



Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

September 2024



Through the past two issues of the Shepherd's Horn we have laid the foundations for understanding our faith and the practices thereof. We began by noting that concerning Divine Revelation, or how God communicates and reveals God to us, that there are many ways that God accomplishes this. God has spoken directly, spoken in dreams and visions, and through the prophets. The story of God and the people of God has been related orally for generations and then came to be written down. And through this process we recognize that God was interacting with humanity and all of creation long before the scripture was written.

Then we addressed the reality of traditions. These include ways that we speak of God and how we respond. These traditions are sometimes mentioned in scripture and at other times they are not. One excellent example of this

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Supplies Packed and Ready To Make A Child's Life Easier

Karen Welch and her grandsons packed up her car



and delivered our donations of backpacks and school supplies to Birdneck Elementary and Seatack Elementary Schools. Thank you for your generous donations, enough for each school to receive 38 backpacks and supplies, a total of **76**. Also, the teachers will receive extra supplies. **AWESOME!**

Here is a list of some of the items donated:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 140 erasers | 17 packs paper |
| 124 boxes crayons | 126 glue sticks |
| 68 composition books | highlighters |
| 78 scissors | pencil sharpeners |
| 14 pencil boxes/pouches | dividers |
| 348 pencils | 3 X 5 cards |
| 12 packs markers | |

These are just a few of the items donated.

We are Christ's hands and voice in the world

THE SHEPHERD'S HORN



A publication of

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among many would include the Magi, that we came to call, wise men, and even kings. We know their names, Melchior, Balthazar, and Gaspar. Although these names do not appear in scripture. They come from writings outside of the scriptural canon that were about the same stories included in the scripture. So, traditions of faith are not meant to be against or in contrast with scripture. Instead, the Holy Spirit leads and guides the church in the same way that Jesus guided his disciples to knowledge while he physically walked upon this earth.

Are there times that we might misinterpret or get things wrong? Of course there are! However, it is still the Spirit who guides the church and any errors or heresies have been put down in time. I say “in time” because through the history of Christ’s Church correction of heresies have taken as long as three hundred years. From the heresies that we studied in seminary, this time frame is more of an average. Still, the Spirit leads and corrects our journey in the same way that the Spirit leads and corrects us in this life. Thanks be to God!

The question this article is derived from are questions about one of the Holy Sacraments of the Church, Holy Baptism. What exactly does God do in Holy Baptism? And why does the church baptize infants? Why do some immerse while others use fonts and water is poured or sprinkled? These are all wonderful questions and they all have answers that I will now endeavor to share with you.

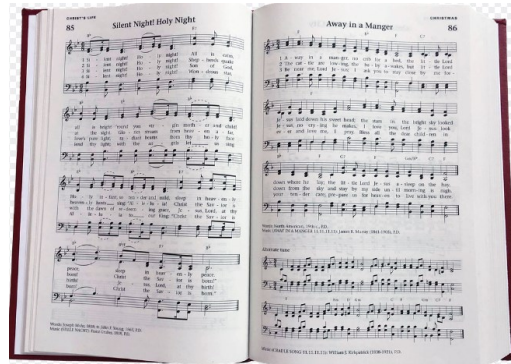
Many believe that the concept of baptism came from early traditions of ritual cleanliness and ritual purity. By the time Jesus came there were Mikvot all around the temple complex. Some more wealthy individuals may have even had them in their own homes. These were used to restore ritual purity before walking before or serving God, especially in the priestly order in the temple.

The ancient community at Qumran was the home of the Essenes. A group of Jews who believed that the priestly order in Jerusalem had lost its way. They believed their observances restored what God had intended. Sound familiar? Yes, similar things still happen today.

The Essenes were very focused on ritual purity and cleanliness and there are mikvot all throughout the ruins beside the Dead Sea. In fact, there are many who believe that John the baptizer either was an Essene or was influenced by them.

We baptize because Jesus told us that we are to do so. In the “great commission” Jesus told his apostles to go into all the world making disciples of all peoples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

You are cordially invited to a
HYMN SING



on Sunday, Oct. 20th, 2024 at 3:00pm!

*Join us for an hour of fun, singing and hearing the
beloved hymns of our faith.*

Amazing Grace

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

It Is Well with My Soul

How Great Thou Art

Love Divine

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Be Thou My Vision

Abide With Me

Joy to the World

and more.....

Hear the stories behind the hymns. Listen to solos, duets, choir anthems,
keyboard and organ renditions. Invite your friends.

Call out your favorite hymn. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!!



Birthdays

- 1 Robert Doolittle
- 2 Norman Beard
- 3 André & Eric Knöcklein
- 4 Alexander Shaw
- 8 Shelley Fulmer
- 11 Frank Gurdziel, Michael Solhaug
- 13 Morgan Shochet
- 14 Karin Lundgren
- 17 Sunny Hollenbach
- 20 Robin Patrick
- 25 Shirley Ammon
- 26 Mazzie Jackson
- 27 Ola Krueger-Rouzie
- 30 Jim Smiejan

Anniversaries

- 2 Donna & Roger White
- 7 Trish & Michael Farley
- 11 Margaret & Ken Gray
- 22 Cheryl & Bradley Tennant
- 27 Judy & Steve Jackson

It's Time to Fall back into Sunday School!

Now that school is back in session, it is time to fall back into Sunday School. Rally Day 2024 will be held in Taylor-Keister Hall on **Sunday**. **Sunday School** will resume the following week, **September 15**. The schedule is as follows:

Children's Chapel

We are continuing Children's Chapel, an educational-worship experience held during the time of our regular Sunday morning worship service. Children 2 years old through 2nd grade are invited to spend time experiencing the day's lessons through music, games, interactive storytelling, and crafts. They will then rejoin the main assembly during Holy Communion.

Children Choir (10:45 am)

Children are encouraged to meet with Dr. Parthun in the Music Room from 10:45—11:15. At **11:15**, children will meet with their teachers to encounter the worship readings for the day through various activities such as arts and crafts, Biblical storytelling, music, and service projects.

Adults

The **women's Bible study** group will meet with Ruth Crews immediately after worship. The **men** will continue their Bible study immediately after worship.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

As of August 28, 2023

	Month	YTD
Support	\$ 20,159	\$ 189,267
Expense	\$ 25,597	\$ 208,940
Over/[short]	\$ [5,438]	\$ [19,672]

LET'S MAKE AN EFFORT TO CLOSE THE GAP!

And teach them to obey my commandments, or teachings.

Here we have the directive, the words, and the element of water. And so, we have a Holy Sacrament instituted by our Lord Jesus. But the interesting thing is that he did not give out specific instructions in the Bible beyond this. And yet, we as followers of Christ tend to argue about how and when it should be done. By excluding detailed instructions concerning this, it may seem that Jesus wasn't too concerned with how or when it happened beyond what he said. There is a good reason for this. For the sacraments are outward signs or rituals, rites, while what is happening in the sacrament is accomplished by Almighty God. And as we know, God does things perfectly.

So, how did we get to where we are today with so many fighting and disagreeing? A lot of it has to do with pride, stubbornness, ignorance of the history of the church and lack of humility. It all sounds very human, and that it is.

As forementioned, the directive came from Christ and the institution of baptism for Christians begins there. But also we mentioned that there were no details given. Or maybe we should say no details that were written within scripture itself. Instead, when Jesus ascended to the Father, the apostles had to answer questions to situations that they had never encountered before. Especially when they began to move into the world of the gentiles. So, in an effort to do things uniformly, the apostles began to write, and write things more than letters.

Around the year 70 AD, so before the New Testament was even compiled or completely written, a book was written that is attributed to the Apostles as their teaching, The Didache. This gives us insight to what the practices of the "church" were in the Apostolic age. In this, they addressed baptism, saying. "Concerning baptism, baptize in this manner: Having said all these things beforehand, baptize in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit in living water [that is, in running water, as in a river]. If there is no living water, baptize in other water; and, if you are not able to use cold water, use warm. If you have neither, pour

water three times upon the head in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit." Some of these things are mysterious as to the preference of cold water above warm. But I would think that is related to living water, which is normally cold rather than warm.

There were also other letters written by early church Father's, or leaders within the communities of the church as they were developing. Hippolytus of Rome advised that if water were scarce or occurred on occasion then you should use whatever water is available. This was in the year 215 AD.

In the year 251 AD, the Pope Cornelius wrote to Antioch that if a person were near death and about to die that water should be poured upon the person while they lay in the bed. And Cyprian said that no one should be disturbed by this.

But perhaps one of the most intriguing and early reference to infant baptism was written by Tertullian around the year 200 AD. This is one that is often quoted by those who think infants should not be baptized, but it is misquoted.

In the letter, Tertullian discourages infant baptism, I can here some who would say, ah-hah!, but the reason for this discouragement is related to an early heresy called the Novation Controversy. In this controversy an overly literal reading of Hebrews 6:4-6 lead people to assume that if you sinned after you were baptized they you could not be restored to grace. If this were true, some of the disciples would not have been able to come into the presence of the Lord. And we know this is not true. In fact, Jesus says that only blasphemy of the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, and perhaps in their literalistic reading of this, they considered sinning again after baptism as just that.

For this reason, there was a period within the early church where people delayed their baptisms till right before their deaths or when they thought they would depart soon. In that way, they could avoid sin in the last moments of their lives. The most famous of these was the Emperor Constantine.

It is because of this same rationale that Tertullian discouraged an infant be baptized. After all, consider how long their life might be and consider all of the temptation to sin along the way.

As we have established the importance of tradition, there are some who may ignore that and say that there is no reference to infants baptized in the scriptures. However, there are references to households being baptized. When it says that households were baptized it means that everyone within that household were baptized, husbands, wives, children, and slaves along with their children. This would include infants as well.

So, we have this and the references of the early church towards infant baptism that reveal that it has been happening for a long time from the earliest days of the Church.

Now I was raised being taught that believer's baptism was what was expected, that one should believe and then be baptized. I can see where this comes from scripturally. But if I were to ask you if God loves some more than others, what would your answer be? Does God have favorites? We have stories of Noah, David, Mary, among others that were favored by God. But are you not also favored?

The reason for these questions is simply this. Does God treat us all differently or the same. Do some people require baptism while others do not? When we think of the world, we often think in ways that are "normal" rather than thinking of all possibilities. I have met and served individuals who had limited mental abilities. In fact, some would question whether they even knew they were in the world. Does God love them any less? Should we wait for them to explain who Jesus is before offering the grace of Baptism? And if this is the way of it, that something is required of us first or preemptive of God's will to save us, is that grace at all?

If we believe that the grace of God is what is most important and that God's will is to save us, then age or mental ability to confess or believe doesn't become a prerequisite to God's love. Instead, God who is mercy and forgiveness comes to us in grace and frees us from sin as we cannot free ourselves. This grace works the same way regardless of the circumstances or realities of our lives.

Finally, another part of baptism that people struggle with is how it is done, immersion, pouring, or sprinkling water. As a child I always thought it was odd that we

would argue over such things in my Baptist church. Especially as we thought that baptism was nothing more than symbolic rather than relating to salvation and the indwelling of the Spirit.

The reason for our belief in this method of baptism was that the word baptizmo, transliterated from the Greek, meant to immerse. But not being Greek scholars, perhaps we missed that most Hebrew and Greek words have multiple meanings. Furthermore, our Lord even used this word metaphorically. Jesus asked his disciples, Are you able to be baptized with the baptism that I will be baptized with? Here Jesus is not speaking of an event with water at all, but speaking of the suffering that was to come.

There are other Greek words for cleansing and washing that are not used here and that is because this has to do with ritual and ceremonial cleansing. The word Baptizmo captures that it is Christ who we become immersed in. He becomes the center of our entire lives.

They do this again when speaking of believing in Christ. In the Greek it actually says that we believe INTO Christ. Normally, you would wonder why they would do this, especially considering that there is another Greek word for in. But they choose a word that means into for when we believe into Christ then we truly follow Christ and become like Christ. After all, this is where the word identified with believers comes from, Christian, Christ-like.

I know in writing this that it may bring more questions to your mind and I am most happy to address them in the effort that you grow in your understanding that the most important thing is what God accomplishes in Baptism. And that is where the Holy Spirit comes to make you a place where the Spirit remains or abides. We first see this at the Baptism of Jesus. And believe this, what God accomplishes, God accomplishes completely and perfectly.

Shalom, Shalom,

Pastor Faron

Those Who Serve

September 1

Assisting Minister	Jacqueline Rosendahl
Communion Assistant	Chris Welch
Reader	Karen Welch
Ushers	Mark Rosendahl, Buddy Anderson
Altar Guild	Cheryl Tennant
Coffee Host	Parish Life—September Birthdays
Flowers & Lamps	Rachel Jerlin
Food Pantry	Robin Patrick, Sunny Hollenbach, Marilyn Berge 9/4

September 8

Assisting Minister	Bobbi Skinner-White
Communion Assistant	Sunny Hollenbach
Reader	Debbie Risotto
Ushers	
Altar Guild	Ruth Crews, Jim Owens
Coffee Host	Sunday School—Rally Day
Flowers	
Food Pantry	Robin Patrick, Sunny Hollenbach 9/11 Ruth Crews, Jim Owens 9/14

September 15

Assisting Minister	Lesli White
Communion Assistant	Kevin Jones
Reader	Karin Lundgren
Ushers	
Altar Guild	Cheryl Tennant
Coffee Host	Parish Life Ministry Team
Flowers	
Food Pantry	Denise Haag, Bobbi Skinner-White, Sandy Lindstrom 9/18


September 22

Assisting Minister	Skip Banner
Communion Assistant	
Reader	
Ushers	Cheryl Tennant, Sunny Hollenbach
Altar Guild	Ruth Crews, Jim Owens
Coffee Host	Cheryl Tennant
Flowers	
Sanctuary Lamp	
Food Pantry	Denise Haag, Carlin Bachrach, Gwyne Van Slyke 9/25 Mary Ann & Norman Beard 9/28

September 29

Assisting Minister	Steve Jackson
Communion Assistant	Roger White
Reader	Donna White
Usher	
Altar Guild	Carlin Bachrach
Coffee Host	
Lamps	Annemarie Whiteside
Food Pantry	

September 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30am Worship	2 Office Closed for Labor Day	3 7pm Choir Rehearsal	4 10:30am Food Pantry 11am Men's Bible Study 7pm Pastor's Bible Study	5	6 Offices Closed	7
8 9:30am Worship 10:45am Rally Sunday	9	10 7pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm SCA	11 10:30am Food Pantry 11am Men's Bible Study 7pm Pastor's Bible Study	12	13 Offices Closed	14 10am - 12pm Food Pantry
15 9:30am Worship 9:45am Children's Chapel 10:45am Chil- dren's Choir 11:15am Sun- day School	16	17 7pm Choir Rehearsal	18 10:30am Food Pantry 11am Men's Bible Study 7pm Pastor's Bible Study	19	20 Offices Closed	21
22 9:30am Worship 9:45am Children's Chapel 10:45am Chil- dren's Choir 11:15am Sun- day School	23	24 7pm Choir Rehearsal	25 10:30am Food Pantry 11am Men's Bible Study 7pm Pastor's Bible Study	26	27 Offices Closed	28 10am - 12pm Food Pantry
29 9:30am Worship 9:45am Children's Chapel 10:45am Chil- dren's Choir 11:15am Sun- day School	30	 <div style="background-color: yellow; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">September 8</div>				



*Good Shepherd
Lutheran Church [ELCA]
1489 Laskin Road
Virginia Beach, VA
23451-6047*

Address Service Requested

Change for Change



The Good Shepherd Sisters and Joye Seekers have been collecting your change as their summerlong project “**Change for Change. This project culminates on September 8**, as the *God’s Work, Our Hands Sunday*. Our little piggy banks will still be available in the narthex through September 8th. If you didn’t have change to drop in the pig, cash or check will also be accepted. . The funds collected will be used to purchase cards to food establishments and will be handed out to homeless people in order for them to purchase a hot meal.

We Are Making A Difference Through Our Food Pantry



During the month of July, we served **77 families** a total of **295 people**. **So far in August, we have served 66 families** with a total of **268** people. We still have one more day in August. Our average monthly spending is \$1,340 and average monthly donations are \$700.

Our collection “**Canned Meat**” for the month of September.