



Good News From Good Shepherd

"I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd gives His life for the sheep."
John 10:11
January 2016

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Dear Friends in Christ,

The new year is now upon us. Some of us may be approaching 2016 with excitement and anticipation, and others with a bit of apprehension. Many of these feelings are brought about by the prospect of change. We may expect some aspects of our lives to be different in the new year. A new job, a new baby in the family, and limitations due to declining health are all significant changes. Experts tell us that change – whether good or bad – will bring with it stress and anxiety.

In such times, we especially look for anchors in our lives, things that remain constant and provide a source of stability. As Christians we have the ultimate anchor, for the writer of Hebrews 13:8 reminds us that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

His mission has never changed: to come to earth, die for our sins, and provide us eternal life.

Consequently, we look to Him in times both good and bad, knowing that His love and concern for us do not waver.

Our Lord also promises to take care of His Church. His grip is so tight that the "gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18b). Of course, we don't know all the specific plans He has for Good Shepherd, but I can tell of the following activities:

- Our Youth Confirmation ministry is back in full swing. Our seventh graders are looking forward to

their First Communion on Maundy Thursday. The date for the Rite of Confirmation has yet to be set; however, in part due to the early celebration of Easter this year, it will not be on Palm Sunday as in the past.

- Our Adult Inquiry/New Member class will be held on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Duchow Room beginning on January 7. I have ordered some extra materials, so if you know of someone who is interested but was unable to sign up, please encourage him/her to join us.

- The students and chaperones in our Youth Ministry enjoyed the lock-in on New Year's Eve. Upcoming youth events include a planning meeting for the National Youth Gathering (with parents on Sunday, January 10 at 7:30 p.m.) and the Move Tour concert (Monday, January 18 at 7:00 p.m.). Also, if there is interest, we will have a Youth Super Bowl Party on February 7 and attend the Winter Jam concert in Cincinnati on Friday, February 19.

Finally, know that I am appreciative of all the kind words and gifts that you provided this Christmas season. I am extremely blessed to be able to shepherd such a caring and supportive congregation!

In His service,

Pastor Bill

Welcome to 2016

Praise God for the blessings we had throughout 2015 - they have set the path for us to take as we start 2016. With Pastor Bill's installation as His under-shepherd at GSLC, our theme of rebuilding and engagement will continue and remind us that our focus will be forever on the Cross and His will – not ours.

The members of GSLC have listened to His call to service and continue to step up to take on the various tasks and leadership positions within the congregation. As we begin 2016, we need to appoint a nomination committee to seek out candidates for the various positions to be elected in May 2016 to begin new terms as of July 1, 2016. Becky Aragon, congregational Vice President, and I will be looking for members to serve on this committee. The positions that will be up for election are:

President

Treasurer

Elder (4 positions)

Board of Communications Chair

Board of Education Chair

Board of Outreach Chair

Board of Stewardship Chair

I encourage you to be aware of how the Holy Spirit is guiding you to serve at GSLC. To make the load light, the Lord has gifted each of us differently to accomplish the work before us.

⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

1 Corinthians 12:7-11

There will be many opportunities in the New Year to share the Good News and add to His Kingdom. These include

- Attending worship services as they are offered
- Participate in bible study
- Inviting family, friends, co-workers and neighbors to worship and various activities at GSLC

- Supporting outreach efforts in our community
- Working with our local sister congregations to strengthen our relationships and spread the Good News
- Taking on a “servant’s heart”
- Staying in constant prayer and communion with our Lord and Savior

Engaging will find us doing what we were made for by our Creator. Continuing on the path He has before us in 2016, we are assured success. Let us constantly remember what Paul said in his letter to the Romans as we move through 2016 –

²⁸ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. ³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. Romans 8:28-30

Welcome to 2016!!!!!!

Lee Brooks – President GSLC

Stewardship Corner Stewardship Corner - I resolve....

Ready or not we are in a new year and if we follow tradition, we are considering, at least, to make changes for the better. We often do this with firm resolve, spurred on by the tighter jeans after the holiday license we've taken with food or the new gadget enticing us to expand intellectual or physical skill. And as tradition also reveals, the novelty wears off within a few weeks or even a matter of days.

Even with that defeatist experience stated, I choose to honor the tradition, but with a focus on a different set of resolutions. A collection that, if engaged, can be truly life changing. I pray we all give some consideration to these suggestions inspired by the book The Treasure Principle by Randy Alcorn.

I resolve to express by my actions that God indeed owns everything. I am only a manager of resources entrusted to me, I have no claim on them. When and how I use those resources, I am giving back to God what is His. My renewed understanding is that this giving is a privilege that renders great joy knowing that His grace abounds in the doing. David humbled by the giving: But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.

1 Chronicles 29:14

Paul on the grace of sacrificial giving: And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. 2 Cor 8:1

I resolve to live heart healthy.

Jesus reminds us that our hearts follow our treasure. I will give up the stress of accumulation for the relief of distribution by focusing my heart on that which results in heavenly return on investment.

Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:21

I resolve to live like a visitor.

Earth is my temporary workplace and place of residence. Heaven is my home. Nothing material will come with me when I leave here. My purpose is simply to accomplish that which was prepared in advance - God's agenda, not mine. My desire is to return to my true home, job well-done.

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

I resolve to live freely - giving.

It is a truth that Giving frees me from Having and the temptations to have more or jealously hoard what is in hand. God provides for me, not to enlarge me or tempt me, but so that I have the privilege and grace to give to and enlarge Him to others.

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹ In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

1 Timothy 6:17-19.

God bless us everyone! as we resolve collectively to exercise our faithful stewardship muscles in this new year. Resolving with you together in Christ Jesus,

Marlis Norton, Stewardship Chair

“The Sheps” News

I can't believe it is January of 2016!

I would like to invite all High School age youth to join us for Sunday School and for youth group. Sunday evenings we will meet at church at 6pm for fellowship and bible study. We meet almost every Sunday evening. Please text Jenn at 391-9999 or email jjoawo@hotmail.com and I can let you know if

we will be meeting.

January 10th- I would like for the current 8th grade confirmands and their parents to meet with the Sr High youth at 7:30 pm to discuss the National Youth Gathering. The Gathering is July 16th through 20th. We need to start the registration process.

January 18th- Bob Lenz, Audio Adrenaline concert at Turpin High School at 7 pm. Please see Scott Holloway or Jenn Ostermeier to purchase tickets. They are \$15 dollars presale, or \$20 at the door. Tickets may also be purchased from iTickets and the price is \$15 plus fees.

I send regular emails out to the group so if you would like to receive them and do not currently, please email Jenn at jjoawo@hotmail.com and I will add you to my list.

I want to thank all of you that have signed up for the Kroger Community rewards Program. THANK YOU for supporting this effort as this is our main fund raiser to send youth to the National Youth Gathering. If you have not signed up, please contact Jenn Ostermeier and I will be happy to get instructions to you.

Sr. High Youth Yard Sale 2016 (no date set yet)- If you are cleaning out after Christmas or just have some things that you would like to donate for the Youth Yard Sale—we are in the business of starting to collect these items. Please contact Jenn Ostermeier for more details or Adam Ostermeier for help storing them at church (859) 620-8622 If there are any questions please contact Jenn Ostermeier at 391-9999 or Dean Daniels at 513-400-7552.

Sunday School Report

On Sunday, December 13th, the Sunday School students presented “A Tree for Christmas”. As they decorated an unadorned tree the students told how each item on the tree was part of the Christmas story.

Lights – reminds us of the Save whom God promised to send, the light of the world, Jesus.

The Angel – reminds us of Gabriel, God's special messenger.

Garland – reminds us that Jesus was wrapped in swaddling clothes and placed in the manger.

Candy Cane – reminds us that shepherds rejoiced in the news of the Christ Child and shared the good news with others.

Ornaments – remind us that Jesus, our Savior, came to save people of every color and nations.

They did a fantastic job. Thank you to all of them for a job well done.

Thank you also to those who helped:

The Sunday School Teacher: Jackie Vezina, Barb Barvincak, Tammy Vaughn; Kim Leavens, playing the piano at practice and for service; Andy Gawura for hanging the star; Lynn Mitchell, for putting the bulletin together; Lori Raap for setting up the altar; Scott Holloway, sound technician; Pastor Bill his advice on the program; Cryatal O'Grady for taking pictures; to all who attended the program; and of course to the parents who have always supported their kids and the Sunday School program. We are so blessed.

Mary Givhan

Sunday School Superintendent



December was a busy month for Whiz Kids. The students made a Christmas star ornament, and read a story about the birth of Jesus. Thanks to the talent of Karen Hilvert the students were able to put on a play for their parents about the birth of Jesus. Many of our Whiz Kids' families attended the advent dinners. At the dinner on December 16th with the play we had over 80 people in attendance! The tutors had their students make a wish list for Christmas. Each child received one of their wish list gifts, and their families received a \$25 gift card to Walmart. This thanks to Thrivent Financial, and Pastor Mitchell who donated money for this cause. Good Shepherd was also instrumental in helping a Whiz Kids' family when they lost their belongings to bedbugs. Also another Ockerman family who lost their home to a fire was given clothes, food, toys, and gift cards. What a blessing to these families! Whiz Kids is on Christmas break until January 6, 2016 when there will be a retraining for tutors without the students 5:00-6:00. Whiz Kids starts up with Kids on the 13th. We could use another tutor if anyone is interested.

Lisa Krejci

Whiz Kids Site Coordinator



OWLS

The next regular meeting will take place on January 12th at the church, starting with lunch at noon. There will be a discussion of future plans for what we want to do in 2016. Anyone 50 or older is welcome to join with us on that date. If you come, just bring something to share for the potluck lunch. We also encourage those who come to bring something to share for the church pantry.

Human Care

The Good Shepherd Human Care Committee would like to thank everyone who contributed to our holiday events this past November and December. Your giving made Christmas happy and memorable to many families in our community and our congregation.

This year for Christmas, we adopted families from Yealey and Ockerman Elementary Schools and provided gifts for these needy children. We also provided Holiday meals for 11 families at Thanksgiving and 12 families for Christmas.

Our Operation Christmas Child program was a real success also. We filled 20 boxes this year! These boxes were sent to children in more than 90 countries. They will not only bring joy to these children, but will open the door for them to hear about our Savior, Jesus Christ!

- Through our Buy-the-Bird collection, we collected \$325.00 which purchased most of the meat for our holiday boxes.

- Thanks also to those who took a "feather for food" from the display and provided non-perishable food items for our pantry and holiday boxes.

- We truly appreciate the gracious gift of \$325.00 from Thrivent. We could not have provided help to nearly as many people without the generous assistance given by this fraternal agency.

Once again, we feel blessed to be able to provide others with material needs as well as spiritual needs, sharing the love of Jesus with them this Holiday season.

I would like to share a thank you letter that Good Shepherd received from the Resource Coordinator of Yealey Elementary School, Cheryl Burns-Kraft. She wrote:

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church's continued support of the Yealey Family Resource Center by providing for the Christmas needs of Yealey students' Families is greatly appreciated. Your outreach exceeds the families' expectations and provides for a joyous holiday! As the Yealey Family Resource Center Coordinator, I am truly grateful for your assistance in helping me meet the needs of Yealey students and their families. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church's renewed commitment and generosity makes a positive impact in the Northern Kentucky community.

In closing, I hope and pray that your Holiday Season is filled with joy, love, and blessings!

~ January 2016 ~							Feb. 2016
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
3 Holy Communion 8:30 am - Worship 9:45 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Worship 6:00 pm - Confirmation	4 PEP Cast Party 6:00 - 9:00 pm	5 Men's Bible Breakfast 6:30 am Home School Art Class 1:00 - 3:00 pm Finance Committee 7:00 pm	6 Whiz Kids Tutor Retraining 5:00 pm No students	7 Adult Inquiry Class 6:30 pm	8	9 Women's Bible Breakfast - 9:00 am	
10 Holy Communion 8:30 am - Worship 9:45 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Worship 6:00 pm - Confirmation 7:30 pm - National Youth Gathering Meeting	11 PEP 8:00 - 4:00 pm Council Meeting 7:00 pm	12 Men's Bible Breakfast 6:30 am OWLS Noon	13 PEP 8:00 - 4:00 pm Whiz Kids 4:00 pm	14 Challenge Classes Resume In-reach Meeting 7:00 pm Adult Inquiry Class 6:30 pm	15	16	
17 Holy Communion 8:30 am - Worship 9:45 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Worship Life Sunday 6:00 pm - Confirmation	18 PEP 8:00 - 4:00 pm Move Tour 7:00 pm	19 Men's Bible Breakfast 6:30 am Home School Art Class 1:00 - 3:00 pm	20 PEP 8:00 - 4:00 pm Whiz Kids 4:00 pm	21 Classical Conversations Resume 9:00 am - 3:00 pm Adult Inquiry Class 6:30 pm	22	23	
24 Holy Communion 8:30 am - Worship 9:45 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Worship 6:00 pm - Confirmation	25 PEP 8:00 - 4:00 pm Elders' Meeting 7:00 pm	26 Men's Bible Breakfast 6:30 am	27 PEP 8:00 - 4:00 pm Whiz Kids 4:00 pm	28 Classical Conversations 9:00 am - 3:00 pm Adult Inquiry Class 6:30 pm	29	30	
Notes:							
31 Holy Communion 8:30 am - Worship 9:45 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Worship Fifth Sunday Pot Luck 6:00 pm - Confirmation							

Good Shepherd Kitchen Angel List

If you cannot cover your Sunday you may trade or contact Tammy Woolley (859) 801-5597 or the church office.

January 3, 2016	Marlis Norton	February 7, 2016	Pat Harman
January 10, 2016	Tammy Woolley	February 14, 2016	Kris Bird
January 17, 2016	Linda Kuhn LFL	February 21, 2016	Rachelle Wesselman
January 24, 2016	Janice Wozniak	February 28, 2016	Janice Wozniak
January 31, 2016	Congregational Brunch		

Dear Friends,

As you may have heard, Good Shepherd and Zion Lutheran will be hosting a Concert in January featuring Audio Adrenaline and Bob Lenz. This concert is part of a joint effort with Zion to do a large outreach event in the community with the focus on bring the message of the savior, Gods grace, and spreading His love to the youth, young adults, and young at heart. With this event, we have the chance to reach up to 700 people with the message of His love and His Grace. Please prayerfully consider joining us for a night of great music, a powerful message, worship, and praise. Please also share this with your friends and family. Invite that neighbor, kid at school, or that office worker. Bring a friend and help us reach as many as possible. God continues to bless this event and because of that, I know you will want to make sure you are there, along with at least one person you think should also be there with you.

Facebook Event:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/549185875245161/>

Ticket Ordering:

http://www.itickets.com/events/355419/Cincinnati_OH/Move_Tour.html or **1-800-965-9324 (Fee's may apply)**

If you would like to pay by Cash or Check, you may call the Office of either Good Shepherd or Zion to order your tickets, this will avoid the ticket processing fee. Good Shepherd: [\(859\) 746-9066](tel:8597469066) Zion: [513-231-2253](tel:5132312253)

If you are able and willing to help out, please contact either Scott Holloway, Jennifer Ostermeier or Chris Graves. We still need a lot of assistance for this event and most of it will come on the day of the event. If you can help with setup, or food, or parking, or merchandise sales, or whatever else is needed, please contact one of us. All help will be appreciated!

Blessings,

Scott Holloway

Lifest presents The Move Tour featuring
Bob Lenz &
AUDIOADRENALINE
With Special Guest Morgan Ovens

Monday
JANUARY 18, 2016 at 7:00PM

Doors open at 6:30pm
Turpin High School
2650 Bartels Rd Cincinnati, OH
Tickets: \$15 advance, \$20 at the door
Contact: www.iTickets.com or call 513-231-2253

Bob Lenz
International
Speaker & Author

Santa has arrived for our Adopted Family!



They were excited about the SUV full of presents. I told Carson and Cloe a wild story about a new elf on the North pole. He got things all messed up and somehow had Santa show up at my house with presents for Carson and Cloe. Very exciting story with lots of sounds and waving of my arms. I was not happy with reindeer poop and tracks on my yard. Carson was very concerned about this mix up and was I able to see the lines in the dirt from the sleigh. Yes, I could see them. I was very upset with the new elf but if it was ok with Carson and Cloe could I just leave the presents at their house a little early and they could open them on Christmas. They agreed it would be a great idea, and when I opened the back hatch, Carson and Cloe just screamed. It took many trips being assisted by Carson and Cloe but we got all the gifts and presents into the house. Carson was super excited about the video game chair (I am not sure what it is actually called). I carried it in and Carson ran across the room, jumped in the air, and while spinning still up in the air, he was able to land on his butt in the seat. Of course the chair fell over backwards and with his feet straight up in the air, he was laughing and yelling, wow, this is great. Hey Grandma, it rocks ONE way. Just makes me want to grin thinking about it again. I was able to come up with another love seat, lounge chair, TV stand, end tables, and lamps. I delivered them Sunday. Karen could still use a pantry/storage cupboard for her food items. I have a line on a kitchen table but no chairs yet. She also could use one more end table. She used the cash to help her pay for carpeting and it is being installed today.

Once again You Rock!



Dennis Bird and his Kroger Team adopted one of our Whiz Kids families for Christmas. This family had some bad luck and lost everything in their trailer right before Christmas. This family consisted of a grandmother, who has custody of her two grandchildren, one of which is a Whiz Kid. The Kroger Team went to work and donated furniture, household items, gift cards, and gifts for the family for Christmas.

A special thanks to this Kroger Team for making this family's Christmas special.

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NORTHERN KENTUCKY CHAPTER OF LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

HAPPY NEW YEAR! 2016 is here!

Our New Year holds new promises and many blessings.



January is a special month. Not only does it begin our New Year, but January 17th is Sanctity of Life Sunday! The origins of Sanctity of Life Sunday began on January 13, 1984, when President Ronald Reagan issued a proclamation designating January 22 as the first National Sanctity of Life Day. January 22, 1973 was the day the U.S. Supreme Court legalized abortion-on-demand in all 50 states. Churches around the United States use the day to celebrate God's gift of life, commemorate the many lives lost to abortion, and commit themselves to protecting human life at every stage. Here at Good Shepherd, we are going to celebrate by having a Diaper Drive!

**A cause you can
really get behind.**



Why a Diaper Drive you ask? Well, diapers are an important part of safety and health for toddlers and new born babies. A healthy change of diapers can cost over \$100 per month. Using a soiled diaper for a long period of time can result in increased illness. One in five Moms have had to choose between food and diapers for their children. The New Hope Pregnancy Center helps parents who have decided to keep their babies instead of aborting them. Over the last several years, the members of Good Shepherd have been very generous in helping with our "Crib of Blessings" by filling it with assorted baby items, and also the "Baby Bottle Boomerang" where loose change helped in buying needed supplies for these new parents. Now the Center is in need of diapers sizes 2 or bigger. (Baby wipes and diaper cream are also needed.) Monetary donations are welcomed. Check out our Chapter's display table near the fireplace. A beautiful cake will be waiting for you to enjoy in our Family Life Center during the Fellowship Hour on Sanctity of Life Sunday.
Enjoy LIFE!