

# Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

## SHEPHERD'S VOICE



### WORSHIP TIMES

**Saturday**  
5:00 pm ~ Evening Worship

**Sunday**  
8:30 am ~ Traditional Worship  
11:00 am ~ Contemporary Worship

**COMBINED SUNDAY SERVICE**  
10:00 am Fifth Sunday (4 times per year)



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### *P.J.'s Jotdowns*

*by Pastor Jamie Vannoy*

I want to begin by thanking all of you who participated in the "60-in-60" festivities this summer. We heard lots of meaningful reflections, worshipped together, and continued our process of healing during this time of remembrance and celebration.

I keep thinking of a tag line that was always used in one of my favorite shows growing up ("The A-Team") when Captain Murdock would say

"I love it when a plan comes together." This summer made me think of that – because that's EXACTLY what happened...a plan came together. There were a lot of people involved in making this summer a success.

- ◆ People planning worship services
- ◆ People planning community events
- ◆ People planning events around GSLC
- ◆ People stepping up in different ways to make this summer a success.

I know Council has already done this but I wanted to publicly thank Mark Shoemaker for all his hard work with the different groups to bring our worship time together alive in a different and unique way every single week. Mark, you did an amazing job; thank you for all you have done since you have been here with us.

*(continued on page 3)*

*"I love it when a plan comes together... planning worship services, community events, GSLC events, ..."*

## Good Shepherd

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Duane Tackis

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#### Worship & Celebration

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#### Life Long Learning

Mary Pierce

#### Parish Life & Response

Mary Ann Sauer

#### Witness & Outreach

Wendy Pierce

#### Finance & Administration

Jim Kempf

#### Property & Facilities

Del Herbeck

Bill Wolslegel

#### Communication & Public Relations

Sandy Rosholt

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Audit** - Open

**Budget Oversight** - Jim Kempf

**Endowment Bequest** - Open

**Executive** - Wayne Weyhrauch

**Memorial** - Kathy Seim

**Mutual Ministry** - Gerry Harte

**Nominating** - Duane Tackis

**Scholarship** - Diane Miller

## GSLC ~ Our Common Goals

by Debbie Kempf

Our common goals at GSLC are articulated in our mission and vision statement. The way we work together is expressed in our foundational beliefs, core values, and in a more detailed sense, in our constitution.

### Mission

Created, saved and gifted by God,  
we seek, serve, and share Jesus Christ.

### Vision Statement

Our vision is to grow Good Shepherd into a more loving, compassionate Christian community that is excited about actively living out our faith. We strive to form more faithful disciples by:

- ◆ Growing in our personal relationships with Jesus Christ through teaching, Bible study, and prayer.
- ◆ Supporting and serving all God's children both locally and globally.

### Foundational Beliefs

- ◆ God the Father nurtures us daily with His Word, grace and sacraments.
- ◆ God the Son, Jesus Christ, is our Lord and savior, the redeemer of all people.
- ◆ God the Spirit calls us to love, empowers us to serve others, and to support one another.

### Core Values

Because of these beliefs, we value:

- ◆ Personal relationships with Christ lived out in community.
- ◆ Life-long study of God's Word, prayer and worship.
- ◆ Service in Jesus' name to our neighbors.
- ◆ The power of God's transforming love.
- ◆ Respecting people as children of God.
- ◆ Being a safe place for people to come. 🌸



To contact any of the staff, council, commissioners, or committee chairs visit our website for contact information. Or call the office or send an email and we will be glad to assist you.

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The information contained in the *Shepherd's Voice* has been compiled using information and articles submitted by our members for publication. We regret any errors or omissions published in this newsletter, and inconvenience this may have caused. It is our intention to ensure that the contents of this publication are always as accurate as possible.

(continued from page 1)

## Looking Toward the Future

Now, I want to take a moment and look to the future because on September 1 and December 1 (when the next *Shepherd's Voice* comes out) there's a lot going to be going on. Over the next few weeks we will be having our Annual Meeting and voting on issues that effect the upcoming year. I will be talking about how we have done a good job in fulfilling part of our Vision Statement last year and how we can continue to live that out in the upcoming year.

I'm excited as we move into another year of ministry together. I'm excited as we continue to see new ways that we can show God's love to ALL people. I'm excited about the information that gets distributed in our quarterly newsletter like this one. It's easy to get to this point in the year and see all the things we haven't done or that haven't improved; instead I choose to see what we have been doing and what we continue to be improving on...and one of those things is communication.

Look at the information in this newsletter and all the different people who contribute to it. I'm a person that always wants to be doing more, but as I get older I realize that sometimes it's nice to just enjoy what is being done. I've done some searching for this newsletter and found a few articles that I hope challenge you in your thinking and understanding of your faith.

In this newsletter leading up to Thanksgiving, we will be concentrating on the things we are thankful for that God has blessed us with. I'm thankful for all of YOU. I'm thankful in your forgiveness; I'm thankful for your trust in my gifts and the gifts of the leadership of this church to answer God's call to serve this church and community. I'm also thankful that you all are not just spectators in the ministry going on at GSLC, but that you are participants.

Thank you for all that you do to carry out GSLC's mission of showing God's love to the world. 🌸

~ from Pastor Jamie

## David Bauser's Ordination

On Sunday August 24  
Ebenezer Lutheran  
Church, in Columbia, SC,  
issued a Letter of Call to  
David Bauser to be their

Associate Pastor for Discipleship Ministries. As this is David's first call as a pastor, he needs to be ordained. His ordination service will be here at Good Shepherd on **Thursday September 18**, at 7:00 pm.

Please rejoice with David and his family and give thanks to God for all that he has done in David's walk toward this point and for all that he will do through David's future ministry at Ebenezer Lutheran and beyond.

More details concerning David's ordination will be forthcoming in the Weekly Announcements. 🌸



## Stephen Ministry Sunday, October 19

“Forgiveness – what it is, what it is not, and how you can help your care receivers give themselves this wonderful gift.”

Our speaker is Stephanie Hittle, MS, LPCC, who is a member of the American Counseling Association, and has a private practice in Centerville. Our host is Hope United Methodist Church at 5980 Wilmington Pike, which is across from Miami Valley Hospital South Campus. Doors open at 2:15 pm for registration. Program runs from 2:30 to 4:30 pm with light refreshments. Don't miss this important in-service. Interested members of your congregation are welcome. **RSVP by October 14** to Lisa at 937-434-7095.

Sponsored by the Greater Dayton Stephen Ministry Network 🌸

# Why Passion Isn't Enough For Discipleship ~ 3DM\*

by Ben Sternke

I grew up going to Bible camp every summer. It was an amazing time, and I loved the experience. Through the worship, the teaching, the team exercises and the fun, my passion for Jesus was renewed each summer. The last evening of camp I was ready to go back home and tell all my friends about Jesus and see amazing things happen!

But it seemed that in the span of the four-hour drive home, my passion had oozed out like the air in a leaky balloon. I made myself a snack, watched some TV and went back to life as usual, wondering how I had felt so differently less than 24 hours ago. Passion alone wasn't enough to sustain my discipleship.



Listening to the predominant narrative of modern evangelical Christianity, you could get the impression that passion is all we need to live a life of discipleship to Jesus. If we can just become passionate and enthusiastic enough, we will have the fuel we need to fulfill the Great Commission and live the way of Jesus. It's a "Bible camp" mentality that continues into adulthood for most of us, I think.

## ***When Passion Falls Short***

Jesus, however, tells a different story in the Gospel of Mark when he is approaching the cross. At the last supper with his disciples, he tells them they will all fall away, but none of them believe it! Peter passionately declares, "Even if all fall away, I will not!" Jesus responds with a dire warning: "Tonight... you will disown me three times." Peter simply cannot believe it. How could it ever happen when he feels this passionately about it? "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you!" he proclaims.

*\*\*3DM is a organization whose vision is to put discipleship and mission back into the hands of ordinary people. Visit the at [3dmovement.com](http://3dmovement.com).*

Jesus takes his disciples from dinner out to their favorite camping spot, the olive groves of Gethsemane, where he finds it necessary to pray. He takes Peter, James and John with him and tells them to simply sit with him while he prays. Instead they fall asleep. Jesus comes back and wakes up the slumbering disciples, warning them with these important words, "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

You probably know the rest of the story. They fall asleep again, right up until Jesus is betrayed. The whole situation takes them off guard and, just as Jesus predicted, they all fall away, and Peter disowns Jesus three times.

Passion wasn't enough for the disciples to stay awake and pray with Jesus. Passion wasn't enough for them to remain firmly loyal to Jesus in the face of adversity and threat. Passion wasn't enough for them to keep their promises of fidelity to Jesus. Passion just isn't enough.

That's why Jesus could predict they would all fall away. He wasn't using some sort of divine omniscience when he prophesied the disciples' betrayal, he was simply observing that they were attempting to live on passion alone, and he knew that it wouldn't be enough for them when temptation came.

## ***Training That Sustains Us***

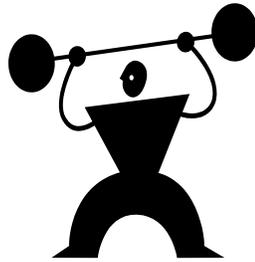
That's why he urged them to watch and pray, so that you will not fall into temptation! The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak. In other words, the passion is there, but you need more than passion. You need training.

It's a bit like the difference between my passion for basketball and soccer. I like watching and playing both sports. I am passionate about both. But the difference in my skill in these sports is remarkable. I can play basketball fairly well, but I'm pretty awful at soccer. Why? Well, I have trained in basketball since I was in elementary school, while I've never trained in soccer. I've only played pickup games, which I love doing, but mostly I am a liability to my team! Why? Because my spirit is willing (I love playing soccer!), but my flesh is weak (I'm not very good at it!).

In the same way, passion was not enough for the disciples to remain faithful in trial. They desperately wanted to come through for Jesus, I'm sure. They genuinely thought that they could, too. They assumed their passion would carry them, but it wasn't enough. They needed training. They needed to learn to watch and pray, so that when temptation comes they will have the capability to actually do what they so desperately want to do.

We need the same thing, if we're going to follow Jesus as disciples. That's what "spiritual disciplines" are all about, training us so that we can be poised and ready for the trials and temptations that come our way as we join Jesus in his work.

I have to remind myself of this every once in awhile. My passion is not enough to sustain me, I need to submit to a regimen of training so that my flesh isn't weak on the day of temptation. This is why we begin each weekday at 3DM worshiping, praying, and reading Scripture together. It's why we gather on Sunday nights to celebrate what God is doing in our midst. It's why I spend time in prayer and reflection. It's why we share what we are thankful for around the breakfast table as a family.



As we engage in these simple exercises, these predictable patterns, we find that God's grace inhabits those spaces and he begins to transform us. We become spiritually "strong" not by trying really hard, but by indirect effort. That's how we train as disciples... doing little, seemingly insignificant things that allow us to do the things we cannot do by direct effort.

How are you and your "oikos"<sup>(1)</sup> training as disciples right now? What are some of the results you've seen so far? What adjustments do you need to make?

<sup>(1)</sup> *An oikos was the basic unit of society in ancient Greece, including the head (male) of the oikos, his wife, children, and servants/slaves, living together in one domestic setting.* 🌸

## *Mental Illness & Spiritual Evil* *Ministry Matters: Teach* *By Shane Raynor*



USA Today has a story today about mental illness currently overwhelming the criminal justice system. The most recent numbers show that 56% of state prison inmates and 45% of those in federal prisons are dealing with some kind of mental health problem.

Mental illness is becoming a bigger problem in society as a whole, not just with criminals. According to the World Health Organization, the number one cause of disability for adolescents is depression. Antidepressant use in the U.S. has increased by almost 400 percent in the last two decades, and the suicide rate from 1999 to 2010 among Americans ages 35-64 increased 28.4 percent.

In an article for "Slate" magazine, "Abnormal is the New Normal," clinical psychologist Robin Rosenberg notes that almost 50 percent of Americans will have a diagnosable mental illness in their lifetimes, and each year a quarter will have some kind of mental disorder. But severe mental illnesses affect only six percent of adults in a given year. I use the word "only," but 14½ million is still a lot of people!

Rosenberg points out that our ability to diagnose mental health problems has improved over recent decades, and that our definition of what qualifies as mental illness has expanded. She also notes that some of the drug companies have pushed to define "problems" that didn't exist before so they can create new markets for their products.

Fair enough. That accounts for part of the increase. But everything considered, she still concedes the following: "[W]e really are getting 'sicker.' The high prevalence of mental illness in the United States isn't only because we've gotten better at detecting mental illness. More of us are mentally ill than in previous generations, and our mental illness is manifesting at earlier points in our lives."

*(continued on page 7)*

# Youth News

by Don Bennett

## Oakview School

Many changes occurred in the Kettering School system over the summer, as I'm sure many of you read in the papers. One of the changes was the retirement of Oakview principal, Peg Englehardt. We worked with Mrs. Englehardt for several years and she was a strong supporter of our Homework Club and gave us the opportunity to minister to the students at Oakview in other ways as well. We wish her blessings as she moves on.

Taking her place is Sarah Adams. Mrs. Adams was formerly the Assistant Principal at Van Buren Middle School. Pastor Jamie and Don have met with her and she is eager to continue working with us to find ways that we can minister to the students and staff of Oakview School.

This year's Homework Club will begin on **Wednesday September 3**. We hope to be serving approximately ten fourth- and fifth- graders from Oakview.

If you would like to help with the club, either by serving as a "tutor", a substitute tutor, or providing healthy snacks, contact Don Bennett at 475-9445.

## H2H

Head to Heart Catechism is back in progress and this year we are studying the New Testament. It appears that we will have four young men in the program this year. We are meeting twice a month on Saturday evenings and will also be taking several retreats.

## Backpack Program

As you read this, the Kettering Backpack Program should be in full swing. For our part of it, we will be serving a minimum of 90 students across three different schools every week. This means we will need a steady stream of volunteers to pack lunches every week. We will also be asking the members of groups that use Good Shepherd to volunteer to do this as a way of saying thank you to the congregation and as a way of serving our community. If you are interested in volunteering and haven't been trained yet, watch the eBlast and Weekly Announcements for training times or contact Don Bennett at 475-9445 to set up a time.



## Breakfast Club

Our High School Breakfast Club is meeting again. We meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 7:30 am at Panera Bread behind Town and Country shopping center. We will be eating breakfast and discussing theology.

## High School Sunday School

Our high school Sunday school class will begin meeting again between services after taking last year off. Our topics for discussion will be "Bible stories and what they mean for us in the modern world." We will be looking at both Old and New Testament stories, looking for how God reveals himself and what he is trying to teach us through them. 

*... "[in the Backpack Program] for our part of it, we will be serving a minimum of 90 students across three different schools every week. This means we will need a steady stream of volunteers to pack lunches...we are also asking members of groups that use Good Shepherd to volunteer..."*

# *PACT Program*

*by Don Bennett*

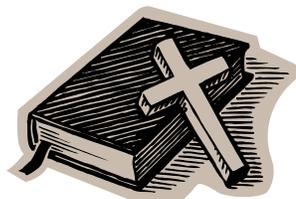
Police And Clergy Together (PACT) is a program run by the Dayton City Police that involves building relationships between the Dayton police officers and members of the clergy. Being a part of the program involves a commitment to pray for the police, a commitment to ride with officers on a regular basis, and being on emergency call to provide pastoral care in situations like accidents or shootings. This care could be to the victims or families of victims or to the officers themselves, if needed.



Although I am not an ordained member of the clergy, I was accepted into it on the recommendation of several pastors already involved in it. To date, I have not been to any emergency call-outs, but I have been called to attend two press conferences in support of the Chief of Police and I have been on six ride-alongs. Among the events I've been witness to were a heroin overdose, several heroin busts during vehicle stops, multiple domestic disputes, and responding to a car jacking by going down West Third Street at a HIGH rate of speed. (BTW: If you hear sirens and/or see emergency light, PLEASE move to the right.) I've also had a small part in two arrests and was a witness on record for a weapon discharge.

If you'd like to hear more details, just ask me. I enjoy talking about my experiences in the program.

I hope that someday the Kettering Police Department will adopt this or a similar program, but until that time, I will continue to serve the Dayton Police and public in this manner. I ask that you also pray for our local police agencies that they may be able to continue to respond to calls in a responsible manner and that they would act justly and prudently. 🌸



## *Mental Illness & Spiritual Evil*

*(continued from page 5)*

My question is, how much of this increase in mental illness can be attributed at least partly to spiritual causes? Let me be clear. I believe mental illness is real. But I also believe that demonic influence, oppression, and in severe cases, possession are real too. Although mental and spiritual problems are two different things, we'd be both naive and foolish not to consider the connections between the two. I'm convinced that, in more cases than we'd like to admit, they feed off each other.

What does this mean? Simply that for some people, one approach isn't going to solve their problems. I suspect that many Christian churches are likely either trusting secular psychiatry exclusively to handle the problem of spiritual evil (which it is unequipped to do), or they're allowing a wild west of deliverance ministries and self-proclaimed exorcists to fill the void. And with virtually no standards or accountability in place, the latter can be a crapshoot. Even assuming that malevolent spiritual beings are a factor, if people's root problems aren't properly addressed, they could easily find themselves in a worse condition than they were in before seeking deliverance.

The Roman Catholic Church is upping its game on this. Many dioceses are training more priests in exorcism and deliverance, and earlier this year, the Vatican legally recognized the International Association of Exorcists, an organization of Roman Catholic priests who perform exorcisms. The rise of occultism is considered a contributing factor for the increased demand. World famous Vatican exorcist Father Gabriele Amorth, one of the founders of IAOE, claims to have been involved in treating more than 70,000 cases of demonic possession.

Whether or not you agree with Roman Catholic theology or methodology, you have to admit that at least Catholics are doing something to deal with an urgent problem at a churchwide level. Where are the Protestant denominations, particularly the mainline churches, on this issue? 🌸

# Stewardship is a Lifestyle

by Debbie Kempf

The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. (Psalm 24:1)

The dictionary defines a "steward" as a person who manages somebody else's property, finances, and household; a steward is not the owner of the resources entrusted to his/her care and use. As disciples of Christ, we recognize that God is the creator of everything and that he has entrusted his creation to our care. Therefore, since God owns 100%, our stewardship encompasses the everyday decisions we make about using the resources entrusted to us. Are we using the resources entrusted to us in a way that is pleasing to God?

In the church, "stewardship" is often associated with money as the annual fund drive for many congregations has been called a "stewardship" campaign. However, a more profound biblical perspective of stewardship is so much broader. Stewardship includes not just using money, but also using our time, using our skills and talents, caring for our health, caring for the earth, etc.

Yet, the Bible does contain more verses about money than about any other topic. Perhaps, this is an area where we need more help and instruction. We are tempted to trust in money rather than God. We are tempted to think of money as "mine" rather than 100% God's. So, the Bible talks about how we should acquire money, how we should regard money, how we should manage money, and how we should use money. The Bible also talks about giving both in terms of duty to the faith community and sacrificial offering because we delight in what God has done for us.

While the Bible encourages frugality, we also should not be guilty about spending money and other resources on ourselves. We are precious to God and He is generous.

*"The 4Gs of stewardship are:*

- ◆ *God*
- ◆ *Grace*
- ◆ *Gratitude*
- ◆ *Generosity...*"

God delights in giving his precious children good things! Be thankful and enjoy these gifts from God!

Stewardship, then, is about a balance that is pleasing to God. How much of the resources entrusted to us should we keep for ourselves? The Rev. Larry Donner provides a wonderful analogy about stewardship:

**The Sea of Galilee** is fed by streams and rivers. As water then flows through the Sea of Galilee into the Dead Sea, the Sea of Galilee supports an abundance of life. However, the Dead Sea has no outlets and its water does not support life.

Like the Sea of Galilee, to be truly alive, we need to approach life with open hands that receive God's blessings and let those blessings flow through us to others.

The thoughts in this article are a sample of ideas from the 4G Networking<sup>(1)</sup> retreat recently attended by Pastor Jamie, Wayne Weyhrauch and Debbie Kempf.

The 4G's of stewardship:

- ◆ **God:** All that we are and all that we have belongs to God.
- ◆ **Grace:** Our poverty is replaced by His wealth, freely given because God is gracious, not because we deserve it.
- ◆ **Gratitude:** The grace of Jesus penetrates the human heart and rebounds back to God as gratitude.
- ◆ **Generosity:** We give as an expression of love and devotion to God by freely offering ourselves and our possessions to God.

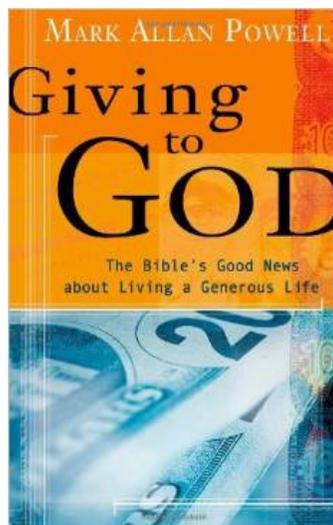
As we at Good Shepherd focus on actively living out our faith, growing in our personal relationships with Jesus Christ, we plan to study and discuss the book "Giving to God" by Dr. Mark Allan Powell (from Trinity Lutheran Seminary). See details in the "Discipleship" article by Pastor Jamie. We will also reflect with thankfulness on all that we have been freely given by God and consider our personal response to God's love. 🌸

<sup>(1)</sup> 4G Networking Team: Rev. Pat Badkey (Good Shepherd, Cincinnati), Rev. John Mittermaier (Zion Lutheran, Dayton), Jodi Keith (pastoral intern, Good Shepherd, Cincinnati), Lynn Spatz (Christ the King, Centerville), Rev. Ed. Williams (Assistant to the Bishop), Rev. Dona Johnson (Christ the King, Centerville)

# Discipleship

by Pastor Jamie

One of the foundations of being a disciple of Jesus is being a steward of God. We are stewards by realizing that EVERYTHING we have we get from God. God ALLOWS us to manage the gifts and blessing we have in life. Stewardship is a lifestyle, it involves every decision we make in life because we need to ask ourselves “what would God like me to use this \_\_\_\_\_ for?” That blank could be money, time, abilities...that blank is everything you do in a day from when you wake up in the morning until you go to bed at night. Everything we do in life is a stewardship, and therefore a discipleship, issue.



To help us understand this better, we will be doing an eight-week study with a book written by Dr. Mark Allan Powell called “Giving to God: The Bible’s Good News about Living a Generous Life.” At this time the class will be taught two times each week so if you miss one session you can hopefully make it up some other time that week.

The eight-week study will begin:

◆ Tuesday September 23 from 1:30 - 3:00 pm

◆ Thursday September 24 from 7:00 - 8:30 pm

A weekend option will be discussed for those who would like to meet then.

We are suggesting one book per household so if you’d like to have a book just let the office know so we can order one for you before the class starts. 🌸

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# Scholarship Fund News

by Diane Miller

The Scholarship Committee wants to thank all those who participated in the June 2014 Graduation Sunday campaign for the Scholarship Fund. A collection of \$2,2002 was received for the upcoming 2014-15 academic year.



## 2014-15 Academic Year Scholarship Awards Announced

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the scholarship recipients for the 2014-15 academic year. Due to the generosity of the congregation, five \$500 have been awarded for the upcoming college year.

- ◆ Sarah Bennett – Wittenberg University
- ◆ Aimee Connelly – Capital University
- ◆ Cameron Connelly – Marietta College
- ◆ Amy Hartmann – Capital University
- ◆ Scott Hartmann – Capital University

## Show Your College Spirit - Join the FUN!

This fall show your college spirit on **Sunday October 5!** Wear your favorite college colors or sport your favorite college regalia and make a contribution to the Scholarship Fund. Please place gifts in a pew envelope and indicate that it is for the Scholarship Fund. Give it the “old college try” as the Scholarship Fund rolls out this fall fund raiser! 🌸

## Memorial Committee

by Kathy Seim

All Saints Sunday is **November 2**. Often when we lose a loved one we seek ways to feel close to that person and also for a way to honor their memory. Through a memorial gift to Good Shepherd made in the name of your loved one, you have an opportunity to both honor his/her name and bless the church. Please feel free to connect with any of the following members of the Memorial Committee with your thoughts on how to best honor the life of your loved one: Del Herbeck, Bob Dittmar, Diane Miller, Wendy Pierce, Jennifer Kellstrom or Kathy Seim. 🌸

# Council Happenings

by Wayne Weybrauch

Wow, it seems like just yesterday we were talking about summer beginning and some special ministry opportunities we were going to have during our “60 in 60” celebration events. We took time to recognize an important date in the history of Good Shepherd, the anniversary of the dedication of the church 60 years ago. Following through on the GSLC Vision and the efforts of many people, we cleaned, learned, planted, played, prayed and fellowshiped together with interesting temple-talks of past successes and future goals and hopes. Pastor Jamie led us with interesting and pointed message, while Mark Shoemaker led us with an exciting assortment of music that helped all of us, even me; sing better and louder. Thank you all for making this past summer so special.

## Nominating Committee

The council formed our new 2014 Nominating Committee, and they’ve been busy working to identify nominees for Congregation Council, the Parish Life & Response Commissioner, and other Committee positions. There are still a few opportunities if you are interested in serving Good Shepherd in this way.

## New Servant Keeper Software

Council approved the purchase of a new software administration program “Servant Keeper” that replaced our outdated program. Besides having multiple user capability, the new program

features call-outs, a member directory, a calendar and event tracking, along with membership, volunteer and group management. It has off-site backup of all data with strict security, mail merge capabilities and standard and custom reporting. This program should help us grow into the future.

## SOS Assembly

Southern Ohio Synod Assembly took place June 6 and 7 at Wittenberg University in Springfield. This was my first assembly, along with my wife Michele, and we

were very impressed. The theme this year was “We Are Church Together” and the focus scripture was 1 Corinthians 12:12-31. The workshops and speakers were inspiring to say the least, and all the official business was handled in strict order. If you have not had an opportunity to attend one of these, I encourage you to do so. Next year it will be back at Capital University in Columbus.

## East Dayton Cluster Meeting

Council members attended the East Dayton Cluster Meeting (Good Shepherd LC, Peace LC, Faith LC, Bethel LC and First LC in Xenia) in July. Bishop Dillahunt and Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Williams met with Executive Council members from each church to discuss “outside-the-box” thinking in ways for all to work together and support each other. Each church has unique assets and abilities that can contribute to the greater good in our region. There will be a follow-on meeting **Wednesday September 24** at First Lutheran Church in Xenia. If you have an idea or vision on what we can do to support each other, please share that with the church office or give it to a council member or commissioner so we can bring all those good ideas with us in September.



## 4G Networking Seminar

Pastor Jamie along with Council members attended a two-day 4-G (God, Grace, Gratitude and Generosity) Networking seminar in August, where we had another exciting opportunity to grow and learn with members from other Lutheran churches. Please see the “Stewardship Is A Lifestyle” article by Debbie Kempf covering this moving event.

## Living Our Vision

Needless to say council members and Good Shepherd have had a busy summer as we strive to live out our Vision ... “To grow Good Shepherd into a more loving, compassionate Christian community that is excited about actively living out our faith as we grow in our personal relationships with Jesus Christ through teaching, Bible study and prayer, while supporting and serving all God’s children both locally and globally.”

(continued on next page)  
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## *Submitting Matters & Requests*

In closing, Good Shepherd members who desire to submit matters and requests for council consideration can submit their request in writing by noon on the 1st Sunday of the month. Each request should briefly describe the action(s) which the member desires the council to consider and the underlying reason. Requests received after the deadline might not be addressed at the next council meeting. Requests can be written on the back of the weekly attendance card, emailed to the office or given to any council member. Please know, council is here to support the entire congregation and we feel this is a way you can aid council to meet the concerns of all members. 🌸

## *East Dayton Cluster Meeting*

*by Pastor Jamie*

As Wayne mentioned in his Council Happenings report Wayne, Duane, Don and I attended a meeting with the Bishop at Bethel Lutheran Church in Bellbrook to discuss working together more cooperatively. At that meeting were Bishop Suzanne Dillahunt, Assistant to the Bishop Ed Williams, joined with members from surrounding Lutheran churches. We had some discussion about what has been going well in our congregations and struggles that we've been having. Here are some of the points of discussion:

- ◆ We discussed that the time for churches competing against each other is past and now it's time to work together in as much ministry as we can.
- ◆ We looked at a model of 5 churches who have been working together for about a year now in Fairborn and how that came to be. We discussed that we may not want to replicate their model but it could be a springboard for our own collaboration efforts.\*\*\*



◆ We were challenged by the Assistant to the Bishop to meet with people in our churches to discuss assets that we have to contribute to the greater good if we were to collaborate with each other to do other ministries.

◆ We have agreed to open our next meeting up to anyone interested in this discussion. So I invite the other council members to join us on **Wednesday September 24** at First Lutheran Church in Xenia at 6:30 pm.

\*\*\*See Pastor Jamie's article on the "Asset Mapping Event." 🌸

## *Asset Mapping Event*

*by Pastor Jamie*



In response to the third point made in the "East Dayton Cluster Meeting" article, which was a challenge by the Assistant to the Bishop, I plan to lead an Asset Mapping Event that will be open to anyone at GSLC. That Asset Mapping Event will be on **Sunday September 14** from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. I realize this is also the weekend of the Annual Meeting but I need enough time to prepare for and summarize before the meeting next cluster meeting on September 24. 🌸

## *"Celebrating the Great Outdoors!"*

*by Paula Bennett*



That's the theme for the Holiday at Home celebration. The parade is **Monday September 1** and we are ready for a fun morning of parade watching and hot dog selling! Thank you very much for all of your donations for our refreshment stand. Remember, if you don't want to wake up at 3:00 am to get front row seats, just sleep in and sit in GSLC chairs that we supply in front of the Board of Education building. We look forward to having fellowship with you and feeding you from our refreshment stand! See you at the parade! 🌸

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Visit us at [goodshepherdkettering.com](http://goodshepherdkettering.com) or on our BLOG.

Also follow us on Facebook  
and on Twitter

## Ongoing Opportunities

### Breakfast/Worship at First Lutheran Church

Second Sunday (adults serve) - 6:30 am

Fourth Sunday (youth serve) - 6:30 am

**Food Pantry Donations** - First Sunday

**Jeremiah's Letter Donations** - Third Sunday

**Quilting Group** - First Monday - 9:00 am - Lounge

**Alzheimer's Support Group** - Tuesdays

7:00 pm - Lounge

**Men's Bible Study** - Thursdays

6:30 am - Bob Evans (Dorothy Lane)

**Bethany Communion** - Third Friday

2:00 pm - Bethany Lutheran Village

**Kitty Hawk Square Dancing**

First, third & fifth Fridays - 7:00 pm - Fellowship Hall

**Saturday Morning Breakfast/Bible Study** -

Saturdays - 8:30 am - Lounge

**Alcoholics Anonymous** - Saturdays - 7:00 pm - Lounge

**MAC User Group** - Second Saturday

10:00 am - Fellowship Hall

