

Good Shepherd News & Notes

Septuagesima Sunday: January 28, 2024

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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

"Thy Word is a Lamp unto my
feet and a light unto my path."
Psalm 119: 105

THE CHRISTENLEHRE *(continued)*

by Rev. Ryan Loeslie

Also the lovely, simple method of the Catechism examination — to make the divine truths clear to understand and warm in the heart — is an overall useful, salutary, and fruitful way to teach, especially for the weak in knowledge. Here the pastor relates well to the simple. He personally brings the difficult articles of doctrine to clear understanding and thoroughly clears away any slippery false teaching. The process is so simple, and yet it is so solid. When the doctrine is drawn into the light point for point through simple questions, when it is explained in clear answers and substantiated by God's Word — it is minted like pure gold. Every particular article — the ones that even an attentive listener might miss in a sermon — may here come clearly into focus. The question spurs the listener on to use serious reflection in bringing to mind the great treasure of his knowledge, formed by God's Word, to answer the questions. When an answer escapes him, the question makes him vigorously attentive to fill the gap in his knowledge. It offers him the opportunity to replace what is lacking. In the course of the questions and answers the preacher also notices where he must dig deeper, where he must connect better, and where he must follow up. A wrong answer shows him where the rays of God's Word have failed to connect. This examination concerns all people. The easier questions are set before the weaker, the more difficult questions set before the more advanced. Words of special instruction, application, and admonition are woven in for the adults also. When the children answer in an orderly and respectful way with clear and lively answers, it is not only instructive for everyone who is present. It is also a delightful joy to be there.

The Catechism examination is especially important, necessary, and useful for those youth who are weaker and simple. It is especially for these that the Christenlehre is established. You can accurately call it a children's instruction and children's worship. Just like the adults, so also the children are members of the church, for in Christ Jesus there is neither male or female, neither master or slave, and therefore neither child nor adult. And as our Savior Himself, so also the church does not despise the children whom she has accepted into the kingdom of God through the washing of Holy Baptism in the name of the Lord. The church knows that she should give attention to the youth not only in school, but also in worship. In the Christenlehre the congregation wants to offer first of all to the youth exactly what it needs. Exposition of the chief parts of Christian doctrine in question and answer is correct and necessary instruction, exactly what the youth needs. What the children have learned from God's Word at home and in school — this should be publicly confessed, strengthened, and expanded in the church. The children should know this and hear it repeatedly from their parents and teachers: the Christenlehre is a children's worship which no child should miss, except in case of emergency.
(see page 2)

Also Christian parents should not merely hand this over to the school, but they themselves should see to it that their children are adequately prepared for the examination. This will only be lively and fruitful if the children are well-familiar with the material to be handled, and answer will follow question like an echo follows a sound. The swifter and readier the children are in their answers, the more their desire grows to be attentive and to participate in the Sunday Catechism exercise. Also the school should always hold the instruction of the church's children in consideration, and from the beginning they should accustom the youth to answer with a clear and distinct voice. This way it does not become boring or drudgery for the congregation, where paying attention becomes impossible.

While the Christenlehre is important and necessary for the school children, it is still more important and necessary for the confirmed youth, who have special need for the motherly care and nurture of the Christian congregation. The saddest experience teaches this, that as soon as the flighty youth go into the world and experience temptations and dangers, they forget that they praised God in school and what they learned in Confirmation instruction. They deny their spiritual disposition, and worldly thoughts and desires gain the upper hand. The longer the confirmed youth grow, the more they should grow in serious, knowledgeable, and well-grounded Christians. As a rule they should grow into a mature age in Christ. They should no longer be children, tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine, seduced by alluring human treachery to let falsehood enter in. They should become Christians, who are happy in and certain of their faith. Everyone should be able to offer a defense of the hope which is in him, to withstand the deceiver, to stop the mouth of the blasphemer, and to exercise their priestly duties and rights. Finally, they should be able to serve the congregation as loyal and well-regarded members with much blessing. This can only happen when the Word is held by the youth and the youth is held by the Word. This is why the Catechism examinations have been established, and they are especially suitable for the task. In these examinations the glorious and salutary knowledge, which our confirmed youth have taken into their lives from the school and their Confirmation instruction, which is a thorn in the eye of Satan and aggravating to the sinful flesh — this if refreshed, strengthened, grounded more deeply, more clearly explained, further expanded, and applied to every facet of life. The regular review of the chief Christian doctrines must result in inexpressible blessing in the congregation, especially for the confirmed youth. Parents, preachers, and congregation should hold the youth to the Christenlehre with care. They should allure and tantalize, plead and admonish, warn and discipline them all as a group and as individuals, and they should not grow tired of it. No measure should be left untried. They do it to this end — that the Catechism exercises remain dear and valuable to the youth. *(to be continued)*

MISSION PROJECT FOR JANUARY

Lutherans for Life is Good Shepherd's mission project for the month of January.

"Some have argued that there are no biblical references to prove that life begins at conception. But a quick Scriptural journey to Nazareth and the hill country of Judea shows otherwise — for here we encounter the Annunciation and Visitation accounts that give us a powerful portrait of the sanctity of human life in the womb. It is at Nazareth, not Bethlehem, where God the Son became true man without ceasing to be true God." *God's Word for Life (God's Word to the Nations, Orange Park, FL) 2005, pg. 1184.*

SEEKING MOWING VOLUNTEERS

Fed up with cold weather? Missing that healthy glow? Imagine yourself riding around on the church's riding lawn mower, working on your bronze tan, and soaking in the vitamin D, all for FREE!

Good Shepherd is seeking Mowing Volunteers for the summer of 2024. If interested, please contact **Aron Wiest** at **aronw2418@yahoo.com** or **(402) 432-0074**.



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 (1)
- **Pastor Luke Russert**, for a successful adjustment of his medication (5)
- **Sharon Burke**, dealing with Parkinson's disease (4)
- **Leena Mackey**, grand-daughter of Linda Clark, with continued medical issues (3)
- **John Reigle**, for successful recovery from back surgery (6)
- **Gail Stachura**, for recovery from neck surgery and successful healing (6)
- **Kyle Lundberg**, cousin of Karen Kammann, for an accurate diagnosis and successful treatment (4)
- **The son of Jordan**, friend of Michael Jensen, who is having seizures (6)
- **Gary Chura**, brother-in-law of Maureen Marshall, in hospice care with pancreatic cancer (3)
- **Elaine Egner**, having chemo and radiation treatments (3)
- **Elaine Van Valkenburg**, for continued strength and healing (3)
- **Rose Bock**, grandmother of Angela Von Busch, recovering from surgery (5)
- **Steve Waldron**, father-in-law of Melissa (Sidlo) Waldron, recovering from a second brain surgery (4)
- **Don Wiese**, in hospice care (3)
- **Peggy Cather**, hospitalized with a broken pelvis following a fall (2)
- **Mark Tallman**, friend of Linda Clark, in hospice care (1)
- **Jerry & Lori Sidlo**, having medical issues (1)
- **Jeremy Janssen**, friend of Rich Lichtenfeld, recovering from a stroke (1)
- **Taylor**, grand-daughter of Holly Herrod, for continued recovery (1)

- **Ken Marshall & family**, father of Grace Marshall, with ongoing health problems (1)
- **Pat Perrin**, mother of David Perrin, for successful recovery following knee surgery (1)
- **The family of Dan Brock**, uncle of Megan Lichtenfeld, who was taken to his eternal home recently (2)
- **The family of Norma Pagels**, mother of Barb Poppe, who was taken to her eternal home recently (2)
- **The family of Chad Reppert**, nephew of Barb Poppe, who died suddenly (2)
- **The family of Nick**, friend of Mike Jensen & Pam Jensen, who was taken to his eternal home (2)
- **The family of Lily Fay**, aunt of Barbara Kumm, who was taken to her eternal home. (2)

FLOWER CHART

There is a flower chart on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. If you would like to provide flowers in memory of someone or to celebrate a special occasion, please sign up for the appropriate date with the pen provided. You may contact Loraine Harnett at (402) 217-7414 to make the arrangements (price range, what occasion, kinds of flowers preferred, etc.) You may also contact Loraine with any questions you may have.

LOST AND FOUND

A tie clip (gold-colored with the initial "M") and a ring (with a black engraved design on it) were found and turned in to the church office. If one of these sounds like it might belong to you, please contact the church office at (402) 423-7639

PHOTO DIRECTORY

The last two opportunities to have your photo taken for the **NEW** Good Shepherd photo directory will be on **Sunday, Jan. 28th from 9:15–10:30 am and on Wednesday, Jan. 31st from 5:15–6:30 pm in room 106.**

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STEWARDSHIP MOMENT– I Corinthians 9: 25 – “Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable” Self-control is a fruit of the Spirit, for the desires of the flesh are at war with the desires of the Spirit. We have received new life in Christ by His grace. Now He calls us to follow Him deliberately, with self-control and with intention.



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES (Jan. 28 thru Feb. 3)

People celebrating birthdays are:

Siobhan Ehrich	Hannah Moline
Jacob Poppe	Paytyn Renter
Dale Meyer	Rich Znamenacek

Couples celebrating anniversaries are:
None

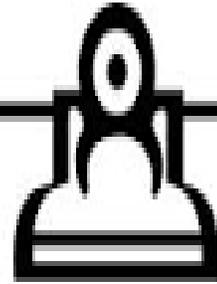
LIFE MOMENT

The life-giving grace of God measures according to His abundance rather than our scarcities of age, appearance, or ability. May we likewise direct gazes beyond abortion's and assisted suicide's shortsightedness (I Cor. 7: 30-31).

LENTEN MEALS

Lenten services begin on Wednesday, February 14th with Ash Wednesday. The following dates are available for groups interested in serving a meal from 5-6 pm. Free-will donations will go towards a project of the group's choice. Please contact Sarah Kaldahl at 660.238.7327 to schedule.

- Feb. 14 — Pastor Poppe & crew (Pulled Pork) Funds to the Women's Care Center
- Feb. 21 — Homeschool Moms (Nacho Bar) Funds to Parish Education
- Feb. 28 — Church Council (Sloppy Joes) Funds to interior painting & upkeep
- March 6 — Elders (Soup) Funds to the Vicarage Fund
- March 13 — OPEN
- March 20 — Indgjers (Baked Pasta) Funds to Narthex improvements



FINANCIAL INFORMATION
JANUARY 21, 2024

WEEKLY BUDGET NEED:
\$ 11,184.00

ATTENDANCE:
WED., JAN 17: 69
MATINS, JAN 18: 38
SUN., JAN 21: 235

GENERAL FUND OFFERING:
\$ 16,303.48

OUR OUTSTANDING MORTGAGE: \$ 1,636,542.68

Our goal is to pay off the mortgage by 2030. We need \$2,300 per week donated in principal only payments to accomplish this.

Between Jan 1 and Jan.21, 2024
We have received
\$ 8,998.00
in principal only gifts.

Principle Only Gifts from
Oct. 2022– Dec. 31,2023
\$ 207,886.19

Vicarage Fund Jan 1 — Jan 21,
2024:
\$ 8,763.00

SERVING AT GOOD SHEPHERD THIS WEEK:

DOORKEEPERS: (Sun., Jan. 28): 8 am: Stehlik
10:30 am: Perrin
(Wed., Jan. 31): Harnett

ELDER TODAY: (Sun., Jan. 28): Curt Christiansen
(Wed., Jan. 31): Rich Lichtenfeld

USHERS: (Sun., Jan. 28) 8 am: Graphenteen, Higgins, Stehlik, Huff
10:30 am: Eckhoff, Keller, Princ
(Wed., Jan. 31): Klutz, Eckhoff, Civic

ACOLYTES: (Sun., Jan. 28) 8 am: Brantley Reinke
10:30 am: Zach Von Busch
(Wed., Jan. 31): Broderic Beed

ALTAR GUILD ASSISTANT: (Sun., Jan. 28): Claire Moline
(Wed., Jan. 31): Chloe Lichtenfeld

COMMUNION SET-UP: (Sun., Jan. 28): Corie Christiansen
(Wed., Jan. 31): Karen Huff

COMMUNION CLEAN-UP: (Sun., Jan. 28): Maureen Marshall/Nancy & Sarah Stepp
(Wed., Jan. 31): Karen Huff

COFFEE SERVERS: (Sun., Jan. 28): Andrew & Jeana Wood

VOTERS' MEETING

Good Shepherd's semi-annual voters' meeting will be held in the sanctuary on **Tuesday, January 30th at 7 pm.** Come for information about the decision to request a vicar for the August 2024 — July 2025 year. We will also hear some up-to-date information about other important coming events and opportunities. See you there!

THE AMAZING SOUP COOK-OFF CONTEST

Thank you to all who attended, tasted, and voted at the 2024 Annual Soup Cook-off! Extra thank you to all the soup contestants who delivered delicious soups: Pastor Poppe with Hamburger Soup, Ella and Claire Moline with Baked Potato Soup, Adam Mankin with Shrimp and Corn Chowder, Chad Renter with Crack Chicken Soup, Nick Hyde with Gumbo, Terry Princ with Chicken and Rice Soup, Deb Grimmette with Potato, Ham and Cheese Soup, and Ben & Michael Civic with Chicken Soup.

Congratulations to our winners!

1st Place: Chad Renter with Crack Chicken Soup

2nd Place: Pastor Poppe with Hamburger Soup

3rd Place: Adam Mankin with Shrimp and Corn Chowder

4th Place: Terry Princ with Chicken and Rice Soup

BUILDING FAITH IN THE HOME

The next class in this series of parenting sessions will be on Sexuality and Chastity. Pastor Moline will lead this session on **Sunday 1/28/24 following the 10:30 am service.** Pizza and drinks will be provided for lunch. **Please bring a side or dessert to share.** The children will be able to participate in board games in the classrooms again while the parents meet with Pastor in the fellowship hall for the class after lunch.

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 shut-in members with birthdays or anniversaries in February.** Thank you to everyone who has taken advantage of these opportunities to stay in touch with our shut-in members.



LUTHERAN AND COMMUNITY

KNNA-LP 95.7 The Cross provides both Lutheran and community broadcasting. The vast majority of the programming is Lutheran theology based (About 80%). There are also many programs that are community oriented. You can hear regular updates from Nebraska Game and Parks, local sports information and programming, as well as several music programs like When Music Was Music, Classical Kitchen, and Soundscape Journeys. Thanks for listening!

PANCAKES FOR PCAN

The congregation is invited to volunteer or attend the **Pancakes for PCAN** benefit **on Tuesday, February 6 from 4:00—7:00 pm** here at Good Shepherd. The **free -will offering will benefit Lincoln area families experiencing pediatric cancer.** This will be the 10th year Good Shepherd will partner with PCAN (Pediatric Cancer Action Network) in this community outreach fundraiser to reduce the financial burden on families with diagnoses of pediatric cancer and to advocate for a cure through awareness, action, and education. Last year we were able to raise over \$5,000 to help local families with essential needs!

Many volunteers are needed to help with 1 hour shifts. Sign-up sheets are located in the narthex. Help is needed on Sunday the 4th, and various times on Monday the 5th. Call or text if you have any questions: Tiffany Walker 402-432-0003. THANK YOU! In case of inclement weather, February 13 is scheduled as a "snow date".

FEBRUARY MISSION PROJECT

Luther Classical College will be Good Shepherd's mission project for the month of February 2024. With an opening date planned for the fall of 2025, the college will be built on the 11 acre campus of Mount Hope Lutheran Church and School in Casper, WY. It will provide a conservative, classical Lutheran education to Lutheran students. LCC will offer its students a high quality education, preparing them for a variety of career paths. Some will go on to become pastors, teachers, and lawyers. Others will take advantage of the trade options that will be offered in cooperation with Casper Community College and go on to become electricians, plumbers, etc. All will receive an education that prepares them to confess Christ in this world, using the gifts God has given them to glorify Him and to serve their neighbors.