

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church June Newsletter

The Front Porch

2022 Summer Sermon Series



In the past, the front porch offered families a place to relax together after the evening meal. It was a gathering place. Lots of stories were heard on the front porch. It was also perfect for greeting neighbors when they walked by as you sat in your rocking chair, your porch swing, or glider. You could eat watermelon and make ice cream on the front porch and not worry about the mess. Grandpa smoked his pipe on the front porch. Many a checker game was played on the front porch as you watched the sun set. The front porch was a place where fellowship happened and relationships grew.

But in the 1940s and 50s air conditioners, radios, televisions, and automobiles arrived and the front porch disappeared and with it we lost quality time together. The front porch has been replaced by the computer and the cell phone, but it's not the same.

Anytime people speak of the early church, the Acts 2:42-44 verses come up; *“And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and **the fellowship**, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common.”*

Christ is what we have in common, no matter your race or ethnicity, your socio-economic background, education, etc. Christ brings us together. That's a good reason to fellowship!

In the past two years with social distancing, and quarantines it has been hard to spend time in fellowship. So, this summer on three Sunday mornings we will be hearing about the importance of fellowship in the life of the church and we are planning activities to bring us together.



Sunday Summer Schedule

June 19th – “Front Porch Fellowship”

What is Christian fellowship and why is it important?



“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” Hebrews 10:24-25

Father’s Day Charlie Brown Softball Game - Popcorn, Peanuts & Cracker Jacks @ Shalimar Elementary Park 3PM – 6PM Come play or come watch.

July 17th – “Fellowship of the Body”

The great importance of *koinonia* is described by St. Paul in 1 Corinthians, in his teaching on the Lord’s Supper and the Church. Paul writes, *“The bread that we break, is it not a participation [koinonia] in the body of Christ?”* In the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper, we share Christ’s body and blood, so Paul continues: *“Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread”* (1 Cor. 10:17).

Watermelon Picnic @ Good Shepherd 2PM – 5PM

Come for the Seed Spitting Contest and Checker Tournament (Bring your favorite table game.)

August 7th “Front Porch Evangelism”



“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” – John 13:34-35

Homemade Ice Cream Social - Come play Corn Hole or your favorite table game @ Good Shepherd 2PM – 5PM

Summer Adult Sunday School Class - The Mighty & The Mysterious. Starting June 5th in the Fellowship Hall

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

What Do You Have That You Have Not Received?

Some of the disciples of John the Baptist were questioning him about the baptism and preaching of Jesus. John the Baptist replies to their questions in this way: “A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven” (John 3:27).

Now, John the Baptist says this to show that Jesus, His teaching, and His baptism are from heaven. But this statement is true of everything – everything that we have and are in body and soul. In fact, this is what we are taught in the meaning of the Apostles’ Creed:

In the explanation of the Creed’s First Article, we teach that God has made us and everything in the universe. In the Second Article of the Creed, we teach that God sent His Son, Jesus, to humble Himself, taking the form of a servant. In the Third Article of the Creed, we teach that the fruits of what Jesus Christ, the Son of God, did are given to us through the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church.

Indeed, a person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. But how easy is this for us to forget about this?

How easy is it for us to think that what we have in this life is because we have earned it? How easy is it for us to forget that even all our skills, the abilities of our hands and minds – the very ethic to work diligently and to seek to get better at these skills – is given to us from heaven, just as John the Baptist said? How easy is it for us to forget that it is Christ alone – and the work of the Holy Spirit – that reveals His salvation to us, delivers it to us, and not our doing?

Sure, we have responsibility for coming to church, for delving into God’s Holy Word, and for praying without ceasing. But even these responsibilities are given to us from heaven, not to earn anything but in response to what He has accomplished for us.

A person cannot receive one thing unless it is given to him from heaven. Everything we have, and everything we are – in both body and soul – are gifts from God in heaven. Let us then respond in thanksgiving and give back to Him as He asks us to – with a first-fruits, generous proportion offering of what He has given to us.

Deacon's Digest

This column is the eighth 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 "Authority" and we used Mark 10:42-43 which says in part: "whosoever would be great among you must be your servant". Today we see painful examples of just the opposite where elected officials enrich themselves instead of tending to the needs of their constituents. Unfortunately, we can see this happen in certain instances of "faith-based" institutions where somehow sin and evil overcomes God's commandment to love one another as you love yourself. Sometimes the "love yourself" tendency just overwhelms the sense of duty and things just spiral out of control. I saw an example of a televangelist who tried to justify ownership of several church funded airplanes to be able to get his mission field rapidly expanded and to be able to get to his discipling faster. I wonder if just one discipling airplane would be enough and then use the left-over funding to feed the homeless and less fortunate. Well just a thought.

In today's column, we will talk about Chapter 2 of Bonhoeffer's book "The Day with Others". as Bonhoeffer sees it. His narrative here is in the framework of daily family activities [let's call it fellowship] conducted together such as daily prayers, reading the scriptures and family meals accompanied by saying grace to be thankful for our blessings. The leader of family fellowship is the head of the household and the scenario is a nuclear family that is children and parents or elders. If you remember your small catechism studies, you may recall that the head of the household is responsible for all matters of faith and worship being conducted in the home. Bonhoeffer's narrative is closely aligned with Luther's vision.

The discussion of family fellowship is presented chronologically with celebrating sunrise and the start of a new day. Then there is the morning meal and then starting off to work with everyone joining back together for the noon meal and then a dinner meal followed by bed time prayers and worship. By the way , those who work, are encouraged to pray unceasingly throughout the day to keep God present in our lives.

Remembering that this was written in the 1940's in Germany, families at that time and especially rural folks had to create their own entertainment. This was true in America and mostly globally. Imagine that setting today where smart phones and PC's are connected almost everywhere with WIFI, so we can be bombarded with current events, social media or collaborative video games. Just have a look the next time you use public transportation and are sitting in a lobby waiting on your train/plane/ship/bus. There will likely be families where all members are staring into their own screen of some sort and they are not aware of what is happening in their environment or cognizant of one another. The family fellowship is declining due to the lack of available time for just talking and playing games or singing together. As Pastor Ray says "Fellowship: is one of the four spokes of our faith steering wheel [the other three are prayer, scripture, and witnessing]. We Christians need regular fellowship. Now I am thinking about you, the reader of this article. You may not have a big nuclear family at home, possibly because your children are grown, possibly you have lost your spouse. I would like to ask you to consider your church family for fellowship. There are so many opportunities at Good Shepherd for quality time with your church family. If you look at the calendar page on our web site [browse: <https://www.shalimar.church/bulletin>] here are some samples: "Fifth Sunday Fellowship" If a month has five Sundays, that fifth Sunday offers up a fellowship meal and get together in the fellowship hall at 0930. It is a great opportunity to meet new members and to deepen relationships with people you already know. No RSVP required, just show up at 0930 ready to have a little fun. We also have a small group fellowship called Dinner for Eight [D48] these five small groups meet independently approximately monthly for a meal and fellowship. If you are interested in joining one of the D-48 small groups please get in touch with me or the front office and we will get you on board with one of the them. Neither of these two fellowships, Fifth Sunday and D-48, ask for a commitment from you. Just try it out and see what you think. One new thing you might consider is that we will start a Summer Sermon Series June 19th called "The Front Porch". Here is the description: In the past, the front porch offered families a place to relax together after the evening meal. It was a gathering place. Lots of stories were heard on the front porch. It was also perfect for greeting neighbors when they walked by as

you sat in your rocking chair, your porch swing, or glider. You could eat watermelon and make ice cream on the front porch and not worry about the mess. Grandpa smoked his pipe on the front porch. Many a checker game was played on the front porch as you watched the sun set. The front porch was a place where fellowship happened and relationships grew. Please note that there are some outdoor fellowship events connected with “The Front Porch” in June, July, and August. Schedule info below is extracted from our web site:

June 19th – “Front Porch Fellowship”

Father’s Day Charlie Brown Softball Game - Popcorn, Peanuts & Cracker Jacks @ Shalimar Elementary Park
3PM – 6PM Come play or come watch.

July 17th – “Fellowship of the Body”

Watermelon Picnic @ Good Shepherd 2PM – 5PM

Come for the Seed Spitting Contest and Checker Tournament (Bring your favorite table game.)

August 7th “Front Porch Evangelism”

Homemade Ice Cream Social - Come play Corn Hole or your favorite table game @ Good Shepherd 2PM – 5PM

I think these will be great opportunities for you to fellowship with your church family. [I mean what person hasn’t wanted to be the watermelon seed spitting champion of our congregation?]

I need to turn, now, to you for your help in a very serious problem. You may have noticed that in the past couple of years there has been a rise in crime because of a rise in evil, anti-social behavioral acts. The reason given in most psychological forums is the breakdown of the nuclear family which is the core unit of basic social nurturing and public behavior. Let us pray to God for guidance and deliverance from this evil path for America. God is our only hope for rescue from this situation. It seems to be too tough for our national leaders to solve. We need your prayers America.

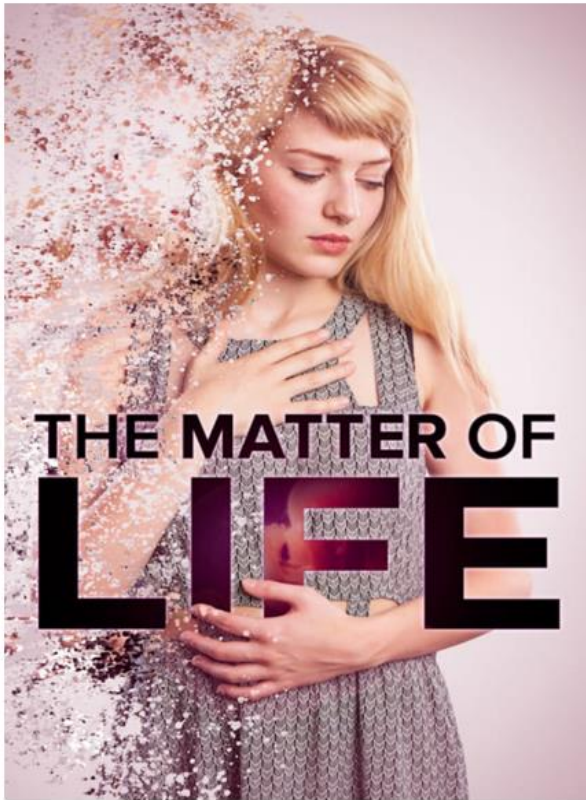
Now I do not want to leave you on that worrisome note and I would like to give you a preview of next month’s column. Next month we will still stay with Bonhoeffer’s “Life Together” but we will shift to Chapter 3 “The Day Alone”. Possibly you know someone who is afraid of being alone. I’d like to discuss Bonhoeffer’s approach to this and what Christians can do to mitigate this worry in ourselves and others.

Blessings and peace!

Deacon Joe

Elijah Haase Confirmation May 15, 2022





A PRE-RELEASE FREE SHOWING
 SUNDAY, JUNE 12TH 2022 @ 3 PM
 GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
 1 MEIGS DR SHALIMAR, FLORIDA

Come watch with us a special screening of the award-winning documentary, **The Matter of Life**, here at Good Shepherd June 12 @ 3:00 PM.

We stand at a critical point in history where a decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* may be announced any day now. More than ever, it is important for everyone to know where they stand on abortion and why. **The Matter of Life** film unravels the complexities of the abortion issue so that we can come to understand the pro-life case and form our own individual opinions based on more than what is said in the media.

In the film, we hear from the experts and learn about the science, philosophy, history, ethics, and impact of abortion. We will also hear powerful personal stories that will provide hope for the future.

It is critical to saving the lives of the unborn and to care for the women who carry them that we enter into the abortion conversation with understanding, love, and support.

The Matter of Life is awarded the Dove Seal of Approval for Ages 12+ that comes with a caveat: Even with this rating, please take into consideration the maturity level of your tween and/or teen before you sharing this film with them.

Why do you believe what you believe and how do you defend it?

<https://www.thematteroflife.org>

For more information call (850) 651-1022

- 6/1 Cole Nix
- 6/2 Dianna Riggerbach
- 6/2 Louise Gilman
- 6/3 Sandra Connor
- 6/3 Dolores Hudson
- 6/4 Glen Beck
- 6/4 Pat Crum
- 6/5 Noah Potts
- 6/7 Jan Bollin
- 6/8 Dean Namniek
- 6/9 Georgette Lare



- 6/12 Lydia Day
- 6/12 Stephen Lynn
- 6/13 Cyrus Pytlik
- 6/14 Katie Boole
- 6/15 Bob Johnson
- 6/17 Brenda Hemmer
- 6/18 Jim Baughman
- 6/19 John Miller
- 6/20 Diana Fallon
- 6/22 Anna Haase
- 6/22 Joela Parker



- 6/1 Mark and Dianna Riggerbach
- 6/8 Dick and Hulda Mahlum
- 6/12 Ray and Debbie Angerman
- 6/14 Dean and Sara Brown
- 6/21 Darryl and Minda Haag
- 6/21 Don and Sandy Donovan
- 6/22 Ross and Kelly Binkley

6/7 - Dreams and Nightmares
The science behind the stories of your mind
6/14 – Upsizing Life by Downsizing Stuff
Living large in an 84 sq ft house



6/21 – Blowing the Whistle on Abuse
6/28 – Day of the Dead
A Mexican Festival



American Heritage Girls Meeting



World's Greatest Baby Shower



Good Shepherd's Youth

