

Good Shepherd News & Notes

Advent I: Dec. 3, 2023

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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



THE GROUND OF ALL TRUTH Truth Today

by Rev. Christopher Esget

The fundamental conflict in the world today, then, is not a question of politics, what is the best immigration or tax policy. Rather, the conflicts around social issues that touch on the political, such as marriage, homosexuality and transgenderism, expose the fundamental battle between the truth and the lie. They are not questions of preference or mere tradition.

St. Paul, in the opening argument of Romans, addresses the perversions of men in Roman society “who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth” (Romans 1: 18). The sexual dishonoring of bodies is no mere dalliance against a puritanical prohibition; it spurns the created order, “because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.” (Romans 1: 25).

Sexual sin is not only the breaking of a commandment but also the rejection of the truth about God. In other words, every part of our experience of this world either reflects or rejects what God has created. He made the world, and either we act in accord with the purpose of that creation, or we struggle against it. The common experience of so many in this life — stress, anxiety, frenzy, chaos — reflects the disorder in creation and our part in it. Like a poorly maintained machine, life slows down, grinds, lurches and finally collapses.

Sex and marriage are some of the primary truths under assault today. In marriage and procreation, man participates in God’s ongoing act of creation. Marriage and procreation reflect the relationship between God and His people — or more precisely, between Christ and His church (Eph. 5).

The order God has given in creation, such as in the Sixth Commandment, reflects who God is. Within marriage, husband and wife live in love, self-giving and procreation, reflecting the God who is love and gives of Himself and creates. When man sets aside this commandment, he sets aside the nature of God.

People of Truth

So how can we be people of the Truth in such a depraved society? Our objective cannot be to win an argument or an election, though these have their place. The church is not a debating society but a repenting and forgiving society. Devotion to the Truth means coming to the truth about ourselves, acknowledging the many ways our own lives distort what God meant human life to be. Jesus said that His disciples are to be “of the truth” and sanctified in it. Knowing you are fallen is the starting point to knowing where your end is — from fall to sanctity to maturity.
(see page 2)

And that end is Christ, the One into whom we are growing (Eph.4).

Assaulted by the lies of the devil, society and within our own selves, we must cling tightly to the One who not only is the Truth but who is true to what He has promised. Before meeting his brother Esau again, Jacob prays: "I am not worthy of the least of all the deeds of steadfast love and all the faithfulness that you have shown to your servant" (Gen. 32: 10).

The New King James Version (NKJV) renders "faithfulness" as "truth." This gives us a window into God's truth. The Hebrew word, which can be translated as "faithfulness" or "truth," has the particular nuance of "firmness." It indicates certainty and support and can even be used for literal pillars, such as the pillars of the temple.

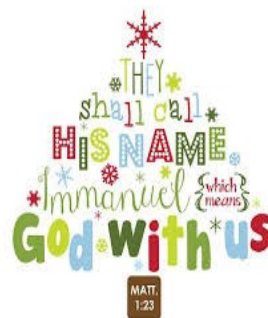
God's Truth is firmly established. We derive "Amen" from the same Hebrew word. "Amen" can also be translated "truly," as when Jesus frequently says, "Truly, truly, I say to you..." The definition in the Small Catechism also helps here: "Yes, yes, it shall be so" (SC. Lord's Prayer). What God says is certain: "O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure" (Isaiah 25: 1; NKJV says, "faithfulness and truth").

With such confidence, the Christian knows where Truth is found. He also knows the cost. "Seek the truth, " indeed. But have no doubt about where to find it — in the Word of God — or what it cost — the life of Christ. In the Word, the true Light who lightens the world speaks truth that cannot be moved, truth that the devil's lies, which have taken root in our world, cannot overcome. He speaks truth that makes us people of the Truth....

taken from The Lutheran Witness (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, MO) November 2023, pg. 10-11.

CHRISTMAS VESPERS

It's already time to start thinking about the Children's Christmas Program at Good Shepherd! All children (ages 3—14) are invited to participate. As in the past, we will be learning several verses of 6 Advent and Christmas hymns and leading the congregation in singing those hymns on Wednesday, December 20th at the Advent vespers service that night. We will practice during the Sunday School hour on Sundays from 9:30 until 10: 20 am beginning November 26th. If you would like your child to participate, please contact Elizabeth Moline, Jerika Perrin, or Marlyse Goodroad so we can make sure we have enough copies of music, etc. Children who would like to participate need to attend at least 3 practices (so we can make sure everyone knows the music). Please contact Elizabeth, Jerika, or Marlyse with any questions as well.



Elizabeth Moline (701) 640-7989 or molineae@gmail.com

Jerika Perrin (402) 525-2379 or Dmpjsp02@yahoo.com

Marlyse Goodroad (816) 352-8947 or marlysegoodroad@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Good Shepherd LWIM is hosting a luncheon for all women of Good Shepherd on **Tuesday, December 5th at 11: 30 am** in the Hearth Room at **Fireworks Restaurant**, 5750 S. 86th St. Please bring and/or be ready to tell about a favorite angel. Sign up at the LWIM table in the narthex or **call Sandy Langemeier at 402-486-1361.**



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)
- **Pastor Luke Russert**, for a successful adjustment of his medication (3)
- **Lori Sidlo**, recently diagnosed with memory issues (5)
- **Sarah Stepp**, dealing with additional medical issues (5)
- **Diane Bowlin**, recovering from rotator cuff surgery (5)
- **A former member of Good Shepherd**, pray for comfort, peace and God's grace for her and her family (5)
- **Sister of Darla Posner**, having pain issues (4)
- **James Vavak**, brother of Darla Posner, recovering from knee surgery (4)
- **Cathy Meints**, for a successful medical procedure (4)
- **Sharon Burke**, dealing with Parkinson's disease (2)
- **Jeremy Janssen**, friend of Rich Lichtenfeld, recovering from a stroke (2)
- **Joannie Michel**, hospitalized (2)
- **Georgeson family**, dealing with the stress of family issues (2)
- **Leena Mackey**, grand-daughter of Linda Clark, with continued medical issues (1)
- **Linda Clark**, undergoing medical tests (1)
- **Tom Vontz**, brother-in-law of Dee Indgjer, recovering from a kidney transplant on Nov. 15th (2)
- **Hudson Dewey**, 1 yr. old great grandson of Sandie Tvrz, diagnosed with COVID (4)
- **Todd Bohlender**, for successful healing following knee replacement surgery (5)
- **John Diagilo**, son-in-law of Lynda Mahloch, who is in treatment for stomach cancer (5)

- **Pearl & Tom**, sister & brother-in-law of Loraine Harnett, both dealing with health issues (5)
- **John Reigle**, for a good diagnosis and healing for back pain (4)
- **Jerry Sidlo**, having medical testing (4)
- **Taylor**, grand-daughter of Holly Herrod, for continued healing (4)
- **Ryker Whalen**, nephew of Maddie Gastler, recovering from the removal of a portocath on Oct. 30th (4)
- **Robert Zook**, currently in hospice care (2)
- **Lynn Oshner**, friend of Marilyn Meyer, having heart surgery on Dec. 8th (2)
- **Terry Meier**, friend of Terry Fitzgerald, undergoing medical testing (1)
- **Don Wiese**, battling pneumonia (1)
- **Shari**, sister of Tish Loomis, having a medical procedure (1)
- **The family of Richard Pfeifer**, uncle of Rich Lichtenfeld, who was taken to his eternal home recently (2)
- **Thanksgiving on the 90th birthday of Manis Edwards** for the gifts of God bestowed on him as he celebrates on Dec. 3rd (2)
- **Thanksgiving for the birth of a son to Trent & Tarrin Roth (1)**
- **Thanksgiving for the birth of Niall Markus, to Paul & Chellsey Schmidt and a grandson for Rev. John & Karen Schmidt (1)**

CAROLS AND COOKIES

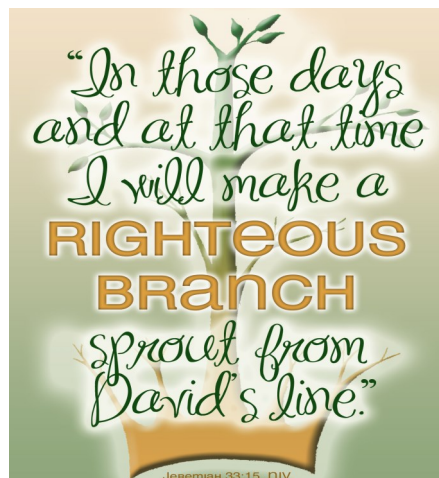
All are invited to come on Saturday, **December 16th at 3 pm** for caroling and refreshments. We will be recording the caroling session to be played several times on KNNA 95.7FM in the days to follow. More details will follow as plans continue to be finalized.

WEEKLY PRAYERS

Tuesday mornings from 8:30—8:50 am you are invited to join with other members and the pastors and vicar in praying for those who have requested our prayers and are on the prayer list. This short prayer service will be in the sanctuary.

Good Shepherd News & Notes

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT— Jeremiah 23: 6
"And this is the name by which he will be called:
'The LORD is our righteousness.'" Jesus is our
righteousness, our justification, our all. In Jesus, we
are forgiven and receive every blessing from the Fa-
ther. This knowledge sets us free to live as children of
the heavenly Father without fear. Freed from the sup-
posed need to justify ourselves, we can do good works
for the right reason: to thank God and to serve our
neighbor.



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES (Dec. 3 thru Dec. 9)

People celebrating birthdays are:

Manis Edwards Eva Ehrich
Aaron Stehlik David Perrin
Ron Graphenteen Ella Twarling
Zachary Von Busch Aubrey Wagner

Couples celebrating anniversaries are:

Maurice & Georgia Deubler

LIFE MOMENT

Today, we often find lines, divisions, and hate, but we hope to spread a little love and hope. Life is a valuable gift at all ages and all stages of life, and it should be protected.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRAW

Register online to be a donor on **Friday, December 22nd**. The blood draw will be at Good Shepherd in the fellowship hall **from 8 am—2 pm**. Schedule your appointment to donate at **RedCrossBlood.org** and enter **Good Shepherd Lutheran**.

BIRTHDAY WISHES

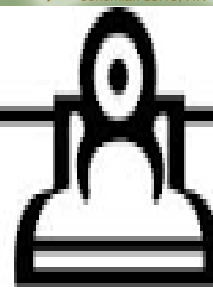
On **Sunday, December 3rd** we will be helping to celebrate **Dr. Manis Edwards' 90th birthday** as a part of the Bible study hour. There will be cake and an opportunity to extend your congratulations and best wishes.

"Unless we form the habit of going to the Bible in bright moments as well as in trouble, we cannot fully respond to its consolations because we lack equilibrium between light and darkness."

Helen Keller

"I believe in Christ like I believe in the sun, not just because I see it, but because by it I can see everything else."

C. S. Lewis



FINANCIAL INFORMATION
NOVEMBER 26, 2023

WEEKLY BUDGET NEED:
\$ 11,184.00

ATTENDANCE:
WED., NOV. 22: 67
THANKSGIVING: 62
SUN., NOV. 26: :246

GENERAL FUND OFFERING:
\$ 6,030.00

OUR OUTSTANDING MORT-
GAGE: \$ 1,665,667.46

Our goal is to pay off the mort-
gage by 2030

We need \$2,300 per week donat-
ed in principal only payments to
accomplish this.

Between Oct. 1 and Nov. 26, 2023
We have received
\$ 3,371.50
in principal only gifts.

Principle Only Gifts from
October 2022— Oct. 1, 2023
\$ 197,307.69

SERVING AT GOOD SHEPHERD THIS WEEK:

DOORKEEPERS: (Sun., Dec. 3): 8 am: Loraine Harnett
10:30 am: Terry Fitzgerald
(Wed., Dec. 6): David Perrin

ELDER TODAY: (Sun., Dec. 3): Rich Lichtenfeld
(Wed., Dec. 6): Rich Lichtenfeld

USHERS: (Sun., Dec. 3): 8 am:
10:30 am:
(Wed., Dec. 6):

ACOLYTES: (Sun., Dec. 3): 8 am: RJ Huff
10:30 am: Sawyer Shubkagel
(Wed., Dec. 6): Declan Reinke

ALTAR GUILD ASSISTANT: (Sun., Dec. 3): Lucy Pflanz
(Wed., Dec. 6): Brittani Jackson

COMMUNION SET-UP: (Sun., Dec. 3): Corie Christiansen
(Wed., Dec. 6): Karen Huff

COMMUNION CLEAN-UP: (Sun., Dec. 3): Christine Brugger
(Wed., Dec. 6): Karen Huff

COFFEE SERVERS: (Sun., Dec. 3):

MISSION PROJECT FOR NOVEMBER

In the month of November Good Shepherd's mission project is **Pastor Michael & Irene Paul, serving our Lord in Taiwan.** Their new apartment is located in Chiayi which gives them a whole new set of neighbors to get to know and with whom to share God's love and saving Word. We have in the past hosted several Bible study hours in which they shared some of the challenges that are presented in learning about the cultural differences they have encountered. Their love for God's children and patience in teaching is quite evident.

GOOD SHEPHERD PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

Photos will be taken for the pictorial directory on the following dates in room 106:

Wednesday, November:29 (from 5 pm—6:15 pm)

2024 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES are available at the "INFORMATION" desk.

PLEASE NOTE: You may not have the same envelope number as last year.

Those who contribute "online" will not have a physical envelope. Instead, a number has been assigned to your name for your tax reporting purposes.

If you would like to have envelopes or have questions, please call the church office at **(402) 423-7639 and talk to Corie Christiansen.**

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.

Ron 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)
Dorian Merritt (at home)
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 (at home)
Jerry Kohl (The Woodlands)
Lynda Mahloch (Legacy Estates)

Francine Poppe (Azria Health, Central City)
Marvin & Joyce Thompson (The Landing)
Don Wiese (Southlake Village)

On the tall table next to the pro-life display 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. **There are currently no birthdays or anniversaries to celebrate among our shut-in members.** Thank you to everyone who has taken advantage of these opportunities to stay in touch with our shut-in members.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

The funeral luncheon committee is updating our records. If you would like to help by occasionally providing a salad or dessert and/or helping to serve and clean up, please let us know. You can **call or text Susan McKinney at 402-560-4158** with your information and the best method in which to contact you. Please leave a message if there is no answer. Thank you and God's blessings.

ADVENT MEALS

Advent services begin **Wednesday, December 6 in 2023**. The following Advent meals will be served 5-6 pm in the fellowship hall. **Please note the meals will end at 6 pm** to allow the volunteers to get cleaned up in time for the Advent service. Of course, you are still welcome to stay in the fellowship hall between 6-6:30 pm for socializing.

- Dec. 6 Ramon Marcano and crew serving **hamburger goulash**; free-will offering to a special Venezuela church project for a new printer.
- Dec. 13 Church Council serving sloppy joes & mac & cheese; free-will offering to the vicar fund.
- Dec. 20 Higgins family serving BBQ pulled pork; free-will offering to Lincoln Crisis Pregnancy Center.

MISSION PROJECT FOR DECEMBER

Luther Classical College in Casper, WY will be Good Shepherd's mission project for the month of December. Luther Classical College will open in the fall of 2025. It will provide a conservative, classical Lutheran education to Lutheran students. Students will learn Latin, history, theology, literature, logic, rhetoric, music, geometry, biology and mathematics within a purposefully Christian and Lutheran framework.

KIESER FAMILY

Check at the Information Center on the hanging clipboard for photos of Nathan & Cosette Kieser and their twin boys, Arthur and William. Nathan was a Concordia University student who attended services at Good Shepherd. He is now a student at Concordia Seminary in Ft. Wayne, IN.