

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH OCTOBER NEWSLETTER 2023



Good Shepherd Family,

Greetings in Christ on behalf of our Call Committee! While we lack a defined schedule for an Intentional Interim Minister at this time, we continue moving forward in the call process “confidently and deliberately, while taking adequate time for prayer, study, introspection and planning”.

The Southern District LCMS requires us to develop a Congregational Profile through self-reflection. The Call Committee will use your responses to this survey to develop our Congregational Profile. This Profile is a necessary step in the Call process that needs to be completed before we can solicit names to consider for the Office of Pastor.

You may return this survey by mail or drop it in the box under the TV in the narthex. You may also complete this survey on-line at shalimar.church/survey or by following the QR code.

Serving in Christ, Garry Haase
Chairman, Call Committee



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 none 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 not 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 & Customs of Bible Times

Milling

As soon as the men had disappeared, the mill was taken from its place on the platform and placed on a square of clean cloth. It was made of two disc-shaped stones about twelve to eighteen inches (thirty to fifty centimeters) across. The lower stone had an upright wooden stake that passed through an ample hole in the upper stone, which ideally was made of basalt, a lightweight rock. An upright handle fixed to the upper stone made it possible to rotate the stone about the wooden stake or pivot. Either barley grains (for the poor) or wheat grains were put into the pivot hole as the top stone was being turned. The grain was crushed between the two stones and came out onto the cloth as flour.

A woman could do the milling by herself, but it was easier working with a companion (see Matthew 24:41). If possible, slaves were used to do this work, as Samson found out in prison (Judges 16:21) and as the Jews found in captivity (Lamentations 5:13). It was, however, a basic, homely sound as the grain was milled. Jeremiah said that the absence of the sound would be a mark of the judgment of God (Jeremiah 25:10).

Fetching water

The two jobs outside the house – collecting water and going to the local market – were done by the older girls. Water was fetched from the local well or spring at the beginning or end of the day. Eliezer, Abraham's servant, utilized this fact to seek

guidance from God in choosing a wife for Isaac (Genesis 24:11-13). He also knew that it was always the older, unmarried girls who came to fetch the water (see 1 Samuel 9:11). The water was carried in a large earthenware pitcher either on the shoulder (the method adopted by Rebekah in Genesis 24:15), or on the hip.

Contributed by Beverly Steele



A Note from Zeke Potts

Hello all.

As I get started on my senior year at Concordia, I thought I would give an update about an amazing opportunity I had this summer. Over the summer, I had the privilege of being a summer camp counselor for Trinity Lutheran Camp in Bigfork Montana. This was an amazing experience and I learned so much from getting to work with a great staff and serving kids as young as 3rd grade all the way to high school seniors.

I was at camp for seven weeks, including one week at the beginning for staff training. For the first three weeks after staff training, I worked with 3rd and 4th graders, 5th and 6th graders, and 7th and 8th graders respectively. Following those camps there was a servant week where the staff helped out with projects around camp. Basketball week followed servant week and high school week closed off the summer. Every week was unique, with its own joys and challenges and I learned so much about interacting with different ages.

By far, my favorite week was basketball week. It was the only week where we had more than one age group. It is amazing being able to play basketball with kids who were passionate about the sport, while also being able to show them the Gospel.

The biggest thing I learned over the summer was how much fun full-time ministry can be. There were certainly challenges and I was exhausted often, yet camp was another great opportunity to experience full-time ministry in another way. I enjoyed every second of camp, from the big games to the quiet conversations with individual campers.

I still have plenty to learn, and I am excited to learn. I just started with Senior year of undergraduate. The cool thing about this year is that my younger brother, Noah, has also decided to attend Concordia and we are seeing each other around campus. This fall I will be finishing up my Greek and Hebrew as well as taking a class on the Lutheran hymnal and worship service and a class on the philosophy of C.S. Lewis.

I will also be starting my senior paper which will be finished in the spring. I am looking forward to my senior year and I want to thank all of you for your continued support through all my time at college.

God's Blessings

Congregational Happenings

Although not a member, Paul Barnett was a regular visitor in our congregation sitting with Scott Davis. He went home to Jesus September 5th.

Norma Breidinger, Mother of Barb Brinkley went home September 11th.

- 10/8 Betty Tucholski
- 10/8 Janice Balentine
- 10/10 David Blair
- 10/11 Olivia Roberts
- 10/15 Nancy Humphrey
- 10/19 Scarlett Gray
- 10/21 Bonnie Steeb
- 10/23 Barb Brinkley
- 10/25 Chris Schwartz
- 10/25 Martha Haggerty
- 10/31 Tim Evers



- 10/2 Don & Fran Chandler
- 10/21 Garry & Anna Haase
- 10/21 John & Inga Miller
- 10/31 Rick & Jill Morgan

American Heritage Girls Fall Kickoff



Confirmation Class



Rally Day 2023









Youth Group





Sunday Morning Worship



Thank you Pastor Ray and Debbie for Decades of service.

Happy Retirement!!!!

Pastor Ray's Anniversary of Initial Ministry At GSLC (49)



With gratitude and joy we give thanks for Pastor Ray who began working with us as an intern candidate for Director of Christian Education (DCE). He later was ordained into public ministry in 2002. We thank God that He established the Pastoral Office in His Church to exercise the rights of the spiritual priesthood in public office in the name of the congregation. We praise the Lord that He has permitted His servant Ray to work in His Church, that He has sustained and supported him and blessed his ministry among us.

Pastor Ray has served Good Shepherd through two Calls. One Call as a Director of Christian Education (DCE) and in his current Call as Pastor. He began serving at Good Shepherd during the summer of 1974 on a part-time basis as a DCE student. A year later, he returned for a one year DCE internship, and on May 8, 1977, he was commissioned and installed as Director of Christian Education. Pastor Ray studied for the pastoral office through the DELTO (Distance Education Toward Ordination) program from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne and completed his Vicarage at Hope Lutheran Mission (now Hope on the Beach Lutheran Church), in South Walton County. On April 28, 2002, he was ordained and installed as pastor at Good Shepherd.