

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH MAY NEWSLETTER



How is Your Garden Growing?

It's already May and I still haven't planted all my seeds. Some of my seeds are STILL in their packages.

On any given Sunday only about 20% of Americans attend church on Sunday morning. That means that our mission field is the other 80%. That's a lot of empty soil yet to plant. So, what's the plan?

Jesus said in Mark 4:26-34, *"And he said, 'The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.'"*

Jesus' point is this: The seed that is scattered on the ground is the Word of God that proclaims the forgiveness of sins.

We are all called to plant seeds. We are not to worry about making them grow because the power is in the seeds.

St. Paul said it this way in 1 Corinthians 3:6-8, *"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth."*

Would you like to see what the powerful seed of God's Word looks like in the lives of people? Then look around on Sunday morning you are here because the Word was planted in you. You are here to worship and to listen to God's Word so that your faith is watered and nourished. You encourage others around you by being here.

So, what's the plan?

Our plan is to plant and water! If we don't scatter seeds and plant and water the seeds they will never grow.

Jesus said, *"Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.'"*
Matthew 9:37-38

I am praying that God sends YOU to labor in His harvest fields.

It's time to throw some seeds and watch them grow!

In Partnership with you!

Pastor Ray

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Follow Him in Generosity

Our Savior calls us to follow Him in generosity. “For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you” (John 13:15). We cannot give our lives for the salvation of the world, of course. Praise God, that job’s already done! But with hearts full of thanksgiving for what Jesus has given us, we can follow His example of generous giving. And Jesus’ generosity is not merely an example. Our Lord also commands us to act according to our gifts: “The one who contributes, [let him give] in generosity” (Romans 12:8).

So, when we bring offerings to the Lord, we should strive to heed His command and follow the pattern He has established for us. Jesus did not give us leftovers. He gave His best. We should not give leftovers, either, but the first and best of what He has given us. Jesus did not give as an afterthought — He gave according to the plan of salvation God established from the foundation of the world. So, when it comes to our own offerings, we should make a thoughtful plan to give generously, in proportion to the way He has blessed us. Like the Macedonian Christians, who gave according to their ability, and even beyond their ability (2Corinthians. 8:3), we should honor the Lord by giving a generous portion of the income that God provides us.

We should also give freely, just as Jesus gave freely for us. There is no compulsion involved in our works of love and our offerings to the Lord. We do not give grudgingly, but willingly and cheerfully, each “as he has decided in his heart,” as the Lord says (2Corinthians 9:7). There is no New Testament ceremonial law involved here. Rather, we are free to give as generously as our Savior has given for us!

In the same way, our Lord teaches us to give generously out of our love for Him and for our neighbor. Jesus shows us that genuine love is always love “in deed” (1 John 3:18). It is love that sees our neighbor in need and gives generously to help him. It is love that hears the Word of the Lord and does what it says. If we truly love, we give generously. If we give without love, our giving is not truly following Jesus.

Finally, we follow Jesus in generosity when we support His Gospel ministry and other works of mercy. The people of Israel gave generously to construct and support the operation of the tabernacle, for that was the place where the Lord received the Old Testament sacrifices, through which He bestowed the forgiveness of sins on His people. So, they gave abundantly, so abundantly they had to be told to stop giving! (Ex. 36:5–6). In the same way, we should bring generous offerings to support the Lord’s work. We support our congregations in the preaching of His Word, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, which bestow His gifts of forgiveness,

life and salvation, and we take care of those who are poor and needy.

Our Savior calls us to follow His example in generous giving. Let us then, with thankful hearts, rededicate ourselves to following Him in generosity.



Deacon's Digest

Do you use the Social Media App, Facebook? Seems that just about everyone does, I joined a few years ago when I discovered I could see fresh pictures of our children and Grandchildren living their daily lives. Our Grandkids are very widely dispersed [Denver, Sacramento, and Northern Virginia] and we have to plan carefully on visiting them or trying to tempt their parents to visit us. It does help that Destin is a widely known vacation paradise. I found an interesting group on Facebook called: "Friends Who Like the Lutheran Church –Missouri Synod". There was an article posted on that site about 2 weeks ago called: "Here is a list of twenty suggestions on how to be a loving, Friendly, and welcoming Church. " As a member of the Board of Elders, the idea of a "Friendly and welcoming church" I believe is what we are looking for. I want to offer up those suggestions to you into two consecutive articles for the newsletter, one today and the column for the June edition. I divided them up into two types of ideas: general ideas [of which there are 14] which I will bring out today and then 6 specific things you can do or say that are friendly or welcoming actions, those six things that you can practice, I will talk about next month.

The first thing we need to say is that a friendly church is not about the building, right? Although there are some architectural concepts which would bring out a welcoming look; it is people with whom the visitor will be interacting, and it is the actions of people that will determine if the visitor decides that a church is welcoming and friendly. So here we go with general ideas:

1. Every church MEMBER is a host and not a guest. Making visitors feel welcome is primarily the responsibility of members, not the NEBULOUS "church."
2. The most important person for a visitor to talk to in order to feel at home in a new church is YOU. It is not the pastor, or the greeter, but a regular member. Obviously, the Pastor and the Greeter are important in our worship service but the actions and words of just an "ordinary" member will likely guide the visitor's impressions of the members, ie "the church."
3. TRY TO GREET EVERYONE including members you don't know. At least try to say good morning or good evening, or wave or give a smile.

4. Work on trying to learn people's names and try to find time to write them down to work on remembering them.
5. Don't just talk to those you know or to relatives. Remember that every member of your church is part of the family of God, your family. You might not feel the need to reach out but others need your love and friendship, as part of the family of God.
6. Listening is a very effective way to show love.
7. Also greet children, which is related to the next one:
8. Let children be children. (crying, playing, singing!) and don't expect them to be grown-ups.
9. Help visitors find seating that suits the needs of their family
10. Help first time visitors by being their tour guide and helping them find worship resources. Visiting a new church is like a cross-cultural experience, even for those of us who have visited dozens of other churches.
11. Never let visitors sit alone if possible.
12. Pray for your visitors throughout your week.
13. Treat first time visitors as guests of God, not strangers.
14. Remember how Christ has loved you and cares about you. Imitate Jesus' love. Imagine how Jesus would greet every person.

Those 14 items are general suggestions -- next month I will offer up six more specific things to say or do that you can practice. If you see me at worship, you'll be able to try it out on me, I normally attend the late service.

Blessings and Peace to you.

Deacon Joe



Updates from your Council (Garry Haase, President)

Many thanks to the many volunteers assisting with Holy Week services. You helped to make it more meaningful enhancing the ways people connect to God's word of love through His death and resurrection. There are so many that I'm sure I will miss someone if I try to recognize everyone.

However, I do want to highlight some of our special music: beach service and late service musicians/singers, bell choir, voice choir, Binkley Brass, April Adams' flute, and our music

director Lois Henry. On behalf of Good Shepherd, I thank Lois for her six and half years of faithful, dedicated service with Good Shepherd. Her ministry through music has touched countless people in the congregation, on-line worshipers, and visitors over the years. With a sad heart, I announce she decided its time for a change and her last Sunday of service will be May 7th. Please join me as we recognize and thank her for her service after early service on the 7th and wish her well. I also ask for your grace, patience, and prayers as we address our music ministry needs.

Finally, I also ask for your financial help. As you may have noticed, we replaced our sanctuary roof. After trying to chase and address the source of a leak unsuccessfully over the last year, we concluded it was time to just replace it before the heavier rainy season hits. I'm pleased to pass along that the damaged sections were found and fixed during this process. Thank you, Darrell Bittle, Tom Cox, and the whole properties team, for overseeing this effort. Fortunately, we had the financial reserves to borrow from ourselves to allow the expedient completion. Now, we're kicking off a roof replacement capital campaign with a goal of raising \$50,000 to cover this expense. We've created a dedicated roof accounting line and excited to share we've already raised about \$10,000. I ask you prayerfully consider an extra offering which you can designate to the roof fund.



Financial Campaign Updates

Roof Replacement Campaign goal is \$50,000.00. To date \$16,098.00 has been collected.

Fellowship Floor Replacement Campaign goal is \$32,000.00. To date \$17,545.00 has been collected.

The LWML collects used eyeglasses for MOST Ministries. I recently sent off 50 pairs, now have 13 more pair donated waiting on you to bring yours. Below is a recent letter from MOST telling us about where glasses go and how they help people.



MISSION OPPORTUNITIES SHORT TERM

Impacting the World for Jesus Christ Through Short Term Missions

655 Phoenix Drive Ann Arbor, Michigan 48108
most@mostministries.org 734.994.7909 www.mostministries.org

Dear Bea,

Thank you so much for your recent donation of eyeglasses to MOST Ministries. Your donation helps keep our storeroom stocked with eyeglasses ready to send worldwide as hosts request an eyeglass team.

Pictured on the right, Judy manages the fitting station during the eyeglass clinic in Guatemala. She volunteers weekly in our Ann Arbor Mission Center to prepare the donated eyeglasses. After working with the glasses, she decided to take the eyeglasses to their final destination, Guatemala.



The fitting station is the final station of the clinic. Each participant now has their glasses and we want to make sure they fit properly. It is also our last moments with our guest. In that final moment, smiles are so important. We want to send them off feeling great about themselves but more importantly knowing that Jesus loves them.

We give thanks to God for safe travel for our teams in 2021 and are anxious to get the 2022³ teams off the ground. As we seek God's guidance at MOST Ministries, please pray for our staff, international hosts, team leaders, church liaisons, and volunteer team members. We are blessed that "This IS the day that the Lord has made" and we are rejoicing that he has brought us all together. Thank you for your support and prayers,

You are precious in His sight and in ours,

Kelly Bone
Business Manager and Volunteer Director

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the messenger who brings good news, the good news of peace and salvation, the news that the God of Israel reigns!
Isaiah 52:7 (NL T)

MANNERS & CUSTOMS OF BIBLE TIMES

Brick Houses

When the seminomadic Israelites under Joshua took over the Canaanite towns and villages, domestic architecture had developed a long way from the shelters used when the cave dwellers moved out into the open. Homes had developed from the mud brick, beehive-shaped swellings, where the floor was at a lower level than the ground outside, to the single rectangular room that is still typical today.

Initially homes were made with sun-dried mud bricks, but technology advanced until it was possible to fire the bricks in a kiln, and until rough stone and rubble houses were being built. Not until the time of the settled kingdom under Solomon was squared stone used for domestic building. This was made possible because of the availability of iron tools to dress (or finish) the stone. In Galilee, the stone was normally black basalt, and on the coast, yellow sandstone; but for most of the country in the limestone area the stone was white.

Houses too were looked upon as the gift of God, and when a house was first built there was an act of dedication (Deuteronomy 20:5). The basic house for the poorest members of the community living in the country was a single room, about ten feet (three meters) square. The walls were thick, of mud brick or of rough stone and rubble, and contained niches for the storage of food and utensils. A single window was small and high and sometimes had a wooden lattice (Proverbs 7:6) to keep out intruders.

In winter the lattice might be covered with a skin or some form of curtain. Because the walls were so poorly built, they harbored various kinds of animal life (Amos 5:19).

The main means of entry for light was through the single open door, which was shut with a wooden bar at night. Light was provided at night by an oil lamp standing on a projection from the wall in an alcove, or on some form of utensil (Matthew 5:15). The floor was divided into two parts. The area nearest the door was levelled and stamped-down earth, but at the back of the room was a raised platform of stone that was used for family activities such as eating, sitting and sleeping. Not until Roman times were tiles laid on the lower floor. The state of the floor and the lack of light would certainly make it difficult to find a lost coin (Luke 15:8). A fire for heating and for cooking was sometimes set up on the lower floor, with the smoke left to find its own way out. Animals, including a guard dog (Psalm 59:6) often used the lower floor overnight.

Submitted by Beverly Steele

MAY 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 7:00 PM Lifetree Cafe	3 9:30 AM Quitting 10:00 AM Pastor's Midweek Bible Study 4:00 PM Confirmation	4 5:30 PM American Heritage Girls 6:00 PM Elder's Meeting	5 1:00 PM Bible Study	6 8:00 AM Praise Band
7 Early Communion Both Services Wreath Collection 8:00 AM Traditional Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary 6:00 PM Youth Group	8	9 7:00 PM Lifetree Cafe	10 9:30 AM Quitting 10:00 AM Pastor's Midweek Bible Study 4:00 PM Confirmation	11	12 1:00 PM Bible Study	13 8:00 AM Praise Band 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study
14 Late Communion MOTHER'S DAY 8:00 AM Traditional Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary 6:00 PM Youth Group	15	16 7:00 PM Lifetree Cafe	17 9:30 AM Quitting 10:00 AM Pastor's Midweek Bible Study 4:00 PM Confirmation	18 5:30 PM American Heritage Girls 6:00 PM Council Meeting	19 1:00 PM Bible Study	20 8:00 AM Praise Band 9:00 AM Life Team Meeting
21 Early Communion 8:00 AM Traditional Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary 6:00 PM Youth Group	22	23 7:00 PM Lifetree Cafe	24 9:30 AM Quitting 10:00 AM Pastor's Midweek Bible Study 4:00 PM Confirmation	25	26 1:00 PM Bible Study	27 8:00 AM Praise Band
28 Late Communion 8:00 AM Traditional Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary 6:00 PM Youth Group	29 Memorial Day Office Closed	30 7:00 PM Lifetree Cafe	31 9:30 AM Quitting 10:00 AM Pastor's Midweek Bible Study 4:00 PM Confirmation			



- 5/8 - Brian Carstens
- 5/16 - Janette Bates
- 5/16 - Kay Gasper
- 5/21 - Pam Chandler
- 5/21 - Esenia Baughman
- 5/23 - Charles Schneider
- 5/24 - Flo Hofman
- 5/28 - Bettie Farmer
- 5/30 - Sherry Wiese

Happy Anniversary

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



Baptism of Theodore Jeffery Bier Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023. Theo is the 4th child of Jeff and Beth Bier. He was born March 24, 2023.



Easter Egg Hunt







Easter Sunday





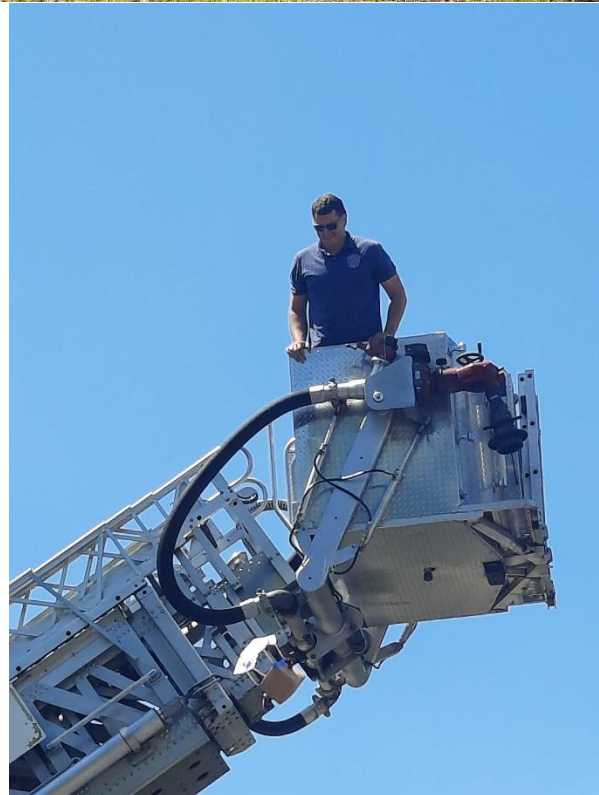
Youth Group Activities





Home School Group Egg Drop Experiment

The students are challenged to design something to protect a raw egg when dropped from the top of the firetruck ladder. The students do this in groups and families do this as a unit. There were 2 student submissions and several family submissions that did not break. There was much excitement from the students to see if each drop was broken.





C



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
1 Meigs Drive - Shalimar, FL 32579
850-651-1022
www.shalimar.church

