

# Good Shepherd News & Notes

Transfiguration Sunday: January 21, 2024

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



## THE CHRISTENLEHRE

by Rev. Ryan Loeslie

The following translation was first printed in the March 12, 1895 issue of *Der Lutheraner* under the title "Die Christenlehre." The author is Friedrich Bente, who was a professor at Concordia Seminary—St. Louis from 1893 through 1926. Bente also was editor for *Lehre und Wehre*, the main theological journal of the Missouri Synod.

The term "Christenlehre" is left untranslated in this article, as it is not neatly translated into English. We could call it the "instruction of Christians." The Christenlehre was a notable feature of Missouri Synod congregations, especially in the German-speaking era of the 19th and first half of the 20th centuries. It was essentially a Catechism lesson, where the children would sit in the front pews and would be called on to stand up and answer questions asked by the pastor. If the children did not know the answers, the pastor would also call on the adults. The intent of the Christenlehre was that children would not forget the important doctrines and Catechism truths which they had learned, especially after Confirmation. The Christenlehre usually took place in the sanctuary after the regular morning worship or during Sunday afternoon, as Bente writes.

The Christenlehre was generally replaced by Sunday Schools after World War II as a means of teaching children. However, we can see from this article that the Christenlehre was a unique feature of our congregations with a specific purpose in mind for retaining the youth in the doctrine which they were taught. Mindful pastors and congregations might consider how they can incorporate elements of the Christenlehre into congregational life again today.

## THE CHRISTENLEHRE

All spiritual life in the church is a fruit of Christ's Word. Therefore God also wants every congregation to let this Word dwell within it richly. As in nature seed is sowed in lavish fullness, so also this sowing of the Word should not be lacking in our hearts. The bread of life should be richly distributed to the children of God. Young and old, great and small alike should be suckled and nourished with the milk of the Gospel. Neither the entire congregation, nor a part of it, nor any single individual of the same should suffer lack of the Word. Therefore the church has also established alongside the regular preaching the so-called "Christenlehre." The Christenlehre makes its own contribution to congregational life, that the Word of God has free course and grows in the congregation. This practice gives dignity and value to the instruction of children. The same Word of holiness and power, of grace and God's truth, which is poured out in a wide stream over the listeners in the Sunday sermon, should also find its way in smaller streams into the hearts of the congregation through the individual questions of the Catechism examination. (see page 2)

The very same things that inspire the congregation, especially the preaching of the Word, should also make the Catechism exercises precious and valuable to us. The glorious Small Catechism of Martin Luther, which is laid down as the foundation of the Christenlehre, is the most valuable little book. Our Formula of Concord says, "the Christian doctrine from God's Word is comprised in [the Catechism] in the most correct and simple way, and, in like manner, is explained, as far as necessary for simple laymen." The Formula calls the Small Catechism "the Bible of the laity, wherein everything is comprised which is treated at greater length in Holy Scripture, and is necessary for a Christian man to know for his salvation."

The Catechism examinations have not been established by the church for the sake of mere change for change's sake, as if we were trying to spend the Sunday afternoon in a different way, more pleasant and attractive than the morning worship. The Catechism examinations correspond much more to an actual need of the Christian congregation. They are not so easily replaced by the sermon, and certainly not replaced by the so-called Sunday School. The Word of God has much use and value for teaching, reproof, correction, instruction, and comfort [2 Tim. 3: 16, Rom. 15: 4]. But the most important is its use for teaching, the instruction for salvation. And exactly this use for teaching is, as in the sermon, the predominant use in the Christenlehre. While the Sunday sermon provides instruction according to the different festivals and times of the church year, as well as the special needs of the congregation according to its time, place, and circumstances, the Catechism examination treats the articles of faith according to the six chief parts, in context and in finely ordered sequence. It moves step-by-step through all doctrines of the Law and Gospel, from the Ten Commandments to the Creed, from the Creed to Prayer, from Prayer to the Means of Grace: Baptism, Absolution, and Holy Communion. Here no piece of doctrine is overlooked, but every piece and every piece in its place is thoroughly explained. It is proven from the Holy Scripture and applied as necessary. Here every error which is dangerous to the congregation and its individual members is exposed on all sides by the light of Holy Scripture. Every error is repudiated and decidedly rejected. Here the specific duties of faith, love, and life are counted, addressed, and warmly set upon the heart of the congregation. No article is skipped over, no important question remains unanswered. If a Christian congregation wants its members to be well-grounded in all articles which pertain to the faith and life of Christians, it is exactly the Christenlehre which is the always repeatable, simple, and thorough instruction in the most holy faith. It should be held in highest importance and regarded as downright indispensable.

*(to be continued)*

*Sola Gratia*

Grace Alone

*Sola Fide*

Faith Alone

*Sola Scriptura*

Scripture Alone

## **MISSION PROJECT FOR JANUARY**

**Lutherans for Life** is Good Shepherd's mission project for the month of January. Christmas – and a new year – offers opportunity for the joys of looking forward. Simeon and Anna exemplify and inspire faith that finds strength and celebration in anticipating. The Heavenly Father who escorted us thus far will also usher us ever onward. Neighbors facing surprise pregnancies or suffering terminal diagnoses need to know. For their sake, please do not keep silent (Psalm 62:1)!

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

- **The family of the sister of Joyce Thompson**, who was taken to her eternal home unexpectedly (2)
- **The family of Glenn**, friend of Karen Kammann, who was taken to his eternal home. Pray for peace and comfort for his wife, Cathy (1)
- **The family of Dan Brock**, uncle of Megan Lichtenfeld, who was taken to his eternal home recently (1)
- **The family of Norma Pagels**, mother of Barb Poppe, who was taken to her eternal home recently (1)
- **The family of Nick**, friend of Mike Jensen & Pam Jensen, who was taken to his eternal home (2)

## WHO AM I?

The 2024 Higher Things Conference for confirmed youth will be at the University of the Ozarks in Clarksville, AR from July 16-19. The theme is "Who Am I" which is based on Isaiah 49: 16a. Sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin table. Deadline: January 19th. Please bring any questions to one of the pastors.

## 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

# Good Shepherd News & Notes

**STEWARDSHIP MOMENT— Matthew 17: 7 – “But Jesus came and touched them, saying, ‘Rise, and have no fear.’”** When Jesus is with us, there is no need to fear. He loves us and cares for us and will never abandon us. That assurance is the basis of all generosity, for only those who are set free from worry can learn the joy of giving.



*“The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?”*

**PSALM 27:1, NRSV**

## **BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES** (Jan. 21 thru Jan. 27)

People celebrating birthdays are:

Char Large                      Greg Lange  
Trevor Fleck                  Dawn Renter

Couples celebrating anniversaries are:

John & Tiffany Walker  
Gary & Vicki Rockel  
Ramon & Daysis Marcano  
Nik & Co Sandman

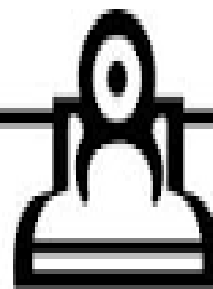
## **LIFE MOMENT**

We proclaim not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord of body and sexuality.(2 Corinthians 4:5). We proclaim not personal choice, but Jesus Christ as Lord of marriage and procreation. We proclaim not popular opinion, but Jesus Christ as Lord of hurts and healing. We proclaim not political debate, but Jesus Christ as Lord of life and death. Listen to Him who makes us beloved children of God (Mark 9:7).

## **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 — OPEN  
Feb. 21 — Homeschool Moms (Nacho Bar)  
                    Funds to Parish Education  
Feb. 28 — Church Council (Sloppy Joes)  
March 6 — OPEN  
March 13 — OPEN  
March 20 — OPEN



FINANCIAL INFORMATION  
JANUARY 7, 2024

WEEKLY BUDGET NEED:  
\$ 11,184.00

ATTENDANCE:  
WED., JAN 10: 73  
MATINS, JAN 11: 42  
SUN., JAN 14: 112

GENERAL FUND OFFERING:  
\$ 5,045.00

OUR OUTSTANDING MORT-  
GAGE: \$ 1,636,542.68

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

Between Jan 1 and Jan.14, 2024  
We have received  
\$ 540.00  
in principal only gifts.

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

Vicarage Fund Jan 1 — Jan 14,  
2024:  
\$ 100.00

## **SERVING AT GOOD SHEPHERD THIS WEEK:**

**DOORKEEPERS:** (Sun., Jan. 21): 8 am: Indgjers  
10:30 am: Olsons  
(Wed., Jan. 24): Alan Brodbeck

**ELDER TODAY:** (Sun., Jan. 21): Joel Kaldahl  
(Wed., Jan. 24): Joel Kaldahl

**USHERS:** (Sun., Jan. 21) 8 am: Schnell, Wilkens, Indgjers  
10:30 am: Fitzgerald, Perrin, Von Busch (D & R)  
(Wed., Jan. 24): Kaldahl, Pfeister, Von Busch (D & R)

**ACOLYTES:** (Sun., Jan. 21) 8 am: Declan Reinke  
10:30 am: Anthony Pflanz  
(Wed., Jan. 24): Aaden Von Busch

**ALTAR GUILD ASSISTANT:** (Sun., Jan. 21): Brileigh Twarling  
(Wed., Jan. 24): YunMi Kort

**COMMUNION SET-UP:** (Sun., Jan. 21): Deb Burow  
(Wed., Jan. 24): Sue Stolcpart

**COMMUNION CLEAN-UP:** (Sun., Jan. 21): Christine Brugger  
(Wed., Jan. 24): Sue Stolcpart

**COFFEE SERVERS:** (Sun., Jan. 21): Marilyn Meyer, Corie Christiansen

## **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**

Sunday, January 21st Good Shepherd will hold a soup cook-off at noon(ish) in the fellowship hall. Sign up to make your special soup recipe and compete for the prized "Golden Ladle" trophy. The congregation is invited to attend and rank the soups in order of their favorites. A free-will offering will be taken to support our church library.

A sign-up sheet and contest rules are in the narthex; please sign up by January 17th. A sign-up sheet for donations of cinnamon rolls, cookies, or dessert bars is also in the narthex. Mark your calendars for this opportunity to warm up in the cold month of January, sample some great soups, and have a fun time with good fellowship.

## **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 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.



## 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".

## NEBRASKA WALK FOR LIFE GALA & NEBRASKA WALK FOR LIFE

Plan to attend: 2024 NEBRASKA WALK FOR LIFE GALA, Friday, January 26, 6pm at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel & NEBRASKA WALK FOR LIFE, Saturday, January 27, 10 am at the State Capitol, then walk to the UNL Student Union. Keynote speaker for both events is Melissa Ohden, a survivor of an abortion attempt and the founder of the Abortion Survivors Network. Call (402) 438-4802 for information about the Gala.

Prior to the Walk for Life a service will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 12th and H Streets. Coffee and donuts will be served at 8:30 am with the brief service beginning at 9 am.