



Good News From Good Shepherd

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

John 10:11

January 2020

Mary Givhan, Newsletter Editor

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Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you once again for your abundant generosity at Christmastime. I appreciate your gifts, kindness and support, not only during the holidays but throughout the year.

As I reflect on the Christmas and Epiphany readings this season, I have gained even more of an appreciation for Mary and Joseph. I admire their willingness to bravely assume the most unique parenting roles in history by caring for the very Son of God, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

The reason Mary and Joseph have been on my mind so much lately relates to something going on in my household. You may be aware that Janice and I have assumed temporary custody of a young man named Jordan, a 10-year-old fifth grader. Janice had been serving as a state advocate for a family in crisis. It was determined that Jordan was not in a safe and healthy environment, and that he has no biological relatives that can provide him with that at this time. Accordingly, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services asked us to serve and the courts granted this request.

Thank you for welcoming Jordan to worship and other activities of our congregation. We realize that you may have questions. Please approach Janice and me with these rather than Jordan. While we will be as open as we can, please understand that we may not always be able to answer them due to court orders as well as Jordan's need for privacy about his past.

At times we have the same feelings of being overwhelmed that Mary and Joseph surely did at first. (Janice and I would certainly never consider ourselves as brave and "heroic" as them, but we do share that in common!) We would appreciate your prayers – for our household, for Jordan, and for the adults who have let him down. Please pray that we can provide a loving Christian home for Jordan, even as we pray this for all the families of our congregation. If you are blessed – like me – to have been raised by wonderful Christian parents, thank God for this gift! And as we look forward to highlighting the work of those dedicated to the sanctity of human life this month, pray that God would continue to protect all of His children.

Thank you so much. May God richly bless your 2020!

In Christ,
Pastor Bill

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Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV)



Blessings to all for a Happy, Healthy and Fulfilling New Year!

Council took December off and will reconvene on January 13. Some of the items we will consider are: 1) the results of the pledging coordinated by our Stewardship Board, 2) prudent next steps in our pursuit of CAT directives, 3) filling the VP vacancy.

And have *put on the new man*, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: Col 3:10 (KJV)

We need to **renew our knowledge** of the bylaw discussion. Mark **January 19** on your calendars. Between services we'll gather in the FLC. The documents were distributed last fall when we originally planned to meet. The aggressive goal is to complete the review and put the updates to a vote at the February voter assembly.

New year, new man ... new actions?

What is our Lord Jesus calling you to? What new thing will you trust Him to lead you through? We have a new year in front of us! A new set of downs! A reset shot clock! And a Coach with a no-fail game plan! What could be better and more exciting? I trust and pray we'll do more than 'resolve to do stuff', but will boldly declare as the Hamilton character on Broadway – 'not gonna give up my shot!'.

Let's together:

- ✓ be **renewed in knowledge** and participate in at least one bible study offering this year
- ✓ continue to extend our faith walk in tithing what the Lord has seen fit to lend us in our time here
- ✓ be deliberately informed and actively participate in the business of the church
- ✓ practice daily devotion time
- ✓ serve in a new or first-ever capacity
- ✓ add your own to-do and do it!

Can't wait to see how the game unfolds!

Praying that we all fearlessly **put on the new** and engage to the full our place in the kingdom work that is before us at Good Shepherd and not be satisfied with or just bask in the glow of the past.

Marlis Norton, Council Pres.

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



Women's Bible Breakfast • Saturday, January 11 • 9 a.m. at Church

Join in and be blessed by the food for body and soul. If you can bring a dish to share, great! Mostly come as you are and enjoy the fellowship. We'll continue with the *Time for Everything* series from Women of Faith.



A Gift fit for a King

“And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh”
(Matt. 2:11).

In these figures that the New Testament calls Magi, we see a fitting image for us as we begin a month-long focus on financial stewardship. While we don't know much about these strange men who appear suddenly and then just as suddenly disappear from the scene of Scripture, we are left with one very clear image. These Wise Men, whoever they are, brought gifts! These men, with extravagant generosity, give us a clear focus on our life of worship before the Lord. To a King to which they had no claim on, they bring the best of what they have. Wealth, worship, witness and a foreshadowing of woe is what they give. Gold is the wealth. It is a gift fit for a king! Frankincense is the worship. The prayers of the ancients were symbolized by the smoke of the incense rising upward (Rev. 8:4). But what about the myrrh? That was an expensive spice for burial. This foreshadows what this Child will do for them, and for us—give His life for the sins of the world as His name means. None of these gifts were cheap. They cost them dearly. But they didn't see it as a cost. They saw it as worship. This king would be their king. He would be your king too! In this next month, consider the gifts you will bring to our king. The gifts that the Lord calls us to bring are best called simple gifts. The model of the Magi. Not inexpensive nor seen as costly. But flowing from a heart that is full of the glory that is revealed to us in the babe of Bethlehem who has come to die for us. Our gifts flow from gratitude for what our Lord has done for us and the world. They don't have to be golden, fragrant, nor a sign of death. Rather they are to be gifts that rejoice in the new baptismal life we have in this Jesus. The Jesus— who is the Savior revealed to us.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, You are our King and Lord. As the Magi worshiped You with extravagant gifts, grant us Your grace that we might be willing to give the very best of us in service to You and to our neighbor.
Amen

Submitted by Tammy Woolley, Stewardship Chair



Junior High Gathering
March 13 – 15, 2020
Marriott Airport Hotel – Columbus, Ohio

The Early Registration Fee is \$175 per person the Gatherings. The cost per person after the early registration deadline is \$200 per person.

Additional information and registration forms about the Gathering can be obtained on line at:
<http://oh.lcms.org/congregations/youth-family/forms-procedures>

Those featured at the Gathering will include:



Bob Lenz joins us again as our keynote speaker for the Ohio District Junior High Youth Gathering. His hilarious stories combined with the joy in sharing his faith makes him a world-renowned speaker for today's youth. He wants nothing less than for today's youth to know Jesus as their Savior. He wants them to trust Him and to know that God walks with them daily to guide and direct them in living the lives He's given them to the fullest.



Dave, Paul, Joel and Gary—the Crew Guys are our musical, fun friends from Canada. They enjoy coming to America to visit BUT more to sing and teach joyful praises to God along the way. They have many styles of music in their repertoire so there'll be a lot going on while they're singing! You may even hear a favorite sung in a totally different style than you might be used to! Stay tuned in 'til the end of the Gathering where you might just hear a real special treat—just for us! Rev. Benjamin Vogel will be with the youth while attending the 2020 Gathering. He is the Senior Pastor at Bethany Lutheran Church in Parma (just outside of Cleveland) where he ministers to the congregation and student body of Bethany Lutheran School. We're happy that Pastor Ben has offered to lead us in worship throughout the 2020 Jr. High Gathering weekend.

Christine Reasoner, Youth Activities Coordinator



WHIZ KIDS KORNER

The highlight of the month was our Christmas celebration. They learned the Christmas story and put on a concert for their families. Then, we served punch and cookies. All 15 whiz kids received a gift, and half of the families received gifts from the giving tree. Thank you to all who purchased gifts from the giving tree and to Kim Leavens for providing the music accompaniment. The families were very appreciative.

There is still a need for more substitute tutors. If you could be available once in a while on Wednesdays from 5-6 p.m. and are interested in helping this ministry, please see Kathy Nielsen or Pastor Bill.

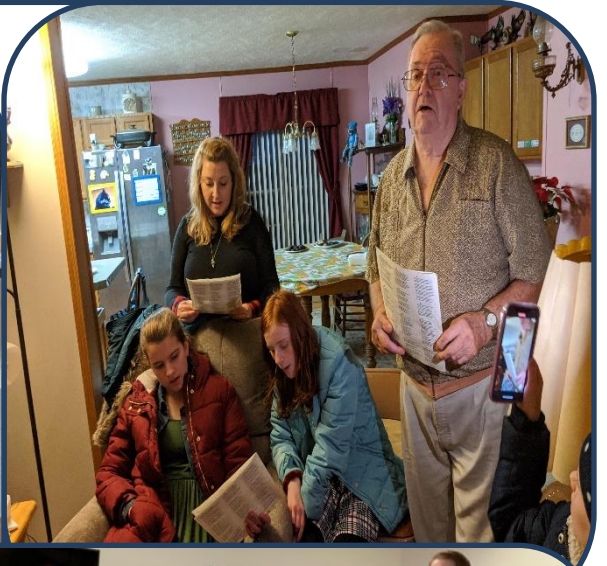


The Giving Tree



The Giving Tree overflowed with Christmas gift to the kids sponsored by members of Good Shepherd. Through the generosity of our members, twenty-eight kids received gifts. These gifts went to kids who attend the Whiz Kids program, a community day care center and from friends of Good Shepherd. Thank you!!!!

Christmas Caroling



On December 15, the youth of Good Shepherd sang Christmas carols to several of our members

Children's Christmas Program



On Sunday December 15 the Children of Good Shepherd present the "The Christmas Story" based on Luke 2:1-20. The Middle School student also participated by reading the Psalm and assigned readings. In addition to greeting, offering collectors AV assistance.



CAT Update

At our November congregational meeting we reviewed the results of the CAT committee. The Committee met from August through November and was asked to define the priorities that came out of the congregation's responses to the February 2019 CAT survey. The top three priorities are:

- Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church.
- Make necessary changes to attract families with children and youth to our church.
- Strengthen the process by which members are called and equipped for ministry and leadership.

The committee spoke with and took written responses from the congregation in order to better understand the priorities. In doing so the committee determined that:

- **New people** include unchurched, fallen away, or uninvolved people
- **Incorporate them** means to allow them to experience the same benefits we, as current members of GSLC, desire from being a member of a church family. These benefits include being fed from in-depth Bible teaching and worship services, being in fellowship with other believers, and having the same type activities for our children.

The committee then made a list of changes for consideration that could help in attracting new people and changes in how we equip ourselves for ministry. Some of these potential changes involve doing things we used to do but stopped at some point in the past such as advertising and participating in community events.

Other potential changes involve examining how well we are doing with Good Shepherd's current activities. For example, are the sermons and Sunday School lessons deep and meaningful enough to feed us? Do we have the proper type of fellowship activities to bring us together as a church family? The committee noted that if our current members are not experiencing these benefits, new people won't either.

In addition, the committee questioned whether are we taking advantage of our VBS, Whiz Kids, and Food Pantry ministries to speak to the participants, pray with them and invite them to church? Do we need training to help us with this? Praise God, two Whiz Kid families did attend Advent services this year – because they were asked!

The committee provided the council, the elders and the congregation a number of things to consider. The Elder Board will soon begin to review the proposed changes to determine whether and how to implement them. The holidays are now over, but our responsibility to share the birth, life, death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, never stops. Please pray that, as the next steps in the CAT process are undertaken, the Elder Board and the council are able to discern which items on the committee's list to pursue. Pray that they have the wisdom, strength and endurance to complete the tasks to which God has called us to the glory of his holy name.

Philippians 1:3-6 ³ I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴ always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

David Smith, Head Elder

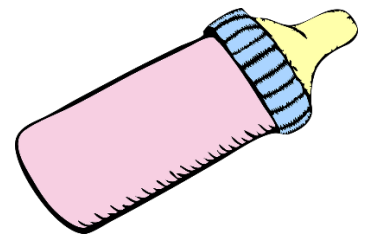


NORTHERN KENTUCKY CHAPTER OF LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

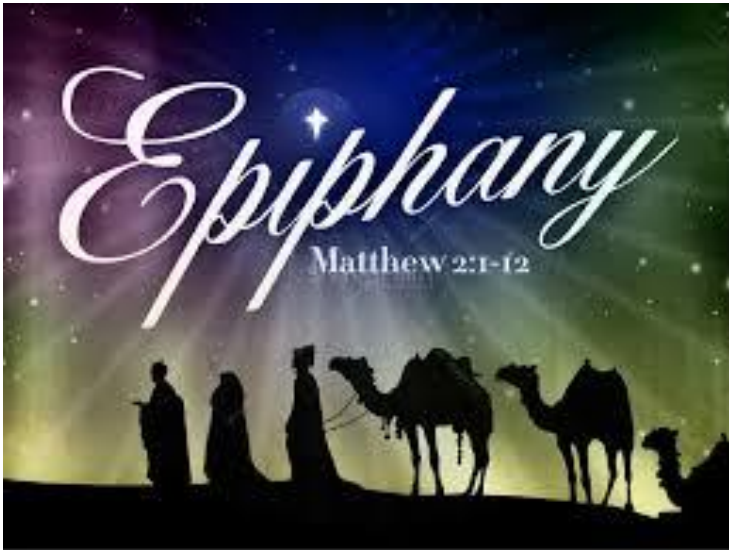
January is the beginning of the New Year, as well as the start-up to our Annual Baby Bottle Boomerang in support of The New Hope Center! Empty baby bottles will be in a basket near the front door as you enter church. Please prayerfully consider taking a bottle home and filling it with loose change or a check made out to *The New Hope Center*. Then **BOOMERANG** it back to church where the bottles will be collected and given in support of New Hope's important ministry. Return dates for the bottles will be listed in the Voice.

The New Hope Center continues to help and give hope to women who find themselves with an unexpected pregnancy. The Center provides free pregnancy tests, ultrasounds and counseling.

Thank you for partnering with us to save babies and strengthen families.



The Visit of the Magi



2 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men^[a] from the east came to Jerusalem,² saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose^[b] and have come to worship him."³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him;⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: ⁶"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the

star had appeared.⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him."⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was.¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.¹¹ And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way

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