

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

SHEPHERD'S VOICE



SUMMER WORSHIP TIMES

Saturday

5:00 pm ~ Evening Worship
*NO Saturday Service on
June 7, June 28, August 2

Sunday

10:00 am - Worship Celebration
COMBINED SUNDAY SERVICE

P.J.'s Jotdowns

by Pastor Jamie Vannoy

Time For Healing

First, I wanted to thank everyone who actively participated in the "Time For Healing" events throughout the Lenten season. I not only felt it was informative for those who participated but a giant step in the right direction for GSLC to become a safe place to heal. Some who took part needed to heal and some just walked with others in their small groups and gave them space to heal. For all of your efforts, I thank you.

Some of the insights that came out of this were the following:

- 1) We realize our identity is that we are all children of God and not a preference for service styles, the work of certain ministry teams, etc.
- 2) Our community doesn't know much about GSLC, except we're a building on the corner, outside of the groups who use our facilities. We've been talking for a while now how to go about this so now it's time to try something. If it doesn't work then we'll try something else, but at least we're trying.
- 3) The above statements are only going to happen if we continue to heal and support one another better when issues arise.

...our identity is that we are all children of God...our community doesn't know much about GSLC...we continue to heal and support one another...

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Good Shepherd

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Worship & Celebration

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Parish Life & Response

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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.

*Summer Worship
Schedule
Combined Sunday
Worship Services!*

*Events & Activities
To Celebrate
Throughout
the Summer!*

*“60 in 60” Celebration
June 8 through August 3
Good Shepherd
Lutheran Church
JOIN US!!!*

*Community
Opportunities
to Get Involved
and Let the
Neighborhood
Get to Know Us!*

*Learning Events
to Find Out More
about Our
Lutheran Faith
and Our History
Here at GSLC!*

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“60 in 60” Celebration

As we completed our “Time for Healing” discussions and to continue to help us heal throughout the

...June 6, 2014 is the 60th anniversary of the dedication of GSLC’s original church building (now the Celebration Chapel)...

summer, we are planning what we are calling “60 in 60.” Did you know 2013 was GSLC’s 60th year as a church in the ELCA (or one of the predecessor members before its inception)? Did you also know June 6, 2014 is the 60th anniversary of

the dedication of GSLC’s original church building (now the Celebration Chapel).

In honor of that great event, from **Sunday June 8 through Sunday August 3** (actually 57 days) we want to celebrate 60 years of ministry in the church in 60 days.

Community Activities

In addition to celebrating worship we want to help the community get to know GSLC a little better. So we are going to have one or two events each week to educate and care for the community as well as our own members. Beginning **Saturday June 14** when we plant flowers for the city at the corner of Dorothy Lane & Wilmington Pike, we will be out in the community making a difference. There are many more activities that are listed in a complete schedule in this *Shepherd’s Voice* so feel free to plug in.

Also there will be smaller projects throughout the summer to help people with yard work or more difficult cleaning tasks, so if you’re interested in being on a small working team, there will be sign-up sheets for all these activities as well.

Life Long Learning

Due to our combined Sunday services throughout the summer we will suspend all Life Long Learning classes for June and July. We will resume after our “60 in 60” celebration concludes on August 10.

Stone Soup



Another thing that was shared in our concluding meeting for A Time To Heal was a story of Stone Soup. For those of you who haven’t read or heard of it let me summarize for you: A

stranger comes into a town hungry and looking for food and no one will give him any. So he finds a rock and asks someone if he can just borrow a pot to heat up some water so he can use the stone for stone soup. The person gives him the pot and he begins to heat up the stone in the water. As it’s heating up he begins to tell people who are gathering to watch that it sure would be good to have an onion (just one onion), and then how good it would be to have carrots (just one carrot, and then a potato (just one potato). Before you knew the whole town was bringing (just one) of these ingredients and then the whole town came together and ate and had a good time. Moral of the story: It takes us all adding (just one) of our gifts to the pot to make ministry happen and to glorify God.



An Invitation from Pastor Jamie to Get Involved!

I share the Stone Soup story because I would like to extend an invitation to all of you. **A calendar of events will be emailed in the next eBlast, and will also be available on our website. If you would like a printed copy, some will be available in the narthex in the coming weeks.**

Take a look at it and if you want to help with something scheduled contact the person listed as organizing it. If you think of an activity you would like to put together, feel free to put up a sign-up sheet in the narthex and get some others to help make it happen. No need to ask permission! Just let the office know so we can get it on the calendar.

Basically, what I'm saying is that this cannot be done by just a few people...this is to be done by all of us. As we work together or fellowship together, we will talk and share stories about our lives and GSLC. Let's all share our gifts. I look forward to having an exciting summer.

– from Pastor Jamie

*Special Summer Worship Services**

◆ **Sunday June 8 – Pentecost Sunday***

“60 in 60” Celebration Kickoff

We will remember the dedication of GSLC 60 years ago. We will be joined by the Kettering Community Choir to help us celebrate this event.

◆ **Sunday June 29 – Camp Sunday***

This is a “5th Sunday” so we will have one service. We will celebrate Camp Sunday by worshipping outdoors, singing camp songs and hearing reflections from our Confirmation students, returning from camp that week.

◆ **Sunday August 3 – “60 in 60” Conclusion***

We will conclude our summer celebration with worship and other festivities.

*NOTE: We will NOT have Saturday evening service on these weekends.

Summer Worship Schedule



So that we get a chance to work closer together, fellowship together, share stories together, and above all, worship together, we plan to change up the worship schedule for the summer so that we may gather together as one body of believers more often.

There are nine Sundays from **June 8 through August 3.**

◆ For all nine Sundays during that time span we will have **one combined Sunday service at 10:00 am.**



◆ For six of those weekends we will continue to have our Saturday evening service at 5:00 pm as well. This will alternate between a Holden-style service and a traditional-style service.

◆ For the other three weekends we will **NOT have a Saturday evening service (June 7, June 28, August 2)**. Instead we invite EVERYONE to attend the 10:00 am special celebration services and activities on those Sundays.

To summarize here's the worship schedule:

- ◆ **Sunday June 8 (no Saturday evening service)**
- ◆ **Sunday June 15**
- ◆ **Sunday June 22**
- ◆ **Sunday June 29 (no Saturday evening service)**
- ◆ **Sunday July 6**
- ◆ **Sunday July 13**
- ◆ **Sunday July 20**
- ◆ **Sunday July 27**
- ◆ **Sunday August 3 (no Saturday evening service)**

NOTE: On the other weekends listed above, we will have our Saturday evening service at 5:00 pm unless noted above. 🌸



Scholarship Fund News

by Diane Miller

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

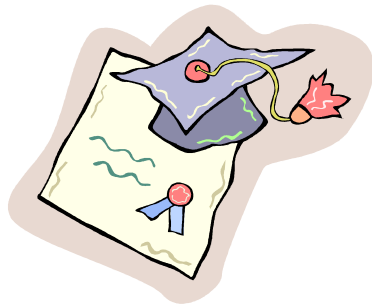
- ◆ Sarah Bennett – Wittenberg University
- ◆ Maryann Bennett – Capital University
- ◆ Aimee Connelly – Capital University
- ◆ Amy Hartmann – Capital University

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

Special Offering

Congratulations to all of our recent graduates! May God guide you and bless you as you apply the lessons you have learned during your coursework. On



Graduation Sunday,

June 15, 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. Please place gifts in a pew envelope and indicate that it is for the Scholarship Fund. 🌸

Call for 2014-2015 Academic Year Scholarship Applications

Applications are now being solicited from students who are interested in applying for scholarships from the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Scholarship Fund. Students must meet all criteria to be eligible. Applications are available through the church office or from Diane Miller at 258-3928. Awards are granted only when there are sufficient monies in the Scholarship Fund. Applications must be submitted by **Monday, June 30.** 🌸

Council Happenings

by Wayne Weybrauch, Council President

Wow – how time flies when we are having fun... Please know the council has stayed busy striving to have oversight of the life and activities of the congregation,

in particular our worship life, so that everything is done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith and practices of the ELCA. We have accomplished some of our goals so far this year, but know there is much more we want to do. The challenge is finding the right balance of cherishing our past and the strength it gives us, while getting excited with hope and anticipation as we look towards the future.

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Your Council represents all aspects of our congregation and works hard for everyone's voice to be heard as we conduct the "inner workings" of operating and managing church business. This past winter we had the opportunity to travel through "A Time To Heal" with skits and small group events already highlighted by Pastor Jamie. The Council felt this was an opportunity for us to grow together during Lent, while ensuring past negative experiences and events were not left open and unprocessed. Together, we learned that we most likely are not alone in our feelings and with prayer and open communication we can work through challenges and concerns as they happen.

The Council would like to say thank you to all our members who give so freely of their time and talents to make Good Shepherd ministries run so smooth and our facilities and grounds look so great! We want to say thank you to all of our Commissioners and Committee Chairs and members who have stepped in to lead a ministry for one or two terms. We also want to say thank you to our staff members who work hard doing a lot of the heavy lifting, making sure all the daily and weekly events happen with style and class. We thank you all for everything you do for all of us, without your dedication and service; we could not enjoy the many blessings we have here at Good Shepherd.

If you want to volunteer in any way, or have an idea on how to make it better for everyone, please contact your council members, commissioners, committee leads or the church office.

Finally, we hope you're as excited as we are about the upcoming "60 in 60" Celebration events for the 60th anniversary of the dedication of our Good Shepherd church. We will have many opportunities to worship, fellowship and serve together as we continue working towards GSLC's 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."

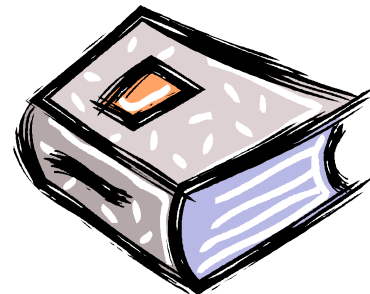
Let's join together and celebrate this wonderful time. 🌸



Constitution Update

by Wayne Weybrauch

The GSLC Constitution and Bylaws are still going through the approval process. The reviewer and Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Jeff Wick, gave our revised Constitution and



Bylaws his initial approval, so it's on to the next step in the approval process. The document will now go to the Synod for final approval at their council meeting in September 2014. The Constitution Taskforce reassembled and made the recommended changes to the Constitution and Bylaws, and we also began drafting another document called "Manual of Guidelines and Procedures." Pastor Wick had suggested we remove the specific Commission and Committee policies and create a separate document for them; the goal was to make them more user-friendly, while at the same time, keeping the Constitution and Bylaws more in line with the Synod model. 🌸

A Time For Healing

by Wayne Weybrauch

I went into the Time For Healing event a little skeptical and unsure of the benefits of bringing up old painful events from the past, and not understanding how doing this could help Good Shepherd grow together. But from the first skit, I quickly realized that this could be a special time for me/us and a chance to "clear the air" and move forward.

I learned that the "traumas" people experienced were different. However, the feelings and emotions surrounding it were the same. Prayer and open communication leads to understanding, and this leads to acceptance and forgiveness... Together, we can overcome any challenge and enjoy the many blessings we are given. 🌸

Kettering Backpack Program

by Don Bennett

Did you know that approximately 41 percent of the school age children in Kettering are on free and reduced lunch programs? When the weekend comes, many of these same children will not get enough to eat. The Kettering Backpack Program (KBP) is working to help alleviate that.

Every week during the school year, the program provides hungry children with individual servings of fruit cups, prepared pudding, vegetables, cereal, applesauce, microwaveable ravioli, macaroni and cheese, and 100% fruit juice.

The program, which has been growing every year, serves every public school in Kettering, over 500 students in total. Up until now, the food has been

stored and the bags of food put together in Christ United Methodist Church which is close to outgrowing the space available.

Pastor Deb Egloff

approached us about helping since we are close to Christ UMC and she knew we are interested in serving our community. Some meetings were held and eventually the KBP board approved partnering with us. The end result of this is that starting in August we will take over preparing the meals for three schools: Oakview, Orchard Park, and Van Buren, serving around 120 students.

...approximately 41% of school age children in Kettering are on free/reduced lunch programs...on weekends these same children will not get enough to eat...

The room we will be using is on the lower level of the education unit. We will have all necessary shelving installed in the room this summer. If you would like to help build the shelving, or if

you would like to

contribute


to the cost buying the materials, please contact Don Bennett. In order for the program to be a success, we are going to need some help. We have our main people in place:

- ◆ Lisa Donovan – Inventory Control Coordinator
- ◆ Cindy Grove – Delivery Coordinator
- ◆ Kelly Hartmann – Packing Coordinator
- ◆ Don Bennett – Site Coordinator

We will also need a steady stream of

people to help pack the bags of food every week. We are hoping that some of the groups that use our facilities will help pack some bags while they are here, and we are also hoping that you will be willing to drop in and pack a few bags when you are here for some function or another. It only takes a couple of minutes to fill a bag or two and it all adds up.

When everything is ready to go, we will have some training sessions for people interested in packing the bags. We will let you know when those are happening.

If you'd like to learn more about the program the KBP web site is: ketteringbackpack.org 



Are We Expecting Too Much or Too Little From The Church?

by Erik Raymond on ministrymatters.com

As a pastor I meet a lot of people who are looking for a church. One of the most helpful questions I can ask is, “What are you looking for in a church?” In one sense I hate this question because of the way it can reinforce our American consumer mindset. At the same time it gets right to the point. They are looking for something.

Then there is the other side of the spectrum: people who leave a church. It is basically the back door answer to the front door question, “What were you unhappy about in this church?”

What I have found is that most people do not filter what they looking for in a church through the Bible as much as through their previous experiences or personal ideals. Some of the most common things that I’ve seen in the last 10 years of pastoral ministry include the following:

- ◆ **Besties:** Looking for other people that they have a lot of common with.
- ◆ **Youth Ministry:** Looking for the church to provide a Christian network of friends for their kids.
- ◆ **Children’s Programs:** Looking for the church to be the catalyst for family discipleship.
- ◆ **Mercy Ministry:** Looking to be part of a ministry to meet the physical needs of the community.
- ◆ **Music:** Looking for a musical experience during the singing time of service.

But what if none of these things were actually the church’s job? What if we are expecting far too much and far too little from the church?

The church’s job is to preach, teach and apply the Bible. We are to be faithful in preaching, discipleship, evangelism and service. There are not directives in the Bible for various programs for children or certain types of music. None of these things are bad, however, we should be careful to place the same level of emphasis on these things as the Scriptures.

Consider also the pursuit of good friends at church. It is very good to have close friends, particularly from your fellowship. In fact, most of my closest friends are from our church family. But how do we pursue them? What is the basis for making friends? How are friendships sustained?

Many people think of friendships as those relationships where we have a lot in common with the other person. This is true, but what is the basis for this commonality? Some people will leave a church saying, “I can’t find people that I have a lot in common with.” This is a staggering and revealing statement. It could mean, “There are no Christians here.” It could also mean, “I am not a Christian.” And it could mean, “I don’t chiefly value my identity as a Christian as the basis for relationships.”

As Christians, it should be that identity that serves to be our chief identifying feature and basis for friendship. You have so much in common with other Christians. You have the same story (saved from sin and death), passion (the glory of Christ), struggles (sin), hope (coming kingdom), authority (the Word of God), etc. There is so much in common here! The problem is we often promote worldly things to the position that only the gospel should hold. Then we wonder why the church cannot deliver. In fact, she should not deliver worldly pursuits.

I am convinced that many professing Christians are simultaneously expecting too much and too little from the church. We are now in something of a “tail wagging the dog” scenario. Many people have expectations, so church leaders aim to accommodate them. If one church won’t meet their preferences they can go to another. This becomes a significant long-term problem.

The church’s role is really quite simple: to make and train disciples. If we do this, then we will create a culture where friendships grow out of the gospel rather than in spite of it. Other programs will see their rightful place in the life of the Christian. As Christians, if we all work together to raise the gospel flag above the other markers of identity and heartily salute it, then we will be well on our way. ☪

6 Things We (Wrongly) Attribute to the Holy Spirit

by Shane Raynor from ministrymatters.com

The Holy Spirit is arguably the least understood person of the Trinity.

When I was a kid, the United Methodist church I grew up in held a series of Sunday night services where praying in tongues became common. I was both scared and fascinated. “Why is the pastor’s wife talking that way?” I asked. “She’s filled with the Holy Ghost,” I was told.

Ah, the Holy Ghost. The one we sang about in the Gloria Patri, which I knew by heart before I was 9. At that time, I pictured the Holy Ghost as a cross between Casper and the Force in Star Wars. A scary presence who was also good and made people speak weird languages. And I suppose I thought he haunted churches too.

My understanding of the Holy Spirit increased as I got older and read more about him. I noticed that some Christians hardly ever said anything about the Holy Spirit, while others mentioned him regularly. I also began to suspect that people were connecting things to the work of the Holy Spirit whether he had anything to do with those things or not.

Some of us do that now.

Here are a few things I’ve heard attributed to the Holy Spirit that raise a red flag for me:

Services going into overtime. I know that for the Lord a thousand years are like a single day, but that doesn’t apply to the rest of us! I’ve heard church leaders defend poor transitions, rambling sermons, long prayer request segments, and seemingly never-ending announcements with the excuse that it “allows the Spirit to move.” Sometimes, maybe the Spirit does do something that lengthens a worship service. More often, however, I suspect it’s a combination of poor planning and execution by the humans involved.

Suspicious minds. Often what we call a “gift of discernment” is our own negativity and cynicism. Certainly the Spirit gives us wisdom to discern right from wrong and some of us even have the supernatural ability to detect when diabolical forces are at work in a situation. But that’s not the same thing as having a critical spirit. When the Holy Spirit is at work, the Kingdom is built up, not torn apart.

Bad Bible interpretation. I’m the first to admit that there are times when the Spirit shows us something in Scripture that may seem a little unorthodox. That’s the way God works. But we have to be careful, lest we come up with novel interpretations born from our own prejudices and imagination. Being accountable to someone we don’t teach, and studying the Bible with

peers as well as individually can provide some checks and balances to help prevent this potential pitfall.

Guilt. Conviction comes from the Holy Spirit and it’s good because it leads to repentance and positive changes. Guilt, however, is not from the Spirit. It leads

to negative cycles of sin, lowers our self-esteem, drains us emotionally, and produces no fruit for the Kingdom of God. True conviction is liberating, never accusatory, and ultimately produces holiness in our lives.

Changing sermons at the last minute. You may have heard pastors say that God had them throw out their sermon the night before and preach something totally different on Sunday from what they’d planned. That may be true, but it makes me wonder if it’s possible they weren’t really listening to God when they planned the sermon in the first place. Or maybe they’re being too rigid in their planning process. Or the sermon stunk and they finally saw the light. Sometimes we don’t need supernatural help to show us when something is low quality.

Inspiring only the people who agree with us. It’s interesting how quickly some are willing to call “prophetic” those who agree with their political causes or beat a similar theological drum. I’m much



more impressed when a person recognizes the Spirit working through someone who challenges their perspective on something. Surely there are times when the Spirit affirms things we believe, but if he's only a "yes man" and never turns one of our opinions on its head, maybe it's time to question how much we're hearing the Spirit in the first place.

How about you? Can you think of anything you'd add to my list? 🌸

When Can We Stop Calling Marriage An "Institution"?

by Tom Fuerst from ministrymatters.com



Something in me dies every time I hear someone talk about marriage as an institution. The word "institution" seems to take all the spirit out of the word "marriage."

When you prod me to protect or challenge me to change the "institution of marriage" I feel like you're asking me to invest in a company or cast my vote as a board member. I feel like you're asking me to institutionalize myself, like in the "Shawshank Redemption."

For me, calling marriage an institution feels like desecralizing and degrading it.

When Jesus attended that wedding in Cana, if we were to go up to him and ask him, "What do you think about the institution of marriage," he'd probably first ask us if we've been drinking too much of the fresh wine he'd just made. I don't even think those words would belong together in an ancient person's vocabulary. The Bible certainly never refers to marriage as an institution.

I find the use of "institution" especially interesting in an American church — liberal or conservative — that is trying so desperately to re-evaluate contemporary marriage. The conservatives are concerned that not

enough or not enough of the "right" people are joining the institution. And the liberals are concerned that not enough of the "right" people are allowed to join the institution.

In fact, the more I think about it, the less surprised I am that Americans would choose such a word to describe marriage. Leave it to a group of post-industrialized capitalists to institutionalize love and family. Leave it to a bunch of people who see corporations as the backbone of society to talk about family like it's one of those corporations.

But what I have with my wife — regardless of who is included or excluded from the married club — is not an institution. I am not an 11-year-institutionalized man. My wife and I are not two CEOs on the board of a family corporation. Marriage is not a prison we are surviving or a company in which we are investing stock. And in this, I think I speak for everyone who loves their spouse, regardless of their political position.

I understand I probably have a generational bias here. I understand I'm part of an anti-institutional generation. And I understand that almost no one is going to call marriage a "corporation." But we need to see that when we talk about marriage like this, we are undercutting the personal, loving, relational aspects by rhetorically dehumanizing it.

And no matter one's position on marriage, the last thing we need to do is dehumanize it. The last thing we need to do is talk about it like it's just another cog in our capitalist machine. Spouses are human beings. Soon-to-be spouses are human beings. Wanna-be spouses are human beings. Marriage is a highly relational, highly human experience. Calling it an institution just doesn't seem to do it justice.

Okay, your turn. What do you think? Some have chosen the word "covenant" instead. Others refer to marriage as a "contract." What word would you choose? What are the implications of your word choice? 🌸

We Go To Church To Be Changed

by David Lose from davidlose.net

The artist, the educator and the therapist walk different paths in different ways, but those paths meet at an intersection where the street sign says: You must change your life. For we do not go to the artist, the educator or the therapist to remain the same; we go to them to be given the vision and the tools to go on, and to go on is always to change.

~Michael Ventura, “Teacher as Healer”

I think Michael Ventura’s words could be applied to preachers as well, but I wonder if preachers sometimes forget. Preachers may worry, that is, not simply about what expectations people bring to their sermons, but in this age of declining church membership and worship attendance, about whether they even have expectations in the first place.

But I think Ventura is right: We don’t go to artists, educators, therapists – and here is where I would add “and preachers” – to remain the same. We go to church because we want to change.

Actually, that may not be true in all religious traditions. Perhaps some go to church precisely to remain the same, to have preconceptions and prejudices affirmed, to be told that their black and white judgments line up quite nicely with the Lord’s. But for those hailing from more dynamic expressions of Christianity, we know that while life is beautiful, it is also incomplete, and that while we are capable of many things, saving ourselves is not one of them. And here I use “save” in the biblical sense of being healed, made whole, and restored to right relationship with God and each other.

And so while many motivations may lead us through the church doorway and into a pew any given Sunday – a sense of duty, ethnic identity, the desire to please a parent or spouse, even habit – deep down, when the preacher steps into the pulpit, we hope to hear

something that will not just inform or even inspire us, but that will change us, giving us, as Ventura says, “the vision and tools to go on.”

We confess that it is not simply the preacher who can do this, not her or his brilliance or insight or rhetorical acumen. Change, transformation, is always the work of the Spirit. Nevertheless, I think most of us can tell the difference between a preacher who believes we are coming because we want to be changed – and therefore aims to craft a sermon that aims to aid us in doing just that – and one who did not imagine change was the issue.

This orientation starts even in exegesis – the technical term for biblical study and interpretation that seeks to find and lift meaning out of the passage. Preachers have for nearly three hundred years been

very interested in the past of a biblical passage – who wrote it, under what circumstances, how would it have been understood by those who first heard it, and so forth. These are excellent questions and reflect the post-Enlightenment discovery that cultures vary over time and the historical gap between when a passage was written and when we read it is important to consider if we want to understand it well.

But as important as that is, lately I’ve been more interested in the future of the passage in front of me. That is, I’m not only curious about what a passage meant – past tense – but what it might mean to us today and going forward. Not only what impact it had, but what it might have. What might a lively preaching of this passage do to us, what might it set in motion,

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what might it accomplish? These are future-tense and change-oriented questions.

Studying the past of a text is important. Imagining its future is vital, for both preachers who seek to offer a lively, active, and compelling word...and for those of us who listen to them hoping that the gospel promises spoken will change us. 🌸

Other Good Articles

from Pastor Jamie

Finding Purpose

Go to ministrymatters.com and type this title in the search field.

Why Do You Go to Church?

Go to davidlose.net and type this title in the search field.

On Sin, Sinners, and Going To Church

Go to davidlose.net and type this title in the search field.

When Did Christians Become So Mean?

Go to ministrymatters.com and type this title in the search field.

What Would Happen If The Church Tithed?

Go to relevantmagazine.com and type this title in the search field. 🌸

Ever Wonder What Your Spiritual Gifts Are?

from Pastor Jamie



Ever wonder what spiritual gifts you have? Well, here's your chance to find out in a simple and relatively quick assessment. Please take this quick assessment and then save your results.

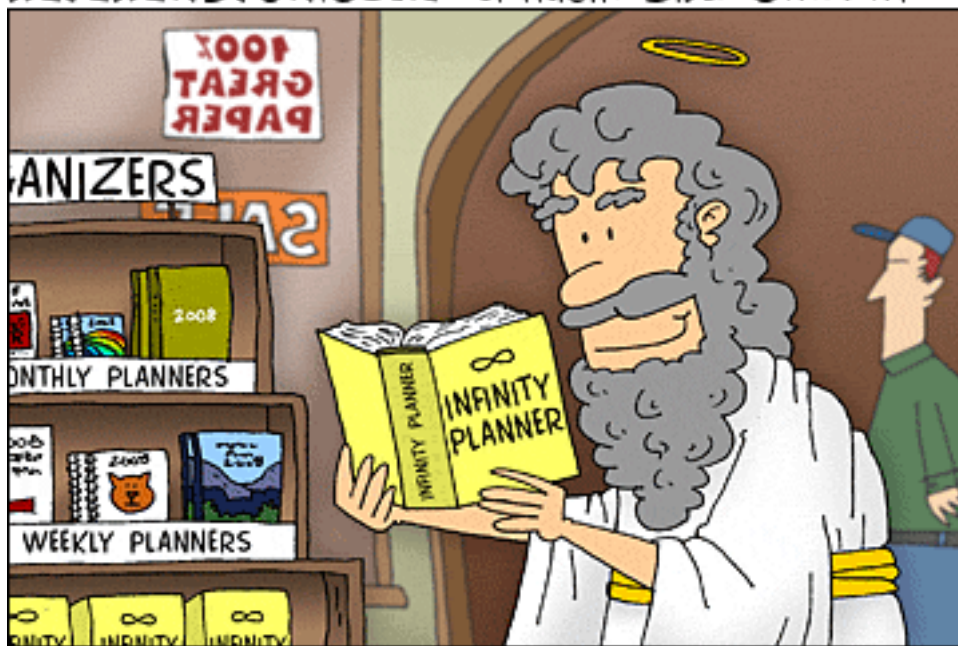
This could change the types of ministries you participate in. It could get you started in brand new ministries.

Where is God calling you to serve? With what gifts has God blessed you to share with the world? These are key questions for any follower of Jesus Christ, and most of us could use a little help answering them. This online spiritual gifts inventory from the ELCA will help your discernment process.

Online Spiritual Gifts Inventory

Go to StewardshipOfLife.org. In the Search field at the top of the page type "spiritual gifts" and then click on "Online Spiritual Gifts Assessment" to complete the assessment. Follow the instructions to fill out your answers and find out what your score is. 🌸

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Thanks to Linda Harrison

11-19-2007

Pentecost

Season

by Linda Newcomer

Themes Coincide with Our “60 in 60” Celebration



We often download the Gospel Messages (which are insights into the Gospel of the week) from SundaysAndSeasons.com to share in our 8:30 am bulletins. Here are some of the gospel messages that will be coming up over the next few weeks that coincide with our “60-in-60” Celebration.

Day After Pentecost – June 8 Spirit of Unexpected Peace

Jesus, crucified and risen Lord of mercy, had a mission for his disciples: share the forgiveness they received with all those longing to know God. He even had the promised gift of the Spirit to empower them. But first, he had to figure out how to get them out from behind locked doors. Jesus’ disciples were afraid that the religious leaders would do to them what they did to Jesus. So they locked themselves away and hid.

You could picture Jesus standing outside the door of their room, calling: Come on out! It’s okay! Don’t worry! It’s time to start sharing the good news! And the disciples would just say: No! We’re too afraid to open the door!

Instead of getting them out from behind their locked door, Jesus comes on in. Instead of yelling through the door to stop being such cowards, Jesus slips past their fear and their locked up lives and brings them unexpected peace. His own Spirit of peace moves out of him as breath, as the wind of God that creates new things, and creates in them a new calming faith. Then the mission of mercy begins. This Spirit from Jesus is a pure gift that creates peace, and peace creates mission.

Peter and Paul, Apostles – June 29

Two-for-One

Today is a two-for-one. The two apostles on which so much depends are honored on the same day. Although each is important in his own way, the wisdom of pairing them is in perceiving their respective ministries, roles, and equal stature. Paul is not Peter and Peter is not Paul, and yet each of them gives so much to the church it would be impossible to rank them.

In today’s gospel we encounter Peter primarily through the repeated command of Christ. Peter is challenged by Jesus, “Feed/tend my lambs/sheep.” It’s a puzzling passage. Much has been made of the slight variations in the way Jesus asks his question and then gives his instruction. By the end of the exchange, we know how central Peter is to the ministry Jesus expects after his departure.

In the second reading we hear Paul’s parting words written to Timothy. Many Pauline themes are echoed here. Paul has kept the faith. He has run the race. There has been a battle and suffering, but the Lord has stood by and strengthened, as the Lord always does. Paul lives from and expresses his profound hope. Hope has marked his whole ministry. Now it is articulated in his farewell.

Where the two texts come together is in the anticipated endings they communicate. Jesus describes how Peter’s ministry will end, what kind of death he will endure. Paul also seems to be writing in anticipation of some kind of end, likely his own death, his being poured out as a libation. In both cases, in their deaths they will glorify God and God will illustrate God’s faithfulness even in the midst of persecution and death. You will die, yet you will live.

In holy communion we remember the wonders of God’s love made known to us in Christ’s death and resurrection. Our baptismal mission is to share the gospel with a world that often forgets its source of life, bearing the good news that God promises always to remember us with mercy and compassion.

Fear often keeps us locked up, anxious, unable to live the life God has given us. Thankfully, Jesus knows the way past our locked doors and our fearful hiding. Instead of making us feel small for hiding when we are afraid, he breaks through whatever barriers we put up, gets right past our locked doors. Jesus' own Spirit comes to us through the word, through bread and wine, through silence, through the one next to us, slipping past whatever barriers we put up. The Spirit comes as a gift of peace, peace we can't create for ourselves, peace that is deeper than our own understanding of it, peace that creates new energy for mission. 🌸

New Distribution for Shepherd's Voice

by Linda Newcomer



According to the surveys we received from you all last month, you will receive the next issue of the *Shepherd's Voice* depending on the preference you indicated in the survey. Most of you opted to receive the

Shepherd's Voice via email. If you signed up to receive your copy by mail it will be delivered to your home. (Only 6 signed up for mail delivery.) If you signed up to pick up a printed copy in the narthex there will be a copy for you **WITH YOUR NAME ON IT**. (11 signed up for this option.) **Please do not take a copy from the narthex if you did not indicate as such in the survey. These copies are for our visitors and guests.**

If you did NOT fill out a survey you will receive your copy of the *Shepherd's Voice* via email. If you have any questions about receiving your *Shepherd's Voice*, or would like to change your preference, contact the church office.

NOTE: This new distribution policy was taken in order to save printing and mailing costs in the GSLC budget. Thank you for your cooperation. 🌸

Walking Through Dark Valleys

*by Anita Tebben Nuetzman
from livinglutheran.com*



My volunteer jobs bring me into contact with elderly people on a weekly basis. One of the things that I've always liked best is the opportunity to get to know these people. That's easiest with the assisted living residents; I see them fairly regularly. The home alert system clients might be only once, but sticking around to visit seems to be a big part of the deal.

As many people discover in serving others, you go into it with the intent of doing something good for someone else and find yourself coming away feeling like you've received more than you've given. Typically, that is the case for me, too. For example, one of my "regulars" likes to talk about trucking, which is something my dad and my brother both did. So, my client gets someone who will listen to his stories and, in a way, I get a little piece of my family back again.

When I first started volunteering, I assumed that I would spend time with people, chatting about nice things like the weather and maybe share a cheerful, uplifting story. I envisioned being someone who was there to enjoy a good time with elderly people. For some reason, they usually seem to like me.

But I've learned a little more about sharing the sadder side of life. Though I wanted to be their good-time gal, I had to walk along with them through their dark valleys. Maybe that's why I like the different seasons that we observe through the church calendar. Life isn't all happiness and joy all the time. We don't have Christmas and Easter every day. It's not one praise song after another about me and my Jesus.

Sometimes our lives are just sort of routine, like that long stretch of time after Pentecost. Sometimes they get a little worse. So we have to walk through, but never alone, and the darkness is never the end of the story. 🌸

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Visit us at goodshepherdkettering.com or on our **BLOG**.

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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

