



GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHER CHURCH DECEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

BREAKING NEWS!

Every Sunday you hear prayers going up for Christian Missionaries, specifically for POBLO and Pastor Farrukh Khan. On Sunday, January 22nd Pastor Khan will be

giving the sermon at both services and teaching the Adult Bible Classes at 9:30 AM. Good Shepherd financially supports POBLO.

REV. FARRUKH KHAN



Rev. Farrukh Khan, Director of Development, has been serving with POBLO for 20 years. Originally from Pakistan, Rev. F. Khan comes from a family that converted from Islam to Christianity and raised him in the Christian faith. After spending 17 years in Saudi Arabia as an engineer from a Texas-based multinational corporation, where he also worshiped in the Lutheran Church, Rev. F. Khan was called to work as a missionary from POBLO in

Toronto, Canada. While there, he helped to plant All Nations Lutheran Church, a primarily Pakistani and Indian congregation. He is a graduate of Concordia Seminary's Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology. He has also received church planting training through the Center for U. S. Missions. Since joining POBLO, Rev. Khan has planted new churches and trained existing churches on how to effectively engage in outreach to Muslims and other unreached people groups.

People Of The Book Lutheran Outreach (POBLO) International Ministries is a non-profit, Christian organization that is passionate about sharing the love of Jesus with Muslims and other immigrants and refugees living in the United States. Unlike in the past, American Christians do not have to go overseas to do mission work— the mission field is in our own front yard. POBLO International Ministries is responding to this change in demographics and revolutionizing the way the gospel is shared by engaging in cross-cultural missions and grassroots community outreach here in the United States and training and partnering with local churches.

Save The Date!

Pastor Ray

Deacon's Digest

December and Advent are here! This time of the year is my favorite -- the time of Thanksgiving Holiday and especially, for Christians, Christmas.

I remember when I was a kid, this time of the year was magic and largely about family. We lived in the country and most folks we knew were farmers or ranchers. We and most of my father's six siblings lived a short drive away from my grandparent's farm and I remember the fun my sister and I had playing with all of our cousins in holiday get togethers at our grandparent's house. I think I counted a dozen of us kid cousins would come to a festive get together and draw names for Christmas giving. I even remember the Thanksgiving Dinner when I graduated from the card table to the adult's dining table, it was an event to remember. [Hint they had to add some new leaves in the adult table to accommodate a couple of us kids that got promoted.]

[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 hope you have been seeing several recent news articles about scientific, archeological finds that confirm large scale and/or miraculous biblical events. The media always seem to be so surprised that events of the bible can be scientifically proven that the discovery is big news. For me it makes me content to hear some of the news outlets, in wondrous tones, talk about "well here is one more thing in the bible that looks like it is real history". I have to say that I have a big curiosity about finding ancient ruins and traces of very old societies. Especially what kind of science and reasoning is required to deduce what things were like in a certain spot say 10000 years ago. It is a science that follows threads of evidence back to old civilizations and the everyday lives they lived. A couple of years ago I started a subscription to *Archeology* magazine, a publication of the Archeology Institute of America. I find the articles very informative and that they satisfy my curiosity about old civilizations. The other day I suddenly realized that when human remains were found, there were only two possibilities of gender reported in the magazine: either male or female. I did a search on an official government website about gender identification of living human organisms [please see: [Chromosomes Fact Sheet \(genome.gov\)](http://genome.gov): "They [humans] differ in a pair of chromosomes known as the sex chromosomes. Females have two X chromosomes in their cells, while males have one X and one Y chromosome." Well, what can science tell us about older architectural remains where you cannot find living cells? My internet research found that male or female gender determination can be made in the analysis of the traits of bones of the pelvis, skull and sternum. Let us take a break from Archeology 101 and read Genesis 1:26-28: *Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." male and female he created them. 28 And God blessed them.*

We should not be surprised that science will reflect God's word in Genesis.

When I was explaining my discovery of the gender results in my magazine to a fellow Elder, he warned me that he had heard recent news in the archeology field that wanted researchers to look for other clues in the to be able to include “all” gender possibilities in the reportage. That is to look for possible feminine accessories in the burial site of a scientifically determined male and the search for the opposite for a female burial site. In other words, look for clues of complexity in gender traits. I did do some internet research and this deeper analysis of remains of human accessories is definitely mentioned and suggested in recent articles. I will leave it to the reader to ponder why humans cannot be satisfied with God’s truth and must try to find their own narrative. I offer this quote that I saw on a sign of a peaceful protest at an abortion clinic, I cannot provide the author, but it is this: “These people are Angry because the truth we speak contradicts the lie they live.”

If you are in discourse with someone who verbally rejects the truth of God’s word, I suggest you politely stand your ground when it is your turn to speak with these or similar non-accusing words, “I am a person of faith and I try not to judge the actions or opinions of others, I must stand by the Word of the One who is the ultimate Judge of our lives.”

I believe that your Savior would be well pleased with your truthful and non-judgmental remarks.

Thank you dear readers, Blessings and Peace! Merry Christmas!

Joe



LCMS Stewardship Ministry

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus teaches those who follow Him that worrying about the necessities of life is idolatry: worshipping a false god. Worry and anxiety show what we care about. Our anxiety reveals what we love and what we’re devoted to. It reveals what we trust in.

Where we place our trust is why Jesus begins with an overarching principle: “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money” (Matthew 6:24).

But you say: “I must eat and drink. I must have clothing to wear and have a home in which to dwell.” Yes, all these things you need. And Jesus says that your Father in heaven will ensure that you have them. He demonstrates this with a simple argument: your Father in heaven feeds the birds of the air, who neither sow, nor reap, nor gather into barns. He clothes the lilies of the field, who neither toil nor spin but are arrayed more luxuriously than Solomon in all his glory. If, then, your Father in heaven feeds the birds, if He clothes the

lilies, how will He not also feed and clothe you, when you are worth more than they are? (Matt 6:25–33).

You are worth more. You are worth infinitely more. You are worth the price of the eternal Son of God. The Son of God did not come down from heaven and become a lily, nor did he take on the form of a bird. He came down from heaven and became a man: flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone (Genesis 2:23).

God became man in Christ Jesus. He lived the life we failed to live, and He died the death we deserved. He was raised again on the third day overcoming sin and death ... for us. He was crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification. So, if your Father in heaven has given His Son to die for us in order that we might live with Him eternally, how will He not also give us all things to support this body and life?

To be anxious about the necessities of life, to devote yourself to food and clothing, to care about these things and find security in them, is to serve another god. It is to deny that you will live forever because Jesus, the Son of God, is risen from the dead and lives and reigns for all eternity. It is to believe that the God who created you, redeemed you by the death and resurrection of His Son and sanctified you by His Spirit, will not keep His promise to sustain you in this life.

Jesus says, “Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness” (Matthew 6:33). God’s kingdom is His rule among us. His rule among us comes when our Father in heaven gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His Holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity. This is what we ask God to do for us in the prayer that Jesus taught us.

Your Father in heaven knows what you need — food and clothing, house and home — and He promises to give it to you. Chief of the things you need is His grace and mercy in His Son, Jesus Christ. So, seek after that. And those who seek will find. And all the necessities of life, our Lord says, will be added to you.



Fellowship Hall Carpet Replacement

There will be a fund-raising drive beginning January 2023 to remove the 33-year-old carpet and asbestos-adhesive in the Fellowship Hall and overflow area. The estimated cost for the removal and replacement of this carpet is \$30,000.00 based on current quotes. There is currently \$19,000.00 in the fund so we only need to raise another \$19,000.00. This project will allow extended enjoyment of this area which has housed many receptions, parties and other large gatherings. For those choosing to donate by check, we suggest using either the special offering envelopes marked “Church Upgrade” and using the Floorcovering Fund in the

memo line or by going to our Church website Shalimar.church and selecting the tab for Floorcovering Fund. Progress of donations will be published in the monthly Newsletter. Donations made before the end of 2022 will be tax deductible for this year.

Your support of this project is greatly appreciated.



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. Join us Wednesdays at 5:30PM for Advent Meals and 6:30PM for Advent Services.



REFRESHER ON MISSIONS WE SUPPORT

American Heritage Girls

American Heritage Girls (AHG) was founded by a group of parents wanting a faith-based, scout-type character development program for their daughters in 1995. The AHG Program is dedicated to the mission of building women of integrity through service to God, family, community and country. AHG girls across the nation and the globe participate in badge programs, service projects, leadership opportunities, and outdoor experiences, all with an emphasis on Christian values and family involvement.

Today there are Troops in every state and in 15 countries around the world through the [Trailblazer Membership](#). A variety of Christian denominations are also represented as [Charter Organizations](#) for Troops. There are thousands of volunteer members across the country helping girls to grow in their faith, cultivate a heart for service, enjoy the great outdoors, and have more fun than they can imagine!

POBLO

People of the Book Lutheran Outreach is a multi-ethnic mission society of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod planting congregations amount Muslims and others.

DISTRICT PLEDGE

The Southern District is one of the 35 districts of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS), and encompasses the states of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, as well as the western portion of the Florida Panhandle; the rest of Florida is part of the Florida-Georgia District. The Southern District includes approximately 170 congregations and missions, subdivided into 15 circuits. Our congregation has a long history of supporting the Southern District.

ADOPT A STUDENT

Financial support to a Seminary Student. The LCMS owns and operates two seminaries to prepare students to become pastors. The seminaries are separate from the Concordia University System.

LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

LHM reaches into more than 60 countries, often bringing Christ to places where no other Christian evangelistic organizations are present.

LIVING WATER LUTHERAN CHURCH, MEXICO BEACH

Living Water is a church in our LCMS Southern District circuit. Our congregation has a history of supporting circuit mission starts.

A BED FOR ME

A Bed 4 Me Foundation serves children ages 2-18 from low to middle income families within the Okaloosa County area. Providing new bedding to children who do not have beds due to economic struggles and lack of financial resources as well as displaced families starting over due to domestic issues.

We are helping to supply Max Lucado's book [You Are Special](#).

FRESH START

Serving the homeless population of Okaloosa and Walton Counties by helping them become self-sufficient and independent. These goals are reached through educational services, temporary and "step up" housing while providing basic needs fulfillment.

PRISON (JAIL) MINISTRY

Chaplain Lennon ministers to people who spend time in the county jail. His ministry and position is not state funded which provides him a lot of latitude in what he can do. In

previous years we supported this ministry by purchasing a table at the annual Jail Ministry Banquet that is supported by the Board of Human Care and the Board of Outreach.

LIFETREE CAFÉ

Our congregation is host to a Lifetree Café branch that meets weekly in the Education Building. It is a topical driven conversation that brings in people from the community to share their stories and perspectives. It also provides an opportunity for the non-church to get to know church goes better so that they can share the Hope they hold in Christ Jesus.

FUTURE MISSION

Provides us with flexibility to address mission needs as opportunities arise.
Thank You Good Shepherd,

Your generous gift is greatly appreciated. Concordia has been a great place for me to study and grow. I have sincerely enjoyed growing in my relationships with my fellow pre-seminary brothers and , ultimately, my relationship with God. Because of your gift, I am able to attend here and learn all these valuable things. As I continue to study here at Concordia, I look forward to learning even more on my journey to the pastoral ministry and I will never forget the people who helped me get here. Thank you so much!

God's blessings, Zeke Potts



Good Shepherd Life Team at the NWF Fair

The Good Shepherd Life Team hosted an educational booth at the North West Florida fair from September 28th to October 8th after a 2-year hiatus due to the pandemic. The main attraction was the set of life-like models that depict a baby's development inside the womb at 10-weeks to 16-weeks from conception. "The models are the most effective tool we have because of the lasting impression they leave on children", noted Nate Lepper, Life Team member and Head Elder. Julie Cox, Life Team Chairwomen, recalled an inspiring encounter with one such teen who ran to the booth exclaiming, "I love the babies! I look forward to seeing them every year". Now she is bringing her friends to see the babies, too.

"Are the unborn one of us?" – a key, thought-provoking question from the movie, The Matter of Life, was prominently displayed and readily seen by everyone walking-by. This thought-provoking question elicited a resounding, positive response from the general public as demonstrated by many who gestured a very intentional "thumbs-up", and made comments such as "The answer is YES", and "Thank you for what you're doing!"

Life Team volunteer and Good Shepherd's former church secretary, Susanna Lynn, shared her experiences, which are best conveyed in her own words below.

"After I told a little girl that she was that small when she was in her mama's tummy, the little girl's eyes got like saucers in shock, and then she began hugging the preborn baby that I had given her. And she cuddled it as she and her mother left the booth. It was SO sweet to see her make that connection - a person is a person no matter how small! I believe that she'll remember this important fact as she grows up and when she becomes an adult (like so many of the other kids that stopped at the booth)."

"A young man who was alone stopped at the booth and then he read EVERYTHING at the table. He stayed a LONG time. Then he told me why he stayed. His girlfriend is pregnant and he happened to look at the baby models first, and saw the size that his baby was at this very moment. Then he showed me, pointing, "Our baby is that one right there!" And then he video-chatted with his girlfriend to show her everything at the table. I gave him some stuff to take home and he was THRILLED. He smiled and was looking at everything for even longer! Then another guy stopped and he showed everything to him. He showed him the baby models and how big his baby is now. It was a really magical moment for me to see a young man behaving that way. There surely is hope for this generation. And now of course, I am praying he marries her... "

"A family (mom, dad and 2 young girls and a small boy) stopped by. The oldest (girl about 10) was looking at everything and wanted to take home a baby. The dad said, "She's very maternal. And she's into this." And he let her stay as long as she wanted. The girl asked me questions about the baby models. It was a blessing to see the "wheels turning" as she was discovering that they were all in mom's belly looking like tiny babies before they were born. And I could tell that she'll continue to be a strong pro-lifer when she grows up!"

"Three beautiful teen girls walked up to the booth, all dressed up with jewelry and makeup. And they were REALLY interested in the booth info. I didn't know why, but I didn't ask them. We just started talking, and then suddenly, one of the girls pointed at her friend and said, "She's pregnant!" And the pregnant girl smiled. She said, "That's my baby right there!" pointing to the 16-week-old baby. They stayed for a while and we talked. Then they took some pamphlets and one of the baby models in a baggy. How touching it was to watch these girls supporting each other like that. I didn't see a ring on the pregnant girl's finger of course, but I'm hopeful that the guy will help her and marry her. Either way, it made my day that in a culture that pushes death, SHE HAD CHOSEN LIFE for her baby! I was silently thanking God as they walked away!"

All the volunteers who worked the booth agreed with Susanna's assessment that "Having this Life Team booth scored a point for LIFE!"



A sincere thank-you to the many volunteers who made this event possible, especially those who worked the booth: Julie Cox (Life Team chairwomen), Tom Cox, Nate Lepper, Herb Hardwick, Susanna Lynn, Dottie Steele, Connie Haney, Darrell Bittle; and first-time volunteers, Nancy Humphrey and Lauren Cotton. We also recognize Lance and Flo Hofman, and Joe and Karrell Staton in absentia. For more information

about the Good Shepherd Life Team, please contact Julie Cox through the church office.



Manners & Customs of Bible Times

Selling the land

There was need, on occasion, to realize the cash value of property when a particular family fell on hard times, but all land sold for such a reason had to be returned to the original owner in the year of Jubilee, which came every fifty years (Leviticus 25:10). The sale value of the land was based upon the number of years left until Jubilee (Leviticus 25:13-17). Such transfers were very carefully arranged and monitored. Money was weighed, and deeds were drawn up describing every detail of the land in the presence of witnesses. The Jews seem to have taken over this practice of transfer from ancient times (compare Jeremiah 32:9-12 with Genesis 23:4-20).

If in the meantime a member of the family that had sold the land was able to raise the money to buy it back on behalf of the family, then the land had to be returned at once. Or if a childless widow remarried, her husband could purchase the land, but it would pass on to their firstborn child, who would carry the original family name, so that the land did not go out of the family (Deuteronomy 25:5-6). An example is recorded in the story of Ruth and Boaz (Ruth 4).

Happy Anniversary

12/18 – Jim and Sandee Baughman

12/29 -- George and Mary Ann Day

- 12/3 Trudy Gronning
- 12/4 Beatrice Daily
- 12/4 Peter Day
- 12/4 Judy Koepsell
- 12/5 Cheryl Neumann
- 12/6 Andrew Bier
- 12/7 Corey Gabel
- 12/8 Dave Lienemann
- 12/9 David Chandler
- 12/9 Yuri Day
- 12/13 Audrey Gray
- 12/16 Maecy Hoppel
- 12/18 Larry Hill
- 12/20 Bobbie Ehlert
- 12/21 Charles Schwartz
- 12/26 Jane Wilhelm
- 12/27 Kelly Binkley
- 12/29 Sandy Boole
- 12/31 Isaiah McElroy





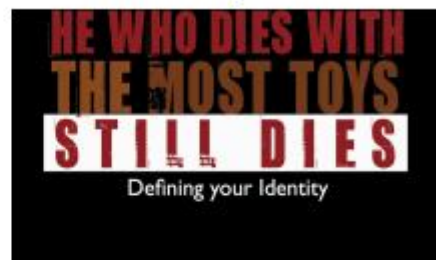
The quilters have started celebrating Christmas with shell Christmas ornaments made by Diana Fallon's daughter, Jessie Jacobs. If you are free on Wednesdays come and join this very special group. They are in real need for someone who can tie the quilt knots. They also have lunch together around noon. You don't have to quilt for you to come have fun

Tuesday, December 6,
Hosted by Jacob



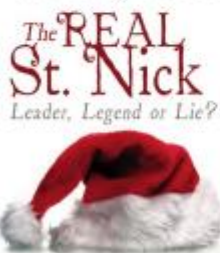
Angels Among Us

Tuesday, December 13,
Hosted by Curtis



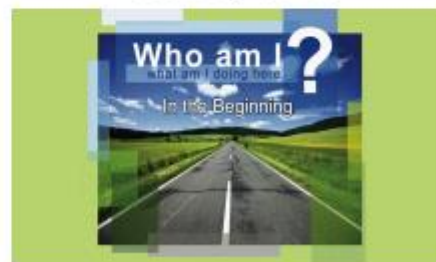
He Who Dies With The Most Toys - 1 - Identity

Tuesday, December 20,
Hosted by Jacob



The Real Saint Nick

Tuesday, December 27,
Hosted by Curtis



What am I Doing Here? - 1 - Beginning



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 5:30 PM American Heritage Girls 6:00 PM Elder's Meeting	2 1:00 PM Bible Study	3 8:00 AM Praise Band 9:30 AM Christmas Tree Decorating
4 Early Communion Both Services Mite Collection 8:00 AM Traditional Service 9:00 AM Christmas Choir Practice 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary 11:45 AM Voter's Assembly 6:00 PM Youth Group	5	6 7:00 PM Lifetree Cafe	7 9:30 AM Quilting 10:00 AM Pastor's Midweek Bible Study 5:30 PM Advent Meal 6:30 PM Advent Service	8	9 1:00 PM Bible Study	10 8:00 AM Praise Band 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study
11 Late Communion 8:00 AM Traditional Service 9:00 AM Christmas Choir Practice 9:30 AM Cookie Walk 9:30 AM Christmas Breakfast 10:45 AM Contemporary Noon Puppet Practice 6:00 PM Youth Group	12	13 7:00 PM Lifetree Cafe	14 9:30 AM Quilting 10:00 AM Pastor's Midweek Bible Study 5:30 PM Advent Meal 6:30 PM Advent Service	15 5:30 PM American Heritage Girls 6:00 PM Council Meeting	16 1:00 PM Bible Study	17 8:00 AM Praise Band
18 Early Communion 8:00 AM Traditional Service 9:00 AM Christmas Choir Practice 9:30 AM Puppet Show 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary 6:00 PM Youth Christmas Party Angel Tree Completion	19	20 7:00 PM Lifetree Cafe	21 9:30 AM Quilting 10:00 AM Pastor's Midweek Bible Study 5:30 PM Advent Meal 6:30 PM Advent Service	22	23 1:00 PM Bible Study	24 8:00 AM Praise Band 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Service
25 10:00 AM Christmas Service with Communion	26	27 7:00 PM Lifetree Cafe	28 9:30 AM Quilting 10:00 AM Pastor's Midweek Bible Study 4:00 PM Confirmation	29	30 1:00 PM Bible Study	31 8:00 AM Praise Band 5:30 PM New Years Eve Service





Thanksgiving Food Drive

Thanks to the Food Drop at Destin High School and the contributions from this congregation, this is what we were able to provide to 8 families feeding 17 adults and 34 children. Thank you all for your generosity to allow us to provide for these families that may not have been able to celebrate the holiday at all without your help. Special thanks to Kathy and Frank Shaw for picking up the Food Drop produce, Jean Grieve and Dianna Riggenbach.

This is one of the people helped
this Thanksgiving!





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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