



Good News From Good Shepherd

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

John 10:11

March, 2021

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What are you thinking?

"David, what are you thinking?" my mom cried out in feigned astonishment and actual dismay. Feigned because she'd seen this type of behavior before. Actual because, despite the lessons of my past indiscretions, I continued to make the same mistakes. The fact is, I was not thinking; I was acting out my selfish desires to achieve whatever it was I had my heart set on no matter the consequences. Like an animal, I was living by instinct, living for what made me feel good. God warns us against living by our instincts in 2 Peter 2:12 and Jude 1:10.

This is the same type of behavior God wanted the Israelites to avoid when he gave them his various laws, such as the laws about being clean and unclean. I always wondered what the big deal was with the clean and unclean animals. Then I came across Leviticus 10:

Leviticus 10:10-11 ¹⁰ You must distinguish between the holy and the common, between the unclean and the clean, ¹¹ and you must teach the Israelites all the decrees the LORD has given them through Moses."

"You must distinguish..." Through the laws of the clean and unclean animals, God was teaching the people to make a distinction between what was good and bad, right and wrong. It wasn't just about which animals were good to eat or not. After all, God eventually declared all foods clean. It had everything to do with how we view things, how we think about things. God said in **Isaiah 1:18** ¹⁸ "Come now, let us reason together," and he makes the same request of us today:

Philippians 1:9-10 ⁹ And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰ so that you may be able to discern what is best...

God wants us to think, discern and set our minds on the things of the Spirit (**Romans 8:5-6**). **Philippians 4:8** says, ⁸ "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable -- if anything is excellent or praiseworthy -- think about such things."

This is our challenge. When our spouse hurts us, do we respond instinctively by being bitter and vindictive? Or do we set our minds on the things of the Spirit and think about how we can forgive and pray for help in working our issues out? Which is better?

When we see or hear something we don't like at church, do we instinctively complain and turn our backs on attending? Or do we think about how we can thank our volunteers and offer a kind word? Which is better?

When we get a new pastor, are we going to instinctively criticize his every move? Or are we going to encourage him and pray for him, knowing he cannot be all things to all people? Which is better?

I recently heard a story of a ship that was taking on water. A distress call was sent out, "May Day, May Day, we are sinking!" A German boat happened to be nearby and the German captain in his best English but with a heavy accent replied, "Ve have heard your call. Vat ist it you are sinking (thinking) about?"

What is it we are thinking? Are we thinking about instinctive, selfish desires that will cause our ships to sink? Or are we thinking about the things of the Spirit, the things that will bring us life and peace?

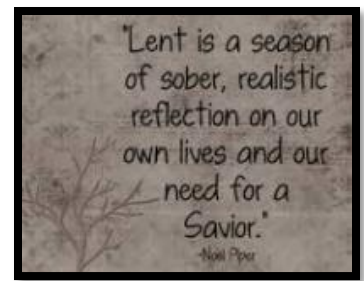
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Table of Content

From the Head Elder	page 1
A Message from Your President	page 2
Women's Ministry	page 3
Help the Homeless Service Event	page 3
Federation Education Seminar	page 4
Drive Through Food Pantry	page 4
Birthdays	page 5
February Events	page 5-7
LCMS Newsletter	page 7-8
Daylight Savings Time	page 8



Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.. Zechariah 9:9



March - the month that comes in like a lion and exits like a lamb and promotes the wearin' o' the green.

Interesting how each sentiment lines up with our spiritual journey. Jesus, the Lion of Judah, enters Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and the crowds lay down the green palms in his way. He exits the sacrificial Lamb of God, our Savior, full of new (green) life in the resurrection. He's coming. Prepare His way to your heart!



Council Actions: Your council reached consensus on a number of items at the February meeting including: 1) Adding a stewardship reminder at the end of services; 2) Providing Easter themed at-home activity for families with children; 3) Seeking youth assistance for the upcoming drive-thru pantry event; 4) Doing the maintenance outlined by property and purchasing chairs for the FLC and classrooms.



It's official, our LCMS sister churches voted to add a year to the triennium resulting in the Synod Convention moving out a year to 2023. LCMS districts can do the same and our Ohio District has done so, moving the convention to 2022 in Ann Arbor. Our delegates, myself and alternate Tammy Woolley, will have to wait a year for the privilege of participation.

The boards have been active on your behalf. Property has lined up a number of projects and secured a great deal on chairs. Outreach will conduct a drive-thru pantry (don't forget to come help!) and the stewardship board continues researching how to move our pledging and time/talent commitments to an online format, making it more convenient for everyone.

As always, we remind our church family that we need to be prepared to support a new shepherd spiritually and financially, when he arrives. Please pray for wisdom and fearless faith in these matters as we must improve and surpass our 2020 level of financial support.

December YTD	Actual	Budget	Over/Under
General Fund	\$ 185,135.97	\$ 245,642.00	\$ (60,506.03)
Operating Expenses	\$ 154,763.62	\$ 248,285.00	\$ (93,521.38)
Variance	\$ 30,372.35	\$ (2643.00)	

Voter Actions: At the meeting on Sunday, February 21, voters made the following decisions: 1) Approve three amendments to November minutes, 2) Implement the bylaw structure now setting the task for the Nominating committee for May elections; 3) Affirmed the transfer of two families to sister congregations.

Voter Meeting

Voters were also: 1) provided an update from the Call Committee and are asked to set aside Sunday, March 6, for a special meeting; 2) reminded of our financial requirements anticipating a full-time pastor; 3) informed regarding a great deal on chairs made by property and finally 4) encouraged to attend the March 20 Federation event at Good Shepherd hosting Dr. Greg Seltz.

Marlis Norton, Council Pres.

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



LWML Zone Activity Meeting • Saturday • March 6

Join in the conversation by Zoom at 10 a.m. on Saturday and bein the know regarding the activities being planned! Contact the office for Zoom info.

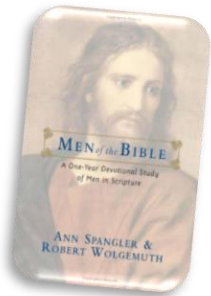
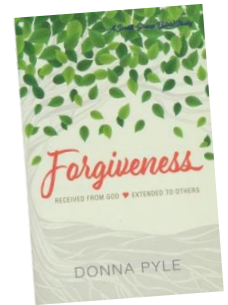


Women's Bible Breakfast • Saturday • March 13

Mark your calendars for the second Saturday in **March 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. It is current medical understanding that the virus is not transmitted via food. We will take all the necessary precautions of masking, distancing and cleanliness around service items. If you wish to participate remotely, let me know by Wednesday, March 10 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 has paused due to covid. When we regroup on March 14, 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 finished Lesson 1 and begin Lesson 2 on the 5th.



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 as we take an in-depth look at the Book of Romans. 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.



Help the Homeless Servant Event

Thank you to everyone who made a contribution to the Help the Homeless Service Project coordinated by the LWML. These items will be distributed to the 65 homeless individuals who are put up in hotels by Prince of Peace and Talbert House



March 20, 2021
Federation Education Seminar
9:00 to 12:15
Speaker:
Rev. Dr. Greg Seltz
Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty
Washington D.C.

Topics:

Session 01 - A Two-Kingdoms – One Mission: The Church in Action for The Sake Of The Community And The Gospel.

Session 02 – God at Work – A Two Kingdom Exercise in The American Context: Concerns, Trends, Victories, Engagement

Session 03 - Set Free to Live Freely for Others! A 2 Kingdom engagement of the Culture for the sake of the mission of the Church!!



Host:
Good Shepherd
Lutheran Church
Florence KY

The Seminar will be streamed.
Connect information will be provided as it becomes available.

Drive Through Food Pantry, March 6

Because of the Coronavirus pandemic we have not been able to host a Food Distribution. There are many who depend on Good Shepherd to help them feed their family. The Human Care Committee decided that this could be done in a safe and socially distancing way by hosting a Drive Through Food Pantry. Instead of the families coming into the Family Life Center to “shop” we will prepare bags of groceries that will be delivered to the family’s car. The food items will be somewhat limited, but they will be filled with everyday staples that families can use. We will need volunteers to help pack the bags and be available on the day of distributions

In preparation for the drive through on 7pm on March 5 we will pack boxes for distribution. On Saturday, March 6 we will need volunteers to load the boxes into cars for the drive through. The drive through starts at 10 am. Please consider joining us for either or both events.

“...for I was hungry and you gave Me food...” Matthew 25-35

Mark your calendar: Voter’s Meeting March 7 – Immediately After Church Service
Main agenda item: Call Committee Report to vote on Pastor Poynter As our news Pastor



March

Phillip Brann
Susan Schneider
Linda Kuhn
Lenton Woolley (Dad)
Maleah Siren
Beverly Beck

March 4
March 8
March 9
March 15
March 20
March 22

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

February Events

Women's Bible Breakfast Zoom Meeting
Secret Sister Reveal



**Glen and Kim welcome new grandbaby
Neil Robert Leavens
Parents' are Paul and Bobbi Leavens
Paul is stationed at Ft. Carson, Colorado**



Inquiry Class Information Session



Glen Leavens with Angelina Byrd and Ty Reynolds

**New Acolyte Training
Thanks for serving:
Jillian Cottrell, Will Vonderlage and Madelyn Cottrell**



**The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
March 2021**

Hudson Taylor, a Nineteenth Century British missionary to China, is reported to have said, “God’s work, done in God’s way, will not lack God’s supply.” To know God’s way, we need to know His Holy Word. Or to say it another way: you need to know your Bible.

St. Paul, before he spends two chapters on giving, wrote that every thought is to be taken captive to the obedience of Christ (2 Cor 10:5). Doctrine matters. And doctrine matters because the Scriptures matter. And the Scriptures matter because this is where we learn the teaching of Christ. Our thoughts must be brought into line with the teaching of Scripture so that our work is what God wants done and so that we do this work in His way.

A good tree bears good fruit. A bad tree bears bad fruit. We have been made good trees in holy baptism. We are fertilized and pruned for bearing good fruit by constantly hearing God’s Word preached and taught in sermon and Bible Class and in receiving the life-giving, faith-sustaining food of the Lord’s Supper. Remember your doctrine, hold on to the Lord’s teaching, and your thoughts will be taken captive to the obedience of Christ.

Bringing every thought captive to the obedience of Christ is recognizing that God does provide. The Lord's Prayer teaches us to pray for daily bread. Praying this day in and day out reminds us that the Lord is the giver of our daily bread, and that we are to give thanks for His daily provision of it. God is rarely early and never late in His work, as Abraham learned on the mount of the Lord it will be provided. The Lord's generosity forms our generosity in return.

Thus, we set aside for the work of God a generous, first-fruits, proportion of the daily bread that God has given to us. This act of trust in the Lord's provision is the working out of our faith in Him. When budgetary discussions pop up our natural reaction is to point fingers. But remember your doctrine, and what your mother taught about pointing fingers. Our first natural reaction is not always right. In fact, when our thoughts are brought into captivity of Christ, our first reaction should be repentance. It should raise questions in our own lives. As good trees in Christ who are to bear good fruit, we should ask whether our thoughts have been taken captive by obedience to Christ. Have we given generously? Have we given our first-fruits? You know. And God knows. "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him" (2 Chron 16:9).

God will provide. He always has and He always will. He gives His meat in due season. He has not left you as orphans but has grafted you into His own family. You belong to Him. Remember this, letting this thought dwell in you richly. And you will then be rich toward others.



Daylight Saving Time begins March 14

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