

Good Shepherd News & Notes

(Third Sunday of Easter) April 23, 2023

3825 Wildbriar Ln., Lincoln, NE 68516

Church Office: (402) 423-7639

E-mail: info@goodshepherdlincoln.org

Website: www.goodshepherdlincoln.org



KNNA radio: 95.7FM or www.thecross957.org
Services broadcast live Sundays at 8 am & 10:30 am
and Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

COMMON QUESTIONS; ESSENTIAL ANSWERS

by Pastor Matthew C. Harrison

(continued from last week)

A third question then arises: "How does what happened on the cross 2000 years ago and thousands of miles away (from the central U. S.) get to us here and now?" If the forgiveness Jesus won on the cross is delivered to you in some abstract, imperceptible or internal way, go to the churches without Sacraments. If Jesus delivers His forgiveness in real, perceptible, tangible ways — water, word, bread and wine — go to a church with these Means of Grace.

The Lutheran Church is nothing new. It is as old as the word of the apostles and prophets. It is the church that believes Scripture is the sole rule and norm of faith and practice. It is the church that believes salvation is 100% God's work, that no contribution of man, however small, is required. And it is the church that believes God delivers His gifts in physical means, in Sacraments.

We could add other questions to the flowchart:

- Is the Word of God mere information upon which I am to make a decision? Or is God's Word "living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow" (Heb. 4: 12)? Is it "the power of God for salvation" (Romans 1: 16)?
- Does the word of the Law actually condemn "that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God" (Romans 3: 19), or does it only give the way to live a God-pleasing life? It's not the Gospel if salvation is finally up to me. "Jesus has done all He could; now it's up to you," I used to tell people when I was heavily influenced by evangelicalism as a young man. But God says, "You were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked . . . but God . . . made us alive" (Eph. 2:1-2,4-5).
- Is Baptism a symbol of grace, or worse, something I do to show I'm serious about God? Or does it actually bestow the forgiveness of sins as the New Testament repeatedly teaches? Does it bring the treasures of Christ's death and resurrection to me as God's own act? "He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit" (Titus 3: 5). Paul says repeatedly that in Baptism we are connected to Christ and receive His benefits.

- Is the Lord's Supper a symbol of the body and blood of Christ, which are far away in heaven, or is what Christ says true? "This is my body . . . this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins" (Matt. 26: 26, 28).

If I believe salvation is something worked by a secret voice of God, quite apart from His Word, if the Sacraments are symbols of salvation, then I belong in one of the many Reformed churches, which include many of the "non-denominational" churches.

Confessional Lutherans have never denied one can be saved outside the Lutheran church. A pure confession doesn't save; Jesus saves. Faith clings to Him. The point of being Lutheran is not to be proud of one's confession, but to be confident of one's salvation, purely for the sake of Jesus.

It's not easy to be confessional Lutherans who have the highest regard for the inerrant Scriptures and the summary of Scripture in the blessed catechism, and to hold to them over and against many false teachings about Jesus and His Gospel. But it's never been different. We hold to the right teaching of the Gospel and all its articles because therein we have absolute certainty that we are God's children by His grace alone. We will not compromise or give up anything of the Six Chief Parts (Ten Commandments, Creed, Lord's Prayer, Baptism, Keys, Supper). These are very clearly taught by Jesus in the Gospels and bolstered by the rest of the New Testament. But we also rejoice greatly when we see, hear and know sincere people who love Jesus and believe in His forgiveness, even if they get some things wrong.

taken from The Lutheran Witness (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, MO) October 2022, pg. 4-5.

LINCOLN LUTHERAN CHOIR CONCERTS

The Lincoln Lutheran Choir will be presenting the "Finding Extraordinary in the Ordinary" program in two different settings this year. Sharing the gift of salvation through music is an *extraordinary* experience. Consider joining them on Sunday, April 16th at 3 pm at Emmanuel Lutheran Church , 806 N Beaver, York, NE or on Sunday, April 23rd at 3 pm at Grace Lutheran Church, 2225 Washington, Lincoln, NE. For more information, please visit www.LincolnLutheranChoir.org or find them on Facebook.

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 (4)
- **Joyce Thompson**, in rehab at The Cove, following surgery for a broken hip (6)
- **Leena Mackey**, grand-daughter of Linda Clark, as she anticipates another procedure to try a cochlear implant on April 21 (3)
- **Maurice Lange**, currently receiving radiation and chemotherapy (2)
- **Jan Young**, daughter of Arlene Nelson, having medical issues following hip replacement surgery (4)
- **Lynda Mahloch**, recovering from eye surgery (4)
- **David Votaw**, father of the daughter-in-law of David & Lois Kirchoff, recovering from triple bypass surgery (4).
- **Brianna Merriman**, great-granddaughter of Rich & Lorelee Novak, hospitalized following an accident (4)
- **Al Fox**, father of Nancy Stepp, for healing from health issues (2)
- **Linda Clark**, recovering from carpal tunnel surgery (2)
- **Sarah Stepp**, for a quick resolution to the cause of her eosinophilic esophagitis and that her dietary changes would give her relief from pain (2)
- **Beth Huff**, having knee surgery on Thurs., April 20th (1)
- **Don Crouch**, friend of Joe Roberts, who has had medical issues with his eye, had surgery and may need more surgery (3)

- **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)
- **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 this week (1)
- **For safe travel** for those who are going to CTS in Ft. Wayne for the Vicarage Assignment service and the Call Day service this week.
- **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.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Nathan Pennington for being our organist on Sunday, April 23rd. Sharing your talent and skill is appreciated.

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.

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STEWARDSHIP MOMENT—John 10: 16 “And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice.” The sheep know the Shepherd’s voice and delight to go where He leads. Of course, the world, the devil and our own sinful flesh want to pull us in another direction. But following the Shepherd means life, and following anyone else means death. So, no matter how difficult the path, let us follow Him!



Psalm 23:1

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES (April 23— April 29, 2023)

People celebrating birthdays are:

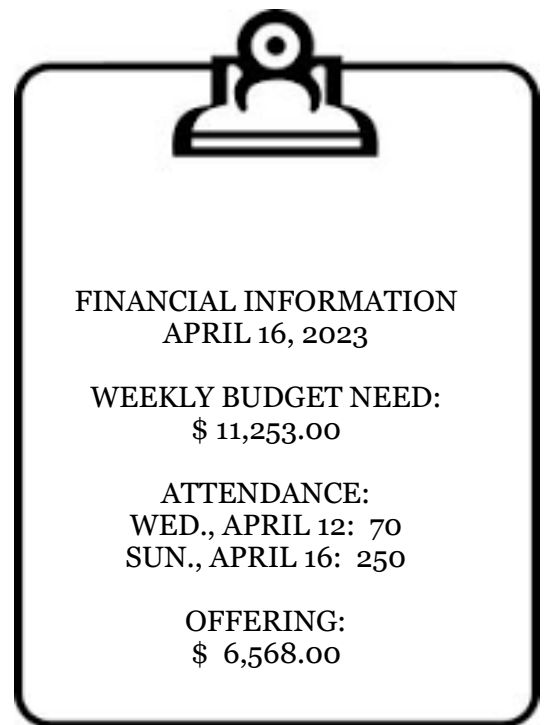
Kane Fredrick	Scott Pierson
Job Ehrich	Celia Gerdes
Jenny Higgins	Erin Klutz
Kristin Wegner	Andrew Wood
Allison Fredrick	

Couples celebrating anniversaries are:

Dale & Marilyn Meyer
Charlie & Nancy Fleck
Greg & Julie Potter
Bryan & Sandy Prenosil
Daniel & Erica Alexander
Brandon & Renee Jackson
Rich & Lorelee Novak

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.



RED CROSS BLOOD DRAW

The next opportunity to give blood at Good Shepherd will be on Friday, April 21st from 8 am—2 pm. Please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: Good Shepherd Lutheran to schedule an appointment to donate.

LIFE MOMENT

Just as He did on the embryonic leg of your journey, the Lord is guiding you still. Just as He did when you cascaded down the fallopian tube, the Lord carries you still. You were created to listen to the words of the Lord. Listen to the One who knows you, who knows your entire journey.”

SERVING AT GOOD SHEPHERD THIS WEEK:

DOORKEEPERS: (Wed., April 19): Ruth Cheek
(Sun., April 23): 8 am: Alan Brodbeck
10:30 am: David Perrin
(Wed., April 26): Peg Olson

ELDER TODAY: (Wed., April 19): Dale Meyer
(Sun., April 23): Rich Lichtenfeld
(Wed., April 26): Rich Lichtenfeld

USHERS: (Wed., April 19): Huff, Kaldahl, Schmidt, Perrin
(Sun., April 23): 8 am: Sidlo, Graphenteen, Indgjer
10:30 am: Von Busch (D & R), Keller, Eckhoff
(Wed., April 26): Pfeister, Eckhoff, Klutz

ACOLYTES: (Wed., April 19): Kyler Cover
(Sun., April 23): 8 am: Braxton Beed
10:30 am: Ethan Von Busch
(Wed., April 26): R J Huff

ALTAR GUILD ASSISTANT: (Wed., April 19): Adilyn Damme
(Sun., April 23): Brileigh Twarling

COMMUNION SET-UP: (Wed., April 19): Marilyn Meyer
(Sun., April 23): Wendy Stepp
(Wed., April 26): Reva & Dennis Von Busch

COMMUNION CLEAN-UP: (Wed., April 19): Marilyn Meyer
(Sun., April 23): Maureen Marshall/Nancy Stepp
(Wed., April 26): Reva & Dennis Von Busch

COFFEE SERVERS: (Sun., April 23): Don & Peg Olson

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. We will find out if this will happen on Call Day at Ft. Wayne on April 25th. In addition, Good Shepherd has submitted an application to receive a vicar for the August 2023 — July 2024 vicarage year. The vicarage assignment service will be April 24th also at Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne. Please keep these events and 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.

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)

On the table near the Stephen Ministry banner is a way for you to send birthday and anniversary greetings to our shut-in members. There are cards to sign or you may write a short note to those having birthdays and anniversaries in the current month. During the rest of the month of April: **Marvin Thompson, Georgene Duer, and Cindi Olson** will be celebrating birthdays. Cards will be available to sign **until April 19th**. Thank you to everyone who has taken advantage of these opportunities to stay in touch with our shut-in members.

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