



Good News From Good Shepherd

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

John 10:11

October 2019

Mary Givhan, Newsletter Editor

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From Our Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we celebrate the Reformation later this month, we are reminded of Ephesians 2:8-9: "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast".

These are verses that many of us have committed to memory. They are also ones that I need to hear often. I am reminded of my sin constantly, and I need the assurance of my forgiveness in Christ.

That's why I was especially grateful to see again a document that our LCMS put out for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation two years ago. It is reprinted below for your reflection. As you do, my hope is that you continually remember that you are His.

Blessings,

Pastor Bill

The entire Christian life is one of repentance.

Luther's 95 Theses begins, "When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, 'Repent' (Matt. 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance." That doesn't sound very exciting. Luther encouraged people to renew their Baptism every day. Christians are to daily die to the old Adam, their sinful nature. In his Large Catechism, Luther observed that Baptism "is nothing else than putting to death the old Adam, and after that the resurrection of the new man, both of which must take place in us all our lives, so that a truly Christian life is nothing else than a daily Baptism, once begun and ever to be continued. For this must be practiced without ceasing, that we ever keep purging away whatever is of the old Adam, and that that which belongs to the

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new man come forth.” Dying to self in order to rise with Christ is the daily reality of faith. The focus is not on our dying or on our old Adam (sin).

The focus is on the promise of resurrection in Jesus Christ. He is our life. He is our hope. He is our joy. Repentance is a turning away from self to Jesus. In Him is life and light. In Him is salvation and forgiveness. In Him is eternal life. Repent. You are His. Through Baptism. And this is true every day.



Festival of Ingathering



Sunday, October 27, 2019

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

3301 Compton Road
Cincinnati, OH 45251

Mission Presentation 3:00 p.m.
Auxiliary Hymn Fest 3:30 p.m.
Reformation Service 4:00 p.m.



The Women's Auxiliary of the Federation invites you to this special celebration! Hear Rev. Otto talk about his mission in Lithuania! Then joyfully sing praises to our awesome God!



Rev. Otto Brillinger



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

In the early morning hours of February 18, 1546, Martin Luther closed his eyes forever. And the hand that hammered the 95 Theses into the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg on October 31, 1517, penned its final words:

“We are all beggars. This is true.”

And this is the truth that our Lord says makes you free. Ironic, isn't it? That, in order to be free, you must be a beggar; you must be utterly dependent and reliant upon God. This makes us uncomfortable – the way we're uncomfortable when someone gets us a Christmas or birthday present when we haven't gotten them one. We feel we owe them. And we don't much like being in someone's debt.

But what Luther would remind us is that we are all indeed beggars. But we're not just anyone's beggars. We're God's beggars. And this is His legacy to the Christian Church. Christ came for sinners. He came to seek and save the lost. He came to heal the sick and raise the dead. He came for sinners, and He dwells only with sinners.

And, if we are to be where He is, we must be willing to be counted among the lost, the sick, and the dead. We must be willing to be beggars. We must cry out for mercy, for grace, and for his undeserved love and kindness. We must be dependent solely on Him and what He gives.

And here's the beauty: He gives us everything. Everything – forgiveness of sins, salvation from death and the devil, and eternal life. This is not because of any worthiness or merit in us, but it is because of His divine goodness, mercy, and grace.

On account of Christ's death and resurrection, the Father forgives you, saves you, and is pleased with you. And you receive. You receive His love, His righteousness, His holiness, His acceptance, and His inheritance. We are all beggars. This is true.

This is the heart and soul of Christianity and the life-blood of the Christian Church. God justifies us, and He declares us innocent and righteous by His grace received through faith for the sake of Christ. This is not because of our works; this is because of His work on the cross. We, who once were enemies of God, are reconciled to Him and made to be His children.

This is what Luther would point us to when He took up his pen for the last time and scribbled, "We are all beggars. This is true." We are beggars. But we are beggars of the God who does not ignore us, who doesn't pass by us on the other side. We are beggars of the One who descended from heaven to make His dwelling with sinners.

We are beggars of Him who deigns to dwell with us, among us, and – yes – even in us by grace for Christ's sake. For in the bread and cup that we bless, we share together with Christ and each other the riches of God's grace.

So inexhaustible are the riches of this grace – the Gospel in sermon and absolution, in Baptism and Holy Communion – that our cups overflow. We, who are God's beggars, are not only inexhaustibly satisfied but have something to give back in thanksgiving and praise.

Submitted by Tammy Woolley, Stewardship Chairman



25th Anniversary Theme - We have a winner for our 25th church anniversary theme! There were six people who entered themes and we would like to thank Jackie Vezina, Linda Oberst, Bethany Regan, Brigid Smith, Jerry Fitzpatrick and Marsha Smith for their thoughtfully worded and inspired themes. Everyone gave wonderful choices on which to vote. **Our winner was Jackie Vezina, who contributed "*Continuing in the Shepherd's Footsteps*".** We will be using this for our inside and outside banners and also any brochures or other advertising we may do for our upcoming celebration next year.



For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last; just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”
Romans 1:17

--- therefore ---

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:2

Luther's study of Romans and his re-discovery of the truths in **Romans 1:17** set his conscience free in a way that opened the rest of scripture and the gospel to him in a powerful way. No longer would he **conform to the pattern of this world** as he knew it then. He set about creating a new pattern. His faith was **transformed**.

Being non-conformist these days is a tall challenge, yet we strive. The world says, *you earned it, it's yours*. The transformed righteous one living by faith says, *I earned it by the Grace of God, it's His, and so I will give Him first fruits*. The world says *go ahead, enjoy that Sunday morning sleep-in, you deserve it, besides it's harmless*. The transformed righteous one living by faith says *I think I'll make better use of the time in His house in His Word and receive the rich blessing of his gifts*. The world says *why spend time serving, you're missing out on all the fun and there's nothing in it for you but aggravation*. The transformed righteous one living by faith says *serving is the second great commandment; it's what Jesus did and the aggravation He endured far outweighs anything I'll encounter*.

As we dig deeper into what the CAT results express about us and for us, I trust that the Spirit will work a transformation in our minds so that we may better, *each one of us*, fulfill our purpose in this place, in His mission. Thank you for collectively responding to your sisters and brothers as they facilitate the on-going discussions. In this context I also urge you to consider your God given gifts and whether you are the person-in-waiting to fill our vacant Vice President position. This is an important role on our Council as it is one of the Trustee (legal signee) positions and oversees the Office Secretary and Nomination process.

There will be a Constitution and Bylaw town hall on **October 20** between services. You will have received a red-lined copy of the documents from the committee the week of October 5 requesting input for this discussion. The plan is to have the conversation with the intent of reaching consensus in advance of a vote at the November voter meeting at which the 2020 budget will also be presented. The results of the October 20 conversation will be distributed to the congregation in advance of the November meeting.

In the spirit of transforming, the request was made that we share more often just what our Council is up to and a bit about how we do it. Our board chairs provide reports in advance of the meeting regarding their activities in the previous month. These reports are then reviewed in advance and incorporated into the minutes, thus allowing us to spend our time 1) addressing items that specifically require Council votes and 2) looking forward instead of backward.

Highlights from previous months:

- June – Heard a presentation from Rev. Billy Brath of LCEF about the resources available to help the congregation digest the CAT and identify goals moving forward. Our preference was to pursue internally, without added expense.
- July – Considered a request from American Heritage Girls (AFG); welcomed Mary Givhan as the newly appointed Board of Ed chair.

- August – Heard a presentation by AFG representatives and after considerable discernment approved to charter; considered plans for the CAT follow up and the 2020 budget development.
- September – Considered numerous Property items around clean-up day – from the presence of the dumpster in the parking lot to appropriate financial retention rules. The first was addressed by the email we all received requesting patience and the latter was resolved using the LCMS Treasurer's manual guideline.

With regard to your council, I remind all that minutes and financial reports are posted every month in the family life center and any member is welcome to attend the second Monday of every month. Be deliberate, be informed.

Marlis Norton, Council President

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

From Our Head Elder

Many things must occur before we worship together. A large portion of the behind the scenes work is performed by our altar guild. The guild makes certain, among other things, that:



- Our worship supplies such as candles, acolyte tapers, and communion wine and wafers are ordered
- Communion is set up properly each week
- Communion trays, cups, plates and linens are washed and the linens are ironed weekly
- Paraments and banners are changed out as the season dictates (sometimes multiple times a week during the Easter season)
- Special events such as baptisms are set up properly
- The flower chart is updated and the flowers are ordered and beautifully displayed

At times, we may take these tasks for granted, simply expecting that they will be done. We have to remember that most everything that is done at our church is performed by volunteers who graciously give of their time to make our worship, Sunday School and other programs run smoothly. The altar guild is no exception. This month we want to thank Regina Bremer and Lori Rapp for the service they have given to the altar guild. They have worked tirelessly on the guild for many years and have taught the other members how to serve with loving hearts. I am very thankful for them and all of the individuals who have served and who continue to serve taking care of the sanctuary in which we worship our Lord.

Current members of the altar guild include (forgive me if I forget anyone):

- Karyl Juergens
- Jen Ostermeier
- Lisa Brown
- Nancy Krenk
- Debbie Fitzpatrick
- Taylor Woolley
- Mary Givhan



Please let them know how much you appreciate their work as well.

David Smith, Head Elder

This excerpt is taken from the LCMS Stewardship Newsletter from a series titled *Simple Gifts – A Series of Devotions on Stewardship*)

The Gift of the Gospel



“For this reason, I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly.” Ephesians 3:1–3

There is that word: stewardship. It is a word that so many Christian people balk at. In fact, it isn’t really a joke that when the word “stewardship” is mentioned in church, men guard their wallets and women clutch their purses. The Church has earned this response. Over the generations, the Church has allowed the word stewardship to become equated with the financial resources necessary to compensate staff and pay bills. So, as we consider simple gifts, does it surprise you that Paul would willingly talk about stewardship with the people of Ephesus? Notice what He isn’t talking about: money. What Paul is talking about is REAL stewardship, which deals with stewardship of God’s grace. That is the Gospel of Jesus Christ! The greatest gift that our Lord has given us to steward is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Truthfully, it is the ONLY gift we are given to steward. How you are led by God to steward the resources entrusted to you by God are to be stewarded for the sake of the Gospel. How you use your stuff tells a great deal about what you think of the Gospel. If your stuff is used to help your family, friends, congregation and community to better understand the Gospel, you are a faithful steward. If it is about you and your comforts, or even their comforts, that isn’t faithful stewardship. This perspective is helpful. It also causes us some grief. None of us are always faithful in our stewardship for the sake of the Gospel. What Paul calls us to in these words is repentance. Today we ask the Lord to work in and through our stewardship so that the people around us will KNOW about our stewardship of the Gospel as individuals and as a congregation.

Prayer Heavenly Father, as You entrusted the Gospel of Jesus Christ to Your servant Paul, so You have entrusted it to me. I admit that I have not always been faithful in my stewardship of the Gospel. I have been more worried about my comfort and my legacy than the extension of the Gospel. Lead me to see and use the simple gifts You have entrusted to me for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ! Amen.

Submitted by Tammy Woolley, Stewardship Chair



Serving Lutheran Ministries

Lutheran Young Adult Corps (LYAC)

LYAC is a short-term service opportunity for young adults in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), with both 10-month and 10-week terms. Usually training in the month of August for a new assignment. In the two years since the program began, 33 participants have served, volunteering over 37,000 hours of service.

LYAC participants serve LCMS churches and Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs) across the country, helping them provide services and show Christ to their communities. Past participants have served in five different cities — Boston; Baton Rouge; New Orleans; St. Louis and Detroit — with two of this year’s participants being the first to serve in a new location, Milwaukee. “We work mostly with ministries who have some level of limitations to their current capacity. The Young Adult Corps can be a great bridge for them ... to try some new things, to think more broadly about their ministry,” said Julianna Shults, LYAC program director.

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. The article below was taken from the September 1995 edition of the newsletter:

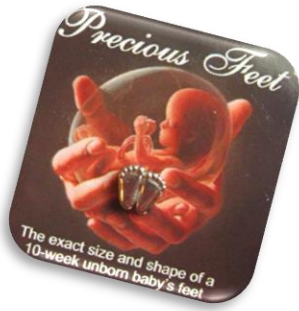


Good Shepherd has been having bi-weekly Bible study since July 19, 1994...

Good Shepherd has been worshipping together Sunday morning since August 6, 1995...attendance 8/6 was 32, on 8/13 -18 people worshipped and on 8/20, 33 gathered in praise and thanksgiving to our Living God...

Good Shepherd celebrated our first baptism on August 20, 1995 when Jeffrey Thomas, infant son of Tim & Becky Bauer became an heir of the heavenly Father.

NORTHERN KENTUCKY CHAPTER OF LUTHERANS FOR LIFE



On Sunday, September 29th, our Chapter of Lutherans For Life was represented at the Northern Kentucky Right to Life event known as "Celebration For Life," which was held at Receptions in Erlanger, KY. Marlis Norton was there from our Chapter with a display table showing and speaking with people who might not be aware that Lutherans also believe in the sanctity of human life.

The event drew between 700 and 800 attendees from all over Northern Kentucky, a mix of all ages, families with children to seniors. The guest speaker was the Honorable Thomas Massie, Northern Kentucky's pro-life congressman who was preceded and introduced by Gov. Matt Bevin, hailed as the most pro-life governor in Kentucky history.

The real story to share is this: A gentleman from Grant County stopped by specifically seeking out Jackie Vezina, our faithful servant who has manned the table in previous years. He took some baby feet pins then and got counsel from Jackie on good places from which to replenish his supply. He used them at events in Grant County and noticed that they were being depleted rather rapidly. What he eventually learned is that a 15-year-old girl was taking bunches, so moved by the message on the card that comes with the pin, and distributing them to her peers in her school! God's message moves in ways we could never imagine!

September Events



Chelsea Ciarra Wainscott, daughter of Doug and Katie Wainscott was baptized on September 8th. Her sponsors are Deanna Jones and Cesley & Jesse Simons.

We welcome Chelsea to our family at Good Shepherd.

Rally Sunday 2019

On Rally Sunday each Sunday School students received a personalized Bible for use in their Sunday School class, sang familiar Sunday School songs had fun with crafts , ate delicious snacks and released balloons.



Church Gardening Day



OWLS Trip to the Ark Encounter



September was a busy month for members at Good Shepherd

The Youth Group of Good Shepherd joined the Youth Group at Zion for an Escape Room Encounter



LWML Fall Retreat



Chuch Picnic



Church Clean Up Day





October

Jessica Brann	October 14
Andy Gawura	October 14
Virginia Langsdale	October 20
Cassie Molina	October 20
John Leavens	October 25



Save The Date

October 12	Flood Bucket Assembly
October 6	Women's Sunday Bible Study Begins
October 25	Congregation Movie Night
October 27	Women's Auxiliary Ingathering
October 29	Joint Reformation Service
November 2	Mobile Food Pantry
November 3	Daylight Savings Time Begins



October

Jerry & Debbie Fitzpatrick	October 1
Bruce & Regina Bremer	October 6
Randal & Patricia Gage	October 28



Flower Chart

October 6	Jerry & Debbie Fitzpatrick Anniversary Bremer 40 th Anniversary
October 13	Jerry & Debbie Fitzpatrick
October 20	Janice Gauger
October 27	Gene & Judy Stetler- 50 th Anniversary

Faith Walk

1. Each day thank your Faithful God for fulfilling all His promises to you in Christ Jesus.
2. Participate daily in the study of God's Word.
3. Search the Bible for God's many promises. Make a top ten list of your personal favorites.
4. Keep a "Promise Journal" and note how God keeps His promises to you every day.
5. By the power of the Holy Spirit, share with at least one person the promise of the hope you have in Christ Jesus.

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

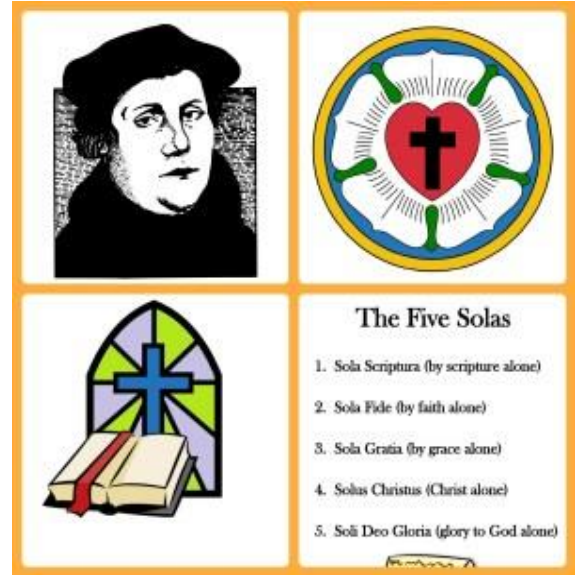
A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing:
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great, and, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing:
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;
Lord Sabaoth, His Name, from age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us:
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.

That Word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him Who with us abideth:
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever.

Hymn by Martin Luther



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