



Good News From Good Shepherd

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

February, 2022

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
website: www.gslcky.org 859.746.9066
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)

Look into my Eyes

My wife and I live in the same house. We walk by one another down the same hallways, sit in the same living room when we watch TV, and share our meals together. But at times it feels as if we are not connecting and are growing apart. She says we don't look into one another's eyes enough.

We can have the same issue with God. We visit in his house, walk down his hallways, sit in the sanctuary where we worship. We share our communion meal together. Yet, like with our spouses at times, we feel as if we are disconnected from God and growing apart. We aren't looking into his eyes enough.

It's not that our spouses aren't there for us. They still help us do things around the house. They even chit chat with us throughout the day. And it's not as if God isn't there for us either. He watches over us and provides us what we need. But even though we receive those things, we don't feel connected. We move along life with an empty feeling.

The Israelites had the same problem. After they left Egypt, God led them with the pillar of fire to light their way at night and to shade them from the sun during the day. 1 Corinthians 10 says they "all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness." They were not looking into the eyes of God. Their gaze was elsewhere. Psalm 78:10-11 says they refused to walk according to God's law and they forgot his works.

In Isaiah 48:12, God says, "Listen to me!" He wants us to look into his eyes and really listen. And in Isaiah 48:17, he says, "I am the Lord your God who teaches you to profit, who leads you in the way you should go." He has a plan for us. He wants to connect with us. Yet he says, In Isaiah 65:12 that, "when I called you did not answer; when I spoke, you did not listen." And he describes us in Isaiah 65:2 as a rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, following our own devices. We are not looking into God's eyes and listening to him when we are selfish, focusing on our own desires. We are not looking and listening when we grumble about our lives and what God is or is not doing in them. We are not looking into God's eyes and listening to him when we don't take time to read his word and really think about what He is telling us.

God says, with a broken heart, "Oh that you had paid attention to my commandments!" We need to take the time to listen to God and humbly look into his eyes by reading his word and approaching him in prayer with a contrite heart. Then he promises our peace will be like a river and our righteousness will be like the waves of the sea (Isaiah 48:18).

While we are at it, we should take the time to look into our spouse's eyes and listen. We must put aside, for a time, the things we would rather be doing and stop grumbling about our own lives or the things our spouses are doing. And we need to listen to their words and read their body language and expressions, considering their meaning and acting accordingly. If we do this, our peace with our spouses will be like a river as we connect and grow closer together.

Isn't it amazing how our relationship with God and our relationship with our spouses operate in a similar fashion? Look into their eyes.

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

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A Message from Your President



Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 1 John 4:10 (KJV)

It's the month of red hearts already. I looked up the meaning of the word *love* online and made an interesting discovery. As I scanned the various returns, all of which used similar terms like deep, affection, strong, joy, pleasure.... only one, Merriam-Webster, included the term *constant*.

Love: a feeling of strong or *constant* affection for a person. (Merriam-Webster online)

Who among us can claim *constant*, strong affection for others!? I don't measure up to that standard, but scripture tells me who does:

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. 1 John 3:16a (NIV)

Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: 1 John 3:16a (KJV)

Our God Incarnate, Jesus, is the One and Only; not only in *constant* love, but love to the point of death on a cross, just for us. Now comes our challenge and command:

This is my command: Love each other. John 15:17 (NIV)

Our congregation has gone through some periods of brokenness. We'll never be perfect, but we've come a long way. We still have our squabbles and misunderstandings - we are not *constant* in love. What I have seen though is more grace, more patience, more openness, more awareness that we don't want to repeat history. What a joy to serve in such an environment! I pray it continues and that we strive, *constantly*, to encourage one another, building one another up in the faith as well as in relationship and service.

And with regard to service, we will begin this month to seek candidates for the May elections to serve one another on the leadership team. Prayerfully consider how you might demonstrate your love for one another through this service. The positions to be elected in May include **President, Treasurer, Christian Ministry Chair, Property Chair and three Elders**. The terms will begin July 1 and continue through June 30, 2024. We all have been blessed by God with various gifts meant to be used in His service for the benefit of one another. Serving is a way we can express our love to Him.

And thank you to those **Christian Ministry servants** who made the sharing events of last year's holiday season possible and encouraged us in participation. We had a wonderful response and were able to supply numerous families with food and gifts during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays! The final distribution tallies were: Thanksgiving Baskets - 12; Christmas Baskets - 16; Operation Christmas Child Boxes - 21; and 31 Angel Tree children received 54 gifts!

May God continue to bless all of us with a healthy measure of his *constant love* for one another!



Council Actions: At the January council meeting we reached consensus on a number of items: 1) Identifying candidates for the open position of Secretary. [The Secretary is a voting member of council and a trustee, responsible for recording the minutes of both council and voter meetings.]; 2) Revisiting the mortgage item at the February voter meeting that was tabled in November; 3) Identifying nominees for Ohio District President and VPs; 4) and tabling the plan to reconvene the CAT committee to a later time.

Marlis Norton, Council Pres.

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



Thirteenth Month Campaign

The name and goals of the campaign are derived from our budget. Each month we budget a little more than \$20,000 for expenses. What if we targeted an extra \$20,000 each year for 5 years to apply to the mortgage?

Good Shepherd's mortgage balance as of December 2021 was \$670,788 and is not scheduled to be fully paid off until 2043. In order to accelerate the pace to pay-off, the congregation established in November the **Thirteenth Month Campaign**. The campaign is multi-faceted. 1) A goal (yet to be approved) is to pay toward interest and principal the budgeted \$4,000 per month, instead of the scheduled mortgage payment (~\$3737). 2) By way of congregational sacrificial giving the campaign goal is to raise an additional \$20,000 annually, applied to principle not less than quarterly each year for the next 5 years.

The benefits of making the \$4,000 mortgage payment and the additional Thirteenth Month Campaign payments are significant:

	\$4,000 Monthly Payment	\$5,000 per quarter for 5 years
Interest rate	3.625%	3.625%
Monthly payment	\$4,000	\$4,000/mo + \$20,000/yr
Pay-off year	2041 vs 2043	2038 vs 2043
Interest saved	\$31,858	\$74,000 additional

The mortgage period is cut by 5 years and total interest saved is \$105,858 assuming the funds are raised, payments are made as anticipated and interest remains consistent.

Praise God! We're on our way! The amount applied to principle in January was **\$13,850!!** Please join in supporting the Thirteenth Month Campaign to make Good Shepherd a financially healthier congregation!

Christian Education

Women's Bible Breakfast • Saturday • February 12



Make a new start in the new year. If you've never attended, give it a try. Our study will be the LWML Quarterly series on the Fruits of the Spirit. We will be on-site for those who wish to attend in person. You are encouraged to bring your own favorite breakfast and are not required to share. If you wish to share a dish, awesome. If you wish to participate remotely, let the office know by Wednesday, February 9 and a Zoom session will be set up and the study emailed to you.

Women's Sunday Bible Study • *Forgiveness* • 8:45 a.m.

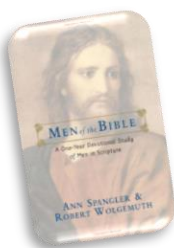
Our small group meets in the Duchow Room. Our study is *Forgiveness* by Donna Pyle(now Snow). The book is available from CPH for \$14.99. Please feel free to join in. It's not too late!



book is

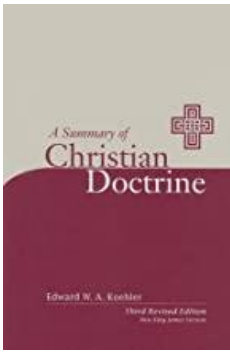
Women's Tuesday Bible Study • *Men of the Bible* • 9:30 am

We are meeting in person; 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.

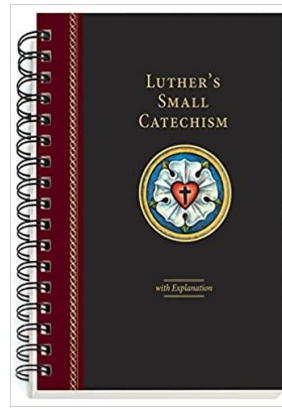


Women's Bible Study at Sherri Smith's Tuesdays 3-5 pm and 6-8 pm

All women are welcome to join WBS, including friends outside of GSLC. Contact Sherri who lives in Union at 210-854-2598 if interested.



Men's Bible Study
Mondays – 10 Am
A Summary of
Christian Doctrine



Pastor's Bible Study
Sunday at 8:45 am
Tuesday at 7:00 pm
Luther's Small Catechism



Welcome to All the Ladies of Good Shepherd! It is that fun time of year for the Ladies Luncheon! All the Ladies of Good Shepherd are invited to get together for a Special Ladies Luncheon on Saturday, February 19th at 12:00 noon. We will share in the joys and blessings of being Sisters in Christ. Also at this luncheon, the Secret Sister that you prayed for all 2021 yearlong will be revealed! More information and details about the luncheon will follow, but if you have any questions meanwhile, please don't hesitate to contact Karen Sladen at karen.sladen@yahoo.com or 203.313.4359/cell.

A friend loves at all times, and a 'sister' is born for a time of adversity! Proverbs 17:17

All Women Welcome to
***LWML* Cincinnati Zone Event**

“IN OUR OWN VOICE”
(Caring for Yourself)

by NAMI Southwest Ohio
(National Alliance on Mental Illness)

Zoom event and business meeting
10:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 12, 2022

Zoom Code numbers will be emailed to all churches & representatives & guest on Tues/Wed of that week prior
Representatives for each church requested to attend Business meeting



February

Patricia Gage	February 1
Mike Rath	February 3
Sarah Gamel	February 6
Dave Schneider	February 7
Allison Shaw	February 9
Jillian Cottrell	February 14
Sarah Poynter	February 15
Nicole Vaughan	February 16
Leroy Raap	February 17
Tammy Woolley	February 17
Lynda Oberst	February 18
Melanie Cottrell	February 27
Paul Barvincak	February 28

March

Phillip Brann	March 4
Susan Schneider	March 8
Linda Kuhn	March 9
Jeanne Brooks	March 15
Lenton Woolley	March 15
Maleah Siren	March 20



**Youth Fund Raising Event
Potato Bar
Sunday, February 20
Prior to the Voters' Meeting
More Information to Follow**



**Parents:
New materials
Have been added
to
The Little Sheps
Bags
Check it out

Have fun kids**

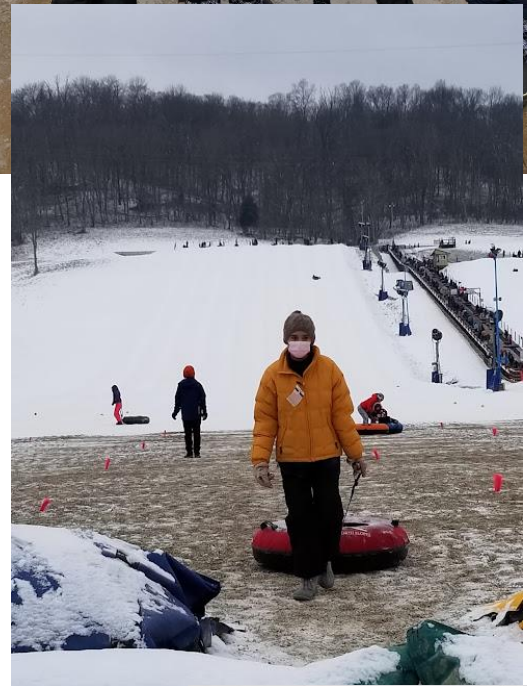




GSCLC and Zion Youth Christmas Party



Youth Event Tubing and Skiing at Perfect North



Taking Down Christmas Decoration



**Lent Begins Wednesday,
March 2**

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Newsletter

February, 2022

The season of Epiphany focuses on how God was made manifest in the flesh of Jesus. The church spends time hearing of the miracles, signs, and wonders of Jesus in the world. And this made plain to all that Jesus really is who He said He was. He is the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, the only begotten Son of the Father, in the flesh. For “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14).

It is revealed for all the world to see that Jesus is God in the flesh. It is made manifest by His words and His work, by what He said and by what He did. And these belong together, for “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” Jesus is the Word and will of God in the flesh, that is, He is the walking, talking enactment of God’s Word.

It is no different for us. We are called not just to believe in God in hearts but also to trust in God in word and deed. As James wrote: “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves” (James 1:22), and again, “What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? ... So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ... Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ... For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead” (James 2:14, 17–18, 26).

Our faith is lived out in works for our neighbor. Our trust in the Word and will of God is lived out not in word only but also in deed and in truth. In other words, the Epiphany of the Lord cre-ates in us an epiphany of our faith in our works of obedience to God who commanded them. By this, our faith is made manifest to the world. It is, as Luther wrote of faith:

Faith is a divine work in us. It changes us and makes us to be born anew of God (John 1). It kills the old Adam and makes altogether different people, in heart and spirit and mind and powers, and it brings with it the Holy Spirit.

Oh, it is a living, busy, active, mighty thing, this faith. And so it is impossible for it not to do good works incessantly. It does not ask whether there are good works to do, but before the question rises, it has already done them, and is always at the doing of them.










He who does not these works is a faithless man. He gropes and looks about after faith and good works and knows neither what faith is nor what good works are, though he talks and talks, with many words about faith and good works.

Faith is a living, daring confidence in God’s grace, so sure and certain that a man would stake his life on it a thousand times. This confidence in God’s grace and knowledge of it makes men glad and bold and happy in dealing with God and all His creatures. And this is the work of the Holy Spirit in faith. Hence a man is ready and glad, without compul-sion, to do good to everyone, to serve everyone, to suffer everything, in love and praise to God, who has shown him this grace.

And thus it is impossible to separate works from faith, quite as impossible as to separate burning and shining from fire. Beware, therefore, of your own false notions and of the idle talkers, who would be wise enough to make decisions about faith and good works, and yet are the greatest fools. (Preface to the Book of Romans)

So, then, let our faith be active by God’s power in the Word through the Holy Spirit. And let then our faith be made manifest to the world by what this faith does: serving our neighbor – in church, in the family, and society – with the works of faith in time, talents, and treasures

A Valentine From God

For God so lo  ed the world,
That He g  ve
his on  y
Begott  n
So 
 hat whosoever
Believeth  n Him
Should  ot perish,
But have  verlasting life.
John 3:16

 allerrah.com

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