



Good News From Good Shepherd

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

August 2020

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Experiencing God's Work

So much for the virus going away anytime soon. I guess we all knew it would linger for a long time despite the shut-down to "flatten the curve." Still, during the past three months, a range of destructive emotions have grown heavy upon us like cancerous tumors eating away at us with fear of getting sick, anxiety for those who lost their jobs, frustration over extended shut-downs, and uncertainty over how to live our lives. Topics such as to whether we must wear a mask or not take over our conversations. Then we became angry over the Floyd George situation and the list goes on.

It is easy to focus on the intrusions that disrupt our lives, especially when we believed life was good beforehand. How dare we allow these events to interfere. It can be worse when we are already struggling to stay ahead of day-to-day issues. The intrusions add on to the pile of hardships that we face, and they overwhelm us.

At Good Shepherd we have felt the impact of these intrusions both as individual members and as a church body. We faced the questions of when and how we open back up. We struggled with how we provide communion and whether we use the common cup. We've stressed over how to care for our members. Lastly, we move forward with uncertainty over how best to offer Sunday School and Confirmation Class this Fall.

When we focus on our intrusions, we forget to watch and see how God is working in our lives. We forget that, despite the virus, God provided us with two pastors to serve us during our vacancy through the end of September. God also graciously allowed us to offer services via Zoom before providing the opportunity to open immediately after the restrictions were lifted. Now we are worshipping as one body of believers in one, 10:00 am service and over Zoom. The excitement expressed by our members over this one service has been overwhelming. We plan on continuing with this schedule during the coming year.

God has allowed us to participate together in communion, first through the self-sealed cups and now through the individual cups we are used to using.

God has allowed us to care for our members. Despite the initial inability to personally visit our hospitalized members or our shut-ins, we have been able to keep in contact via the phone and Zoom. We have been able to provide communion to shut-ins. We have been able to form a Care Group to ensure the news of those needing help is shared with the right people allowing the appropriate care to be delivered. We have been able to form a Zoom prayer meeting on Wednesday nights to pray for our church, its members and the call process. If you have not participated in this, please consider doing so. Watch for the Zoom link sent out via email.

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Lastly, with God's help, we will offer Sunday School and Confirmation Class this Fall, at the 9:00 am hour. Please pray that these plans come together.

When we focus on our intrusions, we forget God is still actively ministering to us and providing opportunities for us to join in his ministry to others. Just as he has provided for Good Shepherd, he is active in each of our daily lives. Let us praise God for his continued care for us in our daily lives

David Smith, Head elder
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27 And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself.....²⁹But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And *who is my neighbor?*.....³⁶ Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbor unto him that fell among the thieves? ³⁷ And he said, He that *showed mercy on him*. Luke 10:27,29,36-37a (KJV)

Lately I have been struck by the power of words. In the Kentucky Enquirer, Monday, July 27, 2020, on the front page read this sub-header: "Experts: Empty roads **cause** people to speed". Later in the article the quoted expert said this, "...other cars not being on the road, not being in the way, **allows** people to drive like a bat out of ____". And still later this conclusion, "We have to redesign our roads and highways in order to **force** people to drive slower." [*Italics* my emphasis in all cases]. The article was highlighting the COVID-induced reduction in traffic volume resulting in an increase in driver fatalities.

As I ponder it, an empty road cannot **cause, allow** or **force** anything on anyone. It is an inanimate object, an empty road. **I**, however, can **cause** a tragedy if **I allow** myself to ignore the rules of the empty (or not) road and **I** selfishly **force** my will recklessly on my vehicle to go faster than is posted or prudent. As with the young lawyer, evidenced by the article, we are still *seeking to justify* ourselves instead of *seeing* and accepting our responsibility.

There was no outcry over the implications of the article's words as there was with the phrase "defund the police". Yet, while the first use is subtle and the second noisy, they both wield power. The power is in the conversation about the words, their meaning, their context, their purpose. Outcomes are dependent on thoughtful, respectful exchanges.



Words, subtle or noisy, can make or break our relationships.



Jesus told a simple story to the young lawyer who was seeking a list of those to be counted as neighbors. The story we know as the 'Good Samaritan' included a priest, a Levite, the Samaritan and the man needing aid. I admit publicly here that having *seen* this story countless times, I finally *saw* it! With amazing subtlety Jesus turned the whole concept of neighbor upside down for the lawyer and us! Like the lawyer and the law, I've always first considered those *to whom* I show love (mercy) to be the neighbor. Jesus says not so fast.

The neighbor is also *he who shows mercy!*

Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise. Luke 10:37b (KJV)

In the spirit of Jesus words, to go and do likewise (*show mercy, be a neighbor*), I entreat all of us to *be a neighbor* and *show mercy* as we encounter our various *empty roads*. Whether an actual empty road begging to be sped upon, a decision to wear a mask or not, or WORDS - a rebuke we're itching to lay upon one who has offended, a word of thanks left unspoken, an overdue confession, a recent disagreement - *be a neighbor*. *Show mercy* - slow down, be considerate, forgive, reconcile, respectfully converse.

And to take it a neighborly step further, I am inviting our church body to an exchange of WORDS (i.e. a *neighborly* conversation!) over my backyard (Zoom) fence. Given that there is a lot going on... Call committee, COVID, anticipation of restarting more activities, constitution, bylaws, committees.... and more, it seems that conversation to keep us connected is even more important. Do you have an idea, concern, question, perspective you wish to express? Could be on anything - church or even the perspective presented in this text. Conversation, idea sharing and constructive criticism with Christian charity (and mercy) are encouraged.

The fence will be manned twice a month on Tuesday evenings from 8pm-9pm; any and all members are invited to join in. If no one shows up in the first 15 minutes, I will simply end the session. The first session will be Tuesday, August 4 at 8pm. Watch for the email with the link.



Council in July - In person and online

Council reached consensus on a number items related to managing finances including: 1) Dropping a report that had lost its usefulness (one less thing for the new Treasurer to fuss with); 2) providing a credit card for Property's use, 3) taking up the Fund Policies next month and 4) tasking the Finance committee to work further on the Audit Committee and Finance Committee charters after the first reading.

We are still in **need of a Council Secretary**. The appointment would continue through June 2021 when the position is up for official election. Please remember your Council Servants and support them with your prayers, your encouragement, your gratitude and your time as you have the opportunity.

A commitment was made by our Communication Board to refresh the church website, updating graphics and information. As we near the time when possible pastoral candidates may be 'checking us out' as much as we are endeavoring to do the same, it is important this work be done as the website is our first impression window to the world. If you have talents that lend themselves to such work, please reach out to Jenn O, the board chair.

Dates were considered for the re-review of the constitution and by-laws and the consensus was that early October would be best given the Anniversary celebration was still a go. Now that we are officially postponing the celebration, we may be able to have that conversation sooner.

While our financial status in this moment is 'ok' only in as much as we are in vacancy and not paying a full-time pastor, our performance in June was not indicative of sustaining a solid financial position. We need to be prepared for the expenses of a call and monthly salary, in addition to those maintenance items that are yet lurking. Please prayerfully consider, as you are able, to maintain the momentum we had last year which equipped us for these times.

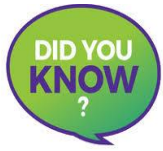
As of June 30	Actual	Budget	Over/Under
Revenue to Date	\$ 99,567.90	\$ 122,820.96	\$ (23,253.08)
Expenses to Date	\$ 85,996.94	\$ 123,779.38	\$ (37,732.44)
Variance	\$ 13,570.96	\$ (958.42)	\$ 14,529.38

Earworm alert! *Won't you be my neighbor?* Mr. Rogers got it long before I did....

Please continue to keep our Call Committee and Dr. Wilson and his Ohio District team in your prayers as they work to compile a list of men they discern to be a good fit to lead our mission and for our collective discernment to align our choice with God's choice when the time comes.

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

“ 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.



2006-2007

"Building With The Lord--Building For His Mission" campaign allowed Good Shepherd to construct our Family Life Center and Classroom Building.

Upon Pastor Duchow's retirement in 2007, Rev. Richard Turic accepted Good Shepherd's call as Pastor.



Favorite Hymn Sunday - On **August 30** we will join together during the worship service to sing our favorite hymns. You may submit your list of favorite hymns (up to 15) to Kim Leavens glenandkim85@gmail.com or Lynn at the church office secretary@gslicky.org by Sunday, August 9th Thanks so much to everyone who participates. It is always a joy to sing the congregation's favorite hymns

"..addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart..."Ephesians 5:19



Women's Sunday Bible Study • 11 a.m. • Perseverance

Our small group will meet with appropriate distancing on Sundays in the Duchow Room and provide a Zoom connection for those not ready to meet in person. We continue our study **Perseverance** through the book of Nehemiah by Donna Pyle.



Women's Bible Breakfast • Saturday • Off 'til September

We will break for summer and reconvene our event in September - hopefully in person. Mark your calendars for the second Saturday in **September, the 12th at 9 a.m.** We'll continue the series **A Time for Everything** and anticipate concluding it in November and having a special Christmas featured study in December.

Women of the Bible Tuesday Morning Bible Study • August 4

We will resume this study, meeting at church, at **9:30 a.m. Tuesday, August 4.** All are welcome



Women's Tuesday Bible Study at the Smith's house will resume in September.

Zoom Call Committee Meeting With Pastor Mueller and Pastor Wilson



Call Committee Update

Over the last three months, the Call Committee (made up of David Smith, Head Elder; Marlis Norton, Council President; Becky Aragon; Bill Shaw; Philip Brann; Lisa Brown; Eric Berns; Terry Frey; and Bill Shaw) has been meeting regularly on the call process. The committee has completed the congregational self-survey which, when it was finished, was sent to the congregation in late June. We utilized the Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) survey to help us fill-out the survey. The survey describes our desire for a pastor with:

strong scriptural preaching and teaching ability,

pastoral care acumen,

and skills in attracting to and retaining families with children in our church.

In addition, we desire a pastor who can lead by training us and by participating with us in the sharing of the Gospel and in the performance of our ministries.

The committee has spent the month of July developing interview questions for the pastor candidates that will enable us to appropriately assess each candidate's abilities in these areas. Also in July, we met with President Wilson of the Ohio District who is in charge of pulling together a list of pastor candidates for our review.

We have come to a critical phase of our call process and **greatly desire your prayers for God's guiding hand.** This is the phase in which we wait and pray.

We wait for President Wilson to review our self-survey and the comments gathered at our July meeting with him.

We wait for him to develop a pastor profile from the information he learned about us.

And **we wait** for him to pull together and send to us a list of candidates for our review. Pray that God moves Pastor Wilson and his staff with the Holy Spirit and provides him discernment to gather the list of pastors that God wants for us to review. Pray that the Holy Spirit guides us to the right candidate with the proper attributes.

We are truly excited about where we are in the call process. The committee members have gotten along wonderfully and have been of one mind. We believe we are well prepared to move on to the next phase of reviewing the resumes we receive. We ask for your prayers for the skills to ask the proper questions in the right way and for our own discernment in evaluating the candidates' answers. God will lead us to the right pastor. We know this because he is our Savior who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. We have faith in his guiding hand.

We will send an announcement out as soon as we receive the list of candidates from Pastor Wilson. God Bless and thank you for your prayers.

David Smith, Head Elder



School Supply Collection



Thank you to all who contributed to the collection of school supplies. We will carry on our tradition by donating these supplies the Family Resource Centers at some of our local schools.



After careful consideration, Whiz Kids will not be held this year due to Covid -19. The state's mandates would be difficult to implement for this type of program. We look forward to serving the children from our community next year!

Julie Rath, Outreach Ministry Chair

July Events



Sunday Morning Women's Bible Study Lunch in the Park

Sunday Morning at Good Shepherd





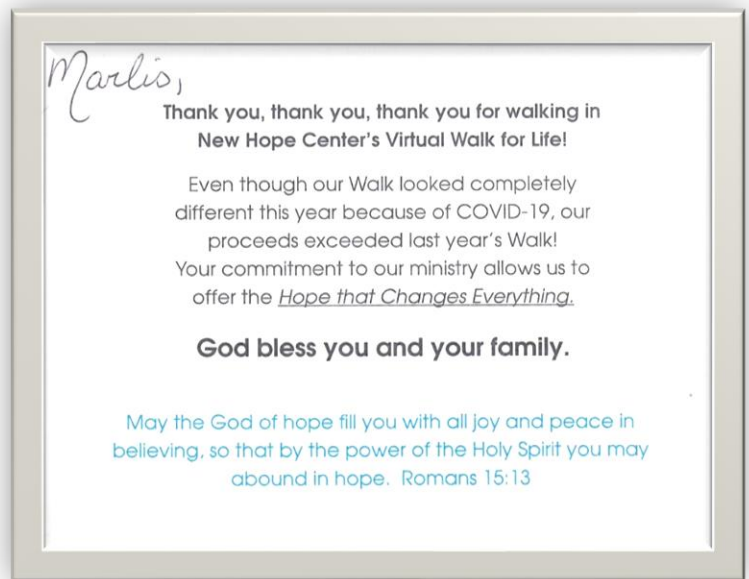
Join us for worship on Sunday morning at 10am in person or on Zoom.



Alberta Caughley
 Steve Oberst
 Grant Reasoner
 Vonnie Herr
 Susan Speicher
 Sharon Snowden
 Eric Berns
 Bryan Molina
 Josie Olson
 Sherri Smith
 Debbie Fitzpatrick
 Becky Aragon
 Connor Gumm
 Will Vonderlage

August 1
 August 2
 August 3
 August 6
 August 11
 August 13
 August 15
 August 16
 August 20
 August 20
 August 23
 August 25
 August 28
 August 28

The 25th Anniversary celebration has been postponed. This decision was made after consulting with our guest speaker, the Elders and the Anniversary Committee. Social distance doesn't allow us co-mingle or gather close to engage in conversations. The inside banner will be displayed. Displaying of the outside banner will be put on hold. The celebration will be held in 2021. The date and time of the celebration will be determined at a later date.



Thank you to everyone who supported me through my funding site for this walk. Mary and I walk two miles (not just one) in honor of the donors.

Marlis Norton

Trash for Cash

Giving Green to Keep Boone County Green

Please join us on **Saturday, August 8** as we collect trash along three Boone county streets (Hopeful Church Road, Cayton Road and Pheasant Road).

All supplies needed for this project will be provided. Contact Mary Givhan (mtgivhan310507@hotmail.com or 513.295.5068) if you would like to join us. Social distancing should not be a problem. We will go out in teams. Meet at Hopeful Church on Hopeful Church Road at 8 am. Looking forward to seeing you there.

**The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry – August 2020**

Winston Churchill reportedly said, “we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” According to Churchill then, our lives are defined less by what we have gotten and more by what we give away.

Our Lord’s life is defined in this way. He gave completely of Himself for us. He became man for us. He taught the truth of God’s Word. He healed those with many and various diseases. He died the death that we deserve because of sin. He gave of Himself in order to save us from sin, death, and hell. So it is that by giving completely of Himself, He got us for Himself, making us citizens of His eternal kingdom by grace.

As it was for Jesus, so it is also for us. We get more from giving than we do from simply getting. Giving softens our hearts and frees us from the worries of this world and making a living. For when we are singularly focused on making a living, we are singularly focused on what we get.

That mindset begins to bleed into all areas of our lives – our relationships with friends and family, with neighbors and coworkers, and with the Lord. It shifts our focus from asking “How can I be a friend, family member, neighbor, and servant to others?” to “What have they done for me lately?” We become more selfish instead of selfless.

But, when we give, we do not have less, and we do not become less. We have more and become more. Because when we give, we join in the bond of friendship and family, the bond of service to those around us out of love for them. And love is the fulfillment of the Law. It is the nature of God Himself, for God is Love. Thus, we are participating in the divine nature. As Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive”.

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