

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Newsletter



Greatest Sermon Ever Preached

In case you missed it, I gave the greatest sermon you have ever heard at the Easter Sunrise Service! Actually, it was the sermon preached by an angel on that first Easter morning. The angel said, ***“Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.”***

That’s it. That’s the whole sermon. But before you quit reading; I have learned that a sermon isn’t over until it is put into practice by the ones who heard it.

In other words, ask yourself, ***“What difference will this message make in my life?”*** The answer is found right here in the greatest sermon ever preached: ***“He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you!”***

And how did the women respond to the angel’s sermon? ***“And they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest.”***

When you are facing the trials of this world remember. **Remember that Christ is risen!** So even if you didn’t get a chocolate bunny for Easter you did receive:

- full forgiveness for all of your sins,
- complete removal of all your guilt,
- God’s truth to drive out your doubts,
- joy as you live for Jesus now,
- hope of eternal life in Heaven,
- and the assurance of your own bodily resurrection when He comes again in glory.

Always Remember...

Pastor Ray

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Stewardship is not just about giving money to the church. Stewardship involves our whole life – everything we have and everything we are.

We can fall into the trap of thinking that because we give of ourselves in one area then we can neglect giving in another. Stewardship is not stealing from Peter to pay Paul. It is not a game that we play whereby we justify ourselves in not giving a tenth of our income because we have given in some other way.

Our Lord warns: “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.” (Matthew 23:23) We are given to do both – tithe of ourselves and what we have.

St. Paul makes his appeal: “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:1–2)

We are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice to God. We are not to have the mind of the world, where we exchange equal weight of this for an equal weight of that and think that we have done what God has required. Our whole life is given over for service in and for the Church of God. This is done in thanksgiving for what God in Christ has accomplished for us. This is our spiritual worship, the reasonable response to what He has done for us. Not one for the other but all in all.

But what does this look like? St. Paul never lays down a general principle without also giving us some practical application of what shape that principle is to take concretely. He gives the general principle that our bodies are to be living sacrifices to God. And, after admonishing those who have been given particular gifts of grace to serve the church, St. Paul then speaks generally of what is expected of all. He says:

“Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.” (Romans 12:9–13)

Heed the apostle’s teaching and present ourselves – everything that we have and everything that we are – as living sacrifices to God, our reasonable response to what God in Christ Jesus accomplished for us by His death and resurrection. Through this, we have forgiveness of sins, a new life in Christ, and eternal salvation. And through this worship, the grace of God is made manifest in His saints – for the church and the world.

Deacon's Digest, May 2022

I hope you were able to attend sunrise worship with us on Easter Sunday at the beach. I thought that it was very awe inspiring with a Divine celestial display of a bright moon to the west and an alignment of four planets, visible to the naked eye, towards the east, while we awaited and then observed an awesome sunrise. Hallelujah!

This column is the seventh in a continuing series of commentaries on Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book "Life Together." Again, we are concentrating 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 "Proclaiming", which Bonhoeffer described as the free communication of the word of God from person to person. He reminds us that we are to follow God's command to love one another and a good way to show love is to "Proclaim" i.e.: remind our friends that God loves them and wants them to conquer the challenges that sin brings to everyday living.

In today's column we will talk about the ministry of "Authority" as Bonhoeffer sees it. First let us read, Mark10:42-43: *And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great one's exercise authority over them. 43 But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant,* In this passage, Jesus is telling His disciples that in His kingdom, positions of authority have a servant's job description, the opposite of what is going on in earthly kingdoms. [see LSB notes pp 1681]. If you think back on the series of articles in this newsletter, about Bonhoeffer's book we are lifting up our fellow Christians by serving them and following God's command to love one another. "Service before Self" is a very descriptive way to describe the guiding principle to spiritual authority. You know what else? It is a good way to describe an effective way for political leaders to behave in a democracy. We, all too often, see the pitifully painful blunders of an authority figure who puts herself or himself ahead of people they are trying to lead or represent. No one likes to see another person enrich themselves while they should be helping the people they lead or represent. I would like to quote, now, the last paragraph in Chapter 4 of Bonhoeffer's book: "The question of trust, which is so closely related to that of authority, is determined by the faithfulness with which a man serves Jesus Christ, never by the extraordinary talents which he possesses. Pastoral authority can be attained only by the servant of Jesus who seeks no power of his own, who himself is a brother among brothers submitted to the authority of the Word." Let us remember that we are all imperfect and full of sinful ways. Leaders who continuously think about this and try to serve others through the power of Jesus and not their personal charisma or powers of persuasion will be the successful makers of disciple-makers. We need more of this: when positive accomplishments are made, all glory should go to God and not to the person who "thinks" he is in charge of accomplishing something.

Note to readers; next week we will still stay with Bonhoeffer's "Life Together" but we will shift to Chapter 2 "The Day with Others". Here's the thing: this book was written in the 1940's where people actually had to verbally interact with people to be able to get through life's daily and routine activities. No Internet, No e-mail, no smartphone, no "work from home" unless you are a farmer or rancher. I am sure we all still have that verbal skill somewhere—we just

need a little practice. Chapter 2 has several good spiritual thoughts about keeping matters of faith as topics of discussion as your typical day goes on. If we try to keep that in mind as we try to navigate our 2022 I think it would be a worthy exercise and a useful and spiritually beneficial discussion topic.

Blessings and peace!

Deacon Joe

The Front Porch – Coming June 5th



We are saving you a seat. (Watch for it!)



The Gulf States District LWML held its 39th Biennial Convention in Huntsville, Alabama on April 22-23 with 135 in attendance. Those in attendance from Good Shepherd were Bea Daily, Crystal Ballard, Flo and Lance Hofman. Flo serves as the District Historian.

She had an awesome display of history on hand for all to view. Bea was honored as a past district president as she joined other past presidents in leading the League Pledge and was given special up-front seating during the convention and banquet. Bea has been attending Gulf States conventions every other year for the past 48 years. She served as District President in 1990-1994 and 2006-2010 plus various other positions.

Photo: Emerald Coast Zone



Flo and Lance participated in the Saturday early morning Mission Walk that raised \$1001 for Missions. The Mission Goal was again set at raising \$65,000 in the next two years to

complete the Mission Grants that were chosen by the delegates. It was announced that Ezekiel Potts received one of the Scholarship Grants.

The local society of the LWML will continue to meet through the summer months, as we continue with the study on “Perseverance” on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 10 am in the Fellowship Hall, led by Alice Ostrowski. All ladies of the congregation are invited to join us.

Bea Daily



Good News Jail and Prison Ministry Annual Banquet

The First Baptist Church at 21 First St. SE Fort Walton Beach will be hosting the Annual Jail and Prison Ministry Banquet on Friday, June 3rd, 2022 6-8PM at the Christian Life Center. There will be Jail Ministry News and Happenings from Chaplain Josiah Alldredge. Honor retiring Chaplain John Lennon. Be inspired by stories of God’s mercy and grace from Ministry Volunteers and former jail inmates. Join in worshipping with great uplifting worship music. Full buffet dinner provided. For information contact Chaplain Josiah Alldredge 850-428-0270, chaplainocdoc@myokaloosa.com or Chuck Turk, 850-496-8268, chuckturk@aol.com.

Shepherds Heart Ministry and Lutheran Early Response Teams (LERT)

During 2021 LERT was able to respond to multiple tornados in Alabama and Mississippi. When Hurricane Ida hit the Gulf Coast in August the team spent 12 weeks assisting to save 157 homeowners an estimated \$561,000 in tree work expenses. In addition, they served 2 LCMS pastors, 2 LCMSA schools, 6 LCMS churches and the Southern District office.

For Hurricane Ida alone, LERT Volunteers put in over 3,254 man-hours with 3 skid-steers putting in a total of 556 hours moving debris. The Nifty-Lift TM64 aerial lift unit (cherry-picker) worked 166 hours removing trees from houses and garages.

The team also responded to an EF3 tornado that struck the suburbs of Chicago, Illinois in June.

They wished to express their gratitude for the church’s contribution of \$1,085 which will help them to continue to respond to future storms.

POBLO International

Dear Church,

Thank you so much for your prayers every Sunday, partnership and support. We thank the Lord for you, very especially Rev. Angerman your great leadership.

POBLO continues to share the gospel message in 8 districts of LCMS. We are working to start 4 new mission fields. An Iranian Muslim lady was baptized recently at our Austin, TX location. 2 more are expected soon.

May our good Lord continue to bless you. Thank you! Rev Farrukh Kahn

FELLOWSHIP HALL FLOOR COVERING – Thus far \$11,000.00 has been raised to replace the flooring in the Fellowship Hall. As of yet, no recommendations on the replacement flooring have been received. Please submit any recommendations to the Church Office and they will be compiled and given to the Properties Board.



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|------|-----------------|------|-------------------|
| 5/2 | Don Snyder | 5/21 | Pan Chandler |
| 5/4 | Dan Wooldridge | 5/23 | Charles Schneider |
| 5/8 | Brian Carstens | 5/28 | Flo Hofman |
| 5/16 | Janette Bates | 5/28 | Bria Dailey |
| 5/16 | Rick Keller | 5/28 | Bettie Farmer |
| 5/20 | Kay Gasper | 5/28 | Susan Wooldridge |
| 5/21 | Esenia Baughman | 5/30 | Sherry Wiese |

- 5/8 James and Bre Anderson
- 5/15 Dave and Ann Lienemann
- 5/18 Jeff and April Adams
- 5/31 Jason and Sandy Boole





Easter sunrise service on the beach at Beasley Park. 4 planets aligned in the pre-dawn sky. Saturn, Mars, Venus and Jupiter. 700 people ultimately attended the service on the beach.

5/3 Love Ya, Mom
Celebrating mothers

5/10 Can God Love A
Mess Like Me

5/17 What's Going on in
Church

A look at the divergent
teachings

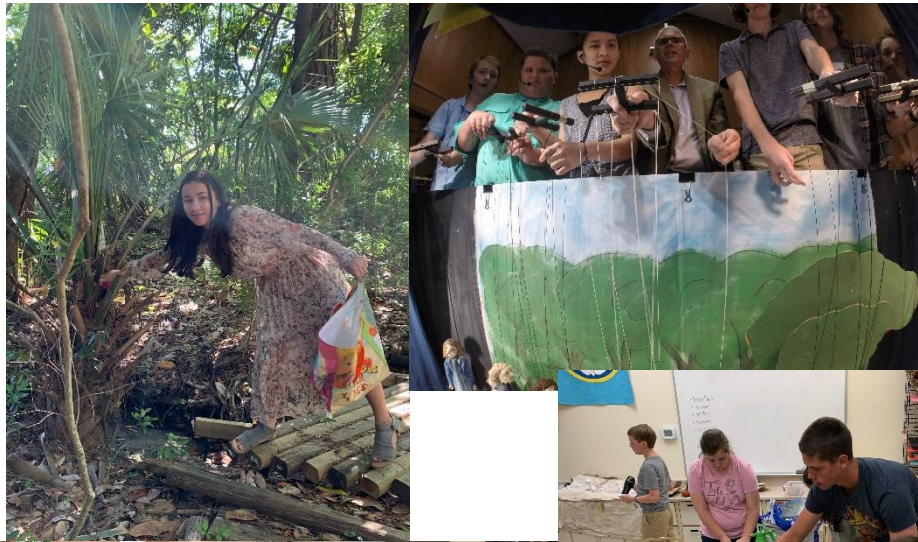


5/24 How Does Prayer Work?
Exploring the mystery of connecting
with God

5/31 Laughter is the Best Medicine
A doctor-approved laugh session

The Youth of Good Shepherd





Easter Egg Hunt





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

Sunday School @ 9:30 AM



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