

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH SEPTEMBER 2023

The Miracle of Finding Lilly



Lilly is safe at home!

Lilly is a 1-year-old English Cream Golden Retriever.

We ask that you take a moment to send up a thank you prayer to the Lord. This was a miracle!

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who helped in the search. You were a blessing! There is so much more to the story, but I will try and keep it brief.

Lilly was lost on Monday morning August 14th at 6:30am.

We had just finished our walk on the bird dog training field off Range Road 236 out on Eglin AFB, as we have done most mornings every day for the past 9 months.

Lilly loaded up in the back of the Jeep and I decided to drive a lap slowly around the field because Lilly likes looking out the side. Lilly must have seen something and jumped over the side of the Jeep. Her leash caught on something, and she landed right in front of my back tire hurting her nose. I stopped and immediately got out and she ran off pulling her leash behind her. I ran after her but couldn't keep up and she disappeared into the forest; nowhere to be found. Her fight or flight instinct kicked in.

We immediately began looking for her, but there was no sign of her.

Our son Austin and his wife Danielle who were visiting from Texas began making signs and postings on Facebook. We needed help in finding her.

We were out there Monday until midnight hoping she would find us, but again, nothing. We left the Jeep in the woods for the next two days with the ramp down in case she wanted to find a safe place. Still nothing. No tracks and no sightings. We brought her crate out to where we normally walk hoping that would help. Still nothing.

On Wednesday morning, around 6:30, we got a call from someone who was driving down Ranger Road who saw Lilly. He described her as looking like a baby white deer, so he turned around to get another look and saw that it was Lilly still pulling her leash. He said she didn't look hurt. This was encouraging.

What a blessing it was that she is pulling her leash because it leaves a mark in the dirt, so it is easier to track her.

We keep her collar loose in case she ever get hung up, so she could have easily pulled out of it. That was good news, but bad news if she did, making it harder for us to track her. Lilly was seen 4 times on Wednesday, and she looked ok. But she wouldn't come to anyone who saw her. Not even us.

We took the week off so we could be out in the woods night and day looking for her. We ate our meals out there hoping the smell would bring her in. But there is a lot of land to cover, and it can get very discouraging. We couldn't give up.

On Thursday we set out a trail camera overlooking a live trap hoping to catch her. Nothing.

Debbie kept saying, "I just want to walk out in the field where we walk, the field that she knows, and have Lilly come to me."

Lilly hadn't been there since she ran away.

On Saturday we set out a second live animal trap and camera in a new area. No one sighted her on Thursday, Friday or Saturday. But we didn't lose hope because we could see marks in the sand made by her leash dragging behind her as she walked. Many people spent many hours walking the sandy roads following her leash marks.



On Saturday we could see that she walked the road under the powerlines toward Range Road 236. The road that we drive in and out of when we go to the field.

On Sunday morning we were back out tracking at 5 AM in the dark looking for some sign. We saw that she again walked the power lines what looked like multiple times in and out. We now knew, and hoped, that Lillie was looking for us. We just needed to be found by her now.

Then at 5:50 AM Lillie tripped the camera on our new trap. She was just a half a mile away. She didn't go in the trap, but at least we saw her.



We didn't go to the trap so as not to scare her away. We said, "Today is going to be the day."

Sarah and Lucas, some new friends of ours, and their dog Boone had been searching all week and on Sunday morning Boone went off chasing a big buck into a creek when Lillie barked at them. Our first physical sighting since Wednesday. But she wouldn't come to them and ran off. A few minutes later Sarah saw her on the dirt road going toward the field as Sarah was leaving the field, but when Lilly saw the vehicle, she darted into the woods. Lilly was on the move.

Around 3 PM we spotted fresh Lilly tracks where her crate was in the field. She had made it to the field for the first time since she was lost. Because the sand was so dry and there were so many tracks going in all directions, it was difficult to tell what direction she was heading so Debbie took off following in the field and I took off down the access road. I lost her track about a half mile up the road.

Debbie saw her in the field and immediately laid down on the ground and prayed that she wouldn't run away. Lilly came up and nuzzled her nose into Debbie's lap allowing her

to grab her collar. Lilly didn't resist and climbed into her lap. Debbie sat with her for a while and then carried her to the Jeep and we took her home.



The miracle we had been praying for happened. The Lord answered our prayers.

After we got Lilly home and after some food and water, a good checking over and a medicated bath Lilly took a long nap. She is so excited to be home! But not as excited as we are!

This has truly been a team effort to recover Lilly. This would not have happened without ALL OF YOU!

Again, we have been so blessed!
Thank the Lord.

Jesus, the Great Shepherd, tells the story of a man who has 100 sheep, and one goes missing. He leaves the 99 to go to seek and to save that which was lost.

The love of Jesus is proactive.

He does not wait until the sheep is willing to return, or until it makes some attempt to come back; but He starts off, that He may find that which was lost. All His heart, His eye, His strength is given to the one that has gone astray. And when He finds it, He joyfully puts it on His shoulders and goes home. Then He calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' - **Ray & Debbie Angerman**



LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Stewardship in the First Commandment

We have a God above us. He is the Lord God and we are not. He is Almighty and in control. He is righteous and good. And therefore, we should fear Him.

This God is also our heavenly Father. He wants us to be saved. He does not want us to suffer His just wrath. He has provided salvation for us in His Son, Jesus Christ. And therefore, we should love Him.

Our heavenly Father will never leave us nor forsake us. He has promised as much — and the Bible shows us that He always keeps His promises. So, we should trust Him.

Money and possessions form one of the greatest temptations against the First Commandment, “You shall have no other gods.”

Luther explains, “This I must unfold somewhat more plainly, that it may be understood and perceived by ordinary examples of the contrary. Many a one thinks that he has God and everything in abundance when he has money and possessions; he trusts in them and boasts of them with such firmness and assurance as to care for no one. Lo, such a man also has a god, Mammon by name, i.e., money and possessions, on which he sets all his heart, and which is also the most common idol on earth. He who has money and possessions feels secure and is joyful and undismayed as though he were sitting in the midst of Paradise. On the other hand, he who has no doubts and is despondent, as though he knew of no God. For very few are to be found who are of good cheer, and who neither mourn nor complain if they have no Mammon. This [care and desire for money] sticks and clings to our nature, even to the grave.” (LC I 5–9)

These words should call us to repentance; sometimes, we live and act like we don't have a Father in heaven. We seek our comfort and peace outside of His gracious promises. But we do have a Father in heaven. He does love us. All His promises are true. And the Lord will surely provide. If that is our belief, then our outward lives will reflect our belief in our acts of generosity and mercy. We will see money and possessions not as gods but rather as tools for doing God's work.

Manners and Customs of Bible Times

Domestic Activities

Most people in Bible times got up early, before the sun was up, so that they could make the most of the hours of daylight and allow for the extreme heat at midday in the summer. Abraham got up early to obey God's command to sacrifice (Genesis 22:3); Moses got up early in the morning to meet God on Mount Sinai (Exodus 34:4); Job offered worship early in the morning (Job 1:5); Jesus prayed before sunrise (Mark 1:35).

Although it was possible for a person to stay in bed (Proverbs 26:14), it was very difficult to do so in a small house because everyone slept together on the platform. One person getting up would disturb the others – a point made when Jesus was telling the story of the friend who needed help with some extra food at midnight (Luke 11:7).

Breakfast

Breakfast was an informal meal taken sometimes – a cake of bread with something inside, such as olives, cheese, or dried fruit. While the men and older boys left for their work, eating as they went, mother, and girls did the domestic chores for the day, together with any boys too young to work and unable (in early biblical years) to go to school. The youngest minded any animals possessed by the family (David for example, in 1 Samuel 16:11), while the others were busy in and about the house.

Congregational Happenings

- Mary Newcomer has decided to become a member of Good Shepherd.
- Margaret Goulden moved back to Chipley the end of August and will no longer be attending Good Shepherd.

9/3 Curtis Parker
9/4 Andrea Chandler
9/4 Gene Bollin
9/12 Bryan Baker
9/17 Beth Adams
9/18 Linda Babiak



9/19 Ella Parker
9/20 Joe Staton
9/21 Joshua Hofman
9/28 Herb Steeb
9/28 May Paul
9/29 Jason Boole

9/3 Weldon & Barb Brinkley
9/5 Chris & Lisa Schwartz
9/11 Bob & Bettie Farmer
9/14 David & Pam Chandler
9/18 Al & Brenda Hemmer
9/22 Frank & Kathy Shaw



SEPTEMBER 2023

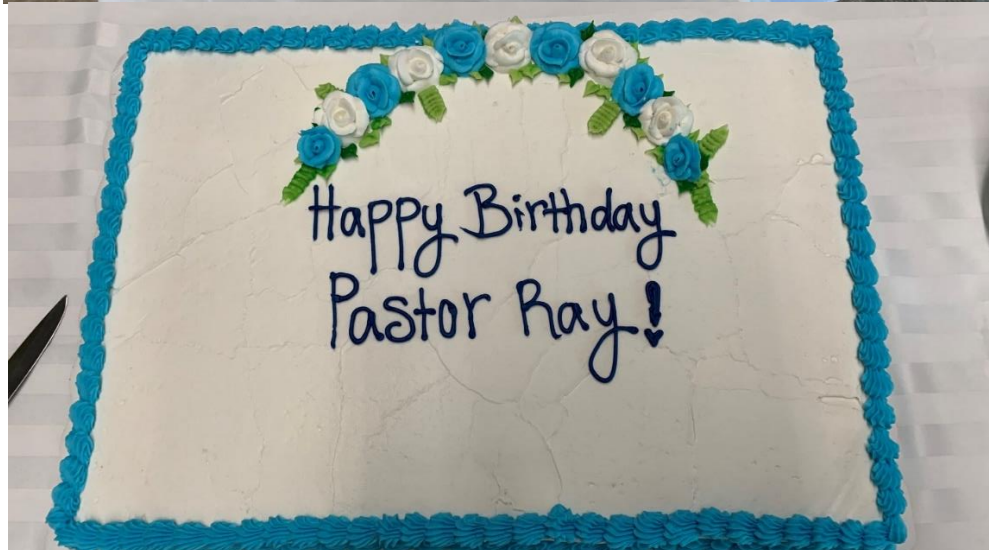
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 1:00 PM Bible Study	2 8:00 AM Praise Band
3 Early Communion Both Services Mite Collection 8:00 AM Traditional Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary Noon Rally Day 6:00 PM Youth Group	4 Office Closed	5 7:00 PM Lifetree Café	6 9:30 AM Quilting 10:00 AM Pastor's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

Beautifying Our Facility



Fifth Sunday Breakfast and Pastor's Birthday Celebration





Malachi and McKinna's Wedding Shower



Praise Band Practice



Sunday School Kids



Youth Group Rally Day Preparation

