



Good News From Good Shepherd

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

John 10:11

September, 2021

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
9066 Gunpowder Road, Florence, KY 41042
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Church's Email: secretary@gslcky.org

Have you Accepted Jesus into Your Whole Heart?

When describing aspects of Biblical doctrine we profess, sometimes we use terms and phrases that are not in the Bible. For example, we use the phrase, "in, with, and under" when referring to communion. We do this in an attempt to explain a deep meaning of God that is difficult to understand. Other Christians do not use that phrase and question what we mean when we say it. On the other hand, they have their own catch phrases that confuse us.

For example, some say that to be saved a person should pray asking Jesus into their heart and accepting him as Lord and Savior. We tend to furrow our brows at this because it is not familiar to us, and we think it means we are doing something to justify ourselves to God. But this concept may not be that contrary to our belief of justification by faith in Christ alone. Let's look at a couple of passages:

Romans 10:9-10 That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 ⁴ Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

Let's start with "a person should pray..." What does that mean? Romans 10 says, "if you confess with your mouth..." What if a prayer which expresses a person's acceptance of Jesus is that person's confession? Would that person who is praying not be doing what Romans 10 says to do?

Now consider "asking Jesus into their heart and accepting him as Lord and Savior." Both of the Bible passages above use the term "heart." Heart expresses a deep, strong emotional tie to something. If we say that we love our spouses with our whole heart, we mean we have a deep love for them. If we say that we believe something with our whole heart, we mean it is an unshakable belief. Asking Jesus into our heart simply means we deeply love Jesus, just like Deuteronomy commands of us. Accepting means "to receive willingly" and "to recognize as true." So, accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior means a person is acknowledging and submitting to the truth about Jesus, that God raised him from the dead as stated in Romans 10.

Every Sunday we express our faith by reciting one of the Creeds, confessing our sins, and praying for forgiveness. This is not unlike other Christians who pray, ask Jesus into their hearts, and accept him.

We may not understand what other Christians mean with their catch phrases, just like they don't understand ours. But we may be closer in our practices than we think. We are unified in our belief that we are justified by faith in Christ alone, not by our own works. Still, we should consider how we apply Romans 10 and Deuteronomy 6 in our own lives so that we can relate properly to our Savior, in prayerful confession and in love of him. Yes, we state our faith by reciting the Creeds. Yes, we confess our sins, and yes, we pray for forgiveness. But have we asked Jesus into our whole heart, not just a portion of it as other Christians and the two Bible verses say to do? In other words, do we love him deeply or do we love other things more?

David Smith, Head Elder
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A Message from Your President



Crickets. Have you noticed? They're chirping, loudly and consistently. They signal change. Just as the robin of spring, the crickets of late summer remind us of change coming. There's a special energy that develops around this time. Greenery changes color. Leaves begin to fall. School starts. Churches ramp up activities. Sunday School. Choirs. Stewardship emphases. Gatherings. While nature is signaling the time to prepare for dormancy, we humans focus on action and get extra busy in our groups, schools and churches.

Pastor Ewell shared a devotion at the Federation Executive Board meeting last month on John 5, in particular these verses (5-8): *And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years. When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he says unto him, Wilt thou be made whole? The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steps down before me. Jesus says unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.*

Read it a couple times. Do you pick up what happens here, or more correctly, what doesn't happen? The infirm man does not answer Jesus' direct question. It's a yes or no question, but the infirm man immediately begins his sad 38-year (!) litany as to why *he* cannot. His focus was so tunneled, so narrow, so repetitive, so same old, same old, so set on one event, one outcome, he didn't even begin to engage the possibilities offered in that conversation.

Blessedly, Jesus doesn't take offense, but has compassion. When Jesus speaks His command, NOW he has the infirm man's attention, who obeys and is healed straightway. As we enter this new season of busy activity and uncommon energy, let us not get repetitive, tunneled vision. Let us not get so fixed on what we determine to be the desired outcome and lament when we do not achieve that same old, same old. Let us rather remain open and eager to hear and really listen, not to the familiar chirping, but to Jesus' word to us, and then respond obediently in faith.

*Behold, the former **things** are come to pass, and **new things** do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them. Isaiah 42:9*



Council Actions: Consensus decisions made at the August meeting included: 1) Review of our insurance policy due to renew in October; 2) Review of how our finance software is administered and move that administration to the leadership team; 3) Bible Translation Sunday will be celebrated September 26; 4) Convene the CAT committee to review the status of congregational priorities as presented and recommend updates, if any, to the current Mission and Vision statements.



The Property Board put forward a motion to approve building use for a 16-member home-school Latin/Logic class to begin August 27 and run through the school year. Council approved the motion.

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. Council typically meets not more than 11 times a year and voters meet at least three times. Access to email and Word makes the job easier. Please consider this service opportunity and contact any council member or prayerfully consider a direct ask.



For those folks who expressed an interest in training associated with LERT (Lutheran Early Response Teams), the Federation is still seeking expressions of interest and looking into how many are needed before a training can be scheduled. In the meantime, feel free to check out the new website: LCMS-LERT and also the article in the newest LWML Quarterly magazine.

Marlis Norton, Council Pres.

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

Christian Education

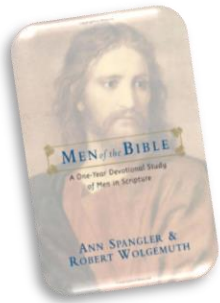


Women's Bible Breakfast • Saturday • September 11

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 me know by Wednesday, September 8 and a Zoom session will be set up and the study emailed to you.

Women's Sunday Bible Study • *Forgiveness* • 8:45 a.m. (Note the time change!)

Our small group meets in the Duchow Room. Though not optimal for this study, a Zoom connection is provided for those not able to meet in person. 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!

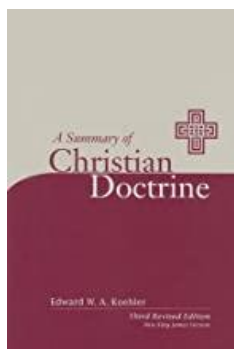


Women's Tuesday Bible Study • *Men of the Bible* • 9:30 am

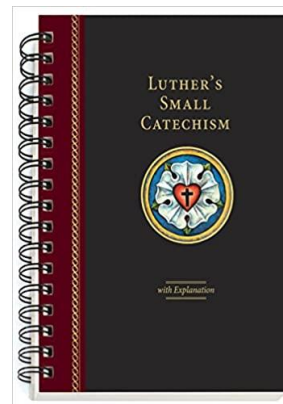
We are meeting in person; providing zoom for those who prefer. All are welcome. Join in any time. We study one person each session, no book required. If you wish to be included, let Lynn know and we'll get the meeting invite to you. Our current subject is David followed by other men of First and Second 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
Monday mornings at 9 am.
A Summary of Christian Doctrine



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



We are scheduling a CPR/AED and First Aid training at the church on Saturday, September 25th. If you are interested let Lynn know. The cost of CPR/AED is \$55.00 per person and the cost for CPR/AED/First Aid is \$65.00 per person, both with a 2 year certification. CPR/AED is 2 hours and the First Aid will be an additional 1 hour.

Rob Smith

Women's Auxiliary of the Federation September dates

The Executive Board of Auxiliary Representatives will meet Sept. 8 at 10 a.m. via zoom. Discussion will include: 1) Disposition of the suggested change from independent organization to a Federation committee; 2) Elections; 3) 2022 Budget; 4) Mission project and logistics of the Regular Membership meeting on 9/22.



LWML Fall Retreat 2021 Phil's Friends with Judy Earnshaw

Mission Goal of Phil's Friends: To provide Christ-centered support and hope to cancer patients; info@Philsfriends.org

Saturday, September 25

**10:00 Log onto Zoom Meeting with Welcome
by President Arlene Brown (Immanuel Avondale Lutheran)**
**10:20 Devotions by Pastoral Counselor Pastor Greene
(Immanuel, Avondale and Trinity Lutheran Churches, Cincinnati)**
10:30 Program Speaker
11:25 Servant Project and Closing



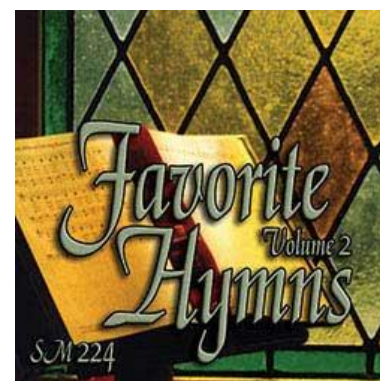
LWML Fall Retreat Phil's Friends, caring for those with Cancer

An ingathering of items for the care packages will be collected. The items include unscented lotion (5 oz. or smaller), Biotin (6 oz. or smaller), tissue packs, single toothbrush and toothpaste (5 oz. or less), hats (knitted, crocheted, baseball, etc.), decks of playing cards, puzzle books (for adults), journals (not spiral), blankets (rolled throw, crocheted, or fleece tied 40 x 50). Please place your items in the basket in the entryway by Sept. 26. There will also be information about cards of hope. See display in the entryway.



August 29 was **Favorite Hymns Sunday**, and the congregation's favorites did not disappoint! Favorite hymns by the numbers:

24 people submitted their favorites
114 different hymns were submitted
14 hymns received 4 or more votes



Lift High the Cross (LSB 837) received the most votes, 7.
Amazing Grace (LSB 744) and **On Eagles' Wings (LSB 727)** receiving 6 votes each.

Thank you to all who submitted their favorites. Happy singing as we make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

Kim Leavens



From the Stewardship Committee



The Stewardship Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their participation in the Time/Talent/Treasurer submission of servant positions and monetary commitment to GSLC. There were numerous families that signed up for various positions and individual positions. The monetary commitments were extremely generous and as reported each week in the Voice you can see we are almost at our Budgeted Goals. Thank you again for helping support multiple servant events and for helping

in all areas of special projects our church embarks upon. We at GSLC are very blessed to have such faithful, generous and loving members/friends that see we meet our Christian duties to God's Army Building God's House and to our community. Sincerely The Stewardship Committee- Eric Berns, Tammy Woolley, Tammy Vaughn, Barb Barvincak, Mary Givhan and Marlis Norton.

2 Corinthians 9: ¹¹You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.



We've had some great summer activities, now it's time to plan for the fall.

Tentative plans include the following. Specific detail to follow. Becky will be sending out specific information to parents.

September: Servant Event: Yard work or other request from our elderly members.

October: Help with Mobile Food Pantry

November: Thanksgiving dinner fundraiser at church

December: Christmas Party



Sunday, September 12, Potluck After Church Service
Bring your favorite dish

Saturday, October 23 Mobile Pantry
More information to come

Saturday, October 30 New Riff Distillery Tour
See Jerry Fitzpatrick or David Smith for details



September

Sophie Vonderlage
 Linda Walton
 Bill Shaw
 Lenten Vincent Woolley
 Keith Juergens
 Amber Raap
 Katelyn Aragon
 Jason Raap
 Faith Warren

September 1
 September 4
 September 6
 September 16
 September 17
 September 18
 September 21
 September 22
 September 22

October

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

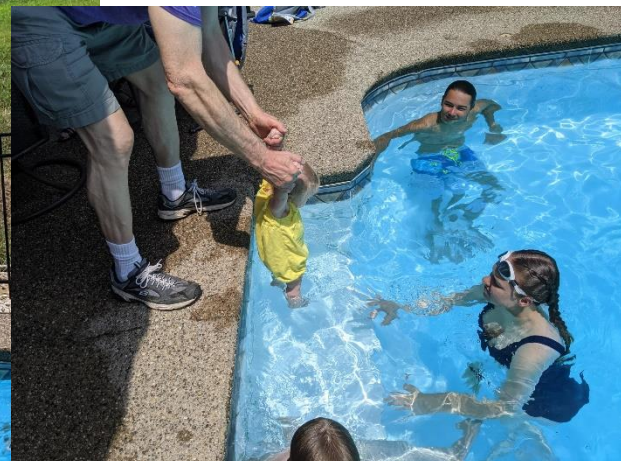
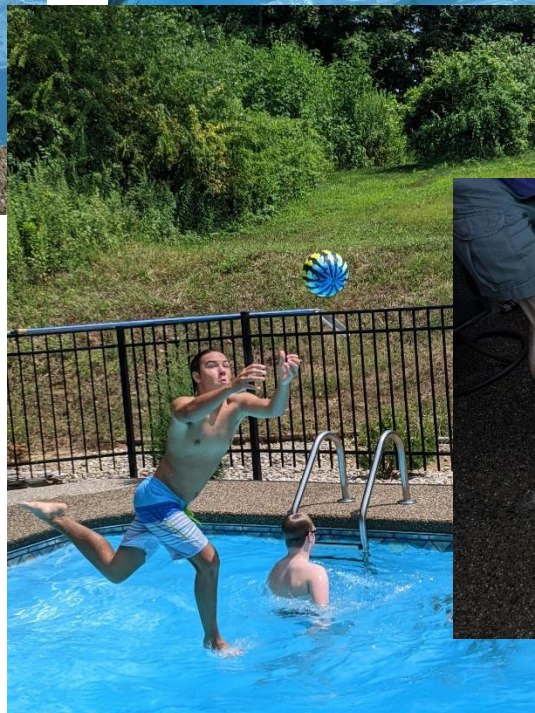
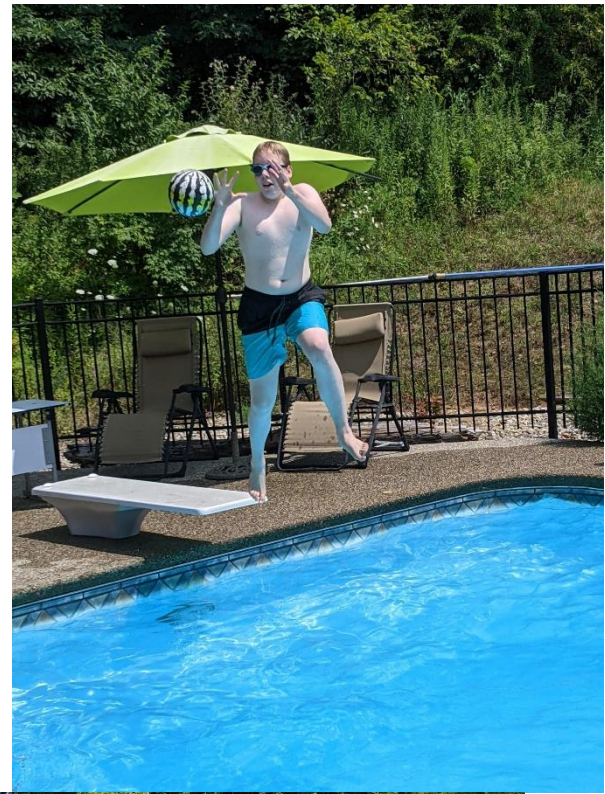
October 2
 October 5
 October 14
 October 14
 October 20
 October 20

NORTHERN KENTUCKY LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

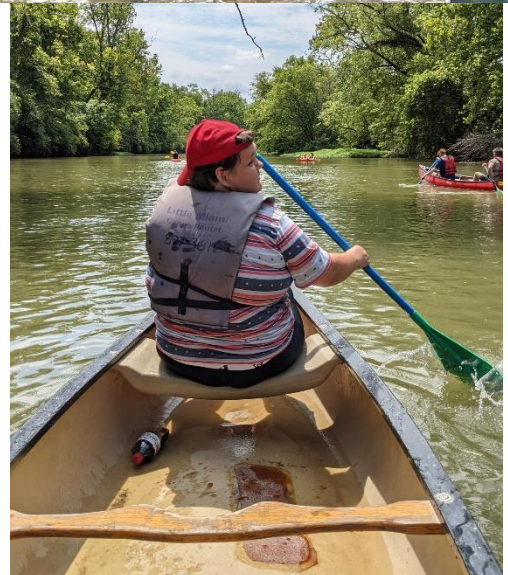
**White Cross Display
 Take Down**



August Events Youth Swim Party



Little Miami Canoe Trip

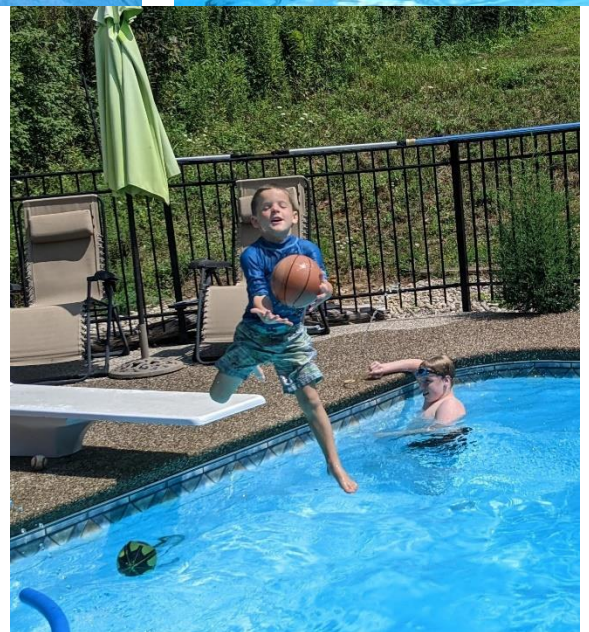
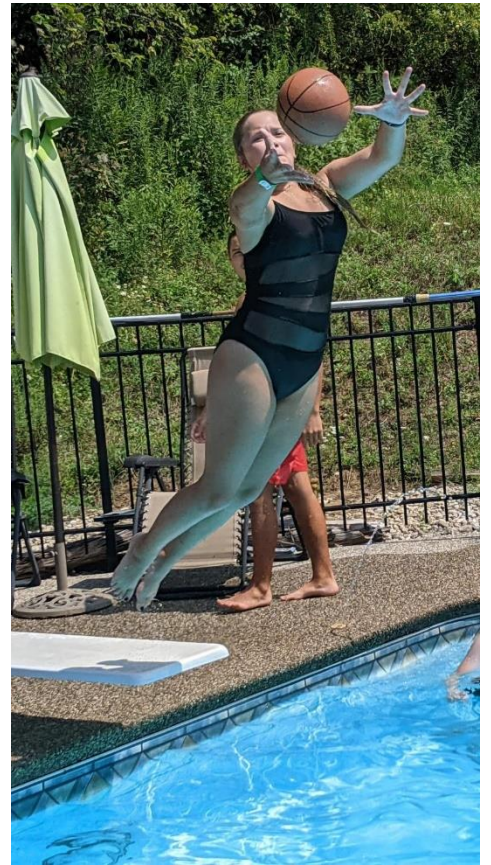


Vacation Bible School





VBS Swim Party



Servants at Work



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