



Good News From Good Shepherd

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

John 10:11

November 2015

*Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
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Prayer problems: Power: Will I risk myself?

Focus passage: 1 Kings 18:16-24

I wrestle with putting myself on the line. I may pray that someone I know comes to faith. Will I risk our friendship to actually say something about Jesus to them or am I too afraid that they will push me away? Will I stand up for what I believe when people trash God or just pray that the Holy Spirit will change their hearts? Earlier, God had told Elijah to hide himself during the famine. Now it was time to present himself and put his whole life on the line.

This was a duel between God and Satan. The people needed to see who the real God was. They had been worshipping the messengers of Satan and giving them credit for the harvest. Elijah was being called on to wage war against Satan and his prophets. It would be a battle where everyone could see God's power and Satan's weakness. The war is still around us, yet too often we Christians remain silent. Those who have never seen God's power or mercy need us to stand up so God can be seen and His words brought out into the open.

Elijah had to clearly show which side he was on. He had been hidden by God to preserve his life for this day. Now it was time to put himself on the line. 450 prophets of Baal would demonstrate what their god could do. Elijah would stand for the Lord. If the Lord failed, he would die. He knew as he prayed that the Lord would not let him down. People can't see the Lord, but they can see us. There are times that we can't hide in the shadows any longer. There are times I just have to find the courage to stand for an unseen God so that others can see what He can really do.

Prayer is obedient action as well as heart desires.

We often think of prayer as something between us and God. That may be true, but prayer has consequences.

Powerful prayer is often an act of obedience as well. We ask God to do something and God ends up sending us to be His tool for a miracle. Praying that somehow God will send others to do what we want is not real prayer. Prayer often involves asking God to empower us and prepare us so that lives can be changed and miracles can happen.

There are times that I don't pray because I know that God will send me to help someone else. I am sure that others don't pray from time to time because they don't want to hear what God will say as well. It is kind of like not talking to a friend when you are in crisis because you don't want to hear what you know that they will say. The problem is that God knows what is needed. Change will not happen in my life unless I get His advice and follow what God says. Help may not come to the person in trouble if I don't pray and then put my life on the line to help them with God's mercy and power. Prayer is often an act of obedience as well as faith.

•This is my last pastor's column as your vacancy pastor. I am beginning a weekly newsletter to deliver the devotions of my blog to people's doorsteps. The newsletter called "My Devotional Life" will be a one page summary of the past week's devotions on the 32daysdevotion blog and a simple devotion available only in the newsletter. Anyone can sign up by sending me a text saying "Sign me up!" to 32daysdevotions@gmail.com. If you have enjoyed the devotions in the newsletter or the meetings, feel free to try it out for a few weeks and if it is not your cup of tea, there is a simple unsubscribe button at the bottom of each email. I thank you for the opportunity to serve you and look forward to seeing you in the future.

Pastor Mark Etter
Vacancy Pastor

Updates from your GSLC President

This month I would like to review what is coming up as we continue to follow where the Lord's Spirit is leading us. Following is a quick recap of events that are scheduled for the GSLC family, friends and visitors:

11/7/15 Food Pantry

The Fall session of the food pantry will be held this day to distribute food to many area families. We need your help to set-up, welcome these community members, distribute food, clean-up and most importantly – take the opportunity to share the Good News with all who attend.

11/15/15 Voters Meeting

The focus of this annual meeting is the approval of the 2016 GSLC Budget. Everyone is invited to take part in this process as we prepare to move forward in the Florence, KY, mission field throughout 2016.

11/22/15 Pastor Installation

We will be celebrating the installation of Pastor Bill at 4 PM followed by a reception/meal in the Family Life Center. Our LCMS Ohio District President, Terry Cripe, will be here to officiate this much anticipated event.

11/25/15 Thanksgiving Eve Service

This will be the first service to be conducted by our newly installed shepherd – Pastor Bill. What a blessing it will be to come together to give thanks for all the Lord has blessed us with throughout the last twelve months.

11/29/15 First Sunday in Advent

A double blessing for all of us – preparing for the coming of the Messiah and the first Sunday services with Pastor Bill.

12/2,9,16/15 Advent Services

Everyone will be blessed this year with the call to come together on Wednesday evenings to prepare for the coming of our Lord and Savior. The services will be preceded by our traditional “soup and sandwich” meals. Come and be fed spiritually and physically during this 2015 Advent Season.

12/24/15 Christmas Eve Service

Let every heart come together to prepare for the Lord's coming as we join Heaven and nature in their joyous singing.

These events, coupled with all those going on in our respective lives, will ensure we are kept in constant motion. Through all of the commotion and emotion, let us not forget our devotion and focus on the reason for this and all seasons – JESUS! Serving our Lord together –

Lee Brooks – President GSLC

Stewardship Corner - The 4 'T's...

It's that season of the year when we traditionally focus on the pillars of stewardship and endeavor to rekindle awareness of our personal roles in and contributions to the mission of God's church. This year is no different, but the season comes with a renewed level of excitement as our church family anticipates the installation of a new spiritual leader. As we once again take stock of the personal investments we make in our spiritual walk individually and together, let us be mindful of the responsibility we each have toward the success of the mission in this place -remembering that even as we rejoice there is another church family that is now wanting.

TIME: *There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven:* Ecclesiastes 3:1

How do you do time? Take time? Make time? Spend time? Mark time? Keep time? Save time? Waste time? Pass time? Lose track of time? Whatever the habit, the time is now. We only have as much time as God has ordained for us and He has a plan and purpose for the time given. Time to do for the mission, time to study His word, time to worship, time to work and to rest, time to teach, time in relationships. Time to stop being just plain busy and time to start being fruitful having life to the full. *Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.* Psalm 90:12

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

Hark, the voice of Jesus crying, "Who will go and work today?" We sang that of a recent Sunday. Did we mean what we said? If we can't speak like an angel or Paul, we can still witness Jesus love, that he died for all. Have we shared that simple truth in word or deed with anyone lately? *With your prayers and with your bounties you can do what God commands.* Notice - he's not asking a favor. It is a command. *Take the task he gives you gladly, Let His work your pleasure be.* You, me and all of GSL has what it takes to do the tasks prepared. Let's do them with joy.

TREASURE: *Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.* 2 Corinthians 9:7

Money is a funny thing. The more we have, the more we want and yet are increasingly unsatisfied with. The more we have, the more we worry about not having

it. All of which proves that *'For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.'* Matthew 6:21. What I have also experienced is that faithful giving results in faithful receiving. Trust in Him. God is faithful and he will do it.

THANKSGIVING: *Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.* 1

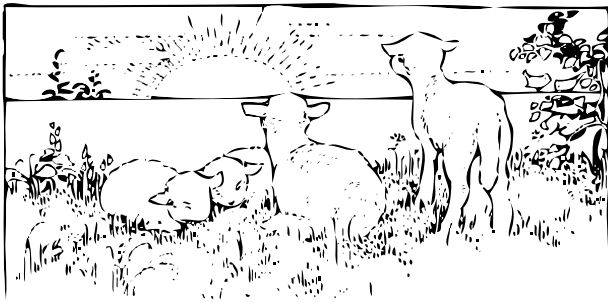
Thessalonians 5:17

We do what we do in gratitude to Him who has done for us what we could not do for ourselves - paid our ransom and restored us as His children. GSL has much to be thankful for in this season. A faithful and dedicated call committee. An answer to the prayer of a new shepherd. The honor of hosting the Reformation service. Spirit led leadership in so many areas.

Praise God! and pass the Gospel!

Marlis Norton, Stewardship

OUR SHEPHERD IS ON HIS WAY



Pastor William Gauger - or Pastor Bill

as he prefers - will be installed Sunday, 11/22/15, at 4 PM, as the new pastor of GSLC. LCMS-Ohio District President Terry Cripe will be presiding over this blessed event that will be followed by a reception dinner in the Family Life Center. All our sister congregations and pastors in the area will be invited to share in this wonderful event.

Pastor Bill is in the process of

- Transitioning from his current congregation - St. Paul's in Sadorus, IL
- Packing and arranging for his move

- Working on closing the purchase of a home here in Florence
- Making arrangements for moving in
- Preparing for his first service at GSLC - Thanksgiving Eve – and the quickly approaching Advent Season

Our new Pastor will need the entire GSLC family to continue what we have been doing during the vacancy, guide him as he learns the navigation channels of GSLC and keep him constantly in our prayers. The following sums up how we need to proceed –

“Each time someone joins the choir, the current choir has to learn a new way to sing the song. Sometimes it is easy and sometimes the blending of voices requires a little more effort for all involved. In the end the harmonies are restored and the old song sounds fresh and lively.

As a new pastor joins a congregation, that congregation faces the same situation. Some of the members will need to learn a new way to sing the songs. The former pastor may have liked to weed in the garden. However, this may not be the new pastor's gift. Those who have been weeding during the search for the new pastor will need to continue to weed even though they have a new Pastor.

In many cases, we tend to think the new Pastor will take up the tasks as the former pastor used to perform them. Who is taking up our weeding? Can we all continue to blend our voices?”

May we all stand shoulder to shoulder with Pastor Bill remembering to stand facing outward focused upon the Cross and not facing inward looking at our own needs.



“Buy-The-Bird”

We are still collecting donations for our “Buy-The-Bird” program. These donations purchase turkeys for families in need that we will provide holiday meals for. \$15 will purchase one turkey, but any amount will be greatly appreciated. Designated envelopes will be on the display in the Gathering Area. Please make checks payable to “Good Shepherd Lutheran Church” and put in the offering plate. We will be collecting through December 6th.

Operation Christmas Child



There are still boxes available to participate in the *Operation Christmas Child Program*. This program brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations worldwide through simple, gift-filled shoe boxes and evangelistic materials that tell the Good News of God’s love. You simply pick up one of the shoe boxes and a pamphlet at the display in the Gathering Area. Determine whether you are buying for a boy or girl, and what age group. Fill the box with inexpensive gift and hygiene items (suggestions are listed on the info sheet). If you are able, donate \$7 for each shoe box to cover shipping and other project costs. Just put that in an envelope on top of the items in the box. Fill out the label with the requested information, and tape to the top of your box. Secure the box with a rubber band and leave it at the display by November 16th. All boxes must be back at Good Shepherd by Sunday, November 15th. If you prefer, you can use your own shoebox from home and wrap it in brightly colored Christmas wrapping, or even purchase one of the plastic shoeboxes that the children can keep.

We will drop them off at Hebron Lutheran during the drop-off week of November 16th. This is a fun project for children to help out with. They enjoy choosing what gifts go in the box. Please pray that God will touch the heart of every child who receives one of these gifts, and that He will bring many children and families to faith in Christ.



Feathers for Food

You will notice that there is a rubber turkey with “feathers” on it located at the display for the Buy the Bird. Each feather has a food item listed that we need to help fill the boxes for our holiday meals. Please take a feather or two, and put the purchased items in the box under the display table. We have limited funds this year so any donations are truly appreciated.

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 some of the local schools in this area. We will provide Christmas gifts to brighten their holidays so they will know that they are remembered and loved on this most special holiday.

The tree will go up around mid November. Please open your hearts and prayerfully consider sharing with these families by choosing tags from the Adopt-A-Family Christmas giving tree. Please pull off the top tag and then put your name and phone number on the bottom tag. The bottom tag remains on the tree with your information on it. Purchase the item on the tag, attach the tag securely to the gift, and return the gift to the tree. The tag will let you know whether the gift is to be wrapped or not. If you don’t like to shop, someone from the Human Care Committee will be glad to do the shopping for you. Just make a monetary donation and we will purchase items from the tree. May God bless your giving. We will also be collecting food for Christmas meals for families in need from our church family and community. These items can be deposited in the shopping cart located in the Gathering Area. Thanks to the congregation for their generosity.

OWLS



The OWLS group plans to have an outing to Potter's Ranch on November 24th. We plan on meeting and leaving from the church no later than 11:30 a.m. on the day, as the lunch at Potter's will start at noon. IF interested in going with us, please call Janice Wozniak at [\(859\) 912-5191](tel:8599125191) or Fred Langsdale at [\(859\) 586-7872](tel:8595867872). In December, we plan on meeting on December 8th at noon for a Christmas party that we hope will include our new pastor. Fred

Sunday School Report

On Sunday December 13th the Sunday School kids will present *God's Family Tree* during the 11:00 am service. *God's Family Tree* shows that through God's saving grace, all His children belong to a very special family tree. Through this program the kids will learn that they are rooted in an even more special family tree through their Christian heritage. Beginning with Jesse, the father of King David, this Advent/Christmas service offers a creative way to guide children through the story of Jesus' birth. The service uses the ancient recalling of Jesse and his family tree culminating in the birth of Jesus, the world's Redeemer.

Practice for the Christmas program will begin on Saturday, November 21st and will be held each Saturday until December 13th. All Sunday School student are invited to participate in the program. There is a part for all. If you know of someone who is not a member but would like to participate in the program please invite them to come to practice. A lite lunch will be served.

Mary Givhan
Sunday School Superintendent

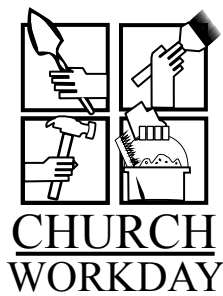


Whiz Kids has begun. There are fourteen students, fifteen tutors, and lots of help in the kitchen. God has truly blessed

us this year. Amber Raap is creating a Halloween art project with the Whiz Kids in October. We are having a family dinner on November 11, 2015 to welcome our families and celebrate Whiz Kids together. We are asking for desserts from Good Shepherd people to be enjoyed by our families. These can be dropped off by 5:00 on November 11, 2015 in the kitchen.

What a blessed time we are having!

Lisa Krejci



BOARD OF PROPERTY

BOARD OF PROPERTY

Many thanks to all who spent time on Saturday, October 17th, helping to clean up and beautify our church building. A special thanks to Rob Nielsen, Janice Wozniak, and Lee Brooks for spearheading the event.

Andy Gawura
Property Board Chairman



As Lee mentioned in his article we have a busy month in November. For all the gatherings in this month and others please volunteer to help. You can help plan and prepare for the event. Or by helping by either set up or take down. Many hands are light work and we are all one congregation family.

Voters' Meeting

The next Voters' Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 15th and a light lunch will be provided. Please sign up on the sheet above the drinking fountain if you can bring food to share.

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 9th and 16th. 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

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

~ November 2015 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Holy Communion 8:30 am – Worship 9:45 am – Sunday School 11:00 am – Worship 6:00 pm - Confirmation	2 PEP Drama 5:00 – 9:00 pm	3 Men's Bible Breakfast 6:30 am Home School Art Class 1:00 – 3:00 pm Finance Committee 7:00 pm	4 Whiz Kids 4:00 pm Choir 7:30 pm	5 Women's Evening Study 7:00 pm PEP Drama 7:00 – 8:30 pm	6	7 Mobile Food Pantry 8:00 am Sorority Reunion 4:00 – 9:00 pm
8 Holy Communion 8:30 am – Worship 9:45 am – Sunday School 11:00 am – Worship 6:00 pm - Confirmation	9 PEP Drama 5:00 – 9:00 pm	10 Men's Bible Breakfast 6:30 am	11 Whiz Kids 4:00 pm	12 Women's Evening Study 7:00 pm PEP Drama 7:00 – 8:30 pm	13	14 Women's Bible Breakfast – 9:00 am
15 Holy Communion 8:30 am – Worship 9:45 am – Sunday School 11:00 am – Worship 12:30 pm Voters' Meeting Stewardship Sunday 6:00 pm - Confirmation	16 PEP Drama 5:00 – 9:00 pm Elders' Meeting 7:00 pm	17 Men's Bible Breakfast 6:30 am Home School Art Class 1:00 – 3:00 pm	18 Whiz Kids 4:00 pm	19 Women's Evening Study 7:00 pm PEP Drama 5:00 – 9:00 pm	20	21
22 Holy Communion 8:30 am – Worship 9:45 am – Sunday School 11:00 am – Worship Installation of Pastor Bill Gauger 6:00 pm - Confirmation	23 PEP Drama 5:00 – 9:00 pm	24 Men's Bible Breakfast 6:30 am OWLS – Potter's Ranch 11:30 am PEP Drama 5:00 – 9:00 pm	25 No Whiz Kids Thanksgiving Eve Service – 7:00 pm	26 Thanksgiving Day	27	28
29 Holy Communion 8:30 am – Worship 9:45 am – Sunday School 11:00 am – Worship 6:00 pm - Confirmation	30 PEP Drama Dress Rehearsal 5:00 – 9:00 pm	Notes:				

**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.

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



NORTHERN KENTUCKY CHAPTER LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

As I write this month's article for Lutherans For Life before the publishing deadline, and the fact that the event I want to talk about has not happened as yet, I still think it is important to re-cap and explain how gracious Good Shepherd has been in helping this year's LFL National Conference – behind the scenes so to speak. You may not know it, or even participated in the Conference at the end of October, but Good Shepherd has been at work in helping out with a series of “unique” situations that have earned the respect and gratitude of the National Lutherans For Life organization.

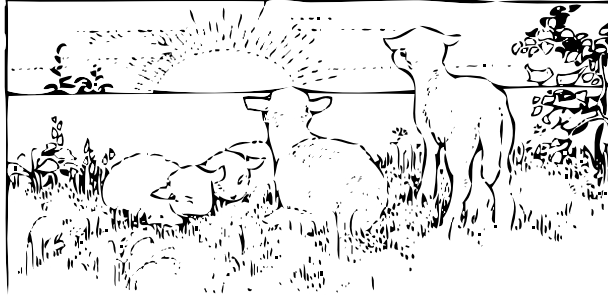
First, a group of Concordia-Ann Arbor college students wanted to attend the Conference, but were short on funds. There were about 6 girls who were going to drive down from Michigan, but had no place to stay. The National Director, Virginia Flo, reached out to me with possible suggestions, since our Chapter is located in the host state. I immediately thought of Good Shepherd and reached out to Lee Brooks, Council President, to see if we, as a congregation, might host these girls in our Family Life Center while they attended the two-day Conference. Without hesitation, Lee considered the request, but brought up several important questions that were relevant as to whether this would actually work out for the young ladies. Lee suggested the idea that members of Good Shepherd might offer to host the girls in their homes, but before I could place that request in *The Voice*, money came through from the Michigan Federation of LFL that allowed the girls to stay at the hotel where the Conference was housed.

Another “unique” situation came through channels requesting a possible place for retired Pastor Miller (LCMS) of North Dakota to park his RV while attending the Conference. Not knowing anything about RV's, class distinction, wattage needed for electrical capability etc., I again reached out to Lee to see if Pastor Miller might park in Good Shepherd's lot. Lee responded back very quickly with important issues and concerns regarding the size of the RV and if it was even possible for it to come up our winding driveway. Not familiar enough to ask these important questions myself, I relayed them back to the Director for possible clarification. After receiving the clarifications and speaking with Lee about this, it was determined that it was possible. Lee also gave me his personal cell phone number to relay to the Pastor in case Pastor Miller had any other questions or concerns about our parking lot. Again, Lee proved to be extremely helpful.

At this point, I don't know whether the Pastor accepted Good Shepherd's invitation to park at our Church or if he found a campsite closer to the Conference, but I do know that God had a hand in everything. God's love was evident in the young girls traveling hundreds of miles to be inspired and wanting to learn more about promoting LIFE, and the fact that several people were trying to make this happen, to possibly having a retired LCMS Pastor and his wife from North Dakota join in the fellowship of other Lutheran For Lifers at a National Conference that got people working on his parking issues. Good Shepherd was involved in helping to make these “unique” situations conclude with a positive outcome, thanks to Lee Brooks and others.

I'm sure there were plenty more “unique” situations regarding the organization and logistics for setting up this huge National Conference, but I am aware even before the Conference takes place, that God continues to be at work in helping to make this a successful endeavor. Again, on behalf of the Northern Kentucky Chapter of Lutherans For Life, thank you Good Shepherd for extending the hand of friendship to people you do not even know. Thank you for caring! Thank you for loving LIFE! And, special thanks to Lee Brooks for his kindness and willingness to help in these “unique” situations. *God is good! God bless everyone!*

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