



# Good News From Good Shepherd

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

John 10:11

December 2015

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**  
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**Rev. William J. Gauger**  
**Cell:** (217) 853-7689  
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Dear Friends in Christ,

I begin my first newsletter article at Good Shepherd with words of appreciation. Thank you for making me feel so welcome here! Thank you also to all who have made my transition go so smoothly. I appreciate all the work that went into preparing for my arrival and installation. I also thankful to the Leavens and Rapp households for hosting me as I deliberated the call to Good Shepherd, searched for housing, and waited to be able to move into my new residence.

By Saturday, December 5, I will have hopefully moved into my home. I feel blessed to have found such a nice place so close to church! In addition to the church office, my contact information is as follows:

Pastor Bill Gauger  
93 Wellington Drive  
Florence, KY 41042  
Cell: (217) 853-7689  
Email: [BillGauger72@aol.com](mailto:BillGauger72@aol.com)

The upcoming months and years promise to be exciting as together we seek the Lord's will for His kingdom here in this place. I can share some details on a few upcoming things:

I am doing my best to learn and continue the Advent and Christmas traditions of this congregation. We will follow the same schedule for the season as in prior years. (Please see the church calendar for more

information.) One new addition is the inclusion of **Advent/Christmas Carol Sings** during the midweek Advent services. During worship, I will invite you to request your favorite seasonal hymn from the Lutheran Service Book and we will sing several verses of it. Thank you to Kim Leavens for providing the piano accompaniment.

I am planning to offer an **Adult Inquiry Class** beginning in early 2016. This class will review the basics of what we believe, teach and confess as Lutheran Christians and also serve as a new member class for those interested in joining Good Shepherd. The class schedule will be determined by the availability of the participants. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact me by December 20 so that we can schedule the class and order enough materials.

One of my joys as a pastor is working with the students in youth ministry and their parents. I want to give us an opportunity to get to know one another, and I also want to know how I can best assist parents in meeting the spiritual, social and service needs of their children. **For these reasons, we are having a Youth Re-Kick Off on Sunday, December 6 in the Family Life Center.**

***If you have a child in confirmation, please attend with him/her beginning at 6:00 p.m.*** Since I am joining the confirmation year in progress, I need to gain a better understanding of what has been covered and what remains to be taught before your child publicly affirms the faith of his/her baptism.

**High school youth and parents, please join us at 7:00 p.m.** Pizza will be provided. **All youth, please bring your ideas for Bible study topics as well as social activities/outings and servant projects.** We will use your input to develop a schedule of activities for the next few months. It would also be helpful if you bring your family calendars.

Even though the attendance was great, I know not everyone could attend my installation service, so my biography that appeared in that bulletin is being reprinted elsewhere in this newsletter.

I look forward to getting know you, and working with you to serve our Lord.

Have a very blessed Advent and Christmas season!

In His service,

Pastor Bill

### **Stewardship Corner... A new beginning...**

I had the occasion to visit Ascension Lutheran Church in Charlotte, NC over the Thanksgiving holiday. The vacancy Pastor's message focused on the theme of new beginnings, this being Advent and the beginning of a new church year. The idea stuck with me.

This new church year marks the beginning of a new chapter in the mission history of Good Shepherd. The new budget has been presented and approved, the new pastor has been called and installed, the stewardship *minute* has been delivered. So what new beginnings are left?

I challenge each of us at Good Shepherd to take stock of where we are in our faith walk and purposefully seek out a new beginning.

Have you ever served during the worship service as an usher or greeter or nursery attendant? When was the last time you shared a dish or special recipe at a fellowship event or simply attended fellowship?

Begin. Stretch. Serve. Contact our church secretary and get your name on the servant list. And if you haven't yet completed it, go to the site below and complete the survey that is a first step to your new

beginning of service. Served before? Pick a new area of focus. Begin. Stretch. Serve. With gladness. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TimeTalentSurvey>

*"And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you,"* 1 Thessalonians 3:12

Do you spend time in God's word daily? When was the last time you participated in a bible study? Have you ever joined a bible study? How can you be ready with an answer if you don't know what the answers are? And don't think for a moment that not knowing is an acceptable state.

Begin. Stretch. Commit. Join a current study. And even better, connect with the education board and start an in-home group of your own.

*"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But watch yourselves..."* Luke 21: 33- 34a

Is your relationship with your money tighter than your relationship with the God who has entrusted you with that resource? In what do you really put your trust?

Begin. Stretch. Give. Give more than you ever have before with a grateful heart in a spirit of faith. Start small and experience the large faithfulness of God. He keeps his promises.

*"Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made..."* Jeremiah 33:14a

The great thing about a new beginning is that it is not one and done. We can have a new beginning multiple times a day, a week, a month. We get do-overs and start-agains, and our God is faithful throughout. One thing is certain, though, He can't bless what has not been started.

Beginning with you assured of the blessings to come in this Advent season.

Marlis Norton, Stewardship

## Reverend William Joseph Gauger



Pastor Bill was born in Chicago in January of 1972 and is a lifelong member of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS). His father, Mel, is a retired computer programmer and a dedicated lay volunteer. His mother, Andrea, is a retired LCMS English teacher and administrator, mainly at the high school level. Both parents are thus excellent models of Christian service. Bill grew up in Park Ridge, a suburb bordering the northwest side of Chicago. His first home congregation was St. Andrew's, Park Ridge, where he was baptized, confirmed and graduated from the day school. He then graduated from Luther High School North in Chicago in 1990.

Bill then pursued a career in the business world. He graduated with a degree in accounting in 1994 and began his career in corporate finance. Some of the companies he worked for include Prudential Insurance, BNSF Railroad and General Electric.

After a few years, he enrolled in the evening MBA program at Northwestern University, completing his degree in 2002 with majors in Finance, Management, Technology, and Entrepreneurship.

In the later years of his corporate career, Bill felt that God might be leading him in a different direction. In 1996 a job change had led him to move a bit west to Itasca, and he joined The Lutheran Church and School of St. Luke, Itasca. It was at St. Luke that God especially provided Bill with many opportunities to grow by serving Him. Bill's main focus was helping out in Youth Ministry (one of his passion areas), but he was also able to serve in other areas, such as on the Church Council and the Board of Elders. Through this service God increasingly placed on Bill's heart a desire to serve Him full-time.

In June 2004 he enrolled at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. Seminary was in many ways challenging, but also a great opportunity to grow both spiritually and professionally. Bill did his fieldwork at Mount Olive and St. Peter's Lutheran Churches in St. Louis, two historic congregations that later merged. One memorable experience was seeing God join together not only two different congregations but also multiple cultures: mostly Caucasian and Vietnamese people, but also some African Americans, worship and serve together. Bill served his vicarage at Zion Lutheran Church in Bismarck, North Dakota. He was blessed with a diverse vicarage experience, including much emphasis in preaching, teaching (adults, youth, and religion in the association day school), and pastoral visitation. Upon his graduation from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis and his ordination at St. Luke, Itasca, Bill began his ministry as Associate Pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church in Decatur, Illinois. He comes to Good Shepherd after serving the past six years as Pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Sadorus, Illinois.

In his spare time, Bill enjoys following professional sports and is a fan of the Cubs, Bears, Bulls and Blackhawks. He also enjoys watching movies and playing board and card games.

## Human Care – Christmas

Human Care will continue to collect food for our Christmas food boxes, but we need help to fill them!! The Buy-the-Bird Program will continue until December 13<sup>th</sup>, which will help pay for meat for these families.

We have put together turkey feathers and listed a food item on each of them. If you can help us out, please take a feather or two and bring in the listed items.

They can be deposited in the box by the display in the Gathering Area. We hope to be able to provide meals for those less fortunate in our church and community again this year.

Thank you in advance for your generosity. If you have any questions, please contact:  
Lynn Mitchell in the church office.



### --Music Notes--

\*Many thanks to the choir and instrumentalists who participated in the installation service on November 22. Your efforts added much to the celebration and are greatly appreciated!

\*Musicians of all ages are welcome to provide special pre-service music for the 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service. The pre-service music will begin at 7:00 p.m. Please speak with Kim Leavens to participate.

\*Choir rehearsals will be held after the Wednesday Advent services on December 2, 9, and 16 in preparation for singing on Christmas Eve. All are welcome.

\*At 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 19, we will have a special music rehearsal for instrumentalists playing during the Christmas Eve services. Please see Glen or Kim Leavens if you are planning to attend. Thank you.

## Adopt-A-Family Christmas Giving Tree



This year, Good Shepherd's Human Care Committee is again sponsoring the Adopt-A-Family Christmas Giving Program. As in the past, we will adopt children in need from Yealey Elementary and Ockerman Elementary. We will provide Christmas gifts to these children to brighten their holidays so they will know that they are remembered and loved on this most special holiday.

Please open your hearts and prayerfully consider sharing with these families by choosing tags from the Adopt-A-Family Christmas giving board located in the Gathering Area. Please pull off the top tag and then put your name and phone number on the bottom tag. The bottom tag remains on the board with your information on it. Purchase the item on the tag, attach the tag securely to the gift, and return the gift to the Gathering Area. All gifts can be wrapped. If you have any questions, contact Lynn Mitchell or a member of the Human Care Committee. May God bless your giving!

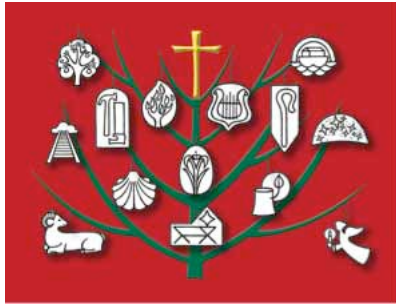
**All gifts must be returned to the tree by Sunday, December 13th.**



## OWLS

The OWLS Group will have its regular meeting on Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, starting at noon with a potluck lunch. Since the November 24<sup>th</sup> outing to Potters Ranch had to be cancelled, there will be the opportunity to go to Potter's Ranch on December 15<sup>th</sup>. If someone wants to join with us for that outing, they need to call Janice Wozniak at (859) 912-5191 as soon as possible.

# Sunday School Report



God's Family Tree  
 The Sunday School Students Will Present  
 God's Family Tree  
 On Sunday, December 13 at The 11:00 Service  
 Please Join Us

Mary Givhan  
 Sunday School Superintendent

## Fellowship-Advent Dinners

Our fellowship during Advent starts with December 2, 2015 at 6:15 pm with our soup and sandwich meal before service at 7:00 p.m. If you can assist with the set up or preparation of this event, please see Barb Barvincak. Sign up sheets for soup, sandwiches, chips, drinks, desserts, or other items will be above the water fountain in "The Gathering Area".

We will continue with our meals on December 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your support and please come and join us for a wonderful fellowship time during this Advent Season.

## Who Is My Elder? Good Shepherd Elders 2015 - 2016

<b>Head Elder</b>	<b>Glen Leavens</b>
A-B Worship & Music	<b>Keith Juergens</b>
C-F Outreach	<b>Arne Almquist</b>
G-J Inreach	
K-Mc Communication	<b>Bruce Bremer</b>
Me-O Pastoral Care	<b>Bernie Wesselman</b>
P-Sc Christian Ed.	<b>Bill Shaw</b>
Se-U Stewardship	<b>Ty Arendall</b>
V-Z Pastoral Care	<b>Dennis Bird</b>

## Good Shepherd Kitchen Angel List For September and October 2015

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

<b>November 1, 2015</b>	<b>Debbie Beckham</b>	<b>December 6, 2015</b>	<b>Virginia Langsdale</b>
<b>November 8, 2015</b>	<b>Tammy Woolley</b>	<b>December 13, 2015</b>	<b>Barb Barvincak</b>
<b>November 15, 2015</b>	<b>Virginia Adams</b>	<b>December 20, 2015</b>	<b>Kim Leavens</b>
<b>November 22, 2015</b>	<b>Becky Aragon</b>	<b>December 27, 2015</b>	<b>Tammy Woolley</b>
<b>November 29, 2015</b>	<b>Kris Bird</b>		

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> Men's Bible Breakfast 6:30 am  Boone Co. Bocce 10:30 - 3:00  PEP Drama 5:00 - 9:00 pm  Finance Committee 7:00 pm	<b>2</b> Whiz Kids 4:00 pm  Advent Dinner 6:15 pm Advent Service 7:00 pm  Choir 7:30 pm	<b>3</b> PEP Drama 4:00 - 9:00 pm	<b>4</b> PEP Drama All day  Youth Theater Ensemble Of N. KY presents "A Christmas Carol" 7:00 pm!	<b>5</b> Sunday School Program Rehearsal 10:00 am  PEP Drama All day  Youth Theater Ensemble Of N. KY presents "A Christmas Carol" 7:00 pm!
<b>6</b> Holy Communion 8:30 am - Worship 9:45 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Worship  6:00 pm - Confirmation	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Men's Bible Breakfast 6:30 am  OWLS - noon	<b>9</b> Whiz Kids 4:00 pm  Advent Dinner 6:15 pm Advent Service 7:00 pm  Choir 7:30 pm!	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Sunday School Program Rehearsal 10:00 am  Women's Bible Breakfast - 9:00 am!
<b>13</b> Holy Communion 8:30 am - Worship 9:45 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Worship  11:00 am - Sunday School Christmas Program  6:00 pm - Confirmation	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Men's Bible Breakfast 6:30 am  OWLS - Potters' Ranch 11:30 am  Home School Art Class 1:00 - 3:00 pm	<b>16</b> Whiz Kids 4:00 pm  Advent Dinner 6:15 pm Advent Service 7:00 pm  Choir 7:30 pm!	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> Holy Communion 8:30 am - Worship 9:45 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Worship	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Men's Bible Breakfast 6:30 am	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve Services 5:00 & 7:30 p.m. !	<b>25</b> Christmas Day 	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> Holy Communion 8:30 am - Worship 9:45 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Worship	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Men's Bible Breakfast 6:30 am  Home School Art Class 1:00 - 3:00 pm	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Notes:</b>	



## NORTHERN KENTUCKY CHAPTER OF LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

December is upon us, and as we remember the real Reason for the Season, I wanted to inform you of what our Chapter of Lutherans For Life has been doing over the past 12 months:

- ↘ In January, we celebrated Sanctity of Life Sunday. A beautiful cake helped grace our Fellowship after worship service. Baby Bottles were distributed to members of the congregation to place loose change/ cash or checks and returned in support of the work of the New Hope Pregnancy Center. The result was overwhelming!
- ↘ In June, our Chapter was again a Rose Sponsor for the Cross the Bridge For Life event with our name on the back of the official t-shirt. This event has been drawing a large number of people from all denominations who believe that LIFE is a gift from God. Also, our Chapter has been very active in Outreach for other Lutheran churches in the Greater Cincinnati area to attend this wonderful event.
- ↘ Over the summer, a beautiful banner was put in place at the end of Good Shepherd's driveway near Gunpowder Road that demonstrates to the people driving by that Good Shepherd respects all stages of human life, from conception to natural death.
- ↘ Pamphlet holders were placed in both the men's and women's restrooms discreetly informing them about abortion and where they can go to receive confidential help.
- ↘ In September, our Chapter was again invited to have a display table at the Northern Kentucky Right To Life Convention, which was held in Park Hills, Kentucky. This convention is also very well attended, and each year people are amazed that Lutherans also care about life issues.
- ↘ In October, our Chapter helped with contacting area Lutheran churches about the National Lutherans For Life Convention, which was held at the Creation Museum. Good Shepherd also helped out, thanks to Lee Brooks, in providing parking for a retired pastor from North Dakota who attended the Convention.
- ↘ Welcome to New Additions Baskets have been distributed year round to families in the congregation who had a new baby, thanks to Tammy Woolley.
- ↘ Christmas cards have been sent on behalf of our Chapter to local shut-ins letting them know that people care about them.

Caring for all LIFE is not just a once in a while thought, but an everyday event. Please keep our Chapter in your prayers. Please consider joining us. You are a child of God.

YOU SHOULD CELEBRATE!



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