



Good News From Good Shepherd

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

September 2020

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Music to My Ears

The other day a group of us guys were talking about music. All of them played instruments except me, so I was doing more half-listening than anything. At one point in the conversation, one of the guys mentioned a friend who played in a band. This friend was self-taught and was apparently very good. The friend thought he knew everything about music. Then the friend decided to take lessons. Apparently, although he had played in a band in front of crowds for a long time, he became surprised at what he learned from the lessons and how little he really knew about chord variations and playing his instrument.

This made me think about my spiritual walk with the Lord. Like the guys who took music lessons in middle and high school, I went to Sunday School and confirmation class when I was a kid. After that most of the guys had no more formal training in music but they continued to play. And through my younger adult years, I continued to profess my faith in Jesus although I did not read or study my Bible much. I was like the friend before he decided to take music lessons; I thought I knew enough about God. It wasn't until later in life when I "started taking lessons", when I got back into reading and studying scripture, that I realized how little I knew about God and the **"immeasurable riches of his grace."** I was joyfully surprised at how much more I was learning.

Paul prays for us in Ephesians 1:17, **"that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better"**. When it comes to our Father in heaven, our Lord Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, there is always something more for us to learn.

The apostle Peter says in 1 Peter 1:10-12:

¹⁰ Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, ¹¹ inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. ¹² It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

Table of Content

From the Head Elder	page 1
Favorite Hymn Sunday	page 2
A Message from Your President	page 2-3
Women's Ministry	page 3
Christian Education Update	page 4
August Events	page 4-7
Backpack Blessing	page 4
Dedication of Window & Bell	page 5
Birthdays	page 8
Mini River Sweep	page 8
Lutheran Bible Translator Sunday	page 8
The Four	page 9
LCMS Newsletter	page 10

The Fall season is when we generally begin new Bible studies, and I encourage each of you to become involved in one. If you cannot find one, start one. Even if all you do is read your Bible with your friends, you will be enriched. As stated in 1 Peter, the gospel is for you. Take advantage of the immeasurable riches God has given you by searching and inquiring of his word. It will be music to your ears.

David Smith, Head elder
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Favorite Hymn Sunday

Favorite Hymns Sunday was celebrated on August 30. Many thanks to the 19 people who submitted their favorites. Three hymns received 7 votes: Abide with Me, Beautiful Savior, and Lift High the Cross. Receiving 6 votes were A Mighty Fortress and Just as I Am. Several hymns received 4 or 5 votes. Many of these favorites will be incorporated into our worship services this fall.

Thank you. Kim Leavens



'Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, ²to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men. Titus 3:1-2 (NKJV)

The following is taken from Ohio District President Rev. Kevin Wilson's 8/25 COVID-19 letter to Congregations: *Since the initial letter, the assertion that wearing a mask demonstrates love for my neighbor was challenged. The primary issue was whether face masks slow or prevent the spread of COVID-19.*

When it comes to medical science, I'm a layman. I'm trusting in specialists. In this case, I turn to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). On July 14, the CDC posted that face covering is effective against the spread of COVID-19, [and] thus recommended the wearing of face masks. Based on this information, one way we can express God's love for our neighbor is through wearing a face mask.

*A related discussion the past month and a half deals with faith. In whom are we placing our trust when we wear face masks? Are we trusting in God? Or are we trusting in medical science or civil leaders? These questions are especially pertinent now, since Ohio, West Virginia and Kentucky all require face masks be worn in public. This quandary is resolved with passages such as **Titus 3:1-2**.*

In turning to Scripture to address such issues, we are first turning to God. When we submit to teachings in Scripture, we are being obedient to God. Out of respect for God, we submit to civil authorities.

In these difficult times, and all times, it is good counsel to turn to Scripture for wisdom in traversing the many complexities presented in life, especially now by the pandemic and the systemic ways we view our fellow citizens of this world.

The invitation to have a neighborly chat over the 'Zoom' fence is still open. The next opportunity is **September 1 at 8 pm**. The reminder with the link will go out on the 31st. There is a lot going on... Call committee, COVID, anticipation of restarting more activities, constitution, bylaws, committees.... and more. Conversation to keep us connected is even more important. Do you have an idea, concern, question, perspective you wish to express? Could be on anything - church or even the perspective presented in this text. Conversation, idea sharing and constructive criticism with Christian charity (and mercy) are encouraged.



Council in August - In person and online

Council reached consensus on: 1) The proposed updated fund policies as amended which will be distributed to the congregation along with the constitution and bylaws in anticipation of a special voter meeting in October; 2) Pursuing a plan proposed by the stewardship board for a specifically focused fall campaign; 3) Participation in the Boone County river clean up in October as a fund raiser for youth participation in the national convention.

We are still in **need of a Council Secretary**. The appointment would continue through June 2021 when the position is up for official election. Please remember your council servants and support them with your prayers, your encouragement, your gratitude and your time as you have the opportunity.



We continue to lag behind on our revenue plan. The stewardship board will conduct a fall campaign focused on anticipated needs for calling and moving a pastor and for the building fund.

As of July 31	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...

A commitment was made by our Communication Board to refresh the church website, updating graphics and information. As we near the time when possible pastoral candidates may be 'checking us out' as much as we are endeavoring to do the same, it is important this work be done in short order. Check out the progress so far and if you have talents that lend themselves to such work, please reach out to Jenn O, the board chair.



Finally, please continue to keep our Call Committee in your prayers as they work to discern which of the dozen candidates may be meant to lead our mission, aligning our choice with God's choice when the time comes.

Marlis Norton, Council Pres.

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



Women's Sunday Bible Study • 11 a.m. • Perseverance

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 continue our study **Perseverance** through the book of Nehemiah by Donna Pyle.



Women's Bible Breakfast • Saturday • September 12

Mark your calendars for the second Saturday in **September, the 12th 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 September, 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.

Women's Tuesday Bible Study - Women of the Bible • September 8.

We will resume this study, meeting at church, at **9:30 a.m. Tuesday, September 8.** All are welcome. We took a brief hiatus in August due to commitments and will resume with the last 3 women and then move on to similar work around the men of the bible.



Tuesday Bible Study at the Smith's A new study will be starting soon! 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

Christian Education Update

Typically, Sunday School for students in PreK-Kindergarten, 1st – 5th Grade, Middle and High School would start the Sunday after Labor Day. Due to the pandemic it has been decided that Sunday School for these students will be put on hold for the Fall semester. Depending on the status of the pandemic Sunday School may resume the first Sunday after New Year's Day. Parents will be contacted in December to inform them of plans for Sunday School during the Spring Semester.

Christian Education Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, September 20. We will highlight Christian Education offerings available to the congregation.

August Events Backpack Blessing



O God, today we gather to celebrate the beginning of a new school year. As the students, teachers, administrators, and other school workers start this year, either at home or in person, either taught by parent or on line, or in a classroom, this beginning will be filled with joy and excitement as well as uncertainty and wonder. God of knowledge and wisdom, we pray to you for all schools that they may be lively centers for learning, new discovery, and the pursuit of goodness. As students begin the year, give them open minds and open hearts to learn and to experience more fully the majesty of the world you have created. May this year be full of promise for them, and for their teachers and parents, as together they experience new beginnings and fresh starts. Enable them to grow in knowledge and wisdom during this school year and all the days of their lives. Please protect them throughout this school year. Now O God, bless these backpacks and other teaching aids they will be using this year, bless the students, parents, teachers, and workers who will be using them. In the Jesus name we pray. Amen

Dedication of Windows and Bell



Thank you, Judy, for gracing our gathering area with these beautiful stained-glass windows. We know that this was a labor of love for you. How wonderful it is to be greeted with these images as we make our way to the sanctuary. These crosses will remind us of the ultimate sacrifice Jesus made for us when He died on the cross. These windows are now a part of Good Shepherd's history. And so are you.



Bob Brown found this bell in the trash heap as it was being thrown away. He immediately knew what he wanted to do with it. To place it on the grounds of the church that means so much to him. Now we have the ability to announce to our community that our worship service has begun. And just maybe someone will hear it and join us in worship service. Thank you Bob.



Trash for Cash Pickup

Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped with this event.







Sophie Vonderlage	Sept 1
Donald Stetler	Sept 4
Linda Walton	Sept 4
Abby O'Grady	Sept 5
Bill Shaw	Sept 6
Nora O'Grady	Sept 8
Lenten Woolley	Sept 16
Keith Juergens	Sept 17
Amber Raap	Sept 18
Katelyn Aragon	Sept 21
Jason Raap	Sept 22
Brandon Oberst	Sept 29



Join the celebration of Bible Translation Sunday, which takes place the last Sunday of September. This year, join congregations across the world in the focus of "The Building Without the Book". Dr. Carl Fickenschner II, Concordia Theological Seminary writes, "Imagine the building without the book! The building without the Book would quickly fill up with imagination! Without the Book, we can imagine hideous things! Without the Book, imagine how we'd fill the building." Resources for congregations to use on Bible Translation Sunday 2020 are available now! Visit our website at www.lbt.org/bts to download and print your free materials. Now is the time to involve your congregation in this life - changing mission. Join the story!

**Mini River Sweep
Trash for Cash**

Youth and youth families, and others who may be interested, **please mark your calendars for October 10!!!** We have another community service opportunity and we can earn up to \$1000. This is an opportunity to help clean up trash along the Ohio River. It's called the River Sweep. We have been assigned Petersburg Park in Petersburg, KY, about 20 miles from Good Shepherd. We will meet at Good Shepherd and leave there around 7:30. So, please join us.

All supplies needed for this project will be provided. Contact Mary Givhan (mtgivhan310507@hotmail.com or 513.295.5068) if you would like to join us. Social distancing should not be a problem. Looking forward to seeing you there.



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.



THE FOUR

Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. – Mark 16,15

Nadine & Kyle Schneider



OUR VISION

We dream that every person can hear and understand the Gospel. Therefore, every Christian should be empowered and enabled as a multiplier to spread its fascinating message. With THE FOUR, a project from Campus for Christ, we endeavor to realize this dream.

- ♥ GOD LOVES ME
- ⊖ I LIVE APART FROM GOD
- ✝ JESUS GAVE EVERYTHING FOR ME
- ❓ WILL I CHOOSE TO FOLLOW JESUS?

The primary task will be the organization, preparation, and execution of trainings in churches in Germany as well as keeping in contact and supporting them afterwards. We want to empower young and old to spread the good message as simple and uncomplicated as possible.



Training with a youth group in Heilbronn, Germany



THE FOUR

www.thefour.com



GEWINNEN FORDERN SENDEN

Contact details

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Nadine and Kyle Schneider recently made a presentation at Good Shepherd about their work with Campus Crusade for Christ in Germany. According to their website this organization is a “community passionate about connecting people to Jesus Christ”. Their purpose is helping to fulfill the Great Commission in the power of the Holy Spirit by winning people to faith in Jesus Christ, building them in their faith and sending them to win and build others.

Kyle’s parents are Dave and Susan Schneider. If you would like to support their efforts please visit www.cru.org and click on the GIVE button. On this website you will learn more about this organization.

**The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry – September 2020**

“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might” (Eccl 9:10).

God bids us to be faithful in the tasks He calls us to do. He calls us to be members of a family (husbands and wives; fathers and mothers; sons and daughters). He calls us to be members of society (those who govern and those who are governed). And He calls us to be members of His family, the Church (those who preach and teach and those who hear and learn). Each of these callings from God places a duty on us.

As members of a family, husbands are given the duty to die for their wives as Christ gave His life for His bride, the Church; while wives are given the duty to respect their husbands and submit themselves to them as the Church does to Christ. Fathers and mothers are to raise their children in the fear and admonition of the Lord, teaching them the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord’s Prayer, and the Scriptures concerning Baptism, Confession, the Office of the Keys, and the Lord’s Supper. Children are to honor their parents throughout their lives, and even when their parents are no longer alive, serving and obeying them, loving and cherishing them, and speaking well of them.

As members of society, God calls those who govern to bear the sword, that is, to punish those who do evil (those who live contrary to God’s will) and to reward those who do good (those whose lives are lived in conformity with God’s will). Those who are governed are to obey their leaders as to the Lord Himself, for their leaders bear the sword of God’s temporal justice for a purpose.

As members of God’s own family, the Church, He calls those who preach and teach to do so in faithfulness to His holy Word. To preach and teach the Law of God to convict the hearts of hearers of their sin and to encourage, admonish, and exhort them to do good works in accordance with God’s will. They are to preach and teach the Gospel, the full forgiveness of their sins accomplished by Christ and received through faith, not by works. They are to administer the means of grace in accordance with the Gospel and the Word of God. They do all this for the young and old alike, for those who are near and far off. Those who hear and learn are to submit themselves to their preachers and teachers. They are support them by their prayers and their gifts.

Each of these callings from God place a duty on us. They make a claim on our presence; on our prayers; and our time, talents, and treasures. So, “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might” (Eccl 9:10). Pray for your family, your government, and your church. Give of yourself by means of your time, your talents, and your treasures to your family, your government, and your Church. That is what it means to be faithful in the tasks that God has given us. That is what it means to do it with all your might.

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