



Good News From Good Shepherd

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

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Dear Friends in Christ,

As we get older, we sense that time continues to go faster and faster. This year our perceptions are reinforced with the realities of our liturgical calendar, which include an abbreviated Epiphany season and an early Easter (March 27!). You may be wondering, "Just how do they determine the date of Easter anyway?" So with the help of the LCMS website, here is an explanation.

First of all, we know that our Lord was crucified on a Friday and rose from the dead on a Sunday. In picking the exact day to commemorate our Lord's victory, we basically have two choices. We could celebrate on some exact date no matter what day of the week it occurs. Many of us do this for birthdays and wedding anniversaries, knowing that if we celebrate on a Monday one year, we'll usually celebrate it on a Tuesday the next. At Good Shepherd, we do this for our Christmas Eve services. Interestingly, some early Christians did something similar for Easter as well, basing their dating system on whenever the Jewish Passover ("the fourteenth day of Nisan") was celebrated.

However, because Jesus rose on the first day of the week, it became tradition to hold weekly worship services on Sundays as a reminder of our victory in Him. (Note that worshipping on another day is a valid option too, but that's beyond the scope of this article.) Since Sundays do not always fall on the same dates, some system of calculating a date for Easter had to be devised.

It wasn't until the Council of Nicea in A.D. 325 that Christians from all over the world gathered together and agreed on this rule: *Easter Day shall always fall on the Sunday after the first full moon that occurs on or after the spring equinox.*

Unfortunately even this didn't settle matters. The Eastern Orthodox Church (in places like Greece and Russia) still follows the old Julian calendar and its date for the spring equinox. The Western Church has followed the Gregorian calendar since 1582. Usually this means that we celebrate Easter at least a week earlier than our fellow Christians in the East. Given that our spring equinox falls on March 21, this means that our Easter Sunday cannot be earlier than March 22 or later than April 25. This year the relevant full moon will occur on March 23, meaning that Easter Sunday will be on March 27.

We certainly do not want to get seduced by dangers of astrology. However, I do find it fitting that the same God who created all the lights in the sky would use them to remind us that His Son has died to restore creation and redeem us.

We prepare our hearts for the Savior's resurrection during a 40-day period (not including Sundays) known as Lent. The first day of this Lenten Season is called Ash Wednesday; in 2016 it will occur on February 10. We will gather for Lenten Wednesday worship at 7:00 p.m. on February 10, 17, and 24, and also March 2, 9, and 16. Our theme will be "The Last Words of Jesus from the Cross." Beginning on February 17, these worship services will be preceded by light suppers in the Family Life Center beginning at 6:15 p.m. Please sign up in the kitchen if you can bring a dish to share. King ahead, we will also have 7:00 p.m. worship on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday (March 24 and 25). We will celebrate our Lord's resurrection on Sunday, March 27 with worship at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. and an Easter breakfast between services.

In His service,
Pastor Bill,

Help Wanted?

How many times have you seen a sign that noted “Help Wanted!”? How many times have you seen a sign that said “Help Wanted?”? Did you catch the subtle difference between the two signs? The difference is in punctuation – an “exclamation point” versus a “question mark”. Since becoming president of our congregation on 7/1/14, we have posted the “Help Wanted!” sign several times. Each time the Holy Spirit has moved one of its members into action. As of 1/14/16, we are blessed to have all our elected positions filled. Following is the current list of those serving:

Becky Aragon – Vice President
Gene Stetler - Treasurer
Jason Raap – Financial Secretary
Tammy Vaughn – Council Secretary
Rob Nielsen – Board of Communications Chair
Scott Holloway – Board of Education Chair
Barb Barvincak – Board of InReach Chair
Ryan Reasoner – Board of OutReach Chair
Andy Gawura – Board of Property Chair
Marlis Norton – Board of Stewardship Chair
Glen Leavens – Head Elder

Elders:

Keith Juergens – Serving families with last names A-B
Arne Almquist - Serving families with last names C-F
Leroy Raap - Serving families with last names G-J
Bruce Bremer - Serving families with last names K-Mc
Bernie Wesselman - Serving families with last names Me-O
Bill Shaw - Serving families with last names P-Sc
Ty Arendall - Serving families with last names Se-U
Dennis Bird - Serving families with last names V-Z

In the January 2016 Newsletter, it was noted that half of these positions are up for election in May 2016. Also we noted that a nominating committee was being appointed to seek candidates for the various position on this ballot. Finally, the article asked that everyone listen to the Spirit and follow where He leads you in your service at GSLC. Thus the “Help Wanted!” sign

is once again posted. But what about the other sign that is out there – “Help Wanted?”?

We all understand “Help Wanted!” – it is asking for a need to be met. However, “Help Wanted?” is more personal as it is asking if you “want help” concerning decisions, situations or events in your particular circumstances. This is the sign that our Lord has before me and all of us in our daily lives. I see this sign every time an opportunity is presented to serve, make a purchase of various items, have a medical procedure, make a contribution, etc.. It is a sign that brings on angst, fear and uncertainty because I suddenly feel alone and unequipped to know what to do. It is a sign that I finally realize has a directional arrow surrounding it and pointing me to a place of answers full of peace, hope and comfort – God’s Word. The Word gives me the answer to “Help Wanted?” –

⁷“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ⁸For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. Mathew 7:7-8

As each of us considers the “Help Wanted!” signs, let us not ignore the more important sign –



May the Spirit continue to guide each of us in all He that has placed before us.

Lee Brooks – President GSLC

Stewardship Corner Stewardship Corner

Stewardship Corner: No More Sleeping!

So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. ¹ Thessalonians 5:6 (Thank the women’s bible study of Thessalonians for this one and come and join us!)

No More Sleeping?! No, not literally. God made our bodies requiring sleep. The point is those in Christ Jesus ought not be sleep-walking through our life here. Paul made other points to the Thessalonians, how they, as the church, should first love and support one another more and more and also work for themselves, live quietly (law-abiding, upright, ie sober) and take care of their own business.

So what does this have to do with stewardship? Well, if church is what we do on Sunday for an hour and not how we identify as being, then our stewardship life is lacking. When we identify as the church, then we have a vested interest in its health and well being leading to supporting and loving, more and more.

How is that done? By engaging in that living entity; serving, nurturing, giving, studying in addition to an hour of worship and fellowship of a Sunday.

It was brought to my attention that we may not all know how to plug into serving, giving, studying, etc. It has been an assumption that those who have been around awhile just know by now. Bad assumption. Our collective body has changed. So here's a few suggestions:

Every member has an assigned elder. Got questions? Ask! Don't know who that elder is? Then I encourage our elder team to correct that as part of their stewarding the position.

Complete the time and talent survey, the link for which was distributed via email some months ago.

You'll discover a whole lot of places you can serve.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TimeTalentSurv>

There are no reasons for any member to not be engaged in a bible study, only excuses. Offerings are listed in the Voice.

Look around. See something you are curious about? Ask! Got an idea? Pose it! Lost the link? Make it known... Pastor Bill, an elder, a note to the secretary, even me.

No more sleeping! Get up! Get active! Get those body, mind and spirit, faith and love muscles working again! I'm quite certain we've all failed at the resolutions made in January that were all about us.

Let's try a new focus all about our Lord and his body, the church!

With you in His weight room!

Marlis Norton, Stewardship



New Sunday Morning Adult Bible Class: The Great Deceiver

Beginning February 14

It should come as no surprise that an adversary fit to be called the "god of this world" and the "power of darkness" is a force to be reckoned with. And so he is. In *The Great Deceiver*, explore a being so diabolical he will stop at nothing to separate us from God. This Bible study examines the most perverse character in Scripture: Satan. Called "beast," "accuser" and "evil one," he is adept at changing his appearance and cunning in his deceit. Popular culture may portray the devil as a cartoon character in a red jumpsuit, as needing our sympathy, or more recently, as trying to adjust to a new life in Los Angeles, but those characterizations only muddy the waters. Twisting and distorting God's divine imperative to Adam and Eve early in the book of Genesis (to our complete despair), Satan been wreaking havoc and maligning mankind ever since. Though defeated and with his end certain, Satan is still on the prowl. Be prepared: spend some time getting to know him... from the Bible's point of view.

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
January 10, 2016
January 17, 2016
January 24, 2016
January 31, 2016

Marlis Norton
Tammy Woolley
Linda Kuhn LFL
Janice Wozniak
Congregational
Brunch

February 7, 2016
February 14, 2016
February 21, 2016
February 28, 2016

Pat Harman
Kris Bird
Rachelle Wesselman
Janice Wozniak

Good Shepherd Youth Ministry POUND-A-THON

- Keep us motivated as we seek to lose weight in a healthy way!
- Make a pledge for each pound of weight loss from February 1 to May 31.
- Our combined goal is 60 pounds. Whoever guesses the closest to our actual weight loss achievement gets to pick the hymns one Sunday!
- Proceeds benefit the Youth Ministry events of Good Shepherd.
- Participants: Pastor Bill Gauger Scott Holloway Jenn Ostermeier



---Secret Sisters---

Hello Ladies! It's February ... that means it is again time to sign up to be a Secret Sister! What is a Secret Sister? I'm glad you asked. A Secret Sister is a woman from our church that you secretly support for a year by praying for her, sending her encouraging notes, remembering her birthday and other special events, and simply by being her friend. The Secret Sisters sign up information is posted in the Gathering Area. If you would like more information or have any questions, please see Kim Leavens.



If you are interested in helping with a church vegetable garden please call:
Pat Harman. [304-481-8635](tel:304-481-8635) or psmh37@yahoo.com.



OWLS

The next meeting of the OWLS will be on Tuesday, February 9th, starting at noon with the potluck lunch. Anyone 50 or older is welcome to come. We suggest that you can bring items to donate to the church pantry.
Fred

Sunday School Report

Neither snow, nor rain, nor sunshine will keep us from having Sunday School. Our dedicated Sunday School Teachers are there every Sunday prepared to share with the kids the lesson of the day. During January Miss Jackie shared her gift of teaching. Miss Tammy will be teaching during February and Miss Barb will be teaching in March. And High Schoolers and Middle Schooler, Miss Jenn is always there. Come one, come all to hear the lesson for the day. Bring a friend. There is always room for one more.



Matthew 19:13-14

“Then little children were brought to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked those who brought them.

14 Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”

Mary Givhan
Sunday School Superintendent

| Jan 2016 | | ~ February 2016 ~ | | | | | Mar 2016 | |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|--|----------|--|
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | | |
| | 1 PEP 8:00 – 4:00 pm PEP Drama 6:00 – 8:30 pm | 2 Men's Bible Breakfast 6:30 am Home School Art Class 12:30 pm Finance Committee 7:00 pm | 3 PEP 8:00 – 4:00 pm Whiz Kids 4:00 pm | 4 Classical Conversations 9:00 am – 3:00 pm Adult Inquiry Class 6:30 pm | 5 | 6 | | |
| 7 Holy Communion 8:30 am – Worship 9:45 am – Sunday School 9:45 am – Confirmation 11:00 am – Worship 5:00 pm-Youth Super Bowl Party | 8 PEP 8:00 – 4:00 pm PEP Drama 6:00 – 8:30 pm Council Meeting 7:00 pm | 9 Men's Bible Breakfast 6:30 am OWLS Noon | 10 PEP 8:00 – 4:00 pm Whiz Kids 4:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service – 7:00 pm | 11 Classical Conversations 9:00 am – 3:00 pm Adult Inquiry Class 6:30 pm | 12 Women's Ministry will Host dinner (6:00 pm) and a movie (7:00 pm) "War Room" | 13 Women's Bible Breakfast 9:00 am | | |
| 14 Holy Communion 8:30 am – Worship 9:45 am – Sunday School 11:00 am – Worship 6:00 pm - Confirmation | 15 PEP 8:00 – 4:00 pm PEP Drama 6:00 – 8:30 pm Elders' Meeting 7:00 pm | 16 Men's Bible Breakfast 6:30 am | 17 PEP 8:00 – 4:00 pm Whiz Kids 4:00 pm Lenten Dinner – 6:15 pm Lenten Service – 7:00 pm | 18 Classical Conversations 9:00 am – 3:00 pm Adult Inquiry Class 6:30 pm | 19 Winter Jam Concert at U.S. Bank Arena Doors open at 4:45 pm Show time 6:45 pm | 20 | | |
| 21 Holy Communion 8:30 am – Worship 9:45 am – Sunday School 11:00 am – Worship 12:30 pm – Voters' Meeting 6:00 pm - Confirmation | 22 PEP 8:00 – 4:00 pm PEP Drama 6:00 – 8:30 pm | 23 Men's Bible Breakfast 6:30 am Home School Art Class 12:30 pm | 24 PEP 8:00 – 4:00 pm Whiz Kids 4:00 pm Lenten Dinner – 6:15 pm Lenten Service – 7:00 pm | 25 Classical Conversations 9:00 am – 3:00 pm Adult Inquiry Class 6:30 pm | 26 | 27 | | |
| 28 Holy Communion 8:30 am – Worship 9:45 am – Sunday School 11:00 am – Worship 6:00 pm - Confirmation | 29 PEP 8:00 – 4:00 pm PEP Drama 6:00 – 8:30 pm | Notes: | | | | | | |



NORTHERN KENTUCKY CHAPTER OF LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

I hope everyone had a chance to check out our display table in the Gathering Area and enjoy the delicious LFL baby cake during Fellowship on Sanctity of Life Sunday last month. On behalf of our Chapter, I would like to sincerely thank everyone who contributed to the Diaper Drive in support of The New Hope Center. It was very much appreciated!

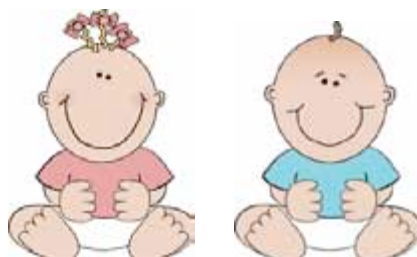
Just as a friendly reminder: Lutherans For Life (LFL) is so much more than an organization that produces facts and figures and keeps people informed on the latest life related news and political maneuverings. LFL is about speaking the truth of life—about **Bringing Good News to Life**. LFL applies the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the life issues, making Jesus known as the Son of God and Savior of all who can help and make a difference in people's lives.

The focus of Lutherans For Life is two-fold. First, we desire to say very clearly that death is not an acceptable, God-pleasing way to deal with the problems of life. Second, we desire to say very clearly that there is a better way. We ground both of these in the truth of God's holy Word. His Word defines what is not acceptable. His Word points to a better way, He who is *The Way*, Jesus Christ.

Who are Lutherans For Life? Here are few basics:

- **Our Mission:** Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life.
- **Our Vision:** Every Lutheran congregation upholding the God-given value of human life and influencing society to do the same.
- Lutherans For Life believes that every human life—from conception to natural death regardless of physical or mental challenges or condition of dependence—is precious in God's sight.
- Lutherans For Life has a nation-wide network of [state federations](#), [chapters](#), and [Life Teams](#).
- Lutherans For Life members serve as volunteers in caring pregnancy centers, facilitate educational programs, aid hospice, and give witness to chastity before marriage and faithfulness in marriage.
- Lutherans For Life seeks to change hearts and minds through the Word of God, trusting that changed people will seek to change law.
- Our prayer is that together we can stand for the value and dignity of all human life from the youngest to the oldest, the preborn to the elderly, the weakest to the strongest. Jesus said, **“I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these ... you did it to me”** (Matthew 25:40 ESV). May we see the face of Jesus Christ in all people.

We invite all Lutherans to help us **Bring Good News to Life**, to make the connection between the life issues and the Good News of Jesus. Instead of a “god of death,” we offer the Lord of Life as the one who rescues from sin and death and who gives the hope of His eternal presence.



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
9066 Gunpowder Road
Florence, KY 41042



Join us for our midweek Lenten Services
Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

The Last Words of Jesus from the Cross

February 10 [Ash Wednesday]
February 17, 24
March 2, 9, 16

Soup and Sandwich Suppers precede the services beginning Feb. 17th at 6:15
p.m.
If you can help with soup, sandwiches, desserts or other items,
please sign up by the water fountain in the Gathering Area.
In-reach thanks everyone that helps out and if you have never attended a meal,
please come and have fellowship with us before service.