to care for us and draw us closer to Him. This knowledge strengthens us in faith today and reminds us that God is and will always be there for us. Reflect on what your testimony means to you and step forward each day boldly in faith. With that comfort, you will be prepared to share your testimony with others. **David Smith, Head Elder**

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A Message from Your President

Empty tomb near Golgatha, Jerusalem→

Looking and Seeing...

Looking: Fixing the eyes on upon something or in some direction in order to see...

Seeing: Perceiving with the eyes to understand...



The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Matthew 28:5-6 (NIV)

Yep, there’s a difference between casting our eyes upon an object and then perceiving with understanding what we are viewing.

Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away. John 20:15 (KJV)

Denial and assumption... When what we have looked upon cannot be fully comprehended or is not what we wish to see with understanding, we conform the image into something we can understand or prefer...

The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the LORD. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe. John 20:25 (KJV)

And, finally, prove to me this thing that I have looked upon is worthy of my seeing with comprehension, understanding and Christ-like response.

Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed. John 20:29 (KJV)

Thank you, Jesus, my Lord, and my God.



Council Actions: The leadership team met on March 13 and took the following actions:

- Treasurer and President were authorized to establish staggered 6- and 12-month CDs with Edward Jones as an alternative investment of our Operating Reserve Fund. [That has since been accomplished.]
- We also authorized the gifting of \$500 to the Tech Ministry of Rev. Derrick Hurst at Living Word Lutheran in Galena, OH, as a paying forward for the assistance and equipment that they so graciously shared with us to get our services back online via Facebook. They ministry is to offer these services to any of our churches with limited tech resources and know-how.
- Consensus was reached on registering Good Shepherd as a participant in the new Ohio District Campus Ministry effort. By doing so and informing the District of colleges in our area, they will maintain a website of the list of churches and a list of liaisons (not on the website) and work to connect inquiring students with nearby churches.
- Agreed by consensus that Marlis would investigate adding streaming service to our CCLI licensing. [Accomplished.]
- Agreed that, having Facebook as a better alternative for streaming services and Pastor not seeing a need, we no longer need the Zoom account and moved to cancel the subscription. [Note: we were not aware of any service within the church using the account for meetings, etc. If that is incorrect, please notify me – mnorton6541@gmail.com]
- Identified the offices up for election in May: VP, Secretary, Financial Secretary, Head Elder, Elder. Phillip B. will be heading the Nominating Committee.

Marlis Norton, Council Pres.

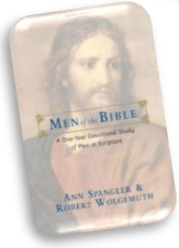
Embraced by His Grace, Engaged in His Word, Empowered by His Spirit

Christian Education



Women's Bible Breakfast • Will resume in April

We will meet at 9 a.m. 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. We will begin a new series to be determined.



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 at Jeremiah - the lengthiest book in the Bible.



Church Prayer Time
3rd Wednesday
6pm-7pm

Men's Bible Study **Mondays 10 am**
Pastor's Bible Study
Sunday Mornings 8:45
Tuesdays 7 pm

Bible Study at Legacy Living 3rd Wednesday of the Month



April

Karyl Juergens	April 2
Fred Langsdale	April 2
Liam W Ostermeier	April 4
Meekah Siren	April 12
Bryan Yri	April 13
Dalton Aragon	April 22
Mark Aragon	April 25
Taylor Woolley	April 27

May

Leland Woolley	May 2
Michael Poynter	May 6
Kim Warren	May 6
Tammy Vaughan	May 12
Alain Duane	May 13
Brittany Vonderlage	May 18
Amanda Poynter	May 20
Brigid Smith	May 27





Easter Fellowship, April 9, 2023

Fellowship on Easter Sunday - April 9, 2023. Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed! It is a joyous occasion that our Lord has risen and we love to celebrate it with our family in Christ. Everyone is invited and if you like, bring a dish of your choice to share. Fellowship will begin after our worship service in the Family Life Center.

Our children's Easter egg hunt will begin after the children have had their share of the delicious food and drink provided. Please have the children bring a basket if they can. Plan on joining us!



Ladies High Tea
Saturday, May 6, 2023
Good Shepherd Lutheran
Church
2:00 - 4:00 pm
You are invited



Multigenerational Trivia Day –
On April 16th, after church service
Potluck – Sandwich style
Trivia Games after lunch

Please let Becky Aragon know if you can attend and what you plan to bring. Contact her at baragon136@gmail.com or (859) 750-2618.
Hope you can come!

Women's Auxiliary Committee • Blanket Brigade

THANK YOU to Kim Leavens, Janie Stickel and Karen Sladen who combined their efforts to complete 48 blankets for this Auxiliary mission. The blankets were delivered to Dorothy Surdick (Zion Lutheran) who is the material coordinator for the Committee. [Janie and Kim pictured]

Our blankets will be a portion of the 250 we expect to complete through our sister churches of the Federation. These are part of the larger ongoing mission of supplying UCMC new mother's with a gift of encouragement to take home.



Missions In Motion

"You Are My Witnesses"

Acts 1:8

Sunday, April 30, 2023

2 - 4 pm

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

1175 Birney Ln
Cincinnati, OH 45230

POBLO MISSION:

To meet the physical, social, and spiritual needs of Muslims and other immigrants and refugees in the United States by sharing the love of Jesus in practical and culturally relevant ways.

ABOUT POBLO:

People Of The Book Lutheran Outreach (POBLO) International Ministries is a non-profit, Christian organization that is passionate about sharing the love of Jesus with Muslims and other immigrants and refugees living in the United States.



There will also be a short zone meeting and the election of officers.

NOTE: Plastic bags are needed for St James in Archbold Ohio. They are making plastic sleeping mats. 20 just went to a mission in Ft. Wayne. Please flatten the bags.



9:59 71%

← Posts

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Way to go Jillian

We are so proud of you!



Liked by jillcottrell14 and 51 others

msbeierla So extremely proud of Jill for winning a silver medal in the National Scholastic Writing Award C...

Scholastic Art & Writing Awards
Alliance for Young Artists & Writers

March 22, 2022

Jillian Cottrell
1206 Edgebrook Court
Florence, KY 41042

Dear Jillian,

Congratulations, you are now a 2023 Scholastic Awards National Winner!

The Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, the nonprofit organization that presents the Scholastic Awards, is pleased to present you with the award(s) listed on your dashboard in recognition of this achievement.

More than 100,000 students submitted more than 260,000 works of art and writing to the 2023 Scholastic Awards. Your work was selected by some of the foremost leaders in the visual and literary arts for excellence in originality, technical skill, and the emergence of a personal voice or vision. Less than 2,000 works received a National Medal, which places you within the top 1% of all submissions!

Since 1923, the Awards have celebrated teen artists and writers from across the country. You are now part of that legacy, joining the ranks of notable alumni, including Tschabalala Self, Stephen King, Kay WalkingStick, Charles White, Joyce Carol Oates, and Andy Warhol—all of whom won Scholastic Awards when they were teens.

We are proud to publish your work in our Online Galleries at artandwriting.org in June. Your name will also be listed in Yearbook 2022, a companion to our annual publications Best Teen Art and Best Teen Writing, which feature selections of works by National Medalists.

Once again, congratulations. The Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, our supporters, and our partners are honored to celebrate your accomplishment.

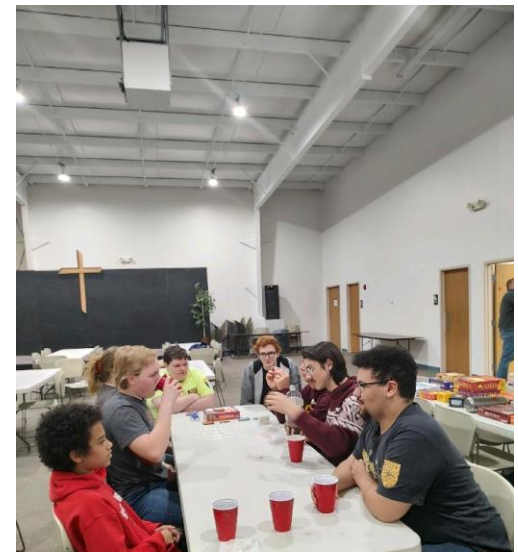
Sincerely,

Christopher Wisniewski
Executive Director
Alliance for Young Artists & Writers

657 Broadway, New York, NY 10012 | Telephone 212-343-7700 | artandwriting.org

March Events

Youth Servant Event and Game Night



Martha/Mary Day Church Clean up and Bible Study



Bowling



Kim's Piano Student Recital



Garden Spruce Up



OWLS VISIT Butterfly Exhibit

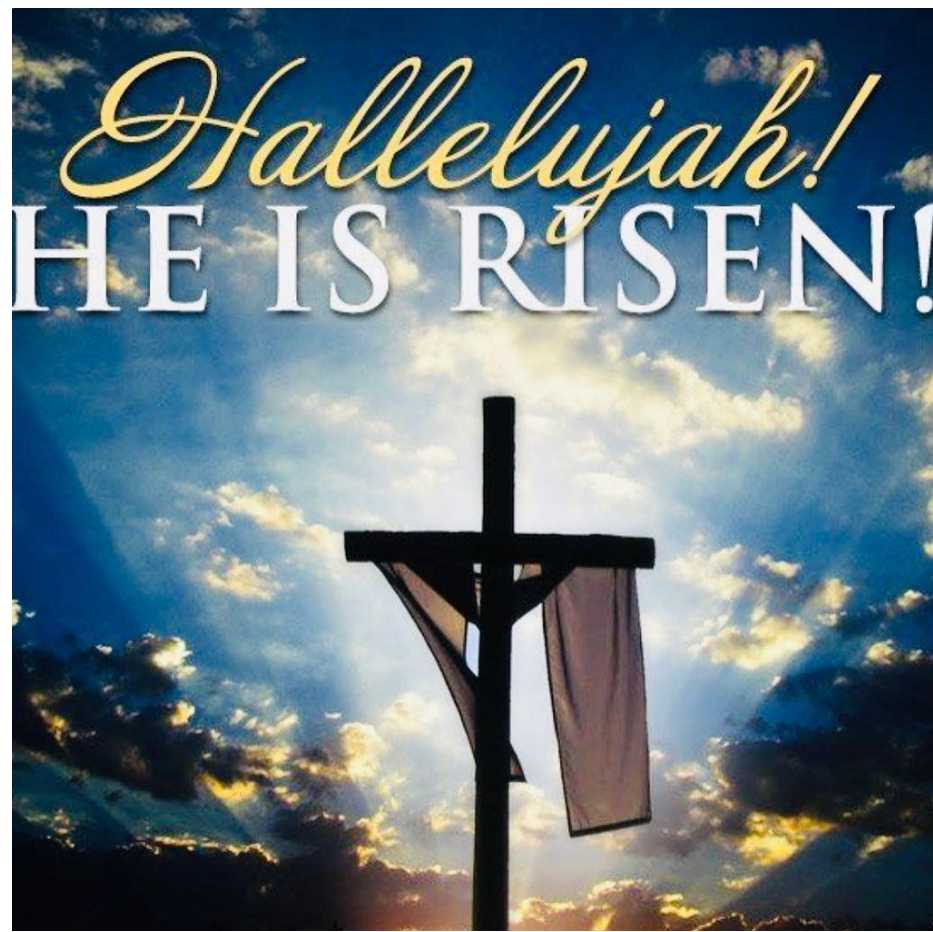


CONTRATULATIONS

**Jon and Abby Komplin
Eleanor Jean
born March 25
8lbs 7oz 20 inches**

What a blessing!





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