

The Shepherd's Voice

From The Pastor



As we once again celebrate our nation's independence on the 4th of July, we will hear much about freedom. As citizens, we give thanks for the blessings we have and for the many who fought for and paid the price for our liberties. While we certainly do not worship our nation, we appropriately honor and give thanks to God for this land in which we can freely worship the one true God. As this national celebration then passes, we are joyful that we don't need an annual holiday to recognize true freedom as Christians. Daily we hold fast to the wonderful news that the battle has been fought and the price has been paid by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, that we may have freedom from sin, eternal death, and the devil.

"For freedom Christ has set us free" (Galatians 5:1). When people across our great land celebrate the freedoms that belong to us in the United States of America, the people of God bow before the Lord in humble praise and prayer, acknowledging the true source of our freedom. Set free from our captivity to sin and Satan and from the fear of death by the redeeming work of Christ, we live as free people. We belong to God! As citizens of heaven with temporary citizenship in our country, we treasure all the earthly blessings we now have, including the freedoms of our country. On the 4th, let us use those freedoms for the sake of the One who sets us free. We are free to love our God. We are free to worship Him in Spirit and truth. We are free to love our neighbor. And we are free to bring the saving Gospel to all we meet. God bless America! And God bless all His people on the 4th — and every day — with the freedom that is ours in Christ!

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Pastor Simpson

FRITZIE'S CORNER

July

Fritzie was unable to contribute to the newsletter this month due to her health.

Please keep her in your prayers that she continues to heal.

Fritzie Rice

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

New Testament Standard Giving

Whenever the topic of stewardship and giving comes up, the conversation inevitably turns to the question: “How much should I give?” Answers will vary because the motive behind such questions vary also.

Sometimes the motive behind asking this question is for self-justification. Even though as Lutherans, we know that we are not saved by our works but by grace through faith because of Jesus’ substitutionary atonement. Yet the natural religion of fallen man is to earn God’s favor by what we do.

Take for example the response of our Lord to the rich young ruler who asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus first tells him to keep the commandments. The rich young ruler responds by indicating that all this he has kept from his youth. But Jesus tells him that he lacks one thing: He must sell all that he has and give it to the poor and then follow him. This rich, young ruler went away sad because he was quite wealthy and could not part with his possessions.

Here we see that those who seek to justify themselves by their giving will hear a response that intensifies the duty that God places upon them. Indeed, they will hear a response that makes it impossible to win God’s favor by their works.

But to those who genuinely desire to know what their duty is, as Christians, in the arena of giving, we look to the Bible for our answer. We believe that the Bible is the Word of God. And we know that the Word of God has been “breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work” (2 Tim. 3:16–17).

So, we begin to answer the question, “What should I give?” with the question, “What does the Bible say about how much we should give and to whom?”

The Old Testament is explicit. The expectation is that the people of God would give a tithe, that is 10 percent, of the first fruits of their labor to support the full-time ministry of the Levites. This is what the Lord gave Moses to teach the people:

“You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always. And if the way is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry the tithe, when the Lord your God blesses you, because the place is too far from you, which the Lord your God chooses, to set his name there, then you shall turn it into money and bind up the money in your hand and go to the place that the Lord your God chooses and spend the money for whatever you desire—oxen or sheep or wine or strong drink, whatever your appetite craves. And you shall eat there before the Lord your God and rejoice, you and your household. And you shall not neglect the Levite who is within your towns, for he has no portion or inheritance with you.

“At the end of every three years you shall bring out all the tithe of your produce in the same year and lay it up within your towns. And the Levite, because he has no portion or inheritance with you, and the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, who are within your towns, shall come and eat and be filled, that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands that you do.” (Deuteronomy 14:22–29)

This principle of tithing is carried over into the New Testament, though not explicitly by calling it a tithe. St. Paul teaches the Church at Corinth this: We are to give to the church regularly (1 Cor. 16:1–2), proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:12), and generously (2 Cor. 8:20) of our first fruits (1 Cor. 16:1–2; Gen. 4:4; Prov. 3:9; Lev. 27:30) with a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7), and love (2 Cor. 8:23). And all of this is because the “Lord has ordained that those who preach the Gospel should make their living by the Gospel” (1 Cor. 9:14), just as the Levites did.

This our New Testament standard. Since Christ became poor for us in order to make us rich in Him – blessing us with the riches of heaven – so we also have been so blessed to follow the example of our Lord and Savior and give of ourselves and the work of our hands to bless others with the same.

If we have been lax in this, let us – like our Lord, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross and scorned its shame – likewise begin to work toward this goal of regular giving of a generous proportion of the first fruits of God’s giving to us. And let us do so not begrudgingly, but for the joy set before us—with a spirit of eagerness, cheerfulness, and love—to share the blessings of God with those placed into our care.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship





Vacation Bible School 2022 – Monumental – Celebrating God's Greatness

The week of June 6 – 10, 2022 was a Monumental week here at Good Shepherd. The facilities, including the Fellowship Hall, Library, Youth Room were used as various teaching venues. We were blessed to have over ninety-six children, ages 4 – 10, hear about God's love and Jesus as Savior throughout the week from 9 – 11:30 a.m. We began with Sing and Play Celebration, and continued with Awesome Bible Adventures, Imagination Station, Red Rock Recreation, KidVid Cinema, Oasis Tastes, and closed the day with Canyon Closing. The preschool children were involved in Quail Trail Preschool. We were also blessed and most grateful to have had 54+ assistants that served as Station Leaders, Crew Leaders, Assistant Crew Leaders, and other staff to tend to the presentation needs and day to day operations. Special thanks to Dana Johnson for serving as our VBS Director and props/set designer/developer, assisted by Debbie Hudson. Huge thanks and appreciation to ALL!

The whole week we focused on the story of Joseph. In Monumental, we wanted to give kids a solid foundation for their lives, built on Bible truths about God's love. Our goal was to help kids discover that God is Monumental – His love, His power, His plans for our lives, and His forgiveness. We helped kids at "Monumental" experience God's love through fun, laughter, daring discussions, worship, and adventure.

- Monday, it was about Joseph's family feuds in Genesis 37. Our Bible verse that we focused on was Psalm 89:2 – "Your unfailing love will last forever." The Bible Point we focused on throughout the morning was: "God loves you no matter what."
- Tuesday, we focused on the imprisonment of Joseph found in Genesis 39 – 40. The Bible verse was Joshua 1:9 – "For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Our Bible Point for the day was "God is with you everywhere."
- Wednesday, we were focused on Joseph getting new responsibilities found in Genesis 41. Our Bible verse was Psalm 147:5 "How great is our Lord! His power is absolute!" Throughout our sessions, our Bible Point for the day was "God is in charge."
- Thursday, we focused on Jesus, His death on the cross, and comes back to life in Luke 23-24:12. Our Bible verse was "And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love," found in Romans 8:38. Amazingly, our Bible Point for the day was "God is stronger than anything."
- Friday, our final day, we were focused on Joseph being reunited with his family found in Genesis 42 – 45. Our Bible verse was found in Psalm 66:5 – "Come and see what our God has done, what awesome miracles He performs for people!" Our Bible point for the day was "God is surprising."

We are very thankful that God provided this opportunity to share His Word, love, and forgiveness with these children and adults. They experienced and discovered the great, awesome, mighty God who loves them! We were blessed and privileged to plant the seed. May God water it to fruition in sharing His love and forgiveness with others. Thank you for your prayers and continued prayers for what has been sown. To God's Glory!

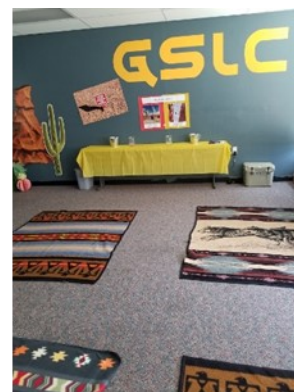
Fellowship Hall
Openings/Closings
Kidvid Cinema



Library
Bible Study Adventures
Day two- Joseph was imprisoned



Youth Room
Imagination Station





July 2022 Mission Grant **Caring For and Sharing Christ with Hurting People** **Concordia Seminary, St. Louis** **\$100,000**

Deaconesses Trained to Reach Out in Love and Share Christ

Deaconesses are professional church workers trained to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ through works of mercy, spiritual care, and teaching the Christian faith. Equipped with God's Word, deaconesses share the Good News of Jesus Christ with those who have not yet heard it. In reaching out to those in need, deaconesses continually point them toward the cross. Deaconesses may serve in the parish, in institutions, or in the mission field. Their specific ministries change depending on their call, but all deaconesses reach out and care for others as they share the love of Christ. They lovingly and selflessly provide much-needed care and works of mercy to people who are suffering and often marginalized. These include people who are sick, homeless, disabled, malnourished, homebound or hospitalized, enduring grief or loss, in hospice care, or living in nursing homes or convalescent homes. They also may serve those who are mentally ill, troubled youth, teen mothers, children of divorce, and those suffering from neglect or domestic violence. The deaconess certificate is awarded to women in various ways. Some women complete the three-year residential program at Concordia Seminary or the dual degree program while also studying at St. Louis University. Some women receive their training and certification by participating in a four-year distance course study through Center for Hispanic Studies (CHS) or Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT). Starting in the spring of 2021, women can become certified as they study four years in their home area through the online deaconess studies program. Deaconesses serving in a parish may visit shut-ins or make hospital calls. They may manage the Sunday School program, lead women's Bible studies, and work with the youth. Regardless of how they serve, they listen and grow to understand the needs of those they serve. Some deaconesses may serve as a hospital chaplain or work in an institution that is a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS. They may serve as counselors at a center for troubled youth or minister to unwed mothers who learn to care for their child. Deaconesses, who are recent immigrants to the United States, use their languages skills and understanding of different cultures to help people assimilate into this country. They understand the struggles immigrants are facing and keep pointing them to the loving arms of Christ. The money from this grant will help fund scholarships for the training of women to become certified deaconesses. It will also cover some of the costs of managing the deaconess training program at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

For more information go to lcms.org/how-we-serve/mercy/deaconess-ministry

July



**HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY**

Kent & Ruth Allsebrooke	7/1
Jeff & Paula Anderson	7/2
Jim & Gail Marlatt	7/2
Kip & Norma Place	7/5
Tammy & Douglas Batchelor	7/6
Gene & Dana Johnson	7/14
John & Julie Ashford	7/22
Dave & Hazel Barghols	7/24







BIRTHDAYS



BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

Gary Kuschnerreit	7/2
Vivian Bingman	7/4
Jeff Cunningham	7/4
Tammy Batchelor	7/7
Logan Ashford	7/16
Esther Siemers	7/21
Helen Stelling	7/22
Peggy Tarr	7/25
Marguerite Christman	7/29
Norma Johnson	7/31

Rick Hudson	7/1
Jeff Cunningham	7/4
Helen Stelling	7/5
Kathy Webie	7/6
Melody Carter	7/6
Sheila Striegel	7/8
Maxwell Carroll	7/17
Gene Johnson	7/17
Jennifer Dunn	7/18
Mark Webie	7/18
Gabriel Bowen	7/18
Marguerite Christman	7/21
Dave Barghols	7/23
Gail Marlatt	7/24
Lynn Cunningham	7/25

JULY								
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		
 SUBMISSION DEADLINES Weekly Bulletin 12pm on Thursdays Monthly Newsletter 20 th of every month <i>news.gslc@gmail.com</i>	Ministry Support through tithes, offerings, and donations can be given by either PayPal or credit or debit card. To access go to www.gslcmwc.com scroll down to "Help Our Cause" and click on "Donate Now."	 Go to www.gslcmwc.com click on the "Play Video" arrow.	THE LUTHERAN HOUR every Sunday at 8:00a - 94.1FM, or 9:00a - 89.5FM or 800AM or Sirius-XM 131, or online at www.lutheranhour.org	 REMEMBER GOOD SHEPHERD IN YOUR WILL!	1	2		
3 8:00a Worship w/Communion 9:15a Bible study 10:30a Worship w/Communion	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY	5 6:00p Elders' 7:00p LWMIL w/ZOOM	6	7	8	9		
10 8:00a Worship 9:15a Bible study 10:30a Worship 11:45a Parish Education	11	12 4:00p Parochial Education	13	14 9:00a Mary's Circle	15	16		
17 8:00a Worship w/Communion 9:15a Bible study 10:30a Worship w/Communion 12:00p Council	18	19	20	21	22 6:00a WEBS — Week End(ing) BS ST. MARY MAGDALENE	23		
24 8:00a Worship 9:15a Bible study 10:30a Worship 12:00p Voters' Assembly	25 ST. JAMES THE ELDER, APOSTLE	26 10:30a Staff meeting 2:30p TABS (Tuesday Afternoon BS)	27 10:00a Summer Camp CHAPEL	28 9:00a Mary's Circle 10:30a ThumBS— Thursday Morning Bible Study	29 6:00a WEBS — Week End(ing) BS			
31 8:00a Worship 9:15a Bible study 10:30a Worship								