



September 2021

WHY JOIN THE CHURCH?

We live in a culture that's often afraid of commitments. Many couples today think, "Why get married? Why not just live together for a while to see if it works out?" In a similar way, many Christians think, "Why join a church? Why not just attend and check it out? What's the point of joining?" "Why should I join a church when I can just church-hop, church-shop, podcast, or live-stream from my living room? What's the point of being a member?"

You may not have ever consciously asked that question, but you're definitely answering it by whether or not you choose to join a local church.

Mark Dever in his book *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church*, writes, Church membership is our opportunity to grasp hold of each other in responsibility and love. By identifying ourselves with a particular church, we let the pastors and other members of that local church know that we intend to be committed in attendance, giving, prayer, and service. We allow fellow believers to have great expectations of us in these areas, and we make it known that we are the responsibility of this local church. We assure the church of our commitment to Christ in serving with them, and we call for their commitment to serve and encourage as well.

The writer of Hebrews 10:23-25 writes,

"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

When you read Hebrews 10:23-25 you see a lot of "we", "us", "one another", and "together", and not a single "I" or "me". The focus of this passage and others like it is that we should hold tightly to unity and not give up on meeting together with other Christians.

BASIC CHRISTIANITY CLASS
(A great class for members and those who want to join)
New Classes Begin Sunday September 12th
EVERY SUNDAY 9:30 AM
LOCATED IN THE LIBRARY
Taught by Pastor Ray Angerman
For more information please call 850 651-1022



“Cheap grace is the grace we bestow on ourselves. Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession...Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.” - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Who is doing the confirming and what is being confirmed?

How you answer this question influences your understanding of confirmation. In the Rite of Confirmation we have witness confirmands make a confession and vow before God, “to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away.” Yet we know from experience, in congregations across the synod, that a large percentage of those that make this pledge will fall away.

God earnestly desires and seeks a personal relationship with us. He came to us when we could not come to Him. He calls and invites us through His Word. But all relationships need heart felt communication to survive. What this means in our relationship with Jesus is that we are to purposefully spend time in God’s Word and in talking with Him through prayer.

A USA Today article (4/27/2010) “[Survey: 72% of Millennials 'more spiritual than religious'](#)” discussed that a survey found that most Christian young adults don’t pray, don’t worship, and don’t read the Bible. Going further, the researcher is quoted to have said, “we have dumbed down what it means to be part of the church so much that it means almost nothing, even to people who already say they are part of the church.” Things have not improved in the last eleven years. In August 2021 [Springtide Research Institution](#) released a study on Gen Z showing that they are doubling down on spirituality, rejecting traditional belief systems and embracing various forms of divination, like tarot cards (another behavior scripture outright condemns: [Deuteronomy 18:10](#); [1Samuel 15:23](#); [Jeremiah 14:14](#); [Ezekiel 13:23](#)).

Our need to study God’s Word among other Christians does not stop or end when we are “Confirmed.” God gave us each other as a source of support and to provide a common bond. He gave us this gift because we need each other to hear His Word spoken. We need this relationship with the church or we may become uncertain and discouraged. We need reminding that our faith has a role in our lives outside the church. We belong to one another only through and in Christ Jesus.

Confirmation is a lifelong Christian education and relational experience, within the congregation, that began when you came to faith in Christ Jesus.

Grace & Peace,
- Curtis

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

At the end of the first of his chapters on the virtue of faith in Mere Christianity, C.S. Lewis provides a helpful reminder, by way of analogy for the foundation of stewardship. He wrote:

“Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already. So then, when we talk of a man doing anything for God or giving anything to God, I will tell you what it is really like. It is like a small child going to its father and saying, ‘Daddy, give me sixpence to buy you a birthday present.’ Of course, the father does, and he is pleased with the child’s present. It is all very nice and proper, but only an idiot would think that the father is sixpence to the good on the transaction. When a man has made these two discoveries God can really get to work. It is after this that real life begins. (128–129).”

This is the first thing we are given to confess about stewardship, and it has to do with ownership. God owns everything, and we are simply managers – stewards – acting on His behalf. This is true not only of all that we have in this life (Deut. 8:17–18) but also all that we are in this life (1 Cor. 6:20).

The rest flows from here. Since we are stewards, or managers, of what belongs to God, entrusted to make use of it according to His will, there is an expectation of responsibility and accountability. For the Lord said, “Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more” (Luke 12:48b). And from this comes blessing and reward: “Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master” (Matt. 25:21).

We have everything we need to support this body and life from our God’s fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us. We have everything we need for our spiritual life also from His merciful hands. On account of the sacrifice of His Son, our Lord Jesus, through the preaching of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments, we have the forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and everlasting salvation delivered to us with absolute certainty that it is ours – not as stewards but as sons (Gal. 4:1–7). Let us then, as His own sons, press all that He gives to us into the service of His church and to His glory.



43 quilts and 12 school kits were pack up on Wednesday, Aug 25 and delivered on Friday, Aug 27 to the Lutheran World Relief pick up station in Daphne, AL by Alice Ostrowski. Thank you, Alice, for your serve!

The local society voted to send \$100 to the Seminary in Ethiopia that was devastated by a flood. Rev. Mark and Stephanie Rabe, who we support

through our annual budget here at Good Shepherd, serves at this seminary.


On August 17, 2021, the Ethiopian Lutheran Seminary of Mekane Yesus was inundated by flood waters from monsoon rains that destroyed nearly all the campus and resulted in the tragic loss of many lives

including those of children of the staff and students. Please remember these families, students, and the

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institution in your prayers. We also appeal to you to financially support Mekane Yesus Seminary through your generous giving. These gifts will go directly to assist faculty and staff who lost family members and possessions, and your gifts will help in the rebuilding of the campus.

One pastor, spouse, grandchild, and two family members died in the flash flood. In addition, a one-year-old boy and 12-year-old girl who were with their caregivers were killed by the flood. These were children of faculty who lived on campus. According to Dr. Bruk, President of the seminary, about 21 families including five missionary families lost their houses, 96 dormitory rooms were destroyed along with computer labs, the library, about 5 cars and property on campus. Note, the library was the largest library collection in any African seminary. Because of the Covid, it was decided to not have a meeting in Sept, nor hold an Emerald Coast fall rally this year. Remember to bring your mites on the first Sunday of the month or write a check to Good Shepherd LWML, and mail to Flo Hofman, 751 Olivia Court, Ft Walton Beach, FL32547
Bea Daily



Fellowship Hall Floor-Covering Replacement – The Church Council approved a motion to establish a Dedicated Fund for donations to replace the 25 + years-old floor covering in the Fellowship Hall main room and overflow room. The initial amount to start will be transferred from 3 other Church Dedicated Funds no longer needed for their intended purposes and the current amount in the Church Upgrades Dedicated Fund.

Those wishing to give to this new Fund may do so by check and write Floorcov Fund in the memo line or by going to our at the website shalimar.church and selecting the tab for Floorcov Fund.

We would like to start by asking the members to give thought to what covering would be best for us all for the special application. Any and all ideas/suggestions are wanted and we urge all of you to do some reading, discussing and looking at what might be best for our use and sending them by letter to the Church, marked "FHFC" or Email to churchsecretary@gslcshalimar.org? When we have all of these gathered, we will be asking for volunteers to form a selection committee and using a retired non-GSLC member who has a long history of floor covering selection, planning, and installing to work without charge to select the top 2 or 3 for selection.



Hello Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Thank you so much for your generous support! Thank you also for being a welcoming home to me and my family as we transition from Texas to Florida. You truly are a huge blessing. I have settled in at Concordia University Wisconsin and I am looking forward to starting classes on Monday. I have enjoyed reconnecting with old friends over the last week as we prepare to start a new semester. Concordia is a great school full of good people that I can learn from and grow with. Your gift is a huge reason I am able to be here and have these amazing experiences. Thank you so much for your support.

Blessing, Zeke Potts



September 7 - Stem Cells

A miracle cure you may be missing out on

September 14 - Loving Those With Cancer

Hope to cope, care, and give hope

September 21 - Why are You So Hard On Yourself

Finding your true value

September 28 - Stuck in a Rut

Get unstuck...one step at a time



9/1 Don Panzenhagen
 9/3 Curtis Parker
 9/4 Gene Bollin
 9/6 Nancy Johnson
 9/12 Bryan Baker
 9/12 Don Getchell
 9/15 Jenavieve Fooshee

9/18 Linda Babiak
 9/19 Ella Parker
 9/20 Dick Mahlum
 9/21 Joshua Hofman
 9/28 Herb Steeb
 9/29 Jason Boole
 9/30 James Crum



9/3 Weldon & Barbara Brinkley
 9/5 Chris & Lisa Schwartz
 9/11 Bob & Bettie Farmer
 9/14 David & Pam Chandler
 9/18 Al & Brenda Hemmer
 9/22 Frank & Kathy Shaw

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Pictures







Regular Sunday Worship Times
Traditional Worship @ 8:00 AM
Contemporary Worship @ 10:45 AM

Sunday School @ 9:30 AM

Exercise your own judgment concerning the level of risk you are willing to take with in person attendance.



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Pastor Ray Angerman
Family Life Minister Curtis Wiese
Music Director Lois Henry
1 Meigs Drive - Shalimar, FL 32579
850-651-1022
www.shalimar.church

