



Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

October 2024



Loaves and Fishes

Loaves and Fishes, if you are a fan of the Chosen series then you have heard this phrase a lot.

There are parts of ministry that I do not speak about much, and the reason for this is because I have faith in God. When a pastor answers a call to a new congregation, they answer that call in complete faith; faith in God, faith in the Holy Spirit to lead and guide, and in what may come as a surprise, faith in the people of the congregation. My faith in you is that you will discern the will of God, and that you will follow God's will. As long as the people of any congregation do this, then they are a vibrant and faithful congregation.

Since coming to this place I have heard some who voice concerns that things are not like they once were. Well, I have no doubt about this. And the reason that I don't doubt it is because things are always changing, people are always changing, and the Church of Christ is a living and



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Fall Congregational Meeting On Sunday October 27



On **Sunday, October 27** we will gather in the sanctuary immediately following worship for an important meeting. Together we will elect new Council members and decide

on a Ministry Investment Plan for 2025. It will be a busy meeting, and one that many may be tempted to skip. However, before you do, please consider that each of these items will greatly impact our life together.

For example, the Ministry Investment Plan is more than just a "budget." It is a statement about our shared faith and how much we are willing to invest in the work of God in the world. Likewise, the men and women we elect for Council will help set the vision and direction of Good Shepherd for years to come, and so we need to be prayerful in our choices.

A preliminary Ministry Investment Plan, will be mailed to each household in the coming weeks. Please make some time to look it over, and then come with any questions, suggestions or concerns. Even if meetings aren't your "thing," make plans to join us on **October 27**.

We are Christ's hands and voice in the world

THE SHEPHERD'S HORN



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Friday — Closed

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dynamic body that changes as well. The one thing that does not change however, is God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. For God is already perfect and therefore, has no need of change. Loaves and fishes, as you know, were what one person had when Jesus was surrounded with five thousand men and additionally, the women and children who were with them. You know of this story of how those few things in the hands of the savior proved to be more than enough. So, what are this congregations' loaves and fishes?

First, we should recognize that we give to God in many ways. And we also acknowledge that we are called to give in sacrificial ways. Normally, this is the place where people stop reading, or put the article down and walk away, because the word sacrifice sounds so ominous or scary. BUT IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THAT WAY. To give an example of the simplicity of sacrificial giving, I will share a story with you that happened years ago.

When I came to the Lutheran church, people of that congregation noticed my knowledge of scripture and that knowledge came from having a Christian family and being raised in the church. When the pastor of our little congregation resigned his call to accept another call from God, I was shocked, for I had just begun to discern God's call for me to become a minister. As the congregation moved forward, they asked if I would be in the call committee. I accepted and was appointed chaplain of the committee.

We spoke to several candidates and participated in Holy conversations with them. Eventually, we were led by the Spirit to one particular candidate. The only challenge in this was the pastor had many years of experience and to call them would require an increase of \$7000 dollars a year!

When we spoke to the church council, a retired banker immediately said there was no way that this could happen. I replied that if God is truly leading us in our search, and that the committee believed that God was, that a solution would be found. The banker disagreed.

I then did a little math.

In the Lutheran church we have what is referred to as the 3 C's; confirmed, contributing, and communing members. These are the three requirements within a congregation to have a vote and voice in congregational meetings. I looked at how many 3C members attended church on an average Sunday. I then subtracted 20 from that number to give a buffer or "wiggle room." Then I took the number, 7000 and divided it by the remaining number to see how much each person would have to give to make this call a possibility.

Finally, I took that total per person and divided it by 52 Sundays, knowing that there were more services throughout the year than this. I finally reached the amount of money that each person would have to put in the plate to make this possible, it was only 50 cents!

When I presented this to the council, they were shocked and elated at the same time. "This is doable!" they said. "That's less than a bottle of coke!" said another. Suddenly, what seemed unreachable became possible and yes, we did call that pastor.

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SACRIFICE does not have to be HUGE to be blessed by God! Nor does it have to break your personal bank account.

As prices rise in your personal lives, they also are rising in the life of the church. And as the body of Christ, Jesus depends upon us to keep the doors open, but MORE IMPORTANTLY, the ministry happening! For it is ministry that our Lord Jesus called us to do. So that all the world will know that JESUS IS LORD!

While there has been some unhelpful language used in reference to budgets or ministry investment plans, there should be a very simple understanding about this. A budget is nothing more than a wish list of things we would like to happen. What matters is what is actually given, for we continue ministry and operate within the parameters of the gifts received from the people of God. If it ever came to the point where the gifts were not enough to continue, the congregation would close its doors. It's not more complicated than that.

But rather than thinking about or even focusing on such a troubling thought, I wish to go on record as saying that this congregation is truly amazing and a blessing from Almighty God. What you do is awesome and your love for God and your neighbors is remarkable.

But how do we fill the so called "gaps" in giving you might ask? The answer is simple. Do the math. On a good Sunday we have around 60 people in our congregation. We know that many of them are children who we are so blessed to have. So, we could subtract 10 from the 60, arriving at 50.

Let's say we wanted to increase giving by \$15,000 a year. We divide that by 50, arriving at \$300 per year per person. Then we divide that by 52 Sundays a year, arriving at \$5.7692 or \$5.77 per week, per person. Folks, to quote that council member from so long ago, THIS IS DOABLE!

So, how does that work? It works like this. Consider how many times you may eat out or buy something for yourself each week. Even eating at a fast-food establishment cost one person more than \$5.77. What happens if we choose to skip that one meal and eat at home instead? And then we place what we would have spent on the meal in the offering plate. At this point the once insurmountable amount becomes little when we all share in this ministry together.

Now I know there are those who might say, "Pastor, I can do more than \$5.77 a week." Then do as Christ leads you. If you can increase by \$20 a week, then it will ease the burden on those who might struggle to put the \$5.77 in the plate. Also, keep in mind that if we give twice what our goal is then the \$15,000 can become \$30,000. And all of that will be used for the growth of the Kingdom of God and continued

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FINANCIALS



Thank you for your continued support of our ministries. We ended the month in the red.

As of September 30, 2023

	Month	YTD
Support	\$ 22,778	\$ 212,254
Expense	\$ 26,242	\$ 234,405
Over/[short]	\$ [3,464]	\$ [22,150]

Thank you to all who have signed up for Kroger Community Rewards. This quarter we received \$77.00 for our food pantry. Info on how to link your card for the rewards is on the bulletin board or email gslectreas@goodshepherdvb.org for emailed information.

Besides giving in person or through the mail, there are other automated ways to send in your donations:

1. Online giving through our website goodshepherdvb.org
2. Text-- dial 1-844-970-2662

Pat Morgan will be sending our the Third Quarter Statements of giving this week, which will include the first three quarters of the year. Questions may be directed to Pat Morgan at 757-319-4847 or office@goodshepherdvb.org.

Food Pantry



The month of August final numbers are **79 families and 333 people** served. In September we served **62 families and 276 people**. So far the average for 9 months is **78 families and 293 people**. In order to continue this outreach program, we need your help of food and/or monetary donations. The month of October we are collecting **pancake mix and syrup**.

Singing Has Many Benefits



I am certain that we all know of the many verses in the Bible that encourage singing.

For example:

Psalm 105:1–2

Oh give thanks to the LORD;

call upon his name;

make known his deeds among the peoples!

Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works!

Colossians 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

James 5:13

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise.

But did you know that singing is very beneficial to our health?

Singing improves breathing, posture, and

muscle tension. It also increases oxygenation in the blood, regulates blood pressure, and reduces heart rate variability.

Singing can help reduce stress and anxiety by releasing endorphins and oxytocin. It can also improve mood and feelings of loneliness and depression.

Singing can help strengthen the immune system by reducing cortisol, the stress hormone, and increasing immunoglobulin A antibodies. Singing can help with pain relief.

Singing activates many areas of the brain, including the midline and cerebellum. It can also help improve memory and cognitive stimulation.



Singing can boost confidence and self-esteem, especially when learning a new skill or being part of a group.

Singing is a mindful activity that can help you focus on the moment and distract your mind from negative thoughts.

Singing activates the vagus nerve, which connects the brain, heart, lungs, and gut. This can help with resting, digestion, and calming down.

From Generative AI

We are so wonderfully made to sing praises to our God! So go forth and Sing for Joy!

P.S. and come sing great hymns at the hymn festival on Oct. 20th at 3pm. It's good for your health! Bring a friend!

Dr. Karen Parthun



Trunk or Treat!

Sunday,

October 27

4:00—6:00 pm

Open to the Community! Join in the fun and decorate your car with a Halloween theme. Pass out candy or treats from your trunk. Sunday, October 27 in the back parking lot beginning at 4:00 pm.

ministry in our community.

I know that we all love this congregation, and we love the Lord our God. I know it inspires us to hear the word of God and God's love proclaimed to us. But it is also inspiring when we take the teachings of God, and apply those teachings to our lives in Thought, Word, and DEED. When we offer with joy and thanksgiving what God has first given us, ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of God's gracious love. I have said it once and I will say it again, Christians are people of solutions and there are no more important solutions that we arrive at than the ones that encourage us to continue in the way of Jesus Christ our Lord. All of us working together are more than capable of continuing in the faith that our families and parents have so faithfully supported through their lives. And through our efforts, with the Lord's blessings, the congregation of Good Shepherd will be here for the future generations to come.

Shalom,

Pastor Faron



October

Birthdays

- 1 Gregory Chandler
- 1 Anabel Patrick, Alexander Jerlin
- 2 Linda Starbranch
- 3 Barbara Case
- 7 Ryan Fulmer
- 10 Margit Fountain, Skip Banner
Kingston Smiejjan
- 13 Bradley Tennant
- 18 Ken Lake
- 19 Samuel Solhaug

Welcome New Members



**Anna and Kenneth
Gottschaldt**

We welcomed into the family of Good Shepherd, Anna & Kenneth on August 22. They transferred from Concordia Lutheran Church in Wilmington DE.

Congratulations!

Kelsey Welch and Nicholas Eversman who were married at Sandbridge on September 16th. Kelsey grew up at Good Shepherd and was an active youth participant until she left for college and graduate school..

OCTOBER 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7—Church Council	2 10:30 Food Pantry 11 Men's Bible Study 7 Pastor's Bible Study	3 5:30— Celebration of Life B.C.	4	5 10 –2 Jerlin B'day party—TKH
6 9:30 Worship/ Children's Chapel 10:45 Children's Choir 11 Sunday School	7	8	9 10:30 Food Pantry 11 Men's Bible Study 7 Pastor's Bible Study	10	11	12 10:30 Food Pantry 12—Owens Internment
13 9:30 Worship/ Children's Chapel 10:45 Children's Choir 11 Sunday School	14	15 Newsletter Articles Deadline	16 10:30 Food Pantry 11 Men's Bible Study 7 Pastor's Bible Study	17 Linlear Civic League	18	19 9—5 Breakfast Club 4 Step Gathering—TKH
20 9:30 Worship/ Children's Chapel 10:45 Children's Choir 11 Sunday School 3 Hymn Sing	21	22	23 10:30 Food Pantry 11 Men's Bible Study 7 Pastor's Bible Study	24	25	26 10:30 Food Pantry
27 9:30 Worship/ Children's Chapel 10:45 Children's Choir 10:45 Congregation Mtg 4 Trunk or Treat	28	29	30 10:30 Food Pantry 11 Men's Bible Study 7 Pastor's Bible Study	31		

Those Who Serve

October 2

Food Pantry Marilyn Berge, Bobbi Skinner-White, Ulaine Pelton

October 6

Assisting Minister Jackie Rosendahl
Communion Assistant Kevin Jones
Reader Debbie Risotto
Usher Cheryl Tennant
Altar Guild Cheryl Tennant
Coffee Host Parish Life—October Birthdays
Flowers/Lamp
Food Pantry Sunny Hollenbach, Sandy Lindstrom, Robin Patrick 10/9
Mary Ann & Norm Beard 10/12

October 13

Assisting Minister Bobbi Skinner-White
Communion Assistant Sunny Hollenbach
Reader
Usher
Altar Guild Ulaine Pelton
Coffee Host
Flowers
Food Pantry Sunny Hollenbach, Sandy Lindstrom, Robin Patrick 10/16

October 20

Assisting Minister Lesli White
Communion Assistant Chris Welch
Reader Jacqueline Ferguson
Usher Cheryl Tennant, Jim Van Slyke
Altar Guild Robin Patrick
Coffee Host
Flowers
Food Pantry Gwyne Van Slyke, Linda Radix, Joy Whitaker 10/23
Ruth Crews, Jim Owens, 10/26

October 27

Assisting Minister Skip Banner
Communion Assistant Roger White
Reader Donna White
Usher Sunny Hollenbach, Cheryl Tennant
Altar Guild Ulaine Pelton
Coffee Host
Flowers
Food Pantry Carlin Bachrach, Marilyn Berge, Denise Haag 10/30