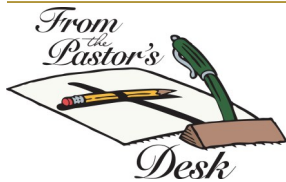




Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

October 2025



“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and

of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

This passage from Matthew is referred to as the great commission and is the nucleus of the mission and ministry of the Church. While we often focus upon the first part that pertains to baptism, I wonder if we consider the importance of being a disciple. In the original Koine Greek, the word for disciple means student. We are to study the teachings of Christ, so that we can observe all that was commanded by the Lord. The Greek word used for commanded here can also be translated commission and thus, is the source for the title the great commission.

Approximately two years ago our Wednesday night Bible study group began a journey through all four gospels where the stories within the gospels are aligned side-by-side. This is called a Synopsis of the Gospels. Our purpose in this study was to make a list of all the teachings of Christ that we are to observe. While this may be something that we as

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Fall Congregational Meeting On Sunday, October 12



On **Sunday, October 12** 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 2026 and discussion of PNG contribution continuance. 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, is being mailed to each household. 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 12.**

We are Christ's hands and voice in the world

THE SHEPHERD'S HORN



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Christians rarely think about, I had always wanted to assemble a comprehensive list of the teachings of our Lord.

As you can see, this took quite a bit of time, but was an incredible journey that challenged and engaged our group on so many levels. In studying, we became aware of which stories were told by the authors of different gospels and also which ones were left out by different authors. We had an opportunity to reflect on the revised common lectionary that our congregation follows through a three-year cycle and consider which gospels are focused upon each year.

More importantly, in this journey we encountered Jesus in a deeper way than one ever would within the liturgical life of the church. It seemed at the end of the study as if we were actually there with him. We also came to know the disciples more and noticed which ones were more outspoken, revealing their character, and which ones were hardly mentioned.

In conversation with a member here, they requested that at the end of the study that the teachings would be shared with the congregation. Our list contained 178 teachings throughout the gospels. And examining these teachings it was apparent that many may be challenging to understand unless someone was a part of the study group. For in every meeting there would be questions and explanations of the meaning of the words of our Lord.

So, we endeavored to categorize each teaching, which was also challenging. But that process opened up a greater understanding of what it must have been like to be a disciple and to be entrusted with the story of Christ. How do you tell it? What do you include? What do you leave out? Is it a sin to leave anything out?

Ultimately, with the help of technology we arrived at a summary of the teachings that I include in this message. While it is a sufficient summary of the teachings, I realize that some may wish to see the comprehensive list. If that is your desire, I will be happy to share it with you individually, along with pointing you to the text that we used along this study, *The Net Bible Synopsis of the Four Gospels*, edited by Gregory White.

So, here is the summary of our Lord's teachings:

These Christian teachings emphasize living a life of faith, love, humility, and service, rooted in trust in God and obedience to His will. The guidance covers spiritual growth, relationships, judgment, and the kingdom of God, encouraging believers to embody Christ's example in all aspects of life.

- **Blessings and Reconciliation:** Believers are reminded of their blessings and the importance of seeking reconciliation to maintain unbroken relationships and closeness with God.
- **Faith and Obedience:** Living in Christ fulfills the law, and faith is essential for healing and salvation. Obedience to God's word and acting on faith are critical for spiritual growth.
- **Love and Forgiveness:** Christians are called to love others, including enemies, forgive from the heart, and practice mercy rather than sacrifice, reflecting God's love.

- **Serving Others:** Serving God and others is a primary purpose, prioritizing service over obligations and family ties, and following Christ's example of humility and servitude.

- **Kingdom of God:** The kingdom is of great value, present among believers, and requires childlike acceptance. Growth in faith leads to bearing fruit and receiving more from God.

- **Judgment and Trust in God:** Judgment belongs to God alone, and believers should trust God's provision, avoid anxiety, and remain faithful despite persecution.

- **Humility and Servanthood:** Humility is essential, including taking the lowest place of honor and serving others selflessly, reflecting Christ's teachings on leadership.

- **Prayer and Persistence:** Believers are encouraged to actively participate in their faith through prayer, asking, seeking, knocking, and persisting despite difficulties.

- **Jesus' Identity and Mission:** Jesus is presented as the Son of God, the Good Shepherd, and the source of life and salvation, who calls for complete trust and following His teachings.

Community and Discipleship: Making disciples, teaching obedience, loving one another, and supporting fellow believers are vital for living out the Christian faith.



Food Pantry

In September we served **88 families and 309 people**. In order to continue this outreach ministry, we need your help of food and/or monetary donations. Without them, we will not be able to buy milk, eggs, and other items we can't purchase from the Food Bank. Another alternative is to cut out our Saturday distribution and only give what we get in donations from Target and Food Lion on Wednesdays, or only do two Wednesdays a month. This shortage is a result of Virginia Beach not giving the Food Bank a grant this year, and rising costs. We're depending on your generosity.



FINANCIALS

Thank you for your continued support of our ministries. However, we ended the month in the red.

As of September 30, 2025

	Month	YTD
Support	\$ 23,549	\$ 229,592
Expense	\$ 27,226	\$ 254,152
Over/[short]	\$ [3,677]	\$ [24,560]

Thank you to all who have signed up for Kroger Community Rewards. This quarter we received \$46.01 for our food pantry. Info on how to link your card for the rewards is on the bulletin board or you may 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

If you are a Thrivent member you may use your Thrivent Action money and allocate it to the food pantry or to help support the Thanksgiving dinner. You are allowed two \$250 action items per year.

Upcoming Event

Thanksgiving Community Dinner
Thanksgiving Day November 27th
1:00 –3:00 pm





Singing Has Many Benefits

Are you ready for our first annual Hymn Sing at Good Shepherd? Get those voices

warmed up for an hour of singing the hymns, spirituals and gospel songs of our faith. A choir anthem, vocal and piano solos, and organ music will certainly fill the space with the joy of music. Can't wait to join you in filling the rafters with singing!

Sunday, October 19th at 4pm. Mark those calendars. Don't you dare miss it!

Dr. Parthun



Good Shepherd has been blessed with a gift of a Baby Grand

Piano. In the picture below several members of the congregation along with Dr. Parthun laid hands on the piano as Pastor blessed it.



A word about Ministry

Investment Plans:

The time of the year has come when we normally speak of budgets and stewardship in the way of giving. I say this because stewardship is so much more than money. Being a good steward of the gifts of the Spirit includes charitable acts, such as kindness, compassion, mercy, and even good thoughts.

A Ministry Investment Plan will be placed before you to consider for the coming year. You should keep in mind that since the church is not a business, but a ministry, this plan is something that we would like to see happen to support the ministry here at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Whether this plan is supported depends upon you and your response to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Our reality is that our congregation works within, and beyond, the parameters of what is received. I say beyond, because there are always ministries that can be done that require no financial contributions. The kindness we show towards those that God loves costs us nothing in the way of money.

But working within the parameters simply means that if funds should ever come up short to continue a ministry of the church, that we would be faced with the difficult decision to end ministries. While I know this is a reality, I pray that it never happens, because this congregation is a vital part of the community and people's lives are changed because of your ministry and because of your faithfulness. Our loaves and fishes in the hands of our savior will always be more than enough to glorify our Lord.



October

Birthdays

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

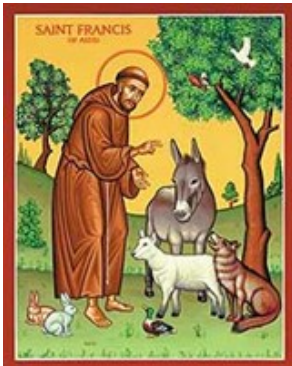
Welcome New Member Dylan Hamilton



Dylan was received as a member on Sunday, September 28.

Blessing of the Animals Saturday, Oct 4 –10am

Feast of St. Francis of Assisi



This is a religious ceremony held around or on around the Feast of Francis of Assisi where people bring their pets and other animals to be blessed. You are invited to bring your pets, all kinds and join us on the lawn to have them blessed, weather permitting.



OCTOBER 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10:30 Food Pantry 11 Men's Bible Study 7 Pastor's Bible Study	2	3	4 10 am Blessing of the Animals
5 9:30 Worship/ Children's Chapel 10:45 Chil- dren's Choir	6	7 9am Property Day	8 10:30 Food Pantry 11 Men's Bible Study 7 Pastor's Bible Study	9	10	11 10:30 Food Pantry
12 9:30 Worship/ Children's Chapel 10:45 Chil- dren's Choir 10:45 Congre- gation Mtg	13	14 9am Property Day Newsletter Articles Deadline	15 10:30 Food Pantry 11 Men's Bible Study 7 Pastor's Bible Study	16	17	18
19 9:30 Worship/ Children's Chapel 10:45 Chil- dren's Choir 11 Sunday School 4pm Hymn Sing	20	21 9am Property Day	22 10:30 Food Pantry 11 Men's Bible Study 7 Pastor's Bible Study	23	24	25 10:30 Food Pantry
26 9:30 Worship/ Children's Chapel 10:45 Chil- dren's Choir 4pm Trunk or Treat	27	28 9 Property Day	29 10:30 Food Pantry 11 Men's Bible Study 7 Pastor's Bible Study	30	31	

Those Who Serve

October 1

Food Pantry

October 5

Assisting Minister
Communion Assistant
Reader
Usher
Altar Guild
Coffee Host
Flowers/Lamp
Food Pantry

Lesli White
Cheryl Tennant
Bradley Tennant
Buddy Anderson
Ulaine Pelton
Sunny Hollenbach—October Birthdays

Robin Patrick, Sunny Hollenbach, Sandy Lindstrom 10/8
Ruth Crews, Jim Owens 10/11

October 12

Assisting Minister
Communion Assistant
Reader
Usher
Altar Guild
Coffee Host
Flowers
Food Pantry

Skip Banner
Roger White
Donna White
Sunny Hollenbach
Carlin Bachrach

Bobbi Skinner-White, Marilyn Berge, Dylan Hamilton 10/15

October 19

Assisting Minister
Communion Assistant
Reader
Usher
Altar Guild
Coffee Host
Flowers
Food Pantry

Steve Jackson
Sunny Hollenbach

Bradley & Cheryl Tennant
Robin Patrick
Joyce Miller

Gwyne Van Slyke, Ruth Crews, Dylan Hamilton 10/22
Mary Ann & Norm Beard 10/25

October 26—Reformation

Assisting Minister
Communion Assistant
Reader
Usher
Altar Guild
Coffee Host
Flowers
Food Pantry

Jacqueline Rosendahl
Cheryl Tennant

Sunny Hollenbach

Robin Patrick, Sunny Hollenbach, Sandy Lindstrom 10/29



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