



Good News From Good Shepherd

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

May, 2023

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Our Down to Earth God God Binds and Confines Us and Himself to This World

—Part One—

In the beginning, God creates man in His image and likeness, male and female He created them. God "binds and confines" mankind to this world, commanding them to be fruitful and multiply, and to subdue the earth and have dominion over all creation. Like God, Adam and Eve and all their children were to live a selfless life in service to each other and to the world.

As we well know, by means of a tree, Adam and Eve were overcome by Satan. They rejected their vocation and place on earth and instead began serving only the self and to seek to take the place of God. As promised, this rebellion, brought to them and all of humanity spiritual and physical death, in this life and for all eternity.

However, because of His great love for His creation, God set out to overcome sin, death, and the devil. Yet, He does not accomplish this feat by means of some action in the heavenly realm. Instead, our God "bind and confine" Himself to this world as a human. God the Son becomes also man to work on earth without thought of self on behalf of His creation. For 33 years, the Second Adam, lived the selfless, perfect life we all should have lived, in service to His neighbor. Christ was everything the first Adam failed to be.

And His self-sacrifice extended far beyond this. At His baptism, Christ took away the sins of the world to himself and carried them to the cross. By a tree man was overcome by sin, death and Satan and so, with unyielding determination, Christ would by a tree overcome our greatest enemies. The Son of Man pays the penalty for mankind's rebellion. He suffers the temporal and eternal punishment for our sins and he dies the death we deserved. And on the third day, from the void and darkness of Christ's death, God resurrects a new creation, His Son.

St. Paul speaks of this new creation stating in Colossians chapter one that Christ is the firstborn of all creation, He is the firstborn from the dead. Why? Because "in Christ all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him." (Colossians 1:19-22)

And we, children of Adam, who are dead in our trespasses and sins, who walk following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in us, the sons of disobedience—who live in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and are by nature children of wrath, (Ephesians 2) need to be recreated in the image of the firstborn—Jesus Christ. As St Paul says in Ephesians 2, God must make us alive together with Christ...raise us up with him... recreate us in Christ Jesus. In other words, we must be born again.

Jesus spoke to Nicodemus about this recreation saying, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God...Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." The Spirit must rebirth us into Christ, so that we are no longer dead, but made alive to God.

How we are reborn will be the subject of next month's article. And if you think it is amazing how God "bind and confines" Himself to this world through the incarnation, life, death, and resurrection of His Son to be our savior; wait to you see how He "bind and confines" Himself to this world to save us—to give us new birth.

—Pastor Poynter

A Message from Your President



*Honor your father and your **mother**, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you. Exodus 20:12*

May is a month of remembering with thanksgiving. Early in the month we're reminded to make special time to honor and thank our maternal parent. For some of us it's only a remembrance. We can take comfort in the fact that this is more than a card company ploy, but is, in fact, a commandment whether that parent is living or not. Our lives should be lived in a way that demonstrate honor and respect to all those who were or are in authority over us, as Luther would remind us. And as I remember, let me also say, Thanks, Mom, for your example of quiet strength of faith. I know you're fine and you're still the best!



For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. Romans 5:7

Then at month's end we take time to remember and honor with thanksgiving all those sons and daughters who serve or have given their lives in various efforts to protect home and country, leaving many mothers (and fathers) to weep and mourn.

The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, Psalm 34:18

As we remember, include not only the families of the fallen, but especially those still serving. They sacrifice daily separated from loved ones and many have physical and spiritual needs that are often only marginally met, or not at all met, by government supply. Pray for service men and women, their families, military chaplains, and for wise overseers.

And while we're taking time to honor and thank those serving or who have served, I'd like to extend acknowledgement and thanks to those who quietly serve our congregation. There are many. Council, committee and altar guild members. Teachers, worship servants, youth and adult small group leaders, fellowship and kitchen angels, meal providers. Property servants, both inside and outside the facility. We are blessed by your service and please know that it is appreciated.



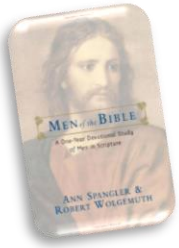
Council Actions: The leadership team met on April 11 and took the following actions:

- Confirmed that the Operating Reserve funds were deposited into insured, higher interest-bearing CDs.
- In preparation for the May voter meeting, current giving patterns need to be evaluated for proper presentation of status in light of the November decision to review finances and payroll.
- Identified the offices up for election in May: VP, Secretary, Financial Secretary, Head Elder, Elder. Phillip B. heads the Nominating Committee. Financial Secretary is the challenging position to fill. It's the hope that we can raise two servants, one elected and one assisting.
- Recognized that:
 - The website still needs updates. Recommendations are to include Pastor Poynter's profile, picture, and recent sermon recordings.
 - More training and possibly hardware updates are needed to consistently stream services via Facebook.
- Set the date for the coming **voter meeting for May 21. (And there will be food!)**

Christian Education

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



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

June

Glen Leavens	June 2
Kohen Mason	June 10
Jennifer Ostermeier	June 10
Julie Poynter	June 12
Adam Ostermeier	June 13
Jackie Vezina	June 17
Houston Aragon	June 22
Colin Brann	June 23
Peggy Bacon	June 26
Jerry Fitzpatrick	June 27



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



Zoomerang VBS is June 12-16th, and we are asking for it to be covered in prayer. This May/June calendar is meant to remind you of the need to pray for VBS and help give you ideas of what is needed. We are praying for at least 50 kids each day but will be thrilled with more. Please join us in daily prayer over VBS. **Jessica Brann**

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
21 That, most of all, God will be pleased, glorified, exalted, and blessed by VBS!	22 For wisdom, creativity, protection, and joy as we plan and execute the openings and closings for each day.	23 For strong voices and an attentive crowd for the drama team.	24 For the volunteers to remain enthusiastic, excited, and loving.	25 Bible lessons: for kids to take God's word into their own hearts.	26 For many unchurched families to be reached.	27 That every day of VBS will run smoothly.
28 That lessons will bring great glory to Jesus.	29 Snack team: kids will be nourished & prepared to hear God's word.	30 Craft team: wisdom, good health, joy, and endurance as they head up the VBS crafts.	31 Science team: kids will learn more about God & our amazing world.	1 Drama team: strong voices, clear lines, attentive crowd.	2 Troupe Guides & assistants: enthusiastic, loving, excited, and sensitive to kid's needs.	3 For God to open the hearts of the volunteers to the kids.
4 Games team: kids will learn that they can have fun & learn more about Jesus.	5 For VBS volunteers to grow in their own relationship with the Lord.	6 Music team: to remember motions, lead kids with joy, and get them excited for VBS!	7 For the creativity, wisdom, strength, & joy as we convert the church into an Australian outback.	8 For all the technical/ multimedia aspects of VBS to run smoothly; protection, health, & creativity of the crew.	9 That hearts will be soft and ready to hear the gospel.	10 For Pastor, as he leads us daily in prayer. That children hear God's word through him.
11 For good weather for the full week of VBS.	12 That the children will believe they are "fearfully & wonderfully made". Psalm 139:14	13 For the mission project with New Hope to be embraced by children & for the children to be excited to give sacrificially.	14 That all VBS workers will be good ambassadors for Christ & will form strong relationships with kids.	15 For all children to know God thinks they're valuable and loves them.	16 For the families of the children to hear God's word through the closing presentation and to feel the fellowship of our congregation.	17 For rest & reflection for all volunteers and children as VBS comes to a close for the year.
18 For our congregation who have helped with VBS through prayer & through giving of their time, talent, and treasure. That we remain unified as a congregation & continue to work together to share God's word.						



NORTHERN KENTUCKY CHAPTER OF LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

The mission of Lutherans For Life is to equip Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life. Here is a glimpse of our national successes this past year:

- 145+ high school/college students attended Y4Life's Conference in Washington, D.C.
- Increased opportunities for national staff to speak and broadcast in defense of life.
- Blessed For Life Lutherans For Life National Conference – first national gathering since the pandemic held in Rock Island, IL.
- Step Up 4 Life brought over 500 people together virtually to raise life-changing funds.
- Spanish Language Resources – Expanded number of resources translated and produced.
- From Fertilization to Forever Conference – A new Y4Life gathering launched in Texas.
- Word of Hope Hotline averaged 223 contacts a month addressing mental health and life issues.

On a more local note, the total is in for our recent Baby Bottle Boomerang donation toward the important ministry of the New Hope Center. That amount was \$959.19! I want to sincerely thank everyone who donated in support of the sanctity of human life. God's blessing to you all!



SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday , June 4, 2023

is the date for this year's *Cross The Bridge For Life* event at Festival Park, Newport, KY. 1:00 Festivities begin. 2:00 Walk begins. Family fun with face painting, balloon artists, music, free t-shirts and more!



We will have a short reception honoring long term Sunday School teachers Sunday, May 14 after church.



However, Sunday School will still be offered through the month of May with the apologetics class 6-12 and modified K-5 classes.

Then we will give parents and teachers a break as we prepare for our June VBS! Please join us!

April Events

Holy Week





Amy Stickel Memorial



Last Day of Whiz Kids





Follow Him in Generosity

Our Savior calls us to follow Him in generosity. “For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you” (John 13:15). We cannot give our lives for the salvation of the world, of course. Praise God, that job’s already done! But with hearts full of thanksgiving for what Jesus has given us, we can follow His example of generous giving. And Jesus’ generosity is not merely an example. Our Lord also commands us to act according to our gifts: “The one who contributes, [let him give] in generosity” (Rom. 12:8).

So, when we bring offerings to the Lord, we should strive to heed His command and follow the pattern He has established for us. Jesus did not give us leftovers. He gave His best. We should not give leftovers, either, but the first and best of what He has given us. Jesus did not give as an afterthought — He gave according to the plan of salvation God established from the foundation of the world. So, when it comes to our own offerings, we should make a thoughtful plan to give generously, in proportion to the way He has blessed us. Like the Macedonian Christians, who gave according to their ability, and even beyond their ability (2 Cor. 8:3), we should honor the Lord by giving a generous portion of the income that God provides us.

We should also give freely, just as Jesus gave freely for us. There is no compulsion involved in our works of love and our offerings to the Lord. We do not give grudgingly, but willingly and cheerfully, each “as he has decided in his heart,” as the Lord says (2 Cor. 9:7). There is no New Testament ceremonial law involved here. Rather, we are free to give as generously as our Savior has given for us!

In the same way, our Lord teaches us to give generously out of our love for Him and for our neighbor. Jesus shows us that genuine love is always love “in deed” (1 John 3:18). It is love that sees our neighbor in need and gives generously to help him. It is love that hears the Word of the Lord and does what it says. If we truly love, we give generously. If we give without love, our giving is not truly following Jesus.

Finally, we follow Jesus in generosity when we support His Gospel ministry and other works of mercy. The people of Israel gave generously to construct and support the operation of the tabernacle, for that was the place where the Lord received the Old Testament sacrifices, through which He bestowed the forgiveness of sins on His people. So, they gave abundantly, so abundantly they had to be told to stop giving! (Ex. 36:5–6). In the same way, we should bring generous offerings to support the Lord’s work. We support our congregations in the preaching of His Word, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, which bestow His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation, and we take care of those who are poor and needy.

Our Savior calls us to follow His example in generous giving. Let us then, with thankful hearts, rededicate ourselves to following Him in generosity.





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