

Good Shepherd Newsletter January 2022



There's just something about getting out in God's creation that refreshes us and refocuses us on our relationship with Him. God's creation is one of the ways in which God has revealed Himself to us. We call this the Natural Knowledge of God.

The psalmist had this to say: *"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows his handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard."* (Psalm 19:1-3).

To the church at Rome the Apostle Paul wrote: *"For since the creation of the world his invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse."* (Romans 1:20).

These passages are reminders that God's creative work can be observed in nature. But creation can't give us what we need most, an understanding of who God is and how to have a relationship with Him. We need the Revealed Knowledge of God which is only found in His Word.

"Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, 'Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the one, whom you worship without knowing, him I proclaim to you.'" (Act 17:22,23).

While nature may give some evidence of God's existence, it certainly isn't enough for anyone to know which God exists or what God's plan is for humanity. God's creation cannot tell us anything about where sin came from, how it can be forgiven. For this we must go to God's Revelation - the Bible.

It is our privilege, to tell people about the "unknown god" of Athens and the name of the God in Whom we trust—to proclaim, *"the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the Glory of God the Father"* (Phil. 2:9–11).

That's why Dr. Riegenbach asked that we start and continue the New Year's Eve Service so that we could end and begin the New Year proclaiming our faith in God.

I challenge you to spend more time in 2022 in God's creation and in His Word.

Maybe one of the reasons Dr. Roger Riegenbach liked being in the woods so much is because it reminded him of The Garden of Eden where everything was perfect. That's what we all long for. One day it will be that way again. That's why we pray, *"Come Lord Jesus!"*

Marnatha! Have a Blessed New Year!

Pastor Ray

Anno Domini - The Year of our Lord

Welcome to the year 2020 CE. We have entered into a new calendar age with the adoption of "Common/Current Era" ("CE") terminology. Historical revisionists use these terms in their history books in an attempt to reduce the impact that Jesus of Nazareth has had. Its used instead of 2020 AD. Other than that, its the same Gregorian calendar.

The Gregorian calendar is named after Pope Gregory XIII who, in 1582 AD, ordered the adoption of a new calendar. It is the most widely used calendar in the world today. Protestant countries were slow in adopting this "Catholic" calendar because of "trust issues" steaming from the start of Reformation in 1517 AD. However, just 181 years after the Reformation, even a Lutheran Germany embraced the "new" calendar.

At the core of the calendar is the single most significant event in human history. The birth of Christ when the Word became flesh and lived among us. We number the years from that first Christmas. Today scholars place the birth of Jesus around 6-4 BC but then the intent of the calendar was to mark Christ's birth as THE turning point of history. The older Julian Calendar (45 BC), that the Gregorian calendar replaced, counted the years from the founding of the city of Rome. Before that, there were other calendars (Egyptian, Greek, Persian, etc.) each with their own epoch.

By-the-way, it was the Christian scientist Aloysius Lilius (1510-1576 AD) who, was the principal author of the Gregorian calendar, developed an ingenious leap year method for syncing the calendar with the seasons. With only minor reforms since the original implementation, Lilius' system is accurate to within one day in 20,000 years.

With a new calendar you can set the new year on any date. The new year starts, not on one of the solar solstices but, on the day of new beginning for the world's relationship with God. Eight days after His birth, Jesus (Savior) officially received his name and was circumcised. The Circumcision of our Lord signifies that He is the fullness and the completion of the Old Covenant and through Him comes the New Covenant. The old has passed away; behold, the new as come. This is the water shed moment our calendar year changes on.

Grace & Peace,
- Curtis

Deacon's Digest

We are starting a new year, let us pray that the things we did not especially want or need that came to the surface in 2021 will not follow us into the new year. This is the third in a continuing series of commentaries on Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book "Life Together." Today we are concentrating again on chapter 4, Ministry. Bonhoeffer is telling the reader what we must do individually to uplift the Christian Community. Last month we discussed the ministry of "Meekness", which really means put others before self and sacrificing your own plans if your time is needed to help others.

Today we will talk about the ministry of "Listening". If you think about it, our love of God was started by listening to His word. His love for us is 24/7/365 in other words he is constantly ready to listen when we set aside time to pray. If we consider just the population of the earth as potential sources of prayers, He is constantly ready to hear our prayers along with almost 8 billion other humans on earth. I cannot explain it, I just believe it. We humans, when conversing, seem always to think we have to contribute something to say. As Christians, with the intent to put others before ourselves, we must realize that listening may be a better or greater service than speaking.

During Christmas, likely we all heard "Silent Night", one of the most famous of Christmas carols; well how do we know if it is silent unless we listen, right? That is the beauty of this song. Speaking of Christmas, I do hope you were able to attend one of our Christmas Eve services. I enjoyed the early service immensely, made especially wonderful by the special music from our volunteers [thank you volunteers, if you are reading this]. If you did attend, you saw a small placard as you entered the sanctuary that said [I will have to paraphrase it] please listen to the music and hold noise down. I have to say I wanted to say to the person next to me how much I enjoyed that music, but I did mind my manners, and did sit quietly and I did truly enjoy it.

Back to the art of conversation, I think I am guilty sometimes of trying to fill in the quiet spots, but I need to remember that sometimes a little silence is meaningful. Another thing you may be familiar with is trying to form the next statement that you will make while the other person is still speaking so you can keep the conversation lively. Let us be better listeners and not do that until our conversation partner is finished expressing his thoughts. Let silence reign for a few seconds to show respect for one another. To be more like our Father we should be a good listener like Him. When we pray, we assume our Father is listening to our problems and thanks and praise; and not trying to figure out where He will throw His next lightning bolt. I know, right?

If you are putting together a few resolutions for 2022, may I offer this one? I will try to be a better listener to everyone with whom I speak this year.

May I also offer this: Listening is the best way to identify someone who has a need that we Christians could identify and fulfill. That is really the core of making disciples, which is our stated mission.

Praying that you will have a healthy and prosperous New Year

Deacon Joe

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Which of us can't recall the look of surprise and thanks for the Christmas gifts that we labored to give to those whom we love? And the joy written on their face when that gift is received with thanksgiving means more than all the gifts we have received. It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Our Lord knew this because He practiced it. He gave of Himself – sparing not even His life in death – in order to give us back to our Father in heaven. He knew that in giving you get more because joy is multiplied in giving. The one who receives and the one who gives both rejoice in what is given and received. And, what is more, the one who receives only wants to give back to the one who gave so generously in thanksgiving.

We want to give because we have received from God all that we are and all that we have. Our giving does not originate in what we must do to earn God's favor. We have God's favor because of His gift of His Son, given through Word and Sacrament. Thus, we are made free from the compulsion of giving so that our tithes and offerings are freely given in thanksgiving for what God has so generously given to us.

Why then does the church struggle to make budgets? Why does the church always seem stretched so thin when it is the place where God continually gives us His forgiveness of sins? Why does the church struggle when God, out of love for us, generously pours out His grace and mercy?

It is because we are sinners. Our fallen nature makes us selfish and miserly. It leads us to believe that we can have our cake and eat it, too. Because of sin, we want God's grace and mercy; we want His blessings of body and soul. But we don't want to share it with those around us. We want to remain comfortable in our own self-contained, neat, and tidy lives – without the headaches of loving those around us by helping them in their time of need.

“Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” Remember that God has placed you in a church, not only to receive His grace and mercy, but to press His eternal and temporal blessings into service to your neighbor.

Your tithes and offerings ensure that those around you have a pastor to preach the life-saving and life-giving Word of God. They ensure that the lights, heat, and air-conditioning are working. They ensure there is water for Holy Baptism as well as bread and wine for Holy Communion. They even ensure that your pastor has food and clothing and presents for his own family. The gifts of God are immeasurable. They multiply and abound to everyone's good as the fish and loaves in the feeding of the five thousand.

So, remember the words of the Lord Jesus: “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” And remember the joy that attended the gifts you gave at Christmas. This same joy attends your gifts to the church.



January 4 Making Peace With Your Past
A Vietnamese refugee's journey
January 11 Getting Unstuck
Practical ways to improve your life
January 18 Confronting Evil
One man takes a stand
January 25 A Reason to Live
A story of hope from Rwanda



1/7 Don & Terri Snyder III
1/9 Tim & Kim Finn
1/13 Bob & Nancy Pruess
1/29 Vern & Barbara Umholz

1/1 Jan Bailie
1/1 John Bailie
1/8 Ezekiel Potts
1/9 Darrell Bittle
1/11 Marion Russell
1/12 Adrea Fooshee



1/17 Dave Hudson
1/18 Daniel Lawrence
1/22 Tom Cox
1/22 Roger Riggerbach
1/26 Jacob Schwartz
1/27 Connie Haney
1/28 Christel Austin

Christmas at Good Shepherd







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

Sunday School @ 9:30 AM



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Pastor Ray Angerman
Family Life Minister Curtis Wiese
Music Director Lois Henry
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