



Good News From Good Shepherd

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

September, 2022

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Salty dogma

Bono gives an explicit confession of being saved by Grace, not Karma

by Gene Edward Veith

Is Bono, the lead singer and songwriter for the rock group U2, a Christian? He says he is and writes about Christianity in his lyrics. Yet many people question whether Bono is "really" a Christian, due to his notoriously bad language, liberal politics, and rock star antics (though he has been faithfully married for 23 years). But in a new book of interviews, Bono in Conversation by Michka Assayas, Bono, though using some salty language, makes an explicit confession of faith.

The interviewer, Mr. Assayas, begins by asking Bono, Doesn't he think "appalling things" happen when people become religious? Bono counters, "It's a mind-blowing concept that the God who created the Universe might be looking for company, a real relationship with people, but the thing that keeps me on my knees is the difference between Grace and Karma."

The interviewer asks, What's that? "At the center of all religions is the idea of Karma. You know, what you put out comes back to you: an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, or in physics—in physical laws—every action is met by an equal or an opposite one," explains Bono. "And yet, along comes this idea called Grace to upend all that. . . . Love interrupts, if you like, the consequences of your actions, which in my case is very good news indeed, because I've done a lot of stupid stuff."

The interviewer asks, Like what? "That's between me and God. But I'd be in big trouble if Karma was going to finally be my judge," says Bono. "It doesn't excuse my mistakes, but I'm holding out for Grace. I'm holding out that Jesus took my sins onto the Cross, because I know who I am, and I hope I don't have to depend on my own religiosity."

Then the interviewer marvels, "The Son of God who takes away the sins of the world. I wish I could believe in that."

"The point of the death of Christ is that Christ took on the sins of the world, so that what we put out did not come back to us, and that our sinful nature does not reap the obvious death," replies Bono. "It's not our own good works that get us through the gates of Heaven."

The interviewer marvels some more: "That's a great idea, no denying it. Such great hope is wonderful, even though it's close to lunacy, in my view. Christ has His rank among the world's great thinkers. But Son of God, isn't that farfetched?"

Bono comes back, "Look, the secular response to the Christ story always goes like this: He was a great prophet, obviously a very interesting guy, had a lot to say along the lines of other great prophets, be they Elijah, Muhammad, Buddha, or Confucius. But actually Christ doesn't allow you that. He doesn't let you off that hook. Christ says, No. I'm not saying I'm a teacher, don't call me teacher. I'm not saying I'm a prophet. I'm saying: 'I'm the Messiah.' I'm saying: 'I am God incarnate.' . . . So what you're left with is either Christ was who He said He was—the Messiah—or a complete nutcase. . . . The idea that the entire course of civilization for over half of the globe could have its fate changed and turned upside-down by a nutcase, for me that's farfetched."

What is most interesting in this exchange is the reaction of the interviewer, to whom Bono is, in effect, witnessing. This hip rock journalist starts by scorning what he thinks is Christianity. But it is as if he had never heard of grace, the atonement, the deity of Christ, the gospel. And he probably hadn't. But when he hears what Christianity is actually all about, he is amazed.

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The article above was written in 2005 by Dr. Gene Edward Veith. Dr. Veith was the Dean of the College of Arts and Science and Professor of Literature at Concordia University in Mequon, WI. At the time of this writing, he was the Cultural Editor for World magazine. He has written 20 books, most of which address various aspects of Lutheran theology and how it relates to everyday life.

A Message from Your Council President

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Col. 3:17 (NIV)

Why do we do what we do? Are we doing what we're supposed to be doing? Are we fulfilling the purpose for which we were put in this place to fulfill? - or- Why has God given us the particular challenge we're facing right now? What are we supposed to learn? When will it end? -or even- Are we busy about and for the right purpose? Are we busy for the sake of being busy so we can avoid some reality we don't want to face?



Most of us have likely posed those questions to ourselves. Many churches, including ours, do the same fairly regularly as a check on itself.

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Eph. 2:10 (NIV)



September and the beginning of the fall season has been a favorite time. In part for the "goldenness" of the season, the rich warmth of the tree colors, the change in the angle of the sun, crisper air and temperatures. And in part the energy that seems to blossom in the church as we come off the more laid-back summer months and re-engage with church activities, Sunday School, and anticipate the holiday season.

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Eph 4:1 (NIV)

There's no time like the present to take a little inventory and determine whether individually we're about our Father's business and not strictly our own agendas. Prayerfully consider what we've been blessed with and how we're applying it to God's purpose for us. Step out in faith and offer our gifts to: • Linnea, current Christian Ministry board chair, and see where our place might be serving in fellowship or outreach (Whiz Kids!) or stewardship or communication; • Rob, current Property board chair, and see how your handy skills can help us maintain God's house; • David, current Head Elder, and satisfy that long held desire to assist with Christian education, Sunday School, or lead or host a Bible study.

Do not quench the Spirit. 1 Thess. 5:19 (NIV)

Council Actions: The leadership team met on August 8. The team approved a spending motion from the board of Property to address the trees that need trimming or removal because of their potential harm to the building. The Property board also proposed a comprehensive list of projects ranging from necessary maintenance to enhancements that will improve some current challenging conditions. The bottom line in cost exceeds prior work presented to the congregation. Please plan on attending the November congregation meeting at which time we'll be able to collectively review and prioritize the proposed work.

In the area of Finances: 1) the reports showed the downturn in giving that is often seen in the summer months. [I remind us all, that just like with our homes when we are away, we must still make provision for mortgages and utilities.]; 2) transition to Vanco is moving forward. The proof of concept is finished. We were disappointed to learn that Vanco does not include the 39¢ transaction fee in the fees the donor can cover. The cost per transaction is less than Paypal (49¢) and we gain fund designation; 3) we have identified areas we want to strengthen in our reporting and QuickBooks set up; 4) and finally, there was consensus on the team that we'd like to see the offering added back to the worship service. We believe it will create awareness and be a more convenient way for visitors to contribute.

Marlis Norton, Council Pres.

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

Christian Education Offerings

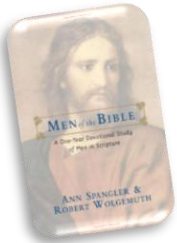


Women's Bible Breakfast • Saturday • Sept 10

Our second-Saturday Bible Breakfast resumes at 9 a.m. on Saturday, **September 10**. Bring a dish to share or your own personal favorite if you prefer. God always provides just what we need. We'll continue the LWML Fruits of the Spirit study series and will focus on Goodness.

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! We will be in week 8, finally, of the 8 week study.



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

We are still in Isaiah. We study one person at a time, often in multiple sessions, no book required, so join in any time.

Men's Bible Study
Mondays – 10 am
A Summary of
Christian Doctrine

Pastor's Bible Study
Sunday at 8:45 am
Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

Sunday School



Thank you to all those people who helped get Sunday School up and rolling!

This would include, first the teachers, Barb Barvincak, Dave Smith, Jackie Vezina; the parents who gave input and encouragement, Jessica Brann, Taylor Wooley, Julie Poynter, Melanie Cottrell; those who helped with ordering materials, Pastor Poynter and Lynn Mitchell; for preparing our opening room, Jerry Fitzpatrick and Dave Smith - especially Jerry who went above and beyond taking care of each detail of the room; for preparing a banner sign for the front of the church, Mary Givhan; for posting the opening on Facebook, Jenn Ostermeier; for recording music for us, Kim Leavens, and for planning the picnic to help make the day even more special, Debbie Fitzpatrick. Also, thank you to Billy Mitchell for agreeing to fill in as a substitute teacher. You are all such blessings!! Thank you!!!

Auxiliary Committee of the Federation - Save the Dates!

September 14 Virtual committee meeting at 10 a.m. All ladies welcome.

October 12 Fidget Mat Mission Event, 10 a.m. at Messiah, 10416 Bossi Lane, Cincinnati.

Any notions, ribbons, buttons, zippers, beads, trims you may have (not necessary to participate....there will be things there to work with). Do you or friends have any they might like to donate? Sewing machine if you have one that is portable. We will need a few folks to sew.

October 30 Ingathering, 3 p.m. at Grace Lutheran, 3628 Boudinot Avenue, Cincinnati.

Ingathering will be items for the on-campus co-ops of both Concordia Seminary St. Louis and Concordia Seminary Fort Wayne (list to come). The feature is Q&A with Dr. Dale Meyer, past president of Concordia Seminary St. Louis.

October 30 Reformation Service, 4 p.m. at Grace in Cincinnati. Guest preacher, Dr. Dale Meyer.



LWML Ohio District - Cincinnati Zone Retreat - Save the Date!

October 1 - Cincinnati Zone Retreat, 9:45 a.m., Messiah Lutheran, 10416 Bossi Lane, Cincinnati.

A brunch will follow supported with a free-will offering. Our own Pastoral Counselor (and newly elected Junior Pastoral Counselor of the Ohio District) Pastor Everette Greene will lead the devotions. **Pastor Allen Stuckwisch will lead the Bible study titled "How to Love According to Corinthians,"** using I Corinthians Chapters 12 and 13. There will be two sessions, followed by packing of the **Ingathering of school supplies for all ages**. The Urban League will assist Immanuel Lutheran Church with the distribution. The Retreat will end at 2:30 pm.

Federation/POBLO Partnership Update

Rev. Khan requested and Dan Huss, President, has provided a letter documenting the Federation's financial support for POBLO which was needed for visa applications. A work address was also needed and Rev. Khan spoke with Rev. Greene who agreed that Immanuel's Avondale address could be used. Both Immanuel, Avondale and Trinity, Peach Grove have offered office space. The missionaries are expected to arrive and spend time in Michigan for orientation and may arrive in Cincinnati as early as January 2023.



School Supply Collection

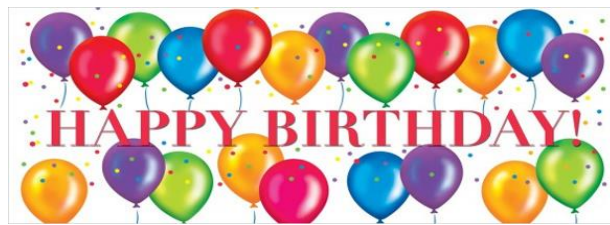
Thanks to everyone who purchased school supplies. Every tag was taken. Good Shepherd is such a loving, caring, supportive congregation. The kids and the families were so excited to receive them. What a great way for these kids to start school knowing that someone cares about them.



Edvin, sister Fatima and Mom Susie



Grandmother Karen and Carson. One for Sister Chloe



September

Sophie Vonderlage	Sept. 1
Linda Walton	Sept. 4
Bill Shaw	Sept. 6
Lenten V. Woolley	Sept. 16
Keith Juergens	Sept. 17
Amber Raap	Sept. 18
Marsha Smith	Sept. 20
Katelyn Aragon	Sept. 21
Jason Raap	Sept. 22
Faith Warren	Sept. 22
Eva Sellers	Sept 25
Paul Poynter	Sept 26

October

Elijah Warren	Oct. 2
Linnea Caldon	Oct. 5
Jessica Brann	Oct. 14
Andrew Gawura	Oct. 14
Virginia Langsdale	Oct. 20
Cassie Molina	Oct. 20
Harold Bacon	Oct. 22

Whiz Kids 2022-2023 School Year



Whiz Kids is sponsored by City Gospel Mission. Their aim is to spread the Christian faith and help people out of poverty, one person at a time. Whiz Kids focuses on helping kids 2nd graders - 5th graders read to end the cycle of poverty. We work with Ockerman Elementary School, and these kids are below grade level in their reading skills and come from low-income families. Good Shepherd has been doing this mission work for

many years and we need you to keep it going. You will find this work so rewarding and it takes very little time. The Whiz kids love it!

Whiz kids meet every Wednesday, October 5th – April 26th at church, minus school holidays. Many of the positions rotate so you do not have to help every week. Tutoring is the only position where you are needed every week, though subs are available if you need a Wednesday off. Training is provided and will be offered on September 21st, 6:30 pm at church.

No special skills or degrees required. Must be at least 16 years old and like working with children. Contact Kathy Nielsen at kathyniels@yahoo.com or call if you would like to chat about it at 859-250-0151.

Positions available:

Title	Hours	# Needed	Description
Snack Helper	3:45 – 4:30	4+	Assist in the kitchen to set up table, help clean up
Games/Craft	4:10 – 4:40	1-2	Plan and lead a game or craft activity
Jesus Time	4:40 – 5:00	3-4	Lead a Bible lesson/discussion
Tutors	5:00 – 6:00	12+	Work 1:1 with the same child each week Training, materials and curriculum provided
Substitute Tutors	5:00 – 6:00	3+	On call as needed

Food Pantry Food Distribution



We have made a change in our food pantry distribution. Instead of people coming to church to pick up food, we will take the food to the people. When **COVID** hit we continued the Food Pantry by providing a food drive through opportunity. We packed food and delivered either to the participant's car or in person to those who had signed up. However, we have seen a decline in the number of people who have participated in the program. But there is one group who has always signed up and really needs assistance, the residents of Acadia Park Senior Apartment Community. Many of the seniors there rely on the groceries and supplies we provide them. **So will be taking the pantry to them.** We will set the pantry in their community room and they will be able to pick up the prepared boxes. If there are others who need assistance, we will still provide groceries and supplies for them. These individuals usually contact Lynn and she prepares a box for them to pick up. By making the change we feel that this will be a better use of our resources. **Thank you for our ongoing support of the Food Pantry Program. Human Care Committee.**

August Events Sunday School Resumes Sunday School Opening

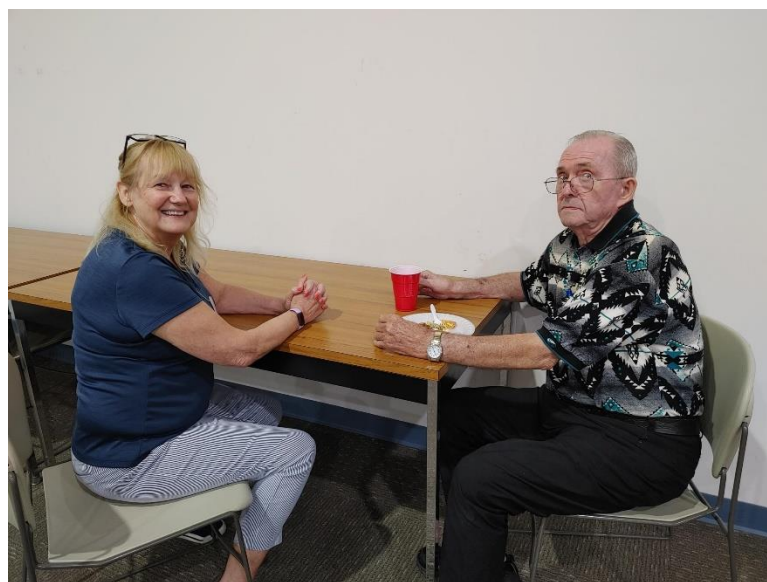


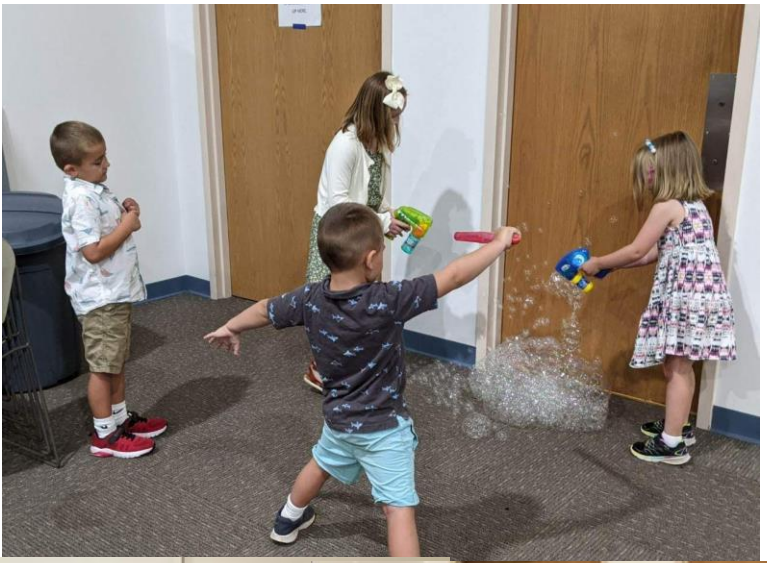
Individual Classes





Church Picnic – Food and Fun





Bubbles,
bubbles and even more bubbles. So much fun.



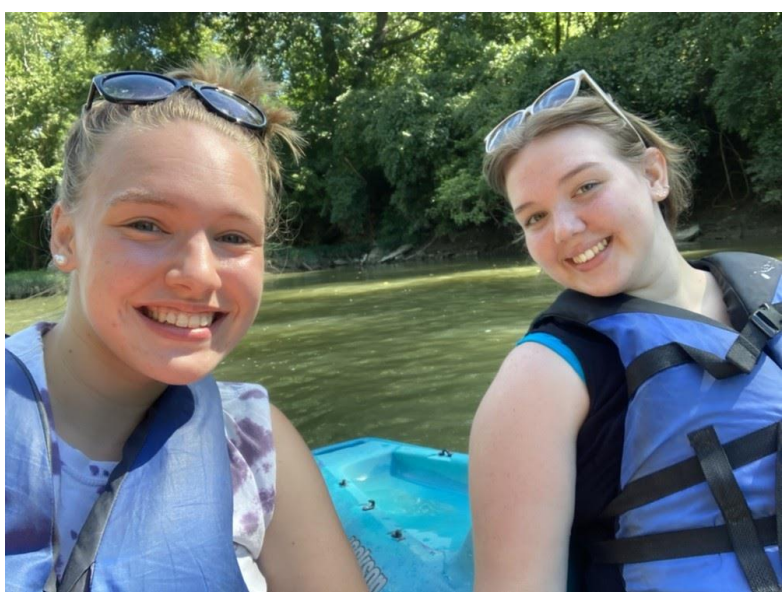
Kohen's Confirmation



Confirmation Verse: Joshua 1:9: "Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Youth Canoeing Trip





OWLS Trip to the Newport Aquarium



What is a steward? Most people, when asked this question, will reply: “A manager.” That is correct, but it is only half right. A steward is indeed a manager, but he is a manager of what does not belong to him. Someone else is the owner, and the steward manages the owner’s property on the owner’s behalf.

We are God’s stewards. Our stewardship is that God has made us managers of what belongs to Him. For we have brought nothing into this world, and we can take nothing out of it (1 Tim. 6:7). Everything that we have and everything that we are comes from God’s fatherly Divine goodness and mercy. God is the owner. Not only because, as the Creator, He created all things. But also, as the Redeemer, He has redeemed, that is, purchased and won all things. It all, therefore, belongs to Him.

We are simply managers of everything in this world. Like Joseph in Egypt, we are put in charge of managing what belongs to God. What a privilege. Think about that for a minute. The all-knowing, all-powerful, all-wise God has asked us to manage His possessions on His behalf here on earth. And by doing this, He invites us to take part in the allocation of His good gifts. He wants us to give our input and advise Him in where His gifts are to be used. What a privilege indeed.

What a responsibility. For to whom much is given, much shall be required (Luke 12:48). We are not the owners. And while He puts us as managers, we are still to do with His property what He wants done with it. That means we need to know what His desire and will for His property is.

How do we know this? How can we know the will and mind of God? We find the will of God in the Bible. There God tells us what His will for all His gifts are to be used. He tells us how we are to spend our time and use our talents and treasures. He instructs us in the use of our minds, bodies, and souls.

There is nothing that we have that doesn’t belong to Him. “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price” (1 Cor. 6:19–20). He informs us of the big picture, the overarching policy, of how we as His stewards – His managers and custodians – of His property are to do the managing.

And that is what stewardship is. It is simply doing what God wants us to do with what He has given us. As St. Paul said: “Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness” (Rom. 6:13). So, let’s dive into the God’s Word and listen to what the owner desires from His stewards.

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