



# Good News From Good Shepherd

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

November, 2022

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## Martin Luther



*Pictured above, Martin Luther translating the Scriptures at Wartburg Castle and the cover page of his German New Testament*

As many of you know, 2022 marks the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther's translation of the Greek New Testament into the language of his German parishioners. While reading about this historic achievement, I came across a comment by Luther about how his translation of the New Testament had changed the world in a way I had never thought about. He Writes,

"First if I, Dr. Luther, could have expected that all the papists taken together would be capable enough to translate a single chapter of the Scriptures correctly and well, I should certainly have mustered up enough humility to invite their aid and assistance in putting the New Testament into German. But because I knew—and still see with my own eyes—that none of them knows how to translate, or to speak German, I spared them and myself that trouble. It is evident, indeed, that from my German translation they are learning to speak and write German, and so are stealing from me my language, of which they had little knowledge before. ...It tickles me that I have taught my ungrateful pupils, even my enemies, how to speak." (Luther's Works 35:182-183)

I remember one of my seminary professors telling us that Luther did for the German language what Shakespeare would later do for his English speaking countrymen, he standardized the German language for generations to come. It never occurred to me that as people were reading, or attempting to read, their new German bible they were learning the basics as well i.e. grammar, vocabulary, spelling, sentence structure, even pronunciation.

In light of this phenomenal achievement, I thought that I would recount to you a number of other interesting facts that you may or may not have known about the man who truly changed the course of history.

- ❖ There were various spellings of Luther's family name, Chlotar, Luder, Ludher, and Lueder. Martin Luder eventually changed the spelling of his last name to "Luther" when he was at the University of Erfurt. This was academically a more respectable spelling.

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- ❖ In 1492, Luther was in grammar school when Christopher Columbus sailed the ocean blue, and Michelangelo was completing his work on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel when Luther began teaching theology.
- ❖ In 1507, when Martin Luther became a priest and celebrated his first Mass, he trembled so much that he nearly dropped the cup. He became so terrified of the presence of Christ in the Sacrament that he tried to run from the altar. How I hope we have such reverence and awareness of Christ's real presence that we would not be so casual with the Holy Supper, but come to His table in repentance and faith.
- ❖ Luther was the first person to translate the New Testament into German directly from Greek, previous German Bibles were based on the Latin Vulgate. Unlike these previous translations, Luther's was idiomatic and readable and largely determined the form of speech that future German literature would take. To this day, Luther's translation of the Bible is the standard translation in use among German speaking people.
- ❖ Luther translated the entire New Testament from the Greek into German in 11 weeks, which averages out to more than 1,500 words per day.
- ❖ Luther brought congregational singing back into the Church and brought it back in the people's common language (German). Before then singing was confined to the clergy and the language of the Roman Church, Latin.
- ❖ Luther is credited with having written 36 hymns, which is quite an achievement as any church musician who has written a hymn will tell you.
- ❖ Luther's reforms in music and liturgy encouraged the publication of over 47 Lutheran Hymnals before his death in 1546, and earned the Lutheran church the title "The Singing Church."
- ❖ Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott" or "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" which is a poetic paraphrase of Psalm 46, is considered the battle hymn of the Reformation.
- ❖ Bowling at pins is believed to have originated in ancient Germany. By the 1300's, anywhere from 3 to 17 could be the number of pins one had to knock down depending on which German providence one was living. Luther is credited with establishing nine as the ideal number of pins for the game of bowling. A 16<sup>th</sup> century biographer of Luther reported that Luther built a bowling lane for his children and was a frequent player himself.
- ❖ Luther's writing fill over 70 volumes in English (The American Edition). This is only a portion of the volumes he wrote in German, which is estimated to be over 60,000 pages. Luther had written more than any author before or during his lifetime.
- ❖ Luther was born November 10<sup>th</sup> 1483 in Eisleben, Germany. He returned to his hometown in 1546 to mediate a family quarrel. The quarrel was settled on February 17<sup>th</sup>, but that evening Luther experienced sharp pains in the chest, the following morning Luther died in the same town he was born. February 18 is the day the Lutheran Church commemorates the life of Martin Luther, Doctor and Confessor. **Pastor Poynter**



### ***Advent is calling us to slow down and Notice***

As we see the leaves turning and the weather getting colder, we know that Advent is coming, bringing with it the good news of Jesus' birth. The theme for the advent services is Baptism.

The word "**advent**" is from the Latin word for "coming," and as such, describes the "coming" of our Lord Jesus Christ into the flesh. If we were tracking to the church calendar, Advent is the beginning of the church year, just as we are anticipating the birth of Jesus Christ.

We invite you to join us in getting ourselves ready for Christmas with three services emphasizing Advent, the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ into the flesh. This year we are adding a special mid-week service on Wednesday, November 30, at 3 PM.

Special Wednesday Advent Services:

**November 30: Theme: Baptism: A Gift for All, Services at 3 PM and 7 PM**

**December 7: Baptism: A Gift that Gives, Service at 7 PM**

**December 14: Baptism: A Gift to Use, Service at 7 PM**

We will also conclude the Advent season with Christmas Eve services on Saturday, December 24, at both 3 PM and 7:30 PM, with special preservice music beginning at 7 PM.

Sunday, Christmas Day, the service will be at our regular time of 10 AM, with communion.

The Sunday and Wednesday services will feature the Advent wreath, and we encourage you not to miss celebrating this special time with your fellow believers. **Glen Leavens, Elder**

# A Message from Your President

## From the President...

*Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. 1 Chronicles 16:34 (NIV)*



If one focuses on the news these days, one might be tempted to give in to despair what with the wars, threats of war, floods, drought, hurricanes, political dysfunction and violence that abounds. Add to that the rising pressure of inflation impacting our families and we might wonder what there is to be thankful for.

In chapter 16 of 1 Chronicles, David was successful on his second attempt to restore the Ark of the Covenant to the tent he had pitched for it. There was much singing, dancing and instrumental accompaniment with thanksgiving as the Ark made its way to its new home. His song of thanksgiving is what we also know as Psalm 96. David had just been made king in chapter 11, was enjoying good press and success on the battle field. Good times.

*For long ago, in the days of David and Asaph, there had been directors for the musicians and for the songs of praise and thanksgiving to God. Nehemiah 12:46 (NIV)*

Nehemiah and company were celebrating the completion of the reconstruction of the wall around Jerusalem. It had been a tough go, what with all the the naysayers and attempts to thwart the progress. But Nehemiah perservered and as David had established long ago, made a joyful and noisy thanksgiving to God from atop the new wall. So loud was it that it was heard miles away. Good times.



*Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NIV)*

But what about tough times? In all circumstances, there is command and cause to give thanks to our God - provider, Redeemer, Savior. Giving thanks in all circumstances, even when they seem dire, is an act of faith, trusting God to provide just what we need as we continue in His will. Good in His time.

*The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised. Job 1:21b (NIV)*

**Council Actions:** There was not a quorum at the October meeting, so no voted decisions were made. Work continued on the budget. Some specific budget challenges to consider follow.

- Our undesignated cash on-hand in the main checking account has been declining as giving has slowed. We started January with \$60,000+ and as of the end of September are at \$40,000. If nothing changes, we will run cash short by this time next year.
- If we end the fourth quarter of 2022 as we did in 2021 with regard to income, we will fall below the 2022 income budget and even below 2021 actual income by \$15,000.
- Fixed expenses (utilities, snow removal, etc.) are expected to rise in 2023 impacted by inflation (if not weather).
- We do not yet know whether or by how much the annual mortgage rate may rise. Our renewal is in February with notification in January.

In addition, the Property board has proposed a comprehensive list of non-budget projects ranging from necessary maintenance to enhancements that will improve some current challenging conditions. The bottom line in cost exceeds prior estimates presented to the congregation. We will need to make decisions on priorities or get creative on how we can address these needs.

Please plan on attending the **November 20** congregation meeting at which time we will, with thanksgiving and perseverance, discuss and decide on what our faith-filled budget will look like.



**Marlis Norton, Council Pres.**

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

# Christian Education



## Women's Bible Breakfast • Saturday • November 12

Our second-Saturday Bible Breakfast next meets at 9 a.m. on Saturday, **November 12**. Bring a dish to share or your own personal favorite if you prefer. God always provides just what we need. The three who came in October decided to postpone the study, so we'll continue the LWML Fruits of the Spirit study series and will focus on Gentleness.

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

We will likely wrap this study in the next couple weeks and will determine a new topic. So far being considered are Job and Ruth, with Job the likely winner. For Job there will be no book for the study. We will supplement the study with a guide developed by Dr. Reed Lessing.



## 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 found in Kings, beginning with Solomon.



**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**

## Auxiliary Committee of the Federation

Sixteen ladies from six churches gathered on Wednesday, October 12, at Messiah Lutheran to construct Fidget Mats. A dozen of the mats were constructed. They will be distributed to local Alzheimer's care centers.



**One of the mats was presented to Linnea for her relative.** If you wish to participate individually, you still can. Construct your mat and contact Marlis who will see that it gets to Deb Cropp of Christ who is the Auxiliary Committee's coordinator for this project.

Don't over think the construction. Simple items can make a useful mat. Any notions, ribbons, buttons, zippers, beads, trims you may have can be used. Instructions are available and samples can be found on line.



## Thanks for Giving Baskets

Fill a Thanks Giving Basket for local families that need food assistance. The baskets will be provided along with a list of items needed. Return the filled basket anytime up until Nov. 21st. You may still contribute individual items as well. Donations for meat vouchers will also be accepted. Each voucher is \$15. Just make a notation on your envelope if you'd like to contribute!! Deadline: November 21th



### November

Julie Rath	November 8
John Poynter	November 8
Joe Barvincak	November 9
J. T. Cottrell	November 11
Jacob Brann	November 12
Rob Nielsen	November 15
John Yri	November 17
Anne Yri	November 18
Emma Poynter	November 18
Barb Barvincak	November 27
Lynn Mitchell	November 28

### December

Vincent Woolley	December 1
Taylor Mason	December 5
Shirley Duane	December 18
Calvin Herr	December 18
Dwayne Smith	December 20
Ashlyn Brann	December 21
Josh Molina	December 28



## Thanksgiving Dinner and Corn Hole Tournament

**Saturday, November 12**

Turkey and gravy, mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, corn, rolls, and dessert.

Tournament starts at 3 pm

Dinner at 5pm

Cost: Free will offering  
(Fund raiser to support Youth activities)

### Attention Singers

We will be singing on Christmas Eve and will plan to have rehearsals after the evening Advent services on November 30, December 7 and 14. We invite you to come and sing with us as we prepare to make a joyful noise to the Lord as we celebrate Jesus' birth.

**Glen and Kim Leavens**





# NORTHERN KENTUCKY CHAPTER OF LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

On Sunday, Oct. 2, Marlis Norton and Jackie Vezina presented a Lutherans For Life exhibit table at the Northern Kentucky Right To Life's 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration For Life event, which was held in Erlanger, Kentucky. Angela Minter, a fellow Lutheran and President and Co-Founder of Sisters For Life, was the guest speaker. She has dedicated her life to awaken, train and mobilize the whole church, particularly the historically Black Church, to end abortion and help people to realize that every life is important in the eyes of our Lord. Several hundred people were in attendance to support the sanctity of human life.



## October Events

### Military Chaplin Matthew Franke Presentation

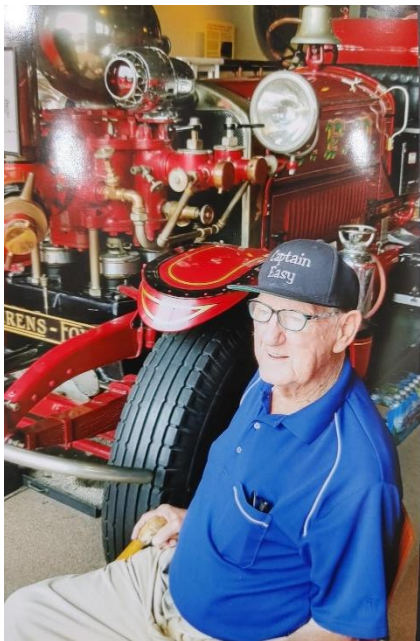






O.W.L.S at the ZoO

Bob Brown' Memorial



# Youth Halloween Activities

## Corn Maze and Haunted House



## Reformation Sunday



## Ingathering



## Joint Reformation Service



November 6



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