

Good Shepherd News & Notes

(Fourth Sunday of Easter) April 30, 2023

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KNNA radio: 95.7FM or www.thecross957.org

Services broadcast live Sundays at 8 am & 10:30 am
and Wednesdays at 6:30 pm



HOW SHALL WE REGARD THE BIBLE? *Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison*

How shall Christians understand the Bible? The common narratives of Western culture are evaporating, especially knowledge of the Bible. Someone told me recently she was ordering a cake and wanted it decorated with a depiction of Noah's Ark. The clerk had no idea what she was talking about.

Christians may still have a modicum of familiarity with the Bible, but today we ought be very clear about what the Bible is and teaches so we are not swept away by the cesspool of biblical ignorance (i.e., pop culture, pop religion, pop psychology).

Agnosticism is more popular than ever. It's the faddish pseudo-religion that asserts in absolute terms (ironically) that we can't make any absolute assertions about "God" or religion. Behind the masquerade of a religiously uncommitted "high ground" — claiming all religion is the same, etc. — lurks a chasm of ignorance about what the Bible and genuine Christianity teach.

The best place for us to get hold of what the Bible is and how to understand it is found in Jesus Himself. How does Jesus regard the Bible?

1. The Bible is about Jesus. Jesus cajoled His contemporaries who read the Bible but missed the point. "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about Me" (John 5: 39). On the road to Emmaus, Jesus said, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into His glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, He interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself (Luke 24: 26-27).
2. The Old Testament contains many prophecies about Christ: "Everything written about Me in the Law of Moses and the prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations" (Luke 24: 44-47).
3. The New Testament, especially the Gospels, is the accurate record of Jesus' life, death, resurrection and teaching, written by the power of the Holy Spirit. "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things" (John 14: 25-26).

4. Jesus regards what is written in the Old Testament as true. "Have you never read what David did ...?" (Mark 2: 25). Jesus regards Adam, Eve, Jonah, Moses, etc., as actual people and events (Matt. 19: 4FF; 19: 8).
5. Jesus believes that the writers of the Old Testament were inspired by the Holy Spirit. "David himself, in the Holy Spirit declared, "The Lord said to my lord"" (Mark 12: 16). His apostles had the same belief (Acts 4: 25).
6. Jesus regards the Bible as the Word of God and authoritative. "For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished" (Matt. 5: 18).
7. Jesus believes that the commandments of the Old Testament are God's own. "You leave the commandments of God and hold to the traditions of men (Mark 7: 8).
8. Jesus regards the Scriptures as the Word of God that cannot be contravened, questioned or trumped by human authority or reason. "Scripture cannot be broken" (John 10: 35).

Jesus understands the Bible according to Law and Gospel (i.e., God's commands and gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation), which point to Him as Savior. He piles on the Law when someone thinks the point of the Bible is works righteousness (Matt. 19: 16FF.) but also tells His disciples that His reason for existence is not "to be served, but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many" (Matt. 20: 28). Anyone who comes to Jesus empty-handed, begging for mercy, always goes away forgiven, healed, comforted (Mark 1: 40FF.; 2: 1FF.; 5: 21FF.; 7: 24FF.)! See Jesus' story of the Pharisee and the tax collector (Luke 18: 9FF.) and then that of the rich young ruler (Luke 18: 18FF.). Jesus told the first "to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and treated others with contempt" (Luke 18: 9). They'd missed the whole point of the Bible and Jesus!

A criticism of our teaching on the inerrancy and authority of the Bible is that we first must convince people of the Bible's authority and only then can the Gospel of forgiveness in Christ be shared and believed. Actually, it's the opposite. The message of damnable sin and complete forgiveness in the cross and resurrection of Jesus creates faith in Jesus. Such faith recognizes the voice of the Good Shepherd in the Scriptures: "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me" (John 10: 27). As sheep precious to the Savior, we recognize the Bible to be what Jesus did: the very Word of God. "Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son" (Heb. 1: 1).

taken from The Lutheran Witness (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, MO) February 2016, pg. 1.

MISSION PROJECT: LUTHERAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION

For 15 years, the Lutheran Heritage Foundation has been receiving and answering calls from around the world to publish books with the truth of God's Word in many different languages. In more than 80 countries and 90 languages, LHF publishes and distributes translations of books like Luther's Small Catechism, the Book of Concord, and A Summary of Christian Doctrine. In Muslim strongholds like Somalia and Afghanistan these pamphlets and books are secret and prized possessions that sustain Christians, whose lives are threatened for their faith in Christ. The work of LHF will be Good Shepherd's mission project for the month of April.



**LUTHERAN
HERITAGE
FOUNDATION**



PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK

If you have a prayer request, please contact the church office at (402) 423-7639. Your request will appear for 6 weeks. If you would like to keep it on the prayer list, you may

call during the 6th week to renew it.

- **Barb Poppe**, with short-term memory issues (5)
- **Joyce Thompson**, in rehab at The Cove, following surgery for a broken hip (1)
- **Leena Mackey**, grand-daughter of Linda Clark, as she anticipates another procedure to try a cochlear implant on April 21 (4)
- **Maurice Lange**, currently receiving radiation and chemotherapy (3)
- **Jan Young**, daughter of Arlene Nelson, having medical issues following hip replacement surgery (5)
- **Lynda Mahloch**, recovering from eye surgery (5)
- **David Votaw**, father of the daughter-in-law of David & Lois Kirchhoff, recovering from triple bypass surgery (5).
- **Brianna Merriman**, great-granddaughter of Rich & Lorelee Novak, hospitalized following an accident (5)
- **Al Fox**, father of Nancy Stepp, for healing from health issues (3)
- **Linda Clark**, recovering from carpal tunnel surgery (3)
- **Sarah Stepp**, for a quick resolution to the cause of her eosinophilic esophagitis and that her dietary changes would give her relief from pain (3)
- **Beth Huff**, recovering from knee surgery on Thurs., April 20th (2)
- **Don Crouch**, friend of Joe Roberts, who has had medical issues with his eye, had surgery and may need more surgery (4)
- **Donna Stepp**, mother of Jimmy Stepp, having dizzy spells. Pray that doctors would be able to find and treat the cause. (1)
- **Ken**, brother of Jimmy Stepp, dealing with low oxygen levels in his blood (1)

- **Shani Beeman**, friend of Terry Fitzgerald, recovering from back surgery and efforts to clear up an infection. Please pray for healing. (6)
- **Tanya Schlamann**, former member of Good Shepherd, preparing for a possible lung transplant (3)
- **Rick**, brother of Jimmy Stepp, who will be having a hip replacement soon (1)
- **Jared Atkins**, son of Rev. Mark & Katherine Williamson, in the aftermath of tornado damage (3)
- **The family of Myron Baumfalk**, brother of Reva Von Busch, who was taken to his eternal home last week (2)
- **For the new Vicars and Pastors -Elect** who will be assigned a vicarage congregation or will be receiving their first call as they graduate from Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, IN.

BUILDING FAITH IN THE HOME

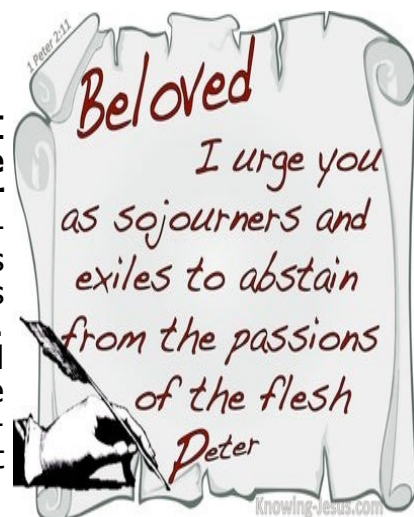
The next class in this series of parenting sessions will be "Hymnody in the Home". Pastor Moline will lead this session on Sunday, April 30th following the 10:30 am service. Sloppy Joes, chips and drinks will be provided for lunch. **Please bring a side or dessert** to share. Parents, **please bring your Lutheran Service Book Hymnal** as this could be helpful to reference in class. The children will be able to participate in board games in the classrooms again while the parents meet with Pastor Moline in the fellowship hall for the class after lunch.

LINCOLN MARATHON

The annual Lincoln Marathon is scheduled for **Sun., May 7th**. Check out the route and be aware that you might need to leave home early and/or modify your route. Check out the route at www.lincolnmарathon.org.

Good Shepherd News & Notes

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT—I Peter 2: 11 “Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.” Surely one of the “passions of the flesh” we all struggle with is greed. We constantly desire to have more things to bring us comfort and peace of mind. But that shows us the real problem with greed; it wages war against our soul. It urges us to place our trust in the things of this world and not in God. But St. Peter reminds us that in this world, we are sojourners and exiles — we really belong to the kingdom of God. We have been purchased by the blood of Christ and belong to Him.



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES (April 30— May 6, 2023)

People celebrating birthdays are:

Everett Beed	Cindi Olson
Georgene Duer	Chelsea Wilson
Sophie Kaldahl	Eric Beed
Kevin Meyer	Caleb Durr

Couples celebrating anniversaries are:


Terry & Deb Princ
Lance & Kim von Rentzell

SIGN UP FOR BUNCO

We had so much fun in February — we’re going to play Bunco again!!! You are invited to an afternoon of fellowship and fun on **May 20th at 3 pm** in the parish hall. We will be playing Bunco, an easy, fun dice game, no experience required. Anyone age 10-99 is welcome to play! The game requires even numbers of people, so please sign up in pairs, but don’t worry — you won’t be stuck with your partner for the entire game. (If you want to play and can’t find a partner, let Elizabeth Moline know or check out the sign-up sheet.) Limited babysitting will be provided for a freewill offering. Feel free to bring snacks — water and lemonade will be provided. Please sign up on the sign-up sheet in the narthex. Contact Elizabeth Moline at 701-640-7989 with any questions.

LIFE MOMENT

God’s Word is full of stories of people who gave up, got discouraged, and quit. His response to them was words of encouragement and support, a call to courage and perseverance, a call to strengthen trembling knees and put on the armor of God.



FINANCIAL INFORMATION
APRIL 23, 2023
WEEKLY BUDGET NEED:
\$ 11,253.00
ATTENDANCE:
WED., APRIL 19: 66
SUN., APRIL 23: 283
OFFERING:
\$ 8,938.69

LWML SCHOLARSHIPS

LWML South District is taking applications for students attending an LCMS University or Seminary with plans to enter a church worker vocation.

Scholarship applications are available at our website @lwmlnesouth.org

Applications must be **postmarked or received online by June 1, 2023**. Send to Eileen Zentner, 71565 648th Ave., Shubert, NE 68437 or ezentner515@gmail.com.

SERVING AT GOOD SHEPHERD THIS WEEK:

DOORKEEPERS: (Wed., April 26): Peg Olson
(Sun., April 30): 8 am:
10:30 am: Terry Fitzgerald

ELDER TODAY: (Wed., April 26): Rich Lichtenfeld
(Sun., April 30): Ken Knaus
(Wed., May 3): Ken Knaus

USHERS: (Wed., April 26): Pfeister, Eckhoff, Klutz
(Sun., April 30): 8 am: Brodbeck, Huff, Von Busch (A & A)
10:30 am: Klutz, Perrin, Kieser
(Wed., May 3): Von Busch (D & R), Von Busch (A & A)

ACOLYTES: (Wed., April 26): R J Huff
(Sun., April 30): 8 am: Broderic Beed
10:30 am: Job Ehrich
(Wed., May 3): Sawyer Shubkagel

ALTAR GUILD ASSISTANT: (Wed., April 26): No Communion
(Sun., April 30): Chloe Theewen
(Wed., May 3): Claire Moline

COMMUNION SET-UP: (Wed., April 26): No Communion
(Sun., April 30): Celia Taylor
(Wed., May 3): Arlene Nelson

COMMUNION CLEAN-UP: (Wed., April 26): No Communion
(Sun., April 30): Suzie Znamenacek
(Wed., May 3): Arlene Nelson

COFFEE SERVERS: (Sun., April 30):

VICARAGE ASSIGNMENT/CALL DAY

At the Special Voters Meeting on Jan. 24, 2023, the members in attendance voted to extend a designated call to our former vicar, Thomas Goodroad. At the Call Day service in Ft. Wayne on Tuesday that call was confirmed. Details about his ordination and installation are pending. In addition, Good Shepherd submitted an application to receive a vicar for the August 2023 — July 2024 vicarage year. However, Good Shepherd was not assigned a vicar for the coming year. Please keep the congregations and the vicars and called pastor-elects in your prayers. If you have any questions about these events and what they mean for Good Shepherd, please contact one of the pastors or an elder.

MAIN STREET LIVING

Next Sunday, May 7th Rev. Keith Burke, pastor at Faith of Our Fathers Lutheran Church in Roca, NE will be presenting a message entitled, "Jesus is THE Only Way to Heaven". This sermon is based on John 14: 1-14. For those who are unable to join us at Good Shepherd on May 7th, celebrate the season of Easter with Main Street Living, Pastor Burke and the Main Street Living choir.

GOOD SHEPHERD SHUT-IN MEMBERS:

Several of our shut-in members have requested to be listed in the News & Notes in order that members might pray for them. Below is the beginning of an answer to this request. Further developments are in our thoughts.

Ron & Janet Amack (at home)
Betty Bluhm (at The Grand Lodge)
Joe & Sharon Burke (at home)
Jim & Peggy Cather (at home)
Elaine Egner (at home)
Shirley Kalina (Pemberly Place)
Janet Kniep (at home)
Tish Loomis (at home)
Bob McClellan (Gateway Vista)
Cindi Olson (Country House)
Dean Posner (Holmes Lake Rehab)
Alice Urbach (at home)

Anita Armitstead (at home)
Irma Brandt (Yankee Hill Village)
Jim & Marilyn Carr (at home)
Georgene Duer (at home)
Verneda Gerdes (at home)
Arlyss Ketelsen (Savannah Pines)
Jerry Kohl (The Woodlands)
Lynda Mahloch (Legacy Estates)
Dorian Merritt (at home)
Francine Poppe (Azria Health, Central City)
Marvin & Joyce Thompson (The Landing)
Don Wiese (Southlake Village)

There are no birthdays or anniversaries until the beginning of June. Thank you to everyone who has taken advantage of these opportunities to stay in touch with our shut-in members.

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY ON APRIL 30TH

Charlie & Sarah Williams will be speaking to our Family Bible Study group on **Sunday, April 30th at 9:20 am.** They are the Directors of the Women's Care Center located in Lincoln on S. 40th St. across from Planned Parenthood. Their mission is to provide free and confidential counseling, support and education for pregnant women. The Women's Care Center will be Good Shepherd's mission project for May 2023.

ELDER GROUPS

The households of Good Shepherd members are divided into groups alphabetically and each group is assigned to one of our elders. The Board of Elders concerns itself with the spiritual health and welfare of the congregation and its members individually. Elders are to encourage spiritual growth of the members through regular church attendance, study of the Word, frequent reception of the Lord's Supper, and an active prayer life. See below to find your assigned elder.

HOUSEHOLDS

A — Ch
Ci — Fi
Fl — Ja
Jo — Li
Lo — Ni
No — Pr
Pu — Schr
Schu — Th
To — Z

ASSIGNED ELDER

Mark Reinke
Curt Christiansen
Ken Knaus
Wayne Gudgel
Dale Meyer
Rich Lichtenfeld
Chad Renter
Matt Phillips
Joel Kaldahl

The further a society drifts from the truth, the more it will hate those that speak it.
~ George Orwell~

Hatred always corrodes the container it's carried in.
~ Senator Alan Simpson at the funeral of George H. W. Bush~