



Good News From Good Shepherd

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

October, 2021

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How to treat one another in the time of Covid

Never talk about religion and politics with your family or they won't be your family for long. Today we have to add a new category to that old adage: Covid. Arguments about Covid create chasms in relationships just as large as politics and religion do. I get it. Some people are worried about the possible effects of the virus (death being the worst of course) and believe that, just as God has provided other medicines, the vaccine will protect us and reduce the virus' impact on us. They believe that people who don't take the vaccine are continuing to spread the virus.

Other people do not trust the vaccine. They are more worried about the many reported side effects of the vaccine than they are of the virus, which they believe has not caused that many deaths. They believe we are being controlled by an out-of-control government and that those taking the vaccine are still getting sick and spreading the disease. A number of these people are now at risk of losing their jobs due to vaccine mandates.

Both groups feel justified in their views. Both believe they are being ridiculed by others. And both tend to look down on those taking an opposing view. Recently I witnessed an exchange at church in which two people were discussing whether masks should be worn. The conversation was snippy and was getting out-of-hand. **This is not how we are called to treat one another.** Look at 1 Peter 5:6-11:

⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

⁸ Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. ¹⁰ And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. ¹¹ To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

There is quite a bit we can learn from this passage about how to treat one another in the time of Covid:

1. Humble yourselves. Be considerate of other people's concerns and views. Both the virus and the vaccine scare people. We are to be there for them and encourage them in their walk with the Lord, not ridicule them for their fears or beliefs about Covid.
2. Cast your anxiety on God. He will take care of you. Whether you are afraid of getting sick or losing your job because of the vaccine mandate, remember God will "lift you up in due time" and your suffering will only be for "a little while." You are walking in eternal glory in Christ and you will be restored; maybe not until you get to heaven. But you will be restored.
3. Be self-controlled and alert. The devil is looking for someone to devour. When you attack or belittle someone for their view, the devil isn't devouring the person you are arguing with - he is devouring you. You are the one who has lost control. You are the one who has failed to encourage your brother in Christ. So, resist the temptation to get worked up. Listen and encourage instead.

The virus is scary. The vaccine is scary. But we should not allow ourselves to be distracted from our call to be humble and to encourage one another in the faith. We should not be distracted from casting our anxiety on God, who is greater. And we should not be distracted from being self-controlled, treating others with respect. This is how we are called to treat one another in the time of Covid.

David Smith, Head Elder (210.218.3685, Destax1962@gmail.com)

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A Message from Your President

The only constant in life is change. Heraclitus of Ephesus, circa 500 BC*

Unless you're a Christian!

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever. Hebrews 13:8



The change that happens in Fall seems more spectacular to me than other seasons, even Spring. Spring change can be subtle; if you're not paying attention you'll miss the swelling of tiny buds and then tiny blossoms and tiny leaves. I know, because I have! In Fall the color change fairly shouts the announcement of change. My life's journey has been marked by significant, life-redirecting change that occurred in the Fall. For me it's a season of expectation and a little trepidation, if I'm honest.

As my life has been marked by big changes in the Fall, it has also brought me to the grander realization that while the world around me is in flux, my Jesus NEVER is. He is the same every day, in his presence, in his gifts, in his promises. While I mourn the loss of my sister-in-the-faith (Kathy Meckstroth), I rejoice at the fulfillment of Jesus' promise of eternal joy for her and having known and learned from her what it means to have a servant heart. I harbor concern for the political dysfunction of our time, the upheaval of wars, earthquakes, volcanoes, hurricanes, wildfires, floods and pestilence. Yet I am assured, just as the people of Ethiopia. They have endured flooding that inundated residences and the seminary of our Lutheran Bible Translators' partner Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Yet they saw that all was not lost.



The new building under construction for sustainable translation and training still stood strong as a sign that Christ is our constant Lord and protector.

←Faculty housing on the campus of the seminary of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, is shown submerged in floodwaters following heavy rain and the failure of a dike on Aug. 15. (Photo courtesy of LCMS Africa) *The (LCMS) Reporter*

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Psalm 46:1-3 KJV

How very unfortunate for those who do not know Jesus. This world is in constant flux and change, but Jesus and only Jesus remains true, firm and trustworthy. Let us be bold in our sharing of this constant message of hope in a world full of frailty and change.

**Heraclitus lived from around 540BC to 480BC and is said to have died either by suicide, because he could no longer bear living among others whom he felt were his inferiors, or in an attempt to cure himself of a disease he was suffering from. Based upon what others later wrote of him, either could be true but it is generally accepted that he died while attempting to cure himself as he placed no trust in doctors nor, it seems, in anyone but himself. (https://www.worldhistory.org/Heraclitus_of_Ephesos/)*



Council Actions: Your council did not meet in September, having no items before it that required council decision. In October we will begin work on the 2022 budget.

We are still in need of a volunteer for appointment to **the position of Secretary**. The Secretary is a voting member of council and a trustee, responsible for recording the minutes of both council and voter meetings.

Marlis Norton, Council Pres.

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

Christian Education

Women's Bible Breakfast • Saturday • October 9



Our study will be a selection from the LWML Quarterly. We will be on-site for those who wish to attend in person. You are encouraged to bring your own favorite breakfast and are not required to share. If you wish to share a dish, awesome. If you wish to participate remotely, let the office know by Wednesday, October 6 and a Zoom session will be set up and the study emailed to you.

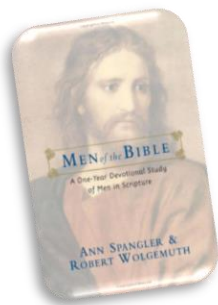
Women's Sunday Bible Study • Forgiveness • 8:45 a.m.

Our small group meets in the Duchow Room. Our study is Forgiveness by Donna Pyle(now Snow). The book is available from CPH for \$14.99. Please feel free to join in. It's not too late!



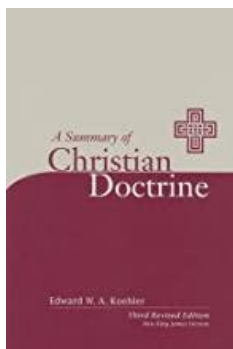
Women's Tuesday Bible Study • Men of the Bible • 9:30 am

We are meeting in person; providing zoom for those who prefer. 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. Our current subjects are David and Nathan followed by other men of Second Samuel.

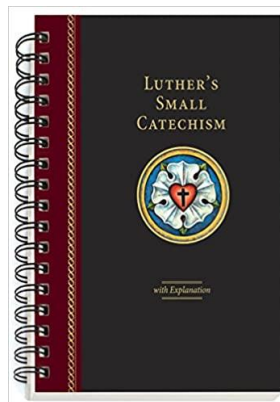


Women's Bible Study at Sherri Smith's Jeremiah Tuesdays 3-5 pm and 6-8 pm

All women are welcome to join WBS, including friends outside of GSLC. We are discussing *Jeremiah*, a book that speaks to our country today as much as it did in Jeremiah's day. Contact Sherri who lives in Union at 210-854-2598 if interested.



Men's Bible Study
Beginning Tuesday Oct 12 at 5 pm.
A Summary of Christian Doctrine



Luther's Small Catechism
Pastor's Bible Study
Sunday 8:45 Wednesday Evening 7:00

Women's Auxiliary of the Federation - Change Coming!

The Auxiliary is in a state of change! The decision has been made to reorganize as a Committee under the Federation, negating the need for a constitution, bylaws and formal election of officers. Final decisions will likely occur in November of this year, with the new organization commencing in January of 2022. In the meantime, the Auxiliary is looking for Federation and Auxiliary historical items for display at the **Ingathering preceding the Reformation service on 10/31** at 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. respectively. It is also planning on doing the annual **Cookie Pack for Care Centers** in person on Monday, December 6 at Christ Lutheran. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for details!



Auxiliary Mission Opportunity: Fidget Blankets

Ladies, can we get together on a fun and multi-skilled project for Alzheimer patients? The Auxiliary is encouraging us to come together to make Fidget Blankets. They are small lap units with sensory stimulating adornments. Instructions are available. Any completed blankets will be gathered at the Oct. 31 Ingathering. See Marlis for information.



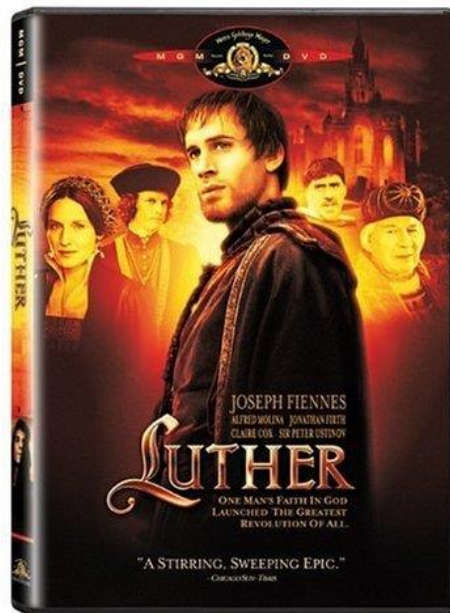


Reformation Sunday Celebration

Save the date - October 31st!

Sunday, October 31st is Reformation Sunday and we will have a **potluck dinner** and **movie** after our worship service. This will be a chili and hot dog extravaganza. We'll be looking for pots of chili, hot dogs and other wonderful food items that show up on our Good Shepherd Lutheran potluck tables.

Afterwards, we will be showing on the big screen the 2003 movie "Luther" in the Christian Life Center. The movie stars Joseph Fiennes, Alfred Molina, Sir Peter Ustinov, Claire Cox, and Jonathon Firth. As the subtitle suggests Luther's trust in God and His Word launched the greatest revolution since the coming of Christ. This is a must see movie, not only for Lutherans, but for all Christians interested in knowing what it took to have the Word of God restored to the church and to the laity.



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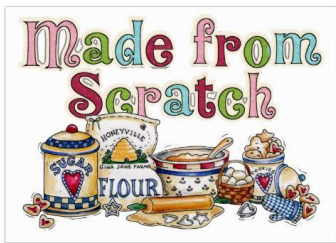
The youth will be hosting a Thanksgiving Dinner and Corn Hole tournament for the church and any friends on November 6th. The tournament will start at 4:00 with dinner being served at 6:00. Dinner will consist of turkey, mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, corn, rolls and dessert. Mark is very proud of his deep fried turkey and is challenging anybody else who is boastful about their turkey to bring in their turkey for a cookoff. This is not a necessity, but if you are as competitive as my husband, it is a fun competition. Please let us know if you are up to the challenge! Cost will be \$10.00 a plate to cover the cost of the food, plus a free will offering if you so desire. Corn hole cost will be \$5.00/person or \$10.00/team. If you do not have a partner we will find you one. There will be a first, second, and third

place prize for the tournament. A sign up sheet for the dinner and the tournament can be found on the bulletin board in the Family Life Center. Proceeds will help youth pay for Higher Things Gathering in the Summer. We truly hope you can make it!!!!



Mobile Food
Pantry

– Human Care will be having the Fall Mobile Pantry to provide the needy in our community with a box of food. We will pack boxes on Friday evening, October 22nd at 6:00 p.m. On Saturday morning, October 23rd, we will meet at church at 9:30 a.m. and begin passing out boxes at 10:00 a.m. to the people as they drive through. Please plan on helping out! There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the Family Life center.



We have some great cooks in our congregation. At the suggestion of one of our members we will feature some favorite recipes in the newsletter. If you have a favorite recipe that you would like to share, please send it to me at mtgivhan310507@hotmail.com. You can personalize it by adding a narrative about the recipe as Karen Neubauer did with the following one.

Wilted Lettuce Salad Recipe

My family always had Wilted Lettuce Salad at every family gathering. The recipe was handed down to us from Great Grandma to our grandchildren. Our friends and neighbors would request this dish whenever we were hosting a get together. The Combining Process* is the secret to success.

Ingredients

- 1 lb fried bacon, crispy, reserve the grease
- 1 large head of roughly chopped iceberg lettuce
- 2 diced shallots (ok to omit)
- 2 packets of Splenda type artificial sweetener
- 3 TBS apple cider vinegar
- Salt and pepper to taste

Process

- Cut bacon into 2" squares and cook until crispy
- Remove bacon bits onto a clean paper towel
- Using a large spacious bowl, combine lettuce, shallots, and bacon bits

*IMPORTANT COMBINING PROCESS: Right before serving, pour the hot bacon grease over the lettuce, then the vinegar. Then sprinkle the Splenda, salt and pepper. And toss to combine.

ENJOY!

Note: This salad is best served immediately. However, the bacon can be made ahead of time. Remove the bits onto a paper towel and heat the bacon grease before combining.

Thank you, Karen, for sharing.



October

- Elijah Warren
- Linnea Caldon
- Jessica Brann
- Andrew Gawura
- Virginia Langsdale
- Cassie Molina

- October 2
- October 5
- October 14
- October 14
- October 20
- October 20

November

- Julie Rath
- Eva Sellers
- J.T Cottrell
- Jacob Brann
- Rob Nielsen
- John Yri
- Anne Yri
- Barb Barvincak
- Lynn Mitchell

- November 8
- November 8
- November 11
- November 12
- November 15
- November 17
- November 18
- November 27
- November 28

Sunday School Balloon Liffoff And Pot Luck





Youth Servant Events

Fence Removal for the Grogers



Fence Painting for Marion Brockhoff



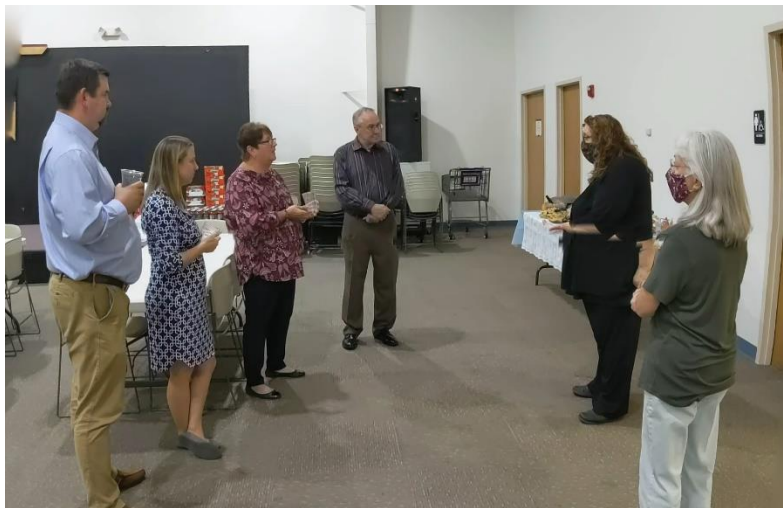
Pastor Poynter and Family Annual Party



Kathy Meckstroth's Memorial Service



Which one of these photos is of Kathy? They all are.



Why do we give? Is it simply because God commands us to? Or is there more to it? To be sure, the Word and instruction of God in the Bible says we should give, and this is sufficient to encourage us to give (Luke 6:38; Acts 20:35; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 8:7; Gal. 6:6).

But there's more to it than just obligation. We're not just trying to fulfill a work of the law. We are bearing fruits of the Spirit given to us by our Father in heaven through His Son our Lord Jesus Christ. In other words, we're not just doing what our Father said, we're also doing what He did.

Children emulate their parents. When they grow up, they often carry many of the same mannerisms and characteristics as their parents. But there is more to it than that. Children copy their parents even on a more mundane level. They watch how their parents cross their legs, how they fold their hands, how they stand and sit and walk, and how they do and say most everything. Then children try to copy it.

This can be quite humorous when caught in the act. They do this even when parents don't want them to. Everyone has been in the uncomfortable – and embarrassing situation – where a child does or says something one of their parents have done or said that is less than polite. Sitcoms thrive on these. It only works because of the truth that children emulate their parents, and they do it because they want to be like them.

We are the children of God – by grace through faith. In Holy Baptism, God the Father declares of us what He declared of Jesus at His Baptism in the Jordan, “You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” God the Father claims us as His own. He takes away all our sins. In exchange, He gives us His righteousness, His purity, His holiness, and His Spirit – by which we cry out, “Abba, Father.”

We are born again – born from above, born of water and the Spirit – to a new life in Christ as His children. We are sons of God in Christ through Baptism. Since we are sons, we are heirs who share in the glory of the Son of God. The inheritance is ours because of the Father's grace, mercy, and generosity in sending His Son in time to save us for all eternity.

This is why we give generously of our income to the work of the church. We want to be like our heavenly Father. We want to emulate His generosity by being generous ourselves. We give to the work of the church because we have witnessed the generous giving of our Father in heaven.

More than that, we are recipients of it. It is because we have received our Father's gifts that we desire to give ourselves. His gifts are not just spiritual. They are temporal and earthly as well. As *Luther's Small Catechism* teaches in the Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer:

Give us this day our daily bread.

What does this mean? God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

What is meant by daily bread? Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

In other words, He gives us everything that we need for the care of both body and soul. His generosity knows no bounds.

Therefore, we sit down at the beginning of the year, the beginning of the month, or the beginning of the week and set aside a generous portion of God's daily bread for His work in the church. This is not done because He has commanded us so to do but rather because we, as His children by grace, want to emulate His generosity in our own lives. He is our Father; we are His children. And children want to be like their parents.

Servants at Work

Serving Meal at Prince of Peace



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