



# Good News From Good Shepherd

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

October 2020

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
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## Our Empty Way of Life

Psalm 107 begins with exclaiming, “Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!” It then encourages the redeemed to participate in this rejoicing and gives four examples of life’s troubles from which we may be delivered.

Verses 4-5 say,

**Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to a city to dwell in; hungry and thirsty their soul fainted within them.**

We tend to look for fulfillment in life from various sources, whether it be work, our kids, sex, drugs, sports, etc. But each are like deserts. They leave us empty. The Lord is the only true source of satisfaction. He is the only thing that can bring us meaning in life. When I retired, my status as a person of authority at work went away. Overnight I was nobody. But my relationship with God and our call to witness to others does not cease. It brings fulfillment above anything we can ever imagine.

Verses 10-11 say,

**Some sat in darkness and in the shadow of death, prisoners in affliction and in irons, for they had rebelled against the words of God, and spurned the counsel of the Most High.**

Sometimes we flat out reject Jesus as our Lord; we would rather sit in the darkness of our own lives than live in the light of his life. Failure to turn to our Lord in prayer is like living in a house with the lights always off and never seeing or speaking to anyone. How lonely and empty a lack of prayer makes our lives.

Verses 17-18 say,

**Some were fools through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities suffered affliction; they loathed any kind of food and they drew near to the gates of death.**

This occurs when we don’t turn to God’s word for our spiritual food. In fact, we loathe it as boring, taking too much time, or not important. We will always remain empty and will never come to know God better or understand his benefits if we don’t read his word, his love letter to us.

Verses 23-24 say,

**Some went down to the sea in ships, doing business on the great waters; they saw the deeds of the Lord, his wondrous works in the deep.**

This section goes on to describe how their courage melts by the rough waves. This happens to us when we try to handle life on our own without placing our faith in the Lord. Without God in our lives, every challenge we face is insurmountable; every problem a crisis, empty of hope.

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Why do we insist on living this way? Why are we so stubborn that we will not turn to the Lord for fulfillment, for a relationship of pray, for nourishment through His word or for help with the challenges of life? It is not too late. After every example in Psalm 107, the psalmist says, "And then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress." God desires all men to be saved, and so he never ignores our cries for mercy. Let us turn to him for comfort and guidance every day. Be persistent, be faithful, be watchful. For God is. And then give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.

**1 Peter 1:18-19** <sup>18</sup> For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

**David Smith, Head elder**  
210.218.3685, Destax1962@gmail.com



If you have prayer concerns you would like listed in the weekly Voice or sent to the congregation's prayer team, please contact Lynn Mitchell in the church office at [secretary@gslicky.org](mailto:secretary@gslicky.org) with the following information:

- First and last name of the individual needing prayer
- Relationship to the requestor
- The issue of concern
- The amount of information which may be disclosed in the Voice or to the prayer team

Requested prayers will be listed in the Voice for two weeks, although

continued prayer maybe requested. Long-term prayer needs will be listed once per month until the need ends.



**Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. Mark 12:30**

**Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. Luke 9:23**

### **Council in September - In person and online**

The verses above combined to anchor the devotion shared at the council meeting with the message of being intentional - in our evangelism, in following Jesus, our crosses in tow. "Intentionality gives clarity and focus" the author, Steve Cohen shared. We are coming into a season of big decisions and, pandemic-cross aside, we must be clear and focused. Please *intentionally* pray for wisdom and discernment for our church body, our council and our call committee.

Council reached consensus on: 1) Pursuing a safe deposit box for our important papers which will in turn require a policy around access which task the Finance Committee will undertake; 2) Welcoming a Wycliffe bible translator to present their mission. (Our congregation *intentionally* supports Lutheran Bible Translators as one of our missions)

We are no longer searching for a **Council Secretary!** Council passed the motion to appoint **Linda Kuhn** to the position beginning in November. She will complete the term ending June 2021 when the position is up for official election. Please thank Linda for her service and pray for her in this new role.

Council will begin work on the **2021 budget** which will be presented to the congregation at the November regular voter meeting. We fully expect that the salary of a new pastor will be equal to or exceed what we had previously paid. That results in a pretty consistent need of \$20k a month in giving. We currently lag behind that expectation in our revenue plan. While the stewardship board will conduct a fall campaign focused on anticipated needs for moving a pastor and for the building fund, we need, as a church body, to elevate our level of giving to what it was at the beginning of the year, pre-COVID and pre-vacancy. Please pray for wisdom and fearless faith in this matter.

As of August 30	Actual	Budget	Over/Under
Revenue to Date	\$13,446.26	\$20,470.18	\$7,023.92-
Expenses to Date	\$10,310.53	\$24,629.21	\$14,318.68
Variance	\$3,135.73	\$4,159.03-	



### In other news...

The invitation to have a neighborly **chat over the 'Zoom' fence** continues. The next opportunities are **October 6 and October 20 at 8 pm**. The reminder with the link will be sent in advance. There is a lot going on... Call committee, COVID, constitution, bylaws, policies, budget planning.... and more. Conversation to keep us connected is ever so important. Do you have an idea, concern, question, perspective you wish to express? Conversation, idea sharing and constructive criticism with Christian charity (and mercy) are encouraged. So far we've touched on subjects that range from the antiquities and Roman history to Sunday School ideas.

Finally, I encourage all of us to be *intentionally* in the Word and *intentional* in our mission! Check out our many bible study offerings and also the opportunities to share blessings - from our own stewardship campaign to Auxiliary Ingathering diapers to Federation Flood Buckets. As a church, we do not exist only for ourselves. No matter the challenges, and especially in them, we are blessed to be a blessing!

**Marlis Norton, Council Pres.**

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

### Thank you Pastor Traux and Cindy

God has truly blessed us during this past 6 months with the provision of Pastor Traux to lead us in worship. He and Cindy joined us on May 17<sup>th</sup> and has been faithful every Sunday since. Personally, he has been a great encouragement to me as we strived to re-open the church after being shut-down because of the virus. He has also provided many words of wisdom regarding the call process. And he has shown great care and faithful dedication in visiting our shut-ins and leading the memorial services for Reiner Kuhn and Irene Neu. Now it is time to say goodbye. His and Cindy's last Sunday with us will be on October 18<sup>th</sup>. Please make it a point to thank him for being with us, his wonderful sermons and his wise counsel and for simply being such a wonderful friend.

**David Smith, Head Elder**



### Stewardship – God's Army-Building God's Kingdom

Good Shepherd is launching a 4-month Capital Funds Campaign, 10/4/20-1/31/21. Our congregation has needs in 2 unbudgeted categories: Priority 1, Pastoral Re-location (\$8,000) and Priority 2, Building Fund (\$12,000). Please clearly mark your gifts. Unmarked gifts will be allocated by priority.

This campaign is a great time to reflect on our commitment to our God, church, family and one's self. As we go through the motions of attending church, we need to remember that it takes a village to keep our church going (lights, gas, foundation, heat/cooling, cleaning, etc). Our church is much like our home, we want it to be a place of refuge. Just as our HOME has been our refuge this year as we deal with the Pandemic and learn all of the new rules for social distancing. We need to work hard at keeping our church foundation repaired and parts replaced. We have a great property advisor watching over these items, we just need to assist him in having funds available when they need replacement or repair. Also at this time we have a Call Committee working hard to find a Pastor that will be a great match for GSLC, willing to work hard and passionately serve together with us as we move forward into the New Year of 2021 and beyond.

There are several ways to support the Campaign. Please use specially marked envelopes so we get your funds in the correct category. If you are mailing in funds please clearly mark your gift as Building fund or Pastor relocation fund. We will track our progress with a regularly updated display.



A fun element to the fund raising will be a **basket raffle**. The raffle that will need themed baskets of donated items. Pick a theme - examples: Movie night, Game night, Reader's choice, Home School Survival, Snacking, Harvest, Christmas, Spa time, Pampered Pet, be creative! You can work together as a family, a church family (friends), individual or friends from the outside. Please let the committee know what your theme is so we can ensure variety. We hope to have several baskets of items **donated by 10/18/20** for Jen O., Communications chair, to take pictures of and post on our website.

Members will have opportunities to sell tickets, they will be grouped in baggies for you to pick up. There are other ideas to raise funds if we need to. Our focus at this time will be Baskets for the raffle. Please see anyone on the Stewardship Committee for assistance or questions: Tammy W., chair, Eric B., Barb B., Tammy V or Marlis N.

**1 John 3:18** *Dear Children, let us not love with words or speech, but with actions and in truth.*



### **Women's Sunday Bible Study • 11 a.m. • Begins October 4**

Our small group will meet with appropriate distancing on Sundays in the Duchow Room and provide a Zoom connection for those not ready to meet in person. We begin a new study October 4 - Forgiveness by Donna Pyle. The book is available from CPH for \$14.99.



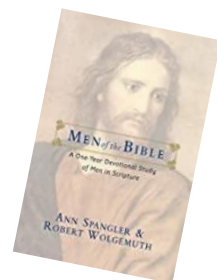
### **Women's Bible Breakfast • Saturday • October 10**

Mark your calendars for the second Saturday in **October 10th at 9 a.m.** We'll continue the series **A Time for Everything** and anticipate concluding it in November and having a special Christmas featured study in December. For October, 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, October 7 and a Zoom session will be set up and the study emailed to you.

### **Women's Tuesday Bible Study • Men of the Bible • October**

We are meeting at church, at **9:30 a.m.** All are welcome. Join in any time. We study one person each session, no book required.



**Tuesday Bible Study at the Smith's** We will take an in-depth look at this life-changing book focusing on our justification, sanctification and glorification. There is space in the 3-5 pm group at my home. Contact me if you are interested or have questions.

**Sherri Smith 210-854-259**

### **LWML Cincinnati Zone Fall Retreat Mission Results!**

Six churches contributed to 31 boxes that were taken to Dayton for trucking to Lutheran World Relief in Philadelphia for distribution to the hurting in Beirut. The boxes contained 43 school kits, 185 personal care kits, 11 sewing kits and 7 quilts.



### **Free Trees!**

I have a half dozen maple seedlings, approximately 18" tall, free to a good home. The parents are Autumn Blaze and Red Sunset varieties originally from Rightway Nursery. Contact Marlis, mnorton6541@gmail.com, or phone 859.746.2233



## Operation Flood Bucket

Once again, on behalf of the Federation of Lutheran Churches of Cincinnati and Vicinity, Good Shepherd will be participating in making Flood Buckets to help those in need of clean-up supplies when natural disasters strike. We will be collecting donated items through the month of October. There will be a poster with corresponding slips of paper with information for the needed item. Take as many slips for the items you are willing to donate! Return them to the fellowship hall grocery cart before November 1st! On Saturday, November 21st, Ohio district youth will be assembling the buckets. Sat Nov 21, 2020 at Messiah Lutheran Church, 10416 Bossi Ln, Cincinnati, OH 45218. For more information contact Julie Rath [j.rath1167@gmail.com](mailto:j.rath1167@gmail.com)



Thank you!! – Thanks to everyone that donated school supplies! We collected 22 back packs and misc. supplies! Goodridge and Stephens Elementary schools received the donations this year! We've already received a thank-you from the resource officer at Goodridge

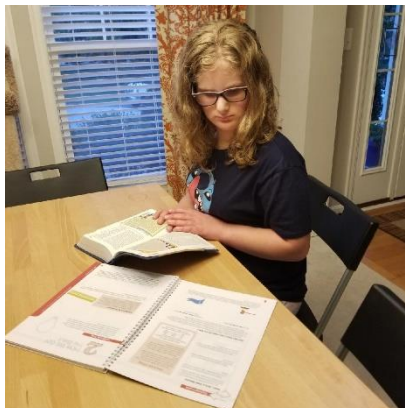
## First Year Confirmation Class



## The 2020 Confirmation Class

**Jullian Cottrell  
Will Vonderlage  
Elijah Warren  
Madelyn Cottrell**

**Teachers:  
David Smith  
Billy Mitchell**



# September Events

## Irene Nue Memorial Service



# Paintsville Presentation



Jason Benedict, President of Good Neighbors and Patricia Black, Andy and Guddy Gawura's daughter, gave a presentation about Good Neighbor. Good Shepherd has supported Good Neighbors for many years. From their website: We are located in Eastern Kentucky, an area rich in natural resources, natural beauty, culture and musical talent. It is also an area in which extreme poverty exists along with a high rate of people receiving government assistance. We help the people who are the working poor and are not receiving government assistance. There is another story, however, untold by the statistics and overlooked by government programs... and this is where our "Good Samaritan" story begins: We help working-poor families who have been "Mugged by Life" - whose resources are enough to provide for their family on a daily basis, but not enough to repair a home that is falling apart around them.



## Mini River Sweep Trash for Cash

Linnea Caldon	October 5
Deacon Dunn	October 10
Jessica Brann	October 14
Andy Gawura	October 14
Virginia Langsdale	October 20
Cassie Molina	October 20
Jason Rath	October 21
John Leavens	October 25

**Saturday, October 10**  
**Meet at church at 7:30 am**  
**Drive to Petersburg Park for cleanup**  
**All supplies needed for this project**  
**will be provided**  
**Please join us**  
**Contact Mary Givhan at 513.295.5068**



Erik Vezina's Court of Honor for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout will be held in the Family Life Center on Sunday, October 18th at 2:00 p.m. Good Shepherd's congregation is welcome to attend.

### Women's Auxiliary to the Federation



#### **Ingathering and Reformation Service • October 25 • 3pm & 4pm • Online and In-person**

The Auxiliary will host **Dr. James Lamb**, guest speaker, at **St Mark's, Milford at 3 p.m.** Dr. Lamb is a past director of Lutherans for Life. Our Ingathering item will be diapers for distribution to Cincinnati area support centers including Westfed Pantry (at Grace Lutheran Church), Sweet Cheeks and New Hope Center.

The Federation sponsored joint Reformation Service will follow **at 4 p.m.**

Both events will be available online. **To view online:**

<https://www.facebook.com/stmarkslutheranchurchmilford/> or <http://www.cincinnati.lutheran.org/>



We celebrate the Reformation at the end of each October. The Reformation began on All Saints' Eve in 1517, which was when Martin Luther posted the 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. So, let's hear from Luther himself on the topic of giving and stewardship.

In the Small Catechism under the Table of Duties, Martin Luther gives specific Bible passages to help Christians know their duty in their various vocations as members of their family, society at large, and in God's family, the Church. Under the heading "What Hearers Owe Their Pastors," Luther lists five passages from the Bible, three of which have to do with giving to your local congregation. They are these:

- "The Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel." (1 Cor. 9:14)
- 
- "Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor. Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows." (Gal. 6:6–7)
- 
- "The elders [presbyters, i.e., pastors] who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially whose work is preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, 'Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain,' and 'The worker deserves his wages.'" (1 Tim. 5:17–18)

Luther comments on these passages in his 1535 Lectures on Galatians. He wrote:

"When Paul says 'all good things,' this is not to be taken to mean that everyone should share all his possessions with his preacher. No, it means that he should provide for him liberally, giving him as much as is needed to support his life in comfort. ... The apostle is so serious in advocating this topic of support for preachers that he adds a threat to his denunciation and exhortation, saying: 'God is not mocked.' ... All this pertains to the topic of support for ministers. I do not like to interpret such passages; for they seem to commend us, as in fact they do. In addition, it gives the appearance of greed if one emphasizes these things diligently to one's hearers. Nevertheless, people should be taught also about this matter, in order that they may know that they owe both respect and support to their preachers. Christ teaches the same thing in Luke 10:7: 'Eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages'; and Paul says elsewhere (1 Cor. 9:13–14): 'Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? In the same way the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the Gospel should get their living by the Gospel.' It is important for us who are in the ministry to know this, so that we do not have a bad conscience about accepting for our work wages ... it happens when those who proclaim the glory of God and faithfully instruct the youth derive their livelihood from them. It is impossible that one man should be devoted to household duties day and night for his support and at the same time pay attention to the study of Sacred Scripture, as the teaching ministry requires. Since God has commanded and instituted this, we should know that we may with a good conscience enjoy what is provided for the comfortable support of our lives from church properties to enable us to devote ourselves to our office." (LW 27:125–126)





**A mighty fortress is our God,  
A trusty shield and weapon;  
He helps us free from every need  
That hath us now overtaken.**

**The old evil foe  
Now means deadly woe;  
Deep guile and great might  
Are his dread arms in fight;  
On Earth is not his equal.**

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