

# Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

---

## SHEPHERD'S VOICE

Created, Saved, and Gifted by God, We are Called to Seek, Serve, and Share Jesus Christ



### 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)**

### *Inside Your Newsletter...*

P.J.'s Jotdowns      page 1

GSLC – Our Common  
Goals                      page 2

Project Victory & In Lieu of Lilies      page 3

Council Happenings                      page 4

Life Long Learning                      page 5

Easter Week Schedule                      page 6

GSLC Scholarship News                      page 6

Projects Underway & Nearing Completion      page 7

Leadership Pitfalls: Confusing Titles  
with Accomplishments                      page 7

“Well Done, Good & Faithful Servant”      page 8

Fighting Sin Through Affirmations      page 10

Seeking New Office Manager              page 11

Ongoing Opportunities                      page 12



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

*by Pastor Jamie Vannoy*

Well, as we continue to be in the depths of winter, I sit here writing you another article for our newsletter. This has been one of the roughest winters for me personally in a long time from a health perspective. I sit here on another day off trying to get my sinuses clear, drink warm liquids to help with an ongoing sore throat, and sucking on cough drops to keep it at bay. I've been known to battle sporadic illnesses during the winter, but this winter, illness has been lingering for the entire season. I pray that spring comes soon so I can put this stuff behind me and regain my energy to serve with you all to spread God's Word of grace, redemption and forgiveness to our community.

*“I truly believe  
ministry is  
founded in  
relationship...  
keeping us all  
connected with  
God and the  
Good Shepherd  
community.”*

We are also in the Season of Lent. As I've been praying and reflecting as to what to write in this article I must start with repentance. I apologize to our homebound members. I have not been good at keeping up with meeting regularly during this winter.

For the above persistent illness reasons I've been VERY leary about visiting with you all in fear of giving you whatever I keep dealing with.

My absence with you all has been on my heart a lot as of late because I truly believe ministry is founded in relationship, and my absence has made our relationship suffer in my eyes. It's not that I think you miss my regular company, but that when I come and we visit I also bring Holy Communion, keeping us all connected with God and the Good Shepherd community. I apologize for my absence and look forward to meeting with you all regularly again soon.

*(continued on page 3)*

## Good Shepherd

937-298-0136 - 937-299-1170 fax  
goodshepherd.gslc@gmail.com  
goodshepherdkettering.com  
FACEBOOK: Good Shepherd Lutheran  
Church Kettering Ohio

### STAFF

Senior Pastor - Jamie Vannoy  
luv2preach@gmail.com

Director of Youth & Family Ministry  
Don Bennett  
donbennett.gslc@gmail.com

Music Director - Mark Shoemaker  
mes3104@gmail.com

Office Manager            Office Assistant  
Linda Newcomer        Judy Washburn  
goodshepherd.gslc@gmail.com

Custodian  
Rich Kellstrom

### CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS

President - Wayne Weyhrauch  
Vice President - Duane Tackis  
Secretary - Roger Hartmann  
Treasurer - June Newell

### MEMBERS

Marian Beechey  
Debbie Kempf  
Bob Sauer  
Judy Treadway

### COMMISSIONERS

Worship & Celebration - Michele Weyhrauch  
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

Financial Secretary - Brenda Thieman

# 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.

This newsletter is a publication of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)  
901 E. Stroop Road Kettering, OH 45429  
937-298-0136 Fax: 937-299-1170  
goodshepherd.gslc@gmail.com • www.goodshepherdkettering.com

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, or any 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)

I share this concern and apology in the presence of this article instead of calling each of our homebound members privately because many in our community come to me and discuss how they feel their inability to do something has not benefitted their service to the Lord. Well, I have my moments too, my friends. We all have our moments when we feel we could have done more to serve our Lord more faithfully, and I'm admitting one of these moments myself.



I pray my health returns so that I may serve all of God's children at GSLC more faithfully, and look forward to the coming months as we draw closer to the joyous moment of Easter Sunday morning.

I wanted to share with you some interesting articles that might be of interest and inspiration to you all:

“Well Done, Good & Faithful Servant”

Fighting Sin Through Affirmation

Leadership Pitfalls: Confusing Titles with Accomplishments

Stay warm everyone; we will all be thawing out soon.

Your grateful servant leader,

Pr. Jamie 



## Project Victory

by Pastor Jamie

Our mid-week Lenten offerings are going to The Victory Project, which is a privately-funded 501c3 after-school program, mentoring disengaged young men in our city. Being open year round, six days a week, builds relationships, earning the youth the right to be heard. Sharing dinner together every weeknight feeds them physically, tutoring and working at their micro-enterprise feeds them emotionally, and their Bible studies feed them spiritually.

The Victory Project breaks down the walls of captivity. By undoing the youth's isolated experiences, we expose them to the potential of a positive socio-economic standing through the 3E's curriculum: Education, Entrepreneurship and Enlightenment.

- ◆ The youth no longer depend on a criminal or social system, which can enable their destructive lifestyles.
- ◆ Finding freedom and independence by obtaining marketable skills will allow them to compete in the workforce.
- ◆ Empowering young men to discover the life God intended directly reflects our guiding verse: “You're here to be light bringing out the God-colors in the world, God is not a secret to be kept—we're going public as a city on a hill.” (Matthew 5:14) 

## In Lieu of Lilies

For our Easter season, we are doing “In Lieu of Lilies” again this year. Feel free to complete the insert in your bulletin with names of people you want to honor or name in memory of. The monies collected this year will go to continued support of:

- ◆ our Adopt-A-Family (at Christmas and throughout the year)
- ◆ our assistance cards to people in the community
- ◆ support of the First Lutheran Church breakfast program 



# Council Happenings

by Wayne Weyhrauch, Council President

Wow – I guess winter finally decided to make a return visit to Kettering after what has seemed like a very mild winter. Let's hope this is the last of it and an early spring is just around the corner. Activities and ministries at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church don't look like they will be slowing down anytime soon after a busy Christmas season as we actively live out our faith.

The Council began the quarter by looking once again at the Vision of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and our goals and objectives to help keep us on track. We highlighted a few areas where we thought we have been doing really well and identified those areas where we feel we could improve – all in an effort to keep the momentum rolling as we look into the future. We want to say thank you to everyone who has supported and made a difference in all of Good Shepherd's daily ministries.

## ***Time & Talent Response Form***

Speaking of making a difference, the Stewardship Committee wants to say thank you to all who turned in a Financial and/or Times & Talents Response Form during our month-long stewardship campaign. We responded to God's blessings and publicly shared them with each other on our Blessing Tree. We now have recorded all the members who have an interest and desire to support a specific task or program for easy access and this will assuredly take the level of our ministries to new heights through the "many hands make light work" attitude. If you didn't get a chance to turn in a form, or would like to update the form you did turn in, you can do so at any time, as the forms are located in the narthex or on the website.

## ***Supporting FY15 Budget***

Additionally, a huge thank you to the entire congregation in the ways we have responded to the financial aspects of running our church business and supporting all of our ministries. Together, we have found ways to wholeheartedly support our FY15 budget, and for the first time in a few years, we operated in the black, or ahead of budgeted expenses during the first quarter, with the second quarter looking like it will be the same. We did this at the same time we had a very successful Poinsettia Project raising \$1,565 and supporting three very appreciative families in our Adopt-a-Family ministry. Let's continue to make stewardship a year-long way of life as we worship, give thanks and respond to God's many blessings, by finding new ways to share our blessings

and truly help Good Shepherd make a difference every day both locally and globally.

## ***Task Forces***

Good Shepherd's representatives for the **Synod Taskforce Team (East Dayton Cluster)** are currently Don Bennett and Wayne Weyhrauch. The taskforce is just getting started; however, it is exciting to see what the combined efforts of five Lutheran churches, with oversight by the Synod, can accomplish as we all strive to overcome the challenges and rejoice in the successes of giving thanks and praising God.

**Safety and Security Taskforce.** The goal is to look at the daily operations of Good Shepherd and identify ways of making sure our facilities, programs and members are as secure and safe as

they can possibly be. Taskforce members are: Don Bennett, Cindy Grove, Suzy Hartmann, Roger Hartmann, Del Herbeck, June Newell and Bill Wolslegel.

**Technology Taskforce.** The goal is to look at the daily operations of Good Shepherd and identify ways of making sure our computer operations are secure and the capabilities meet the needs to service our facilities. Members are: Don Bennett, Richard Kellstrom, Scott Strohminger and Jamie Vannoy.

Thank you all for giving of your time and talents in these very important areas. All taskforces are ongoing at this time so there are no results to publish yet. However, if anyone has ideas or recommendations in these areas, please contact one of the taskforce members, or you can always give your ideas to the church office or a council member and we will ensure the taskforce gets it.

*"Let's continue to make stewardship a year-long way of life as we worship, give thanks and respond to God's many blessings, by finding new ways to share our blessings and truly help Good Shepherd make a difference every day both locally and globally."*

## ***Submitting Matters to Council***

Members who desire to submit matters and requests for

council consideration can submit their request in any format: writing on the back of the weekly attendance card, email or drop off to the church office, or email or give to any council member. Please know that your council is here to support the entire congregation, and by submitting your comments you can aid the council in addressing the concerns of all members as we strive to seek, serve and share Jesus Christ. ☀



# Life Long Learning

by Don Bennett

We have lots of activity in our Life Long Learning area, with opportunities for both youth and adults.

## Adult Bible Studies

We currently have three running Bible studies for adults. We have a Sunday morning study that meets in the lounge between worship services, one that meets in the lounge on Saturday mornings at 8:00 am and includes breakfast, and a men's Bible study that meets on Thursdays at 6:30 am at Bob Evan's Restaurant on E. Dorothy Lane. If you're looking for a way to deepen your understanding of scripture, we highly recommend one or more of these studies. (Yes, some people attend more than one of them!) Because they believe in the importance of Bible study, Pastor Jamie and Don also attend a weekly Bible study at St. Paul's Lutheran Church with a group of pastors. We study the weekly readings and various commentaries on those readings.

## Lay School of Theology

We are currently hosting the Southern Ohio Synod's "Lay School of Theology," which three of our members are attending. They are studying "A Short Introduction to the Old Testament." This class meets once a month on Saturday mornings under the teaching of Pastor Steve Kimpel and has 26 people enrolled from as far away as Versailles. We are grateful that we are able to host this class for the synod.

## New Members Class

Following Easter, Pastor Jamie will be starting a new members class for those that are new to Lutheranism or for those who wish to go back over the basics of what we believe and why. More information will be available in April/May.

## Confirmation

Confirmation will be on **Sunday May 10**, with one service that weekend at 10:00 am. Our three confirmands will be Matthew Pierce, Tyler Grove, and Aidan Cahill. That is also Mother's Day. Our H2H (Head to Heart) students continue to meet twice a month, weather allowing, as they study the New Testament.

One of the things we stress with our H2H youth is living out the Christian lifestyle. One of the ways we do that is by providing them with service opportunities. This is one reason most of our acolytes are H2H youth. (Some continue serving in this role into their high school years.) Another way is by serving breakfast once a month at First Lutheran Church in downtown Dayton. We also ask the high school students to help with this and invite the rest of their families also. It is a good thing for youth to see their parent(s) sacrificing sleep and often breakfast in order to get up early and serve others. What a great Christian witness to our youth and to those we serve!

## High Schoolers

Our high schoolers also meet twice a month. They do this at Breakfast Club which meets at 7:00 am before school to study and converse about God. Currently, they are studying the book "Lutheran Questions, Lutheran Answers" by Dr. Martin Marty. We've had some really deep conversations about faith and how all this Christian stuff fits together.

We have two of our high school youth registered for this summer's Youth Gathering in Detroit: Peter Connelly and Sam Bennett. They will be chaperoned by Roger Hartmann. There will be approximately 30,000 people in attendance. Pastor Jamie and Don Bennett will be there as volunteers. They will be meeting as one large group every day at Ford Field and will also be doing things with other church groups. Part of their time will be spent meeting the people of Detroit and doing mission work there.

## Other Activities

Some other things you will want to put on your calendar:

♦ **Annual Easter Pancake Breakfast** between services on Easter morning. We are negotiating with Paula Bennett to use her "pancakes from scratch" recipe instead of using a mix, so the pancakes should be better than ever this year!

♦ Our **Annual Talent Show** will be on **Sunday April 26** at 6:00 pm. It's not too early to start thinking of a talent you'd like to share with the congregation. Tickets will go on sale near the end of March.

♦ **Graduation Sunday** will be held on **Sunday May 17** this year.

We will be honoring the graduates during the service and lifting up their names in prayer.



♦ **Amazing Grace Day Camp**, a ministry of the Southern Ohio Synod, is coming to Good Shepherd the week of **July 26**. This will be similar to VBS and will be open to all children. It will be staffed by counselors from Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of Ohio (LOMO), but we will also need plenty of volunteers from GSLC to help in lots of ways.

We will know more once we've had a chance to meet with the Director of the camp this spring.

Watch the Weekly Announcements and eBlasts for more information as these dates approach.



# GSLC Scholarship News

by Diane Miller

## Call for Scholarship Applications 2015

Applications will be solicited from **Wednesday April 1** through **Sunday May 10**. Students who are interested in applying for scholarships from the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Scholarship Fund should request a 2015 Application from the church office. Applications must be submitted by **Sunday May 10**.



NOTE: Awards are granted only when there are sufficient monies in the Scholarship Fund.

## Graduation Sunday 2015 Scholarship Fund Special Offering

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church recognizes the value of a great education and encourages its members through the congregation's Scholarship Fund. This past year, five students have benefitted from the fund:

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

The purpose of the Scholarship Fund is to:

- ◆ encourage students to pursue college or Lutheran ordination;
- ◆ provide financial aid in the form of scholarships;
- ◆ receive gifts and bequests for the fund.

On **Graduation Sunday May 17**, a special offering will be taken in honor of our graduates for the Scholarship Fund. You can support our students by participating in this special offering. Place gifts in a pew envelope and indicate that it is for the "Scholarship Fund." 🌸

# Easter Week Schedule

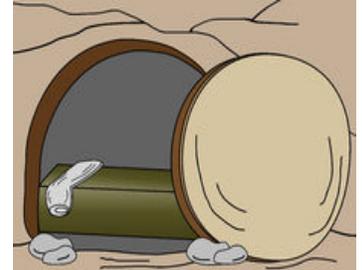
**Maundy Thursday**  
St. Paul  
7:00 pm



**Good Friday**  
Good Shepherd  
7:00 pm



**Easter Vigil**  
**Saturday**  
Lutheran Church  
of Our Savior  
7:00 pm



**Easter Sunday**  
Good Shepherd  
8:30 & 11:00 am  
Pancake Breakfast  
9:00 – 10:30 am

# Projects Underway ~ Nearing Completion

by Linda Newcomer

We have been busy with several projects over the past few months that hopefully are starting to have an impact on communication and coordination here at GSLC.

◆ As mentioned in our last newsletter, we now have a **new computer and operating system (Windows 8)** with better internet connectivity, speed, security and updated software.



◆ We also have **new database software (Servant Keeper)** with many new capabilities, easier interface, mobile interface and remote access.

◆ With the new database and the results from our **Time and Talent Surveys** we now have a list of all areas in which our members are interested in participating. We have assigned points-of-contact for each area and this will help us coordinate our efforts and get more people involved in ongoing activities.

◆ Our **new notification software (SKNotify)** has been installed. Don Bennett and Linda Newcomer are the only ones using this software at the moment. But plans are for all staff, council, commissioners to be able to use this system as an easier way to keep in contact with members of their teams. We can send eBlasts, callouts, and text messages using distribution lists that are maintained and up-to-date from our new database. We can use this system to contact the entire church or specific team members.

◆ We have set up a **DropBox** on the internet where we can store common documents for the office, the staff, and the council. This DropBox is only available to persons who have been given permission by the system administrator. Over time we plan to store more common documents in this DropBox and provide more access to these documents as appropriate.



◆ Our **online directory** is now in place. We have photographed over 75 of our members. Their photos and contact information are now available directly from our website.

***This provides password-protected access to members of our congregation only.***

If you have not had a chance to get your picture taken, or if you would like to obtain a password to view the online directory, contact the church office. 🌸

# Leadership Pitfalls: Confusing Titles with Accomplishments

by David Lose

There are any number of ways in which the various committees on which we serve or positions we may hold make valuable contributions to the organizations of which we are a part. I am absolutely certain of that.



At the same time, while holding positions and serving on committees may be valuable, that is not necessarily the same as accomplishing things. I know that may initially sound odd, but we probably all know – and have perhaps served on – committees that don't get much done. And we have all seen – and perhaps been invited into – positions that are largely routine or representational.

Building things, accomplishing things, meeting and setting goals – these are not only different from serving on committees and holding positions, but they often are not as easily described or recognized. While you can easily identify a board on which you may serve, it's harder to describe succinctly the work you did to balance a budget or create a program. And yet these latter things are often so much more vital to the institutions we serve.

Why is this a leadership pitfall? Two reasons. First, it's very easy to assume that committees and positions testify to demonstrable and meaningful accomplishment. They may, but they also may not. Don't let titles and positions fool you. Ask about what was accomplished in those roles. In particular, ask what changed – that is, how has a committee or a position made a tangible, creative, and significant difference.

Second, there is a pitfall here for leaders as to how they think about themselves. Will we build our identity on our positions or our accomplishments?

My counsel – first and foremost to myself – is to focus on the work, rather than talking about the work, and seek to build things. Easier said than done, of course. But isn't that always true of genuine leadership? 🌸

# “Well Done, Good & Faithful Servant”

by Joel Bretscher

I made my way up the sidewalk to his door, I whispered a prayer: “Please, God, let me find something I have in common with this man to talk about.”

At the time I was single, 29, and had just completed my training as a Stephen Minister. Because of my age, I had assumed I would be paired with a young adult. However, the Stephen Leader who coordinated linking Stephen Ministers with care receivers met with me and said, “The person you will be giving care to is an 82-year-old man who is not a member of our church. He was widowed 20 years ago and stopped attending church at that time.

“He visited our church a couple of times in the past month and had a long talk with our pastor last week. He said he had been angry at the church and at God for a long time, but he figured it was time to make his peace with both. During the course of the conversation, the pastor told him about Stephen Ministry, and the man said he’d like to have a Stephen Minister.”

I accepted the assignment (gladly on the outside, yet somewhat reluctantly on the inside) and made the initial contact by phone to introduce myself and set up our first meeting.

So there I found myself, making my way to the front door of his house, worrying about what I could say to this man and how I could be of help to him. Once more I muttered the prayer, “Please, let us have something to talk about.” As I stepped onto the porch, I saw through his front window that he was watching a baseball game on television. “Baseball! At least we have that in common,” I thought, breathing a sigh of relief that God had answered my prayer and given me an icebreaker.

## ***Building Trust***

Baseball worked well as a starting point, and we began to build a friendship during that first visit. Surprisingly, despite our age difference, Henry (I have changed his name to preserve confidentiality) and I had a number of other things in common. We were both from small Midwestern towns, and we both went into that first meeting with a similar level of self-conscious awkwardness. During the first meeting we spent most of the time getting to know each other, and we agreed to meet in his home for about an hour each week.

Initially I avoided the temptation to guide our talks toward spiritual questions. My Stephen Ministry training cautioned me against pushing this issue before a relationship is ready.

## ***A Glimpse Inside Henry***

We met regularly over the summer, and gradually Henry began



to open up. One evening we were looking through his photo albums; he was showing me pictures of his wife, family, and friends. When I asked him to tell me more about his wife, he talked about her freely. He told me many stories about how they met and how much they’d loved each other. He touched briefly on her death and his loneliness but seemed not to want to dwell on it, so I did not push. He had not come back to church since his visits that spring, so I asked him about his relationship with God. He said he still believed in God and felt it was time to start coming back to church, but it was very difficult to get going again. He had always gone with his wife and found it hard to go alone. I told him I would go with him. He thanked me for the offer and said he would let me know when he was ready.

## ***Difficulty Going Deeper***

As summer turned to autumn, I began to feel a little frustrated. Henry and I were very good at small talk and occasionally touched on some deeper issues, but we did not pursue them. I repeatedly tried asking open-ended questions as I had learned and practiced in Stephen Ministry training, but Henry responded only briefly and went back to small talk. My own difficulty in communicating feelings did not help. We were two men from the same mold—“strong” men who have been brought up with the notion that we should not be emotional. It was difficult for both of us to talk about feelings. Still, we kept on trying.

## ***Support and Encouragement***

I shared my frustrations with the Stephen Ministers in my peer supervision group.\* Most of them were serving care receivers who were talking freely about their feelings, and Henry hardly did so at all, even after we had been meeting for four months. They encouraged me and reminded me to focus on the relationship, not on solutions. “Be patient,” they said. “Realize that it’s okay to move slowly; God brought you and Henry together for a reason.” Their support helped me immensely.

From time to time, I’d tell Henry about events going on in my life—preparation for my wedding, planned for Thanksgiving weekend in Indiana that year. Interestingly, it was this topic that God used to prompt Henry to broach deeper issues. As my wedding day approached, we talked more about marriage, wives, and relationships. Our relationship progressed to a deeper level.

## ***The Crisis***

The week before I was to leave for my wedding, Henry surprised me by asking to come to church with me. As I arrived to pick him up on Sunday morning, Henry met me at the door in his pajamas, saying he didn’t feel well and couldn’t go. Disappointed and wondering whether it was just an excuse, I told him I’d call later to see how he was feeling. When I called later that afternoon, I got no answer. I called again in the evening—still no answer. No answer again on Monday. I didn’t know whether he felt guilty or angry at me or whether it was something else. I didn’t want to leave

for my wedding without knowing what was going on, so I drove to his house during my lunch hour on Tuesday. His car was in the driveway, but no one was home. I started to worry that something was seriously wrong, so I left a note on the door with my phone number, saying I was concerned and asking him to call.

That evening Henry called me—from the hospital. He had suffered a heart attack He had wanted to call me sooner but wasn't able to remember my phone number and his neighbor couldn't find the piece of paper he had written it on. His neighbor had found my note on the door and relayed the information to Henry.

I immediately went to see Henry. He had been in the hospital since Sunday, was doing better, and would return home soon. During the next couple of days I visited him in the hospital. We talked about life and death, about Jesus and salvation. He appreciated it when I held his hand and prayed aloud with him. He also enjoyed my reading from the Psalms and our reciting the Lord's Prayer together.

Henry was steadily improving and scheduled to go home the day after I left for my wedding. As I visited with him the evening before I left, he gave me some fatherly advice I will never forget: "Always, always love your wife, and never, ever take her for granted." We both had tears in our eyes as we embraced before I departed. I told him I'd be gone for only ten days and would call him from Indiana.

Henry went home as scheduled, and I called him from Indiana twice that week. He was eager to see me when I returned, and he promised he would go to church with my wife and me the first Sunday we were back. However, the day after we returned, he was readmitted to the hospital for bypass surgery. This unexpected setback caught everyone by surprise. Henry had not been in hospitals very much and didn't like them because they reminded him of his wife's death. The prospect of surgery and a subsequent stay in intensive care also troubled him. Henry wasn't the only one who was anxious. I was also intimidated by the situation, the surroundings, and especially the postsurgical visits with him in intensive care. It was my first time ministering in such circumstances.

### ***Intensive Care***

Henry's son had flown into town for the surgery, and I was able to meet him. The pastor came to visit Henry the night before surgery, and we all prayed together.

The surgery went fairly well. The doctors expected that Henry would be in intensive care for a little more than two weeks. I resolved to visit him every day. His son had to return home after a couple of days. In the following days, Henry's only visitors were me, our pastor, and his neighbor. He was weak and couldn't talk much when I visited. I did some talking, but mostly I held his hand. I read psalms to him and prayed with him each visit. His smile conveyed his appreciation as he nodded his head and

squeezed my hand. I checked in with our pastor each day to let him know how Henry was doing. (Given the size of our congregation, he wasn't able to visit Henry each day and was glad I could do so.) The four or five days in ICU stretched into six days, but the doctors told him he was finally ready to move to another room.

### ***Henry Goes Home***

I went to ICU to visit him there one more time and to celebrate his progress and transfer out of ICU, but I was startled to find someone else in that bed. I went to the nurses' station, thinking that perhaps he had been released from ICU a day early. "Where's Henry?" I asked the nurse. She reviewed her paperwork and asked, "Are you a relative?" "No," I said, "he doesn't have any relatives in town. I'm a good friend from his church." She paused for a moment and then said, "I'm sorry, but he died this morning."

I was in a daze when I left the hospital. My wife was in the car. She saw in my face what had happened. She hugged me and asked, "Do you want to go home?" I said I couldn't just sit around at home; I had to do something active. Walking around at the mall, I wandered into a Christian bookstore. Behind the register was a large painting of a man standing at the gates of heaven, receiving a welcoming embrace from Jesus. Below it were the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant." I was able to smile because I knew then that Henry was home.



### ***Angels Ministering***

Henry's funeral was two days later. Only a handful of people were there—Henry's son and daughter-in-law, his neighbor and a couple of friends, the pastor and me.

Riding home after the funeral, the pastor and I stopped for some ice cream. We didn't say a whole lot, but the pastor smiled and thanked me for what I had done. "You know, you made a very big difference in Henry's life," he said, "and I think this relationship has had a very big impact on your faith and who you are as well."

Coincidentally, my Stephen Ministry peer supervision group met the evening of Henry's funeral. I told them that my care receiver had been buried that day. What happened next in my supervision group I can only describe with words from Matthew 4:11— ". . . and the angels came and ministered to him." That night my tears became their tears, my sorrows their sorrows, my joys their joys.

### ***Jesus' Promise Becomes Real***

What does Stephen Ministry mean to me? It means growth. It means life. It means a faith that is practiced in giving care to others. Stephen Ministry made a difference in Henry's walk with Jesus, and it made a difference in my own walk as I gave care in Jesus' name. At the time I did not always see God at work in my caring relationship, but looking back, I can see Christ was there every step of the way. Jesus' promise, "Where two or three are gathered, there I am also," became real to Henry and to me. Stephen Ministry offered me a way to be the personal presence of Christ to Henry in his time of greatest need. 🌸

# Fighting Sin Through Affirmation

...from [tom1st.com](http://tom1st.com)

The temptations Jesus endures in Matthew 4 are often set up as the exemplary account of how we Christians ought also to fight temptation. Christ, alone in the desert for forty days, faces three separate temptations by Satan. In the first, Satan challenges him to turn stones into bread. In the second, Satan tells Christ to throw himself down off the temple's roof and see if God's angels will rescue him before he hits the bottom. And finally, Satan offers Christ all the kingdoms of the world if he will bow down and worship him.

As is well known, to each of these temptations, Christ responds by citing scripture. To the temptation to turn stones into bread, Christ responds by reminding Satan that our true sustenance does not come from bread alone, but from the very words of God (Deut. 8:3). To the temptation to throw himself off the temple, Christ responds that God should not be put to the test (Deut. 6:16). And to Satan's invitation to worship, Christ responds that only God should be worshiped and served (Deut. 6:13).

After successfully citing three separate scriptures, throwing them at the Devil, and winning the temptation battle, Satan flees and Christ is now ready to go preach the gospel, call his disciples, and challenge others to repentance.

Having heard this passage taught on numerous occasions, it seems that pastors easily assume that merely memorizing scripture to toss at the Devil is a sufficient foundation for resisting temptation. We assume that if people are just grounded in the Word then temptation should be easy enough to handle. After all, that is the example of Christ, right? Wrong.

Yes, certainly Christ cited scriptures when facing temptation. And these citations were an invaluable part of his resistance plan. This should not be overlooked. Nevertheless, much more is happening here than mere scripture citation.

In fact, if you look at the first two questions Satan asks Jesus, they have something in common (a thing not explicitly cited in the third question, but I think implicitly assumed). Namely, the temptations are conditioned up Christ being the Son of God. The first two temptations begin with, "If you are the Son of God, then..."

In other words, the temptations are centered on Jesus's very identity. His security. His place in the world. These temptations, in short, are an affront to the reality of Christ's sonship.

Now, here then is what is often missed in the way we teach about the temptations in Matthew 4: These challenges to Christ's sonship come directly on the heels of the Trinitarian affirmation of Christ's sonship at Christ's baptism at the end of chapter 3. The chapter break between chapters 3 and 4 completely throws us off the trail of an important thematic connection.

So let's briefly put this back together.

At the end of Matthew 3, as Jesus arises out of the baptismal waters, the heavens open up, the Spirit of God (like a dove) comes and rests on Jesus, and then a voice from heaven says, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." (3:17)

The chapter break aside, the very next narrative – the temptation story – raises the question of Christ's sonship again. In other words, when Matthew transitions from the baptism story to the temptations story, he is actually still engaging the same questions: What is the identity of Christ? Is he God's son?

Now, then, the implications for understanding Christ's resistance to temptation are huge. Christ did not merely resist temptation because he had some prooftexts in his back pocket ready to toss at the Devil whenever he needed them. Rather, the familiarity with scriptures grew out of a sense of identity, and belonging, and knowledge of having pleased his Father!

Christ's resistance to temptation, yes, had to do with citing Bible verses. But it was much more than that. He resisted temptation because he knew he belonged to, was loved by, and was accepted by God the Father.

The implications of this are huge! It is not merely enough for us to memorize some Bible verse to call to memory when temptations arise. Rather, we must foster an understanding of our identity with the Father. We must see that we are loved and accepted sons and daughters of God. We must move from fighting temptation out of guilt, to fighting temptation because we truly know that God is well pleased with us.

Memorizing verses clearly played an important role in Christ's strategy against temptation. But those verses only made sense and were only helpful in the larger context of acceptance with and an identity grounded in the Father who spoke from heaven and said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." We cannot, then, assume that such affirmation is unimportant to discipleship, growth in grace, and killing sin.



# Seeking ~ Office Manager

by Linda Newcomer

Good Shepherd will be hiring a new Office Manager in the coming months. Due to health issues of Linda Newcomer's husband and also due to health and personal desires of Judy, both Linda and Judy will be retiring to spend more time with their families. We hope to hire ONE person to replace both Linda and Judy, to work Monday through Friday, 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. The new Office Manager will be trained for all the duties of the office including: receptionist, email communications, working with/leading volunteers, database and website maintenance, and publication of weekly bulletins and announcements, and our quarterly newsletter. This person must have technical skills and be comfortable working in a one-person office, working on his/her own throughout the day and directing volunteers. We would prefer someone who has some experience working in a church office but it is not a requirement.

If you know someone who may be interested in this position feel free to tell them to send a resume to the church office. Deadline for all resumes is **Tuesday March 31**. 🌸



## On A Personal Note...

I wish to communicate my sincere thanks to all of you for being such a joy to work with over my time here at Good Shepherd. It was my honest intention to continue working here until my own health would not permit, hopefully for many years.

But our plans have changed, and my husband is facing the diagnosis of ALS, which many of you know is a debilitating and fatal disease, often over the course of three to five years. I know that many of you are praying for Gary and we both appreciate it so very much. We would not be surprised at all if God works a miracle – and it would be due to the many, many prayers of our family and friends and all of you here at GSLC.

We are being proactive and preparing to meet with our challenges as they come. We are downsizing to a duplex. We were fortunate to purchase our very first RV last summer, with plans to take several weekend trips, some extended vacations and eventually park it somewhere so we could have a summer getaway. But now we are planning our first two-week trip to the Carolinas and the Outer Banks. In June we plan to head out west to see that beautiful part of the country, visit family and friends, with no itinerary or deadlines.



Once again, I thank you for your friendship, your assistance here in the office, and your prayers. I wish each of you here at Good Shepherd the very best as you continue to worship here as a congregation, and serve the community of Kettering with your time and talents, and continue in your journey with Jesus Christ.

Sincerely, Linda Newcomer 🌸

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



(See John 19:17-37)

04-18-2014

"I, JESUS, HEREBY BEQUEATH MY CARPENTRY STUFF TO ZED, MY GOOD TUNIC TO ROB, AND I'LL BE BACK TO PICK UP THE REST. TO EVERYONE IN THE UNIVERSE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE ... I LEAVE LIFE."

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
901 E. Stroop Road  
Kettering OH 45429-4688

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

If you would like to receive a printed copy  
of the newsletter, contact the church office.

## *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 & Third Monday -  
9:00 am - Lounge

**Prayer Shawl Knitters & Crocheters** - Second  
Monday 1:15 - Lounge

**Homework Club** - Mondays & Wednesdays -  
2:30 pm - Chapel

**Morning Prayer** - Tuesdays &  
Thursdays - 9:00 am - Lounge

**Alzheimer's Support Group** -  
Tuesdays 7:00 pm - Lounge

**Fellowship Meals** - Wednesdays - 6:00 pm -  
Fellowship Hall

**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**  
Third & fifth Fridays - 7:00 pm - Fellowship Hall

**Saturday Morning Breakfast/Bible Study** -  
Saturdays - 8:00 am - Lounge

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

**MAC User Group** -  
Second Saturday  
10:00 am - Fellowship Hall

