

Good Shepherd News & Notes

Third Sunday of Easter: April 14, 2024

3825 Wildbriar Ln., Lincoln, NE 68516

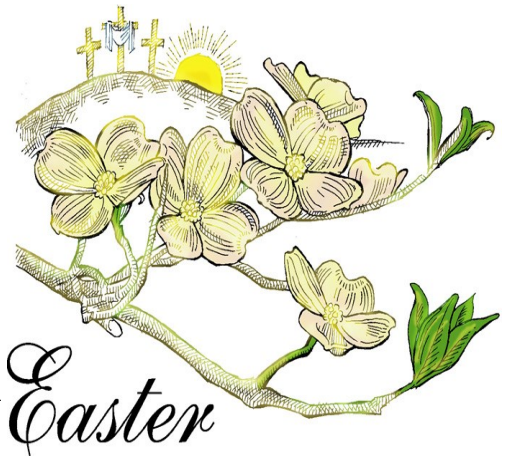
Church Office: (402) 423-7639

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



"IS THE LECTIONARY ACTUALLY IMPORTANT"

by Evan Scamman

I grew up in a Pentecostal sort of church that had never used the lectionary. Why would we? Wasn't it better to be led by the Holy Spirit than to be tied down to any specific readings? Instead of preaching on a limited number of Biblical texts, our pastor preached from the whole Bible. Except that he didn't. That's the problem with "free-texting," as it is sometimes called. Although the pastor was free to preach on the entire Bible, his two-hour sermons generally fell back on one of his favorite passages. The story of Sanballat and Tobiah served to rebuke any members who were complaining against the work of "building up the walls of Jerusalem." When Elijah directed the starving widow of Zarephath to "bake me a cake," this meant that we were to put more in the offering plate, even when we had next to nothing to give. And the road to Emmaus was a great opportunity to hear once again that we were "fools and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets had said." It's not that what was said was inherently problematic, though some of it certainly was. The real problem lay in what was never said or taught. Before becoming a Lutheran, I had never heard, for example, a sermon about heaven. This fundamental Christian doctrine wasn't of interest to my former pastor, who was more focused on "building God's kingdom" here on earth. Only after becoming a Lutheran and being immersed within the yearly cycle of the lectionary, did I come to recognize my previous pastor's failure to preach "the whole counsel of God." It seems paradoxical that free-texting pastors would tend to preach less of the Bible than those who follow the lectionary, but this generally proves true. In fact, one of the great benefits of using the lectionary is that pastors are forced to preach on passages and topics they might otherwise avoid. The lectionary protects the flock of God from "hobbyhorse" preaching, and it presents the whole counsel of God to His people, building them up in the faith, precept upon precept, line upon line.

A pastor is not free to speak as he pleases. He must speak as he is commanded. Therefore, every faithful pastor must contend with the world, the devil, and his own sinful nature, which all conspire to entice him into voicing his own thoughts and opinions from the pulpit. Free-texting, though not inherently sinful, tends to steer a pastor into the danger of prophesying of himself, that is, speaking his own words. Jesus said that not even the Holy Spirit will speak "of Himself, but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak" (John 16: 13). How much more must mortal pastors be careful to speak only what they hear from the Word of God.

Consider the difference in process between a pastor who uses the lectionary and one who free-texts based on a self-chosen topic. The first is more likely to approach the Scriptures asking, "What does God have to say to His people today?"

(see page 2)

while the latter, having already decided what he wants to say, then searches the Bible for verses to support his chosen topic. This is not to say that a pastor cannot give a faithful and topical sermon — in fact, there may be times where this is necessary — but as a general rule, free-texting should be avoided, since it opens the door to many potential dangers: cherry-picking from the Word of God, avoiding uncomfortable truths, hobby-horse preaching, and even falling into serious doctrinal error.

Early in my seminary training, I wrongly assumed that it would sometimes be necessary to depart from the lectionary in order to address specific issues as they arose in my parish or in the surrounding culture. I have never once found this to be necessary. Instead, the appointed texts have consistently and miraculously proven to be far more applicable to the situation at hand than anything I might have chosen myself. For example, during COVID, while many people were fearfully avoiding church, the appointed Psalm for the Fourth Sunday of Lent began with these words: "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord'" (Psalm 122). That same day, at the height of the toilet paper hoarding, Holy Scripture reminded us of how the fearful Israelites hoarded manna until it bred worms and stank (Exodus 16). But most importantly, we heard of the tender provisions of our Lord Jesus for His people, as He fed them with bread in the wilderness (John 6).

The fathers of the church, who were much wiser than we — and likely better topical preachers when the need arose — nevertheless chose to follow the constraints of the lectionary. They did not view the prescribed set of readings as a muzzle upon the Holy Spirit, but rather, as a means by which He accomplishes His work of bringing all the words of Jesus to our remembrance. The lectionary has served the Church as a hedge of protection against false teachers and their pet agendas even as it has helped to present us with the whole counsel of God. May this sound pattern of words continue to aid and strengthen the Church as we earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto all the saints.

~taken from the Lutheran Classical College publication Ad Fontes, July 2023

LADIES OF GOOD SHEPHERD

You are invited to join us at the LWML Spring Workshop on Saturday, April 20th at Good Shepherd from 8:30 am—11:30 am. Pastor Moline will lead the prayer service beginning at 9:00 am. We will work on a mission craft project (Bring Scissors). The registration fee is \$5. Refreshments will be served. Please join us!



"LUTHERANISM IN A POST-CHRISTIAN AMERICA"

Registration is now open for Luther Classical College's annual Christian Culture Conference. The dates for the conference are Tuesday and Wednesday, **June 4th and 5th**. It will be located at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1240 S. Missouri Ave., Casper, WY 82609. Presentations are as follows:

"Wokism and Post-Christian America"

"The Lutheran Family: Past and Future"

"Necessary Masculinity in Post-Christian America"

"The Role of Luther Classical College in Post-Christian America"

"Campus Free Speech is not Enough"

"Tyranny's Assault on the Family: Church and State in Post-Christian America"

Rev. Dr. Peter Scaer

Dr. Allan Carlson

Rev. Jeffrey Hemmer

Dr. Ryan MacPherson

Dr. Scott Yenor

Rev. David Ramirez

For more information or to register, please go to <https://www.lutherclassical.org>.



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)
- **Leena Mackey**, grand-daughter of Linda Clark, with continued medical issues (2)
- **Elaine Egner**, that her chemo and radiation treatments would be successful (1)
- **Pastor Scott Porath**, having medical issues (5)
- **Karen**, sister of Janice Densberger, diagnosed with Parkinson's disease (6)
- **Lori Mader**, daughter of the Densbergers, diagnosed with breast cancer (6)
- **Lori Sidlo**, dealing with continuing health problems (5)
- **Ben Sandman**, recovering from a mystery illness at home (6)
- **Irma Brandt**, in hospice care (5)
- **Bud Lichtenfeld**, uncle of Rich Lichtenfeld, in ICU (5)
- **Terry Fitzgerald**, recovering from surgery (4)
- **Dawn Zieg**, former member of Good Shepherd and friend of the Stehliks, battling cancer (5)
- **Irene**, friend of Linda Clark, being treated for lung cancer (3)
- **Grady Schutz**, great-nephew of Linda Clark, having medical issues (2)
- **Sharon Burke**, being treated for Parkinson's disease ... currently at Southlake village (3)
- **John Proescholdt**, cousin of Barb Proescholdt, receiving treatment for lymphoma and bone cancer and currently in hospice care (1)
- **Dee Crisler**, with health issues (5)
- **Linda**, healing for health issues (2)
- **Karen**, daughter of Barb Kumm, dealing with health issues (2)

- **Tanya Schlamann**, former member of Good Shepherd, thanksgiving for a successful lung transplant and prayers for recovery and blessings on anti-rejection treatments (6)
- **Jim Cather**, dealing with COVID (1)
- **Peggy Cather**, having medical issues (1)
- **Rita**, mother of Rich Lichtenfeld, having surgery (3)
- **Janine Melton**, sister of Bob Rathjen, having medical tests (4)
- **Nick Hyde**, that he would receive the certification he needs before a trip to Minnesota (5)
- **Sarah Stepp**, starting on a new medication for EOE. Pray that it will work to bring healing and that insurance issues are eliminated. Pray also that her celiac disease continues to be responsive to just a gluten-free diet (5)
- **Thanksgiving for the McClinton family**, friends of the Klutz family, whose baby "Buddy", born at 24 weeks is home, happy & healthy (2)
- **The family of William Scheideler**, neighbor of Pastor & Barb Poppe, who was taken to his eternal home suddenly (3)

THANK YOU

Elaine Egner would like to thank members of Good Shepherd for the many birthday greetings she received in March. May God grant many more years of His best blessings.

KNNA-LP 95.7FM PROGRAMMING

There have been some recent changes regarding the programming on KNNA-LP 95.7FM The Cross. There have been a few programs that have ended production and a few new programs that have been added. These changes have now been formalized and a new schedule is available on the bulletin table in the narthex. If you cannot receive KNNA on your radio, the programming is also available for listening on the internet at www.thecross957.org. Thanks for listening!

Good Shepherd News & Notes

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT— John 10: 14 “I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me.” What does it mean to know the Lord? It starts with being known by the Lord: He claims us as His own and calls us by name. Then, once we are His, we learn to know Him, and in knowing Him, we learn to imitate Him. That is how the Christian life of good works and generosity grows from the Lord’s grace.



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES (April 14 thru April 20)

People celebrating birthdays are:

Mayah Stolcpart	Kiel Buhr
Calvin Roblyer	Linda Reigle
Marvin Thompson	Joe Reinke
Jameson Kessler	Joe Roberts
Terry Fitzgerald	Paris Schultz
Nicole Steinhauser	Connie Swenson

Couples celebrating anniversaries are:

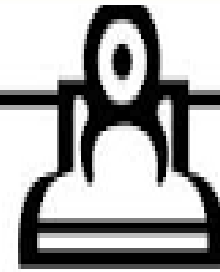
Ron & Candy Kimes
Joe & Lindsey Reinke

LIFE MOMENT

Our true identity turns us back toward our Creator, the one who not only made us but also defines us in His Word. So, permit me to remind you of that truth once more: You are a created child of God. You are handmade by Him, loved by Him, redeemed by Him, and sustained by Him. The gifts you possess are gifts He has given you; all that is good comes from Him. Your identity and your value are, always were, and always will be found in Him.

COLLEGE STUDENT MEAL

On Sunday, April 14th, after the second service, there will be a meal for all our college students as they prepare for the end of the academic year. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex if you would be willing to bring food or help serve. We are trying something a little different — build your own burrito and yogurt bars, so if you have questions about the items or amounts, please contact Elizabeth Moline (701-640-7989). College students, plan to attend and bring a friend!



FINANCIAL INFORMATION APRIL 7, 2024

WEEKLY BUDGET NEED:
\$ 11,184.00

ATTENDANCE:
WED, APRIL 3: 61
THURS: MATINS: 40
SUN., APRIL 7: 230

GENERAL FUND OFFERING:
\$ 5,897.50

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 & April 7, 2024
We have received
\$ 30,273.04
in principal only gifts.

Vicarage Fund Jan 1 — April 7,
2024:
\$ 24,012.00

SERVING AT GOOD SHEPHERD THIS WEEK:

DOORKEEPERS: (Sun., April 14): 8 am: Brodbeck
10:30 am: Sidlo
(Wed., April 17): Stehlik

ELDER TODAY: (Sun., April 14): Chad Renter
(Wed., April 17): Chad Renter

USHERS: (Sun., April 14) 8 am: Von Busch (A & A), Higgins, Sidlo
10:30 am: Fitzgerald, Eckhoff, Novaks
(Wed., April 17): Civic, Huff, Von Busch (A & A)

ACOLYTES: (Sun., April 14): 8 am: Brantley Reinke
10:30 am: Gabe Moline
Wed., April 17): Declan Reinke

ALTAR GUILD ASSISTANT: (Sun., April 14): Chloe Lichtenfeld
(Wed., April 17): Raiya von Rentzell

COMMUNION SET-UP: (Sun., April 14): Deb Burow
(Wed., April 17): Reva & Dennis Von Busch

COMMUNION CLEAN-UP: (Sun., April 14): Gayleen Potter/Deb Grimmette
(Wed., April 17): Reva & Dennis Von Busch

COFFEE SERVERS: (Sun., April 14): Dennis & Reva Von Busch

"BUILDING FAITH IN THE HOME"

The next class in this series of parenting sessions will be a continuation of "Sexuality and Chastity." Pastor Moline will lead this session on April 28th following the 10:30 am service. A taco/nacho bar 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. Contact Jerika Perrin with any questions at (402) 525-2379.

ACELC CONFERENCE

You are invited register for the ACELC Conference at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Kansas City, MO on June 18-19, 2024. A range of presenters will offer their perspectives on the issues facing the Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod. Check the ACELC (Association of Confessing Evangelical Lutheran Churches) website for updates on speakers and topics and for registration details.

POSITION OPENING

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is looking for a full time Congregational Administrative Assistant. Wide range of tasks including weekly bulletins and newsletters, scheduling visits for the pastors, answering phones and a variety of other tasks as assigned. Will work closely with the pastors in the administration of the congregation. Candidates need to be friendly, outgoing, and able to show discretion. Familiarity with Microsoft Office, database software and Google products required. Please submit a resume' or ask questions to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 3825 Wildbriar Ln., Lincoln, NE 68516 or email to info@goodshepherdlincoln.org.

TREATS FOR SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY NEEDED

Sign up on the clipboard in the kitchen located on one of the carts to bring treats. You can bring the treats during the week prior to the Sunday you choose and put them in the freezer. Questions? Call Sharon Wilkens at (402) 499-7064.

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 (Bailey Pointe)
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)
Brent & Cherie Travis (at home)
Francine Poppe (Azria Health, Central City)
Marvin & Joyce Thompson (The Woodlands)
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. Beginning on **March 27th** there will be cards available for **Marvin Thompson, Georgene Duer, and Cindi Olson** as they celebrate their birthdays. These cards will be available to sign until **Sunday, April 14th**. Thank you to everyone who has taken advantage of these opportunities to stay in touch with our shut-in members.

APRIL MISSION PROJECT: LUTHERANS IN AFRICA

There are millions of Lutherans in Africa. There are more Lutherans in Ethiopia than there are in the entire United States...but most of these Lutherans are Lutheran in name only. Rev. James May founded Lutherans in Africa in 2010 and started teaching Lutheran doctrine to the Lutherans in Africa. Now Rev. May and others are teaching Lutherans about Luther's Small Catechism. LIA has also partnered with the Lutheran Heritage Foundation which translates teaching materials.

ISSUES, ETC. "MAKING THE CASE" CONFERENCE

There is a great speaking lineup for the 2024 Issues, Etc. "Making the Case" Conference on Friday, July 12 and Sat., July 13 at Concordia University Chicago. Speakers include Riley Gaines (All-American Swimmer), Mark Hemingway (RealClear Investigations), Mollie Hemingway (The Federalist), Aaron Renn (The American Conservative), Pastor Bryan Wolfmueller (Has American Christianity Failed?), Pastor Chris Rosebrough (Fighting for the Faith), and Pastor Will Weedon (The Word of the Lord Endures Forever). Early Bird Registration is \$140 and includes 3 meals. Attendance is limited to 500. Register at issuesetc.org.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRAW

The next opportunity to donate blood at Good Shepherd will be on Friday, April 19th from 8 am — 2 pm. Check the poster at the information center for contact information, how to sign up to donate, etc.

VICARAGE ASSIGNMENT/CALL DAY EVENT

Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN will be having the Vicarage Assignment service on Tuesday, April 23rd and the Call Day service on Wed., April 24th. Good Shepherd has applied for a vicar for the Aug. 2024 — July 2025 academic year. Former Vicar Noah Kerstein will be receiving his first call as will Pastor Goodroad's brother, Joseph. You can check out the services on the internet at ctsfw.edu/daily-chapel. Following the services, assignments and calls will be listed on the website at <https://www.ctsfw.edu>.

CONCORDIA'S WIND SYMPHONY

Concordia's Wind Symphony will perform their home concert on Saturday, April 20th at 7 pm at Messiah Lutheran Church and School in Lincoln, Nebraska after returning from their six-day long spring tour, during which they will travel to and perform at several churches and schools in Iowa, Missouri, and Illinois.

The concert will feature selections from the group's tour program and feature composers like David Maslanka, Alfred Reed, and Frank Ticheli, representing a wide variety of styles and genres from across the musical spectrum. The ensemble will also perform Benjamin Culli's "Bless the Lord, O My Soul", a piece commissioned for the Wind Symphony and debuted at their first tour concert.

The Wind Symphony has a rich performance and touring history that extends more than 100 years into the past. It is currently directed by Professor Robert Cody, a Concordia alum and recent addition to the music faculty. Cody graduated from Concordia in 2014 with a degree in K-12 music education and served as the Director of Music at Living Word Lutheran High School in Frankenmuth, Michigan, before returning to his alma mater.

Our own Sarah Stepp is a member of the group and will be playing the flute.

MATH TOOL AVAILABLE

A former teacher living in the neighborhood has donated a math tool kit by Cortensen Co. to Good Shepherd. It is helpful in teaching additions, subtraction, multiplication and fractions. Since it is too advanced for the Little Learners Preschool which occupies our basement currently, perhaps a homeschool family would find it useful. You can check it out in the church office if this is something that would be helpful to your family. Questions? Contact the church office at (402) 423-7639.



"The value of life does not depend upon what we are able to do but upon what God has done – created, redeemed, and called us (Isaiah 43: 1). "
~ Lutherans for Life ~

"The law says, 'do this,' and it is never done. Grace says, 'believe in this' and everything is already done."
~ Martin Luther ~

OUTDOOR CLEANUP AND MULCH APPLICATION

On Saturday, May 4th beginning at 9 am Good Shepherd members will be sprucing up the outdoor property. Volunteers, please bring your wheelbarrows, rakes, shovels, pruners, gloves, and green thumbs. Mulch will be provided. All assistance with this project will be greatly appreciated.