

# The Shepherd's Voice

## From The Pastor



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The Gospel of Christ is God's invitation to salvation and eternal life. Cards or letters of invitation occasionally end with the eloquent phrase from the French language abbreviated only with the letters RSVP, signaling that the sender wishes to know for how many to plan in attendance. (Of course, we may presume God already knows that final number!) But to receive an RSVP invitation requires a response. Jesus issues the invitation to the Kingdom asking all to "strive to enter." Surprisingly, the response or effort required is simply to receive the benefit of our Lord's own work on our behalf. You enter the open, narrow door through Baptism into the death of Christ. The baptismal life is a striving to die and rise daily by faith in the way of the cross of Christ. Through the door of the Eucharist we are nourished and faith is strengthened and sustained by Christ's body and blood. This eating and drinking is necessary for the struggle of faith. Here today you continue your RSVP, entering the door who is Christ by the power of your Holy Baptism.

When you think about it, it is a silly question: "Lord, will those who are saved be few?" (Luke 13:23). Why do you think you need to know that anyway? Maybe such a person is worried for others—for their family, for their children. Or maybe they are looking for a loophole for themselves. Of course, our Lord sets us straight by turning the question back so that we ask, "Am I going to be saved?" To answer that question, we almost automatically fall into the temptation to believe that the answer has to do with the sufficiency of our own merits or good works. The "narrow door" and Jesus' requirement to "strive to enter" seem to suggest some evidence of effort on our part. The surprise, however, is that there is no effort required; one only receives the work, the merit, the righteousness of Jesus Christ. In Holy Baptism, you receive that new status of "child of God," bearing the righteousness of Christ. The striving and effort are but the daily dying and rising by repentance and faith by the power of your Baptism. The strength to persevere is nourished by the body and blood of Christ in the Eucharist. Keep entering through the open door, Jesus Christ, our Lord.



— *Pastor Simpson*



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**LAWN CARE HELP** – Our main lawn care helper is stepping away from this service due to health reasons. Please volunteer to assist in this property ministry. Contact Director of Properties, Manny Vasquez, for further information.

Check out the  
bulletin boards  
for **NEWS** and **EVENTS**  
coming up!



## Be part of our Craft Bazaar!

75th Committee Meeting is putting together a  
Craft Bazaar in September and would love  
for you to be part of it!

Whether you stitch, paint, sculpt, bead, or build–

This is **YOUR** moment to shine!

Interested? For more info.

Contact : Laney Pierce (405)- 641-7143



75  
GOOD  
SHEPHERD  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ESTABLISHED 1950



75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
November 16, 2025

**“Led and Fed by The Good Shepherd for 75 years”**



## A Stranger Looks Inside a Midwest City Church

Wednesday, October 13, 1954 – Published in the *Oklahoma City Times*

### 10 Acres Offer Stepping Stone to Christian Future

'In a day when many churches are worried about off-street parking and lack of expansion space, Good Shepherd Lutheran, 1616 North Air Depot, is unique.

The Midwest City church, which also serves Del City, is one of the few which can count its property in acres—9 of them—rather than in feet. This large expanse of land did not come to the congregation as a gift, or by chance.

It is the result of The Good Shepherd's Lutherans' faith in the future. In fact, a purchase earlier this year more than doubled the amount of property, which includes a frontage of 327 feet on Air Depot, running 990 feet deep.

What does the church, still only five years old, plan to do with all this land?

"It's simple," explains Pastor Norman Groteluschen, (first pastor of The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.) "Our program emphasizes Christian education at every level. In the long run a large part of our land will be used for recreational and educational facilities."

Church boards "sort of envision" a Christian Day school on the church grounds, "but it's definitely in the future," the pastor said.

The Missouri Synod Lutheran church, of which the Midwest-Del City congregation is a part, has more than one thousand schools in the United States, mostly in the northern states. However, there are several in Oklahoma.

"We feel that Christian education every day is necessary to fight the wave of secularism in the world," Pastor Groteluschen said. "Good as it is, Sunday school is not enough."



**To Be Continued . . . Be sure to read next month's "The Shepherd's Voice" newsletter.**

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Make sure you have Sunday, November 16, 2025, reserved on your calendar! This is the day we will celebrate our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the beginning of The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in 1950. Be sure to invite others that were also a part of our history these past 75 years. This will be a big day in giving thanks to God for His many blessings, honor, and privilege to be "Led and Fed by the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ".

**"My sheep  
hear my voice,  
and I know  
them, and  
they follow  
me."**

John 10:27





God has Blessed us as The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Midwest City, OK since 1950. These Blessings have been showered upon us, our previous forefathers and foremothers who had the earnest desire to establish an LCMS Congregation in Midwest City. God has been with us, our ups, and our downs, in blessing these efforts in mission and ministry to not only the members and their children, but to the whole community of Midwest City and Eastern Oklahoma County. Please join us as together we give thanks for God's bountiful blessings in sharing/teaching/preaching His Word of love and forgiveness to a multitude of people. We have been "Led and fed by the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ."

Please Prayerfully Consider a Thanksgiving Gift to God for His Blessings: Asking His Continued Blessings, as we endeavor to continue His will in sharing Christ Crucified with our members, our friends, and neighbors in our community.

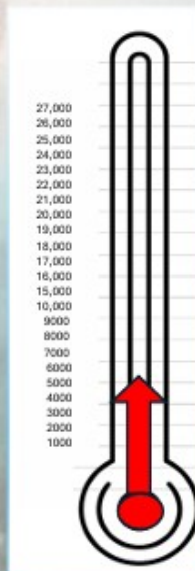
We have prayed and been led to support these three projects as a 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gift of Thanksgiving at The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Midwest City, OK.

- ❖ An Outside Entrance Cross
- ❖ Replace Two Ranks in our Organ
- ❖ Update/Remodel our Church Kitchen

Approximate Cost of \$25,000

It is our Prayer that you will also support and be blessed by offering these new/updated items to; **welcome others into our sanctuary to worship, be led joyfully in music from the organ in worship, and enjoy food and fellowship with one another and your guests from our updated kitchen** at our events. May God Bless All Your Support and Us Together as a Congregation of His People to His Glory!

Make checks to: The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and Mark on the Memo line for 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fund.  
Thank You for your Support!!! All Praise to God!







## Juneau's Puppy Playhouse



On the mornings of June 24, 25, 26 and July 1 and 2, we presented a Pre-K friendly version of True North VBS to a group of about 20 four-year-olds from Good Shepherd's summer day camp program. They learned about the same Bible Buddies and Bible Stories that the big kids learned about during our regular VBS held earlier in June.

Marla Junghanns led the children in the Bible Adventures Station. They enjoyed an interactive Bible story each day that showed them what it means to trust Jesus; watched a video about a new animal "buddy;" and learned the hand motions for a True North VBS song.



Lynne McNair led the Craft and Play Station in the church library, where the preschoolers were able to create and discover the wild world around them. They made sparkling icicles, curious crabs, snowy mountains, eagle kites, and cozy igloos.

We would like to thank our volunteers for a very successful Pre-K program—a mountain of smiles for the little ones! We also appreciated our young helpers Eevee and David. A special thank you to the caregivers who guided the kids from day camp to the Sunday School room each day—and stayed with them throughout the program.

Jesus is our True North!

*Dana and Debbie*





## Daily Devotions

### Moved

**Colossians 1:1-3, 12-14** – *Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, to the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father. We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ... giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

When I was a child, I was fascinated to find out that there are planets that are tidally locked. That means that the planet always shows the same face to the star that it's orbiting, and the other side faces out into darkness. We used to think Mercury was like this, though now we know that things are a bit more complicated. But a truly tidal-locked planet—what would it be like to live there?

Pretty strange, I think. The bright side would never have night, and the other side would never have day. There would be a thin circle all around the planet of eternal twilight. And of course the temperatures would be hugely different between night and day sides.

Imagine what it would be like, to live on such a planet—especially if you suddenly got moved from the night side to the day side! The change would be overwhelming. And that's the kind of change Paul is talking about when he says God "has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."

What difference are we talking about? The difference between death and life; between hatred, anger, grief, loss, and fear on the one hand, and love, joy, peace, comfort, and hope on the other. The difference between living somewhere people were never meant to be, under the power of the devil—and living with Jesus, our Savior, who loves us, in the place He calls "the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" (Matthew 25:34b).

And how do we get from the dark to the light? Through God's lovingkindness, shown to us in Jesus, our Savior.

If we really were on a tidally locked planet, we could move ourselves from the dark side to the light side—at least in theory. But that's not the case with our spiritual life. For that move, we need help—we need Jesus. We can't do it on our own. But He can do it—and He has. That's what His suffering, death, and resurrection from the dead were all about.

*Now, if we trust in Jesus, we live on the light side—and we have all the warmth and light we could ever need in Him.*

*Thanks be to God.*

**WE PRAY:** Dear Father, thank You for bringing me to live in Your Son's kingdom, in His light and warmth. Amen.

### Reflection Questions:

*Why do people call Jesus the light of the world?*

*Why would it make sense to call Him the warmth of the world as well?*

*How has Jesus brought light and warmth into your life?*

### **Today's Readings:**

2 Kings 7-9  
James 3



This Daily Devotion was written by Dr. Kari Vo.





**John 10:27**

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

**August 12, Open House - Informational Meeting**, 6:30pm - 8:30pm,  
Required for all students and parents, School Gym

August 14, 

**August 24, Backpack Blessing and Teacher Installation**,  
10:30am, Church Sanctuary

**August 24, Back to School Bash**, 6:30pm - 8:30pm, Reno Swim & Slide Pool,  
Midwest City (Food and Drinks Provided)

**September 1**, Labor Day, **NO** SCHOOL





## Faithfulness: The Stewardship Standard

***“Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful”***  
(1 Cor. 4:2).

What is the standard to which a steward is held? Ask the average person, and they might talk about percentages, tithes, and commitments. Too often, the default mode of measuring stewards is by how much and how frequently they give. This is not helpful. Measuring activity without any connection to baptismal identity is a recipe for disaster. It can either breed a sense of superiority and self-righteousness or create a culture of scarcity and despair. Neither outcome is godly or helpful.

This is not to say that stewardship should be regarded as "no big deal." St. Paul, within his discussion of the ministry to which he has been called, sets the standard of accountability for the steward: faithfulness. This removes any sense of superiority or self-righteousness and dispels scarcity and despair. When a steward manages what the Lord has entrusted to them — resources and all aspects of life — for God's purposes, the focus is not on how much or how frequently they give.

This standard reflects the stewardship portrayed in the Gospels where Jesus entrusts varying amounts, each according to ability. The commended stewards were recognized for their faithfulness in their vocation, not the amounts they managed. Conversely, the condemned stewards were not castigated for their lack of performance but for their lack of faithfulness.

What does this mean for the steward in the pew? The Lord has entrusted you with various things. Luther captures them in his explanation of the First Article of the Apostles' Creed and the Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer.



The familiar couplets of food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, land, animals and all possessions are the Lord's, and He has entrusted them to you for His purpose. This trust brings an active realization of thanksgiving.

This active thanksgiving is our stewardship. It can be distilled into two questions that the steward regularly needs to answer:

*1. How has God blessed me?*

*2. How is He calling me to respond?*

The first question is quite simple to answer: if the Lord has entrusted something to you, it is a blessing. This blessing is for God's glory and the benefit of your neighbor. The second question is more challenging to measure; it is not about percentages and charts. Instead, it is about a life of thanksgiving that flows from the mercies of God revealed in Jesus Christ. This thanksgiving starts at and flows from the cross and the empty tomb. Our stewardship of the Gospel drives our stewardship of everything else.

The standard, then, is faithfulness. Faithfulness flows from eyes focused on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. It does not come from our efforts but through the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives, through Word and Sacrament. It begins at the altar in the Divine Service but extends into the world — from hearth and home to workplace and classroom, from commerce to leisure. The mercy of God, freely given in Jesus, leads us to demonstrate a faithfulness that reveals to others the same mercy we have received in Jesus.

*This faithfulness cannot be measured empirically. It is simply allowing the Holy Spirit to work in and through us for the glory of God and the benefit of our neighbor. Weekly. Daily. Faithfully.*



# AUGUST 2025

## *Happy Anniversary*



8/6 Wesley Ray & Kimberly Harris  
8/9 Bob & Sheila Striegel  
8/20 Ed & Gayle Brown  
8/21 Andy & Kathy Anderson



8/2 Marlene Hildebrand  
8/5 Debbie Hudson  
8/5 David Jensen  
8/6 Joshua Grundmann  
8/8 Carroll Dinse  
8/9 Adrienne Bontempo  
8/12 George Kiebach  
8/13 Lynn McNair  
8/14 Elise Webb  
8/15 Oktok Eakes  
8/20 Lynnice Hamlin  
8/22 Peggy Tarr  
8/23 Mike Moore  
8/24 Dean Helberg  
8/26 Norma Schwarz  
8/26 Grace Pendley  
8/28 Clarice Christ



## BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

8/6 Gene Johnson  
8/7 Jennifer Dunn  
8/10 Martha Casey  
8/14 Ross Bartmess  
8/18 Daniel Ewing  
8/19 Alexander Williamson  
8/19 Alaina Williamson  
8/22 Ruth Ewing  
8/23 Pastor Simpson





# AUGUST



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>3</b> 8:00a Worship w/Communion 9:15a SS/Bible study 10:30a Worship w/Communion	<b>4</b> 5:30p Trail Life USA & American Heritage Girls	<b>5</b> 10:30a Staff mtg 1:00p <b>TABS</b> (Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study) 7:00p LWML-Ruth Guild	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>10</b> 8:00a Worship 9:15a SS/Bible study 10:30a Worship	<b>11</b> 5:30p Trail Life USA & American Heritage Girls 6:00p Elders	<b>12</b> 1:00p NO <b>TABS</b> (Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study) 6:30p School Open House	<b>13</b> 10:00a Summer Camp Chapel	<b>14</b> 9:30a Mary Circle Bible Study  First Day of School	<b>15</b> 6:00a <b>WEBS</b> — Week End(ing) <b>BS</b>  <b>16</b> 6:00a <b>WEBS</b> — Week End(ing) <b>BS</b>	<b>9</b> 6:00a <b>WEBS</b> — Week End(ing) <b>BS</b>  <b>16</b> 10:00a OK District Disaster Response
<b>17</b> 8:00a Worship w/Communion 9:15a SS/Bible study 10:30a Worship w/Communion	<b>18</b> 5:30p Trail Life USA & American Heritage Girls	<b>19</b> 10:30a Staff mtg 1:00p <b>TABS</b> (Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study)	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 6:00a <b>WEBS</b> — Week End(ing) <b>BS</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 8:00a Worship w/Communion 9:15a SS/Bible study 10:30a Worship w/Communion Backpack Blessing & Teacher Installation 12:00p Council 6:30p School Pool Party <b>St. Bartholomew, Apostle</b>	<b>25</b> 5:30p Trail Life USA & American Heritage Girls	<b>26</b> 10:30a Staff mtg 1:00p <b>TABS</b> (Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study)	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 9:30a Mary Circle Quilting	<b>29</b> 6:00a <b>WEBS</b> — Week End(ing) <b>BS</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 8:00a Worship 9:15a SS/Bible study 10:30a Worship		<b>THE LUTHERAN HOUR</b> every Sunday at 8:00a - 9a. 1FM, or 9:00a - 89.5FM or 800AM or Sirius-XM 131, or online at <a href="http://www.lutheranhour.org">www.lutheranhour.org</a>	 <b>REMEMBER GOOD SHEPHERD IN YOUR WILL!</b>	 You can listen on-demand at <a href="http://issuesetc.org">issuesetc.org</a> , the LPR mobile app, and your favorite podcast provider	 Go to <a href="http://www.gslcsmvc.com">www.gslcsmvc.com</a> click on the "Play Video" arrow.	<b>SUBMISSION DEADLINES</b>  <b>Weekly Bulletin</b> 12pm on Thursdays <b>Monthly Newsletter</b> 20 <sup>th</sup> of every month <a href="mailto:news,gslc@gmail.com">news,gslc@gmail.com</a>