

## GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN NOVEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER



Then he (Jesus) said to them, *“Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.”* Matthew 22:21

As we find ourselves on the door step of another election. Some of you may have already early voted. Some of you may think I shouldn't bring this topic up in a church newsletter. The reality is, that Christians have a responsibility in both realms of our lives: The Church and the State.

Jesus makes a distinction between government and God, but it's not a distinction in which they are entirely opposed to one another; they're in relationship with one another. When we understand that relationship it does not tell us who to **vote for**. It tells us where to **vote from**, and as people redeemed by the blood of Jesus, we **vote from** a heart of faith in Him and in His truth.

By teaching about two separate kingdoms, the Kingdom of the Right and the Kingdom of the Left, Luther introduced a unique concept among Christians. And even though there are two kingdoms, there is only one King. God is in charge of both and He works in and through both. **In the Kingdom of the Right**, God rules over His people with His grace as it's administered by His Church on earth. **In the Kingdom of the Left**, God's rules over us through authorities He places over us such as parents, employers, teachers, and the government.

I'm not going to tell you who to **vote for**, rather where to **vote from**; our Christian responsibility is to proclaim and defend God's truth. Read and learn His Word so you know what He teaches.

As Christians, we must educate ourselves and to identify the differences between political issues and God's truth issues. When we vote, we must look at the totality of the policies and candidates and understand which candidates or policies we must reject as contrary to God's Word. And whenever we get a chance, we let others know the truth of the Scriptures and God's will for our nation so that they too will vote according to God's truth while also understanding their roles as citizens.

Don't Forget to Vote!

Pastor Ray

## LCMS Stewardship Ministry

What Makes for a Cheerful Giver?

St. Paul wrote to Church of Christ in Corinth: “Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Cor. 9:7). God loves a cheerful giver. But who is a cheerful giver?

Abel was. By faith, he gave the firstborn of his flock, and it was acceptable in God’s sight. Abraham was. By faith, he prepared cakes and a tender choice calf for God and entertained angels unaware. So also were David and Solomon. By faith, David would not make a sacrifice to God that cost him nothing, so he paid Araunah his due. By faith, Solomon built a house for God, where his name would dwell and thereby where He would dwell to be Israel’s God and they His people.

What more shall we say? For time would fail us to tell of all those who gave not simply for the joy of giving but for the joy of knowing the One to whom they gave.

So also our Lord, who for the joy set before Him, gave everything – yes, even His life – enduring the cross and scorning its shame. He gave to the shedding of His blood, willingly and resolutely setting His face toward Jerusalem to die for the life of the world. Though He was rich in every way, He became poor, so that by His poverty, we might be rich beyond measure. So then, let us like Abel and Abraham, like David and Solomon, and even like our Lord Jesus Christ, give cheerfully to God for the work of His kingdom in our midst. Like them, let us decide in our heart for the joy set before us. It’s the joy of knowing the One to whom we give is the One who gives us all good things.



### Deacon’s Digest

October is here and we got our first big scare of the hurricane season. Please join me in praying for all those families impacted by Hurricane Ian. I am grateful that we got passed by on this one, it was massive, thank you God!

[Disclaimer: The views and opinions below are solely those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of any affiliated organization or other person] I would like to start our discussion today by talking about the persecution of Christians in China. In a recent interview by CNN’s John Blake of religion writer Phillip Yancy (Blake, 2022), the following dialogue took place toward the end of the interview:

- Start of transcript –

**Blake: How has your travel to other countries changed your faith?**

Yancy: Americans have what they think is suffering, but in the rest of the world, boy, it's a lot worse. And I learn from those people. I remember being in China one time ... with the underground church there. People had to sneak in, and they could have been arrested just for attending. And we were talking about praying for the government, which was persecuting them.

I asked them, "How do you pray for the government?"

They said, "We pray that we can bear the persecution."

I asked them, "You don't pray that they would stop, that you'd get a change in government?"

They said, "No, that's up to God. We're here, and our job is to demonstrate our faith in the midst of persecution."

--End of transcript--

Let that sink in a little bit, they are possibly risking their lives and certainly their freedom to worship and yet they are accepting [see bible quote next paragraph] that God gave them their leaders and their prayers are for more faith that they might bear the consequences of evil leaders.

The bible is saying that the purpose of civil government is to suppress evil and maintain justice and care for the oppressed [see Romans 13:1, 8:28, 13:4, Isaiah 1:16-17] God has not established human government to Christianize the world, although some rulers in the past have greatly supported Christianity. In my opinion, I have seen the US government in the past decade, fail to: 1- hate evil, 2 - love good, and 3 - establish equal justice for all. Yet God commands us to submit to whatever government He has provided [1 Peter 2:13-15] . It would seem that if we pray for a change in government [meaning new leaders] it goes against God's will. But if we pray for current leaders to become servants to God's word and for their advisors to be in His word also, in my opinion it would be the Christian approach. I believe we should also follow the model of the China Christians and pray for the individual strength to bear the actions and policies of our God-given leaders. In this month of October, I invite you to join me in your daily prayers with a prayer of this general format:

*Lord I come to you humbly and with great adoration and I pray for our leaders, I pray that with your almighty power you would grant our leaders and advisors the ability to be your servants and that they live by your words, your word is truth. I ask that you give me the*

*strength and patience to bear the burden of actions and policies from our leaders that reject your commandments.*

Thank you dear reader, Blessings and Peace!

Joe

Works Cited in this Article

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Blake, J. (2022, September 18). A 'born and bred racist' recounts how he became a best-selling Christian author. *CNN Broadcast*. 611PM EDT.



## **Human Care Board**

### **Sharing & Caring**

There is an ongoing, year-round, food drive through the Sharing and Caring box in the Narthex where we collect non-perishable food donations. Each Wednesday your



donations are delivered to Sharing & Caring to help those in need in our local community. If you are so inclined, please feel free to clean out your pantry and bring in those canned goods or boxed items and place them in the Sharing & Caring box...we will do the rest! Your donations are appreciated, especially the current economic times. If you have any questions or need more information, contact Jean Grieve for more information.

[Jean.grieve@yahoo.com](mailto:Jean.grieve@yahoo.com)



## Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

### Human Care Board

## 2022 Thanksgiving Dinner Food Drive

We are once again collecting canned goods and non-perishable food items for needy

families that we will be adopting for Thanksgiving. We'd like to collect items such as:

- Canned Vegetables (Corn, Green Beans, Yams)
- Mashed potatoes
- Gravy (Packets, jar, canned)
- Stuffing (boxed or bag)
- Cranberry Sauce
- Turkeys

We will also have some items from the Crop Drop (e.g., Potatoes, Corn, Peppers) that we will be able to provide the families. The Crop Drop is November 19, 2022 at Destin High School.

**Deadline for Food Donations – Sunday November 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Sorting and Shopping Party at GSLC – Saturday/Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>**

If you are interested in volunteering to help out with any of these activities, please contact

Jean Grieve at [jean.grieve@yahoo.com](mailto:jean.grieve@yahoo.com)

850-217-1932







We need your help Saturday, December 3, 2022 at 9:30AM. The Altar Guild is beautifying the sanctuary for Advent to include setting up and decorating the Christmas trees with handmade Chrismons. For more information contact Jean Grieve at [jean.grieve@yahoo.com](mailto:jean.grieve@yahoo.com) Chrismons (Christ monograms) are ornaments based on symbols of Christ including monograms of Jesus' name in Greek. The Chrismons Tree originated at Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, VA in 1957.



### **Hurricane Ian Response**

In the aftermath of Hurricane Ian, monetary donations are greatly needed. 100% of your gift will go directly to disaster relief. You may make contributions electronically through Good Shepherd ([shalimar.church/human-car/](http://shalimar.church/human-car/)), the Southern District LCMS, or the Florida-

Georgia District LCMS ([flgadistrict.org/give/](http://flgadistrict.org/give/)). The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod's disaster response ministry LERT (Lutheran Early Response Teams) were deployed and are working in the affected area. You can sign up to serve at one of TWO camps in Southwest Florida by going to the LERT website at [lcms-lert.org](http://lcms-lert.org).

Lifetree Cafe

Tuesday, 1 November  
Hosted by Curtis



A Man Named Martin - 5 - Out of Hiding

Tuesday, 8 November  
Hosted by Jacob



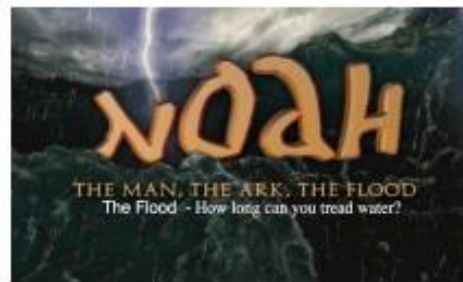
Noah - 1 - The Man

Tuesday, 15 November  
Hosted by Curtis



Noah - 2 - The Ark

Tuesday, 22 November  
Hosted by Jacob



Noah - 3 - The Flood

Tuesday, 29 November  
Hosted by Curtis



Noah - 4 - The Aftermath



11/2 – Malachi Hofman  
 11/3 – Elijah Haase  
 11/6 Sarah Lienemann  
 11/6 – Nancy Pruess  
 11/11 – Don Chandler  
 11/13 – Audrey Anderson  
 11/14 – Kevin Merrill  
 11/17 – Vivian Moser  
 11/21 – Sandee Baughman  
 11/21 – Sarah Hoppel  
 11/24 – Jeff Adams  
 11/25 – Dean Brown  
 11/29 – Bob Farmer



11/4 – Allan & Judy Koepsell  
 11/15 – Curtis & Joella Parker  
 11/17 – Larry & Margaret Snider  
 11/22 – Larry & Ruth Hill  
 11/22 – Al & DiAnn Keenan  
 11/25 – Lance & Flo Hofman  
 11/26 – Philip & Linda Babiak  
 11/29 – Craig & Marion Russell



### Advent Services - The Angels of Christmas

The angels were very involved in the Christmas narrative. We will be exploring the four angelic visits surrounding the birth of Jesus with Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds. In this series we will see how the angels were involved in the Christmas story.





Life Team booth at the fair

Pastor Appreciation Sunday



Children's message





Meet Braden Moeller on the keyboard

## REFORMATION FESTIVAL









