

GSLM 2.0

# GoodShepherd2.0

## The Voice

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Behold, the Glory of the Lord  
appeared in the cloud



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# Good Shepherd Lutheran Ministries, GSLM

## “The Glory”

### Pastor's Epistle

***<sup>9</sup>Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, ‘Come near before the Lord, for he has heard your grumbling.’”<sup>10</sup>And as soon as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. <sup>11</sup>And the Lord said to Moses, <sup>12</sup>“I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel. Say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. Then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’” (Exodus 16)***

Beloved of God,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is August! Summer is here in full heat and thunderstorms. But there is always something to find good news in, seeing the hand of the Lord. And likewise a person can find something to grumble about.

Like the people in the text above, we have our own personal issues of course. We have our back stories. We have our own sins. We have our own hurts and wounds. There is a backstory for

our text above from Exodus. That story is compelling.

For example, not too long before this they had been slaves in Egypt. They had been enduring extremely harsh treatment at the orders of Pharaoh. A generation of baby boys were murdered by Pharaoh via edict with their drownings in the Nile River. They had just endured the 10 plagues in Egypt as the Lord was working against Pharaoh and Egypt so they would leave his children alone.

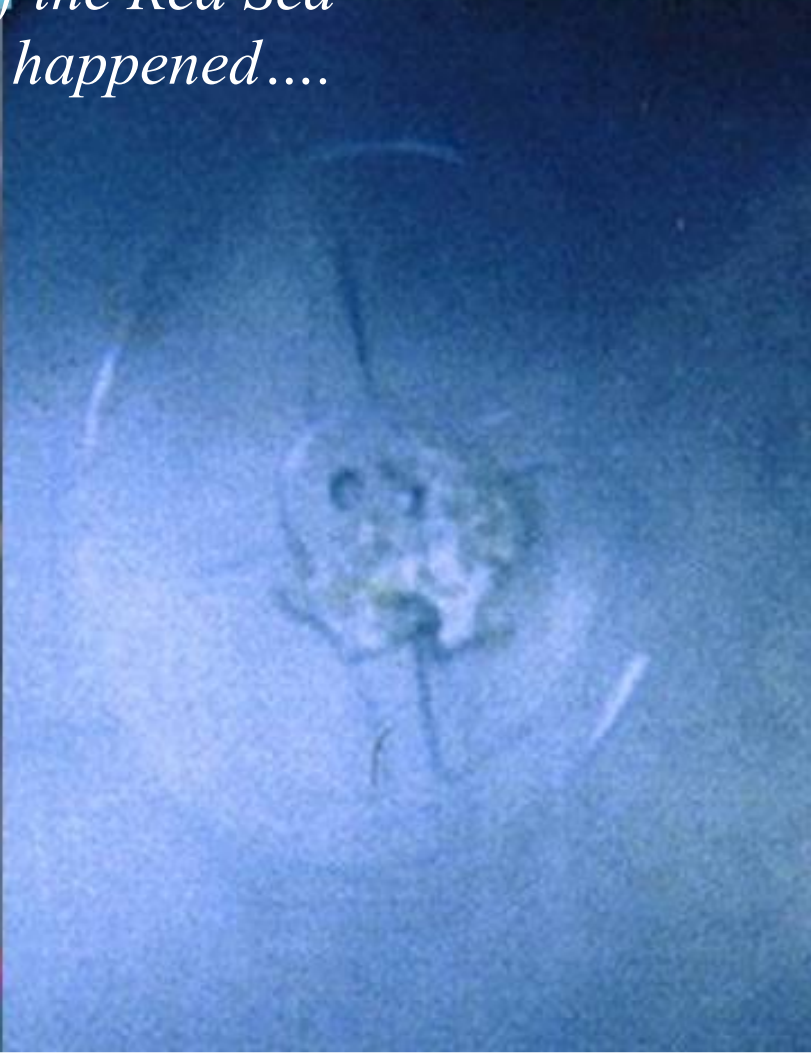
Then, with the grief and trauma of the uncountable multitude of their own dead baby boys in their hearts, the grave suffering from their task masters, then the Passover when death struck Egypt and the firstborn. Then they are pushed out by a broken Pharaoh, only to then see him turn in rage and pursue the just freed people Israel.

Then, they had the intense trauma of Pharaoh and his armies murderously pursuing them, with Israel trapped against the Red Sea. The terror of impending immediate violent death seized them, another trauma. Israel as yet did not have an army or trained troops. They had been in Egypt for 400 years.

They cried out.



*Chariot parts at  
the bottom of the Red Sea  
Yes, it really happened....*



And the Lord then parted the mighty waters of the Red Sea like giant walls on either side of them. And still in terror, having added to them their terror of the Lord who has just done this mighty thing, they get to the other side and they witness more trauma- the Lord brought the waters down upon their pursuing enemies! And they stand on the shore and literally watched the dead bodies of the Egyptian armies wash up upon the sea shore. They are overwhelmed. Now they are in a desert wilderness. They have cried out already for water, and so forth. Finally we come to this moment in which they are grumbling against Moses and Aaron, but really as the Lord points out they are grumbling against the Lord.

But the Lord does not destroy them. He tenderheartedly gives in. He will bring them manna and quail, and water from the Rock will come. He as yet contextually has not delivered to them his loving covenant. That will come. Centuries later, after their constant grumbling and turning to wicked idols, and suffering exile because of their constant rejecting of the Lord and their deliberate choosing to do deeds of gross iniquity century upon century, the Lord Jesus finally comes as promised. And the people yet again are rejecting him. And he looks out, he has intense compassion paining him inside, and says, O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, how I have longed to gather you to myself,.....but you are not willing.... Then they will grumble against the Lord himself demanding he be crucified, murdered! And on the cross he says, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

What of us? We are tempted to grumble against people. We are tempted to grumble against fellow Christians. We are tempted to grumble against the Lord. Do we know the backstory of the people of God in our life? A little, but not enough.

Today at Good Shepherd, we had an "active shooter" lecture by the Lee County's Sheriff's Office for all the staff for this coming year so that all would be prepared for what to do just in case- May God forbid. The captain who gave the lecture went on explaining about dif-

ferent kinds of danger scenarios. Part of that was a you don't always know what is waiting, so you have to be prepared. In that, he told of story of that about an Army Ranger. It was thought things were ok at the moment when they were moving along. This one Ranger triggered an IED and it exploded, blowing off the legs of the soldier. He explained, "That was my son."

No one here in that lecture knew this day before he spoke that he carried that in his heart. No one knows that carried in mine and Charlotte's hearts are worried about our son who is bobbing in the Persian Gulf right now off the coast of Iran as Iran announces orders are given to retaliate against Israel, and so forth. Nor does someone know that he and a few thousand others with him and his team will be a target as they will seek to stop Iran from attacking Israel. No one knows I am praying about that each day. We do not know each other's back story. People do not know the back story of the member dealing with cancer and its terrors. No one knows the sorrow and intense grief someone is carrying even years later after the loss of a loved one, a child or parent or spouse.

But the Lord knows all these things. And though there are consequences for sin, he does not tell Moses in this text to divide up the camp of the Israelites into military ranks and divisions and to take swords and kill the grumblers. Not yet per se. Jesus later will also with his own pain within look with compassion as he beholds Israel in his first advent and he be troubled painfully within for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. Lost.

On any given Sunday, there are studies which indicate a third of your fellow church members can be in some stage of grief as they sit in worship. There are similar stats for individuals who have been sexually abused and are survivors sitting in worship. There is a swath in virtually every church service who have experienced mental or physical

There is much worse, due to being in a sinful world.

*Modern day Israel on April 13 cried out, when Iran launched a massive missile attack. Sources are saying it may happen again soon, and worse. Nations continue to grumble.... Will all turn to the Messiah? Will the grumbling stop?*

U.S. Carrier fighter  
about to launch.





*Modern day Israel on April 13 cried out, when Iran launched a massive missile attack. Sources are saying it may happen again soon, and worse. Nations continue to grumble.... Will all turn to the Messiah? Will the grumbling stop?*

Israel's Iron Dome missile defense system.

Stats from the CDC for example indicate that **41% of women and 26% of men** in the U.S. have experience "intimate partner violence in their lifetime, under "contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking" in their lifetime.

Did you know...? The Lord knows. He is so amazingly patient. He hears our grumbling. On the cross, remember, they mocked him. They vented their hate toward him— the Son of God as they shouted out mockery. And as to his being true God, he is also according to his incarnation, born of the virgin, true man. So everyone of those words, every one of those actions, every one of those lashes of the whip, every one of those hammerings against the spikes through his hands and feet hurt/.

It all hurt with intense pain. His heart was overwhelmed. His sweat became clots of blood. And yet, shockingly, he loved each one of them doing that to him!

The difference for the world is its bondage to sin, death, and the devil. Suffering, hurt, sin, guilt, being hurt by the sins of others, trying to be free from frightening adversaries, it all can take grumbling and turn it to something terribly worse. In other words, if the sinful nature has reign, it responds to the problem of sin in the self and in the world and it does things that are sin against God...

It seeks to dominate, to enslave, to punish, to attack. It is beyond just the individual person's impact. It is nation sized, as nations rise against nation. Let me explain....

You hear things like, "The Jews" are always doing this or that! "The Arabs" are always doing this or that. How about, "The Republicans" are always doing this or that. "The Democrats" are always doing this or that. "Men" are always doing this or that.

"Women" are always doing this or that. "Old people" are always doing this or that. "Kids" are always doing this or that. "White people" or "Hispanics" or "Blacks" are always doing this or that.

Next thing you know, someone is climbing on a roof at a political rally with the intent of assassinating a political candidate. Next thing you know a nation fires rockets and missiles against another nation. Next thing you know marriages rip apart. Next thing you know children and parents, siblings and siblings are ripping apart. Next thing you know Christian denominations are ripping apart. Did you know that Christian congregations rip apart? Some do.

Little do we know how powerfully deadly is a grumbling heart. And one so easily and quickly can identify what they fully believe to be the fault. And then people on the sidelines also are harmed.

For example, the people in the towers on 911 did not know, nor do anything, to the 911 high jackers. The man shot and killed at the campaign rally did not know nor do anything to the sniper. I remember when Mrs. Pastor took our daughter-in-law to a store in South Carolina a couple of years ago when husband was serving his country in the military. A stranger, a woman, decided to verbally assault our daughter –in-law, literally, for being Hispanic.

The person likely for decades had heard grumbling, wicked talk against a people group. And here in a parking lot, with two tiny children in tow, a grandma, and a woman whose husband was unable to protect her because he was serving God and country was all of a sudden afraid and possibly in danger.

Beloved, let us love as we have been loved,

# **'ANOTHER OCTOBER 7 ATTACK'** **HEZBOLLAH THREATENS ISRAEL**



Let us love in word and deed. But we must love in the heart.

This does not mean that nations do not discuss serious issues. This does not mean that races do not discuss issues. This does not mean that marriages and families do not discuss issues. This does not mean that churches do not discuss issues. And at times such is complicated because there is a devil and his entities, and there exists sins, serious actions become contemplated and acted upon.

But so much can be done first if we keep our eyes turned to Jesus, when he hung from the spikes through his hands and feet on the cross. But did you know that the fleshy nature—the sinful nature, is always disposed to grumbling against the Lord God?

Look at Israel in our Exodus text at the start of this Epistle. We would be mistaken too think they were aberrant, that we would act different. Same applies to the fall of man at the garden in the beginning. And today, while one may shake one's head over the behavior of the nations around the world, such as the Middle East, or Russia and Ukraine, or potential trouble in the Far East.... And you can look at the country that we Christians are earthly citizens of the fights that have gone on here.

We remember the Civil War. We see how there have been riots over the decades of our lives. We remember the likes of JFK, and the attempt on Reagan. And we see today relations between political parties in our states and most of all in the nation's capital to be intensely divided.

And this grumbling, even is in homes, and in marriages, between spouses, between parents and children, between relatives. It goes on between friends, neighbors, and in every kind of relationship, even churches.

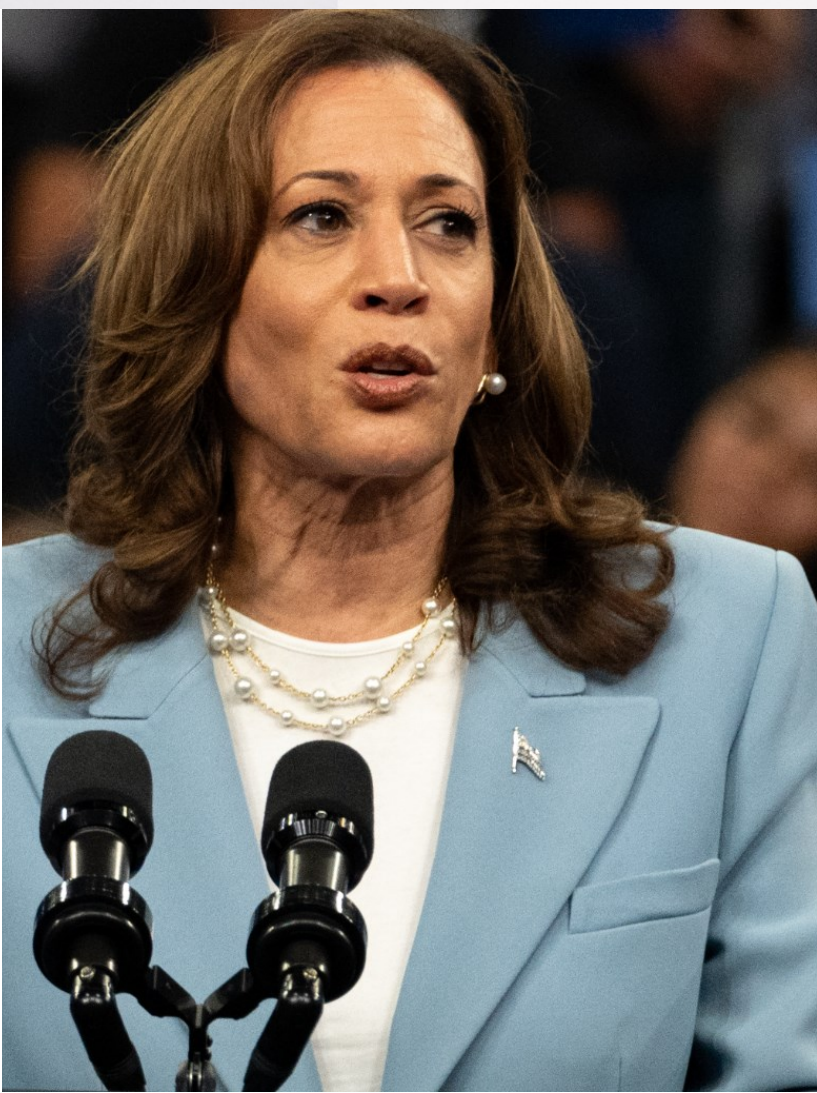
For the word for grumbling in the Exodus text, תלונה has a Classical Greek counterpart which is γογγυσμός. The Old Testament Hebrew version only has nine occurrences. All of them are the sinful occurrences of how man acts toward God in each individual occurrence in the Old Testament. It also is associated contextually with man's "rebellion" against God. And in the New Testament version, it includes the sinful grumbling of people against each other, as well as against the Lord, eg John 7:12; Acts 6:1; Philippians 2:14; 1 Peter 4:9.

So as the way the sinful nature acts with God, so it does with other human being, and contextually above it includes literally Christians against fellow Christians (according to our fallen fleshy nature still warring in us). So what do we do?

Well, interestingly, in context above, from Philippians 2, its context is literally for us to be without the grumbling because of what Christ did, which reads: <sup>5</sup> *Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,* <sup>6</sup> *who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.* <sup>8</sup> *And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.* <sup>9</sup> *Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,* <sup>10</sup> *so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,* <sup>11</sup> *and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

In other words, we go to the cross!

How do we do that? We need to be reminded of our Lord Jesus Christ. Hang on a second...





Centered around the cross, the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, his life, his fulfilling all righteousness for us, his suffering unto death, his being despised and rejected, his betrayal, his arrest, his being lied about, mocked, the beatings he endured by fists, slaps, clubbing, his scourging, his being nailed to the cross and all of his shedding of his blood to wash us, and that blood to pay for and atone for us, his bearing our sins, becoming a curse for us on the wood, his death, his burial, his descent into hell, his resurrection from the grave the third day— our life together was bought at a price!

Our Lord Jesus did not grumble at the Father. He did not grumble about us when tasked in the Father's love for fallen world. He came down, incarnate by the Holy Spirit's power in his mother the virgin's tummy, to be our brother, one of us, without sin but that he may bear our sins. **His Glory Became Flesh!**

In the wilderness, the people Israel after their grumbling saw the glory of the Lord in the cloud. It was a frightening thing. But the Lord was manifesting his presence, veiled as it was, that they may know how powerful the mercy they were receiving was! Their grumbling would be forgiven and they would receive what they did not deserve! They would be spared. They would be fed and more.

And when the Glory of God became flesh, and dwelled among us, he brought forgiveness, life and salvation to light for all the world so that whoever believes in him won't perish, but have everlasting life!

Being one of us he has also brought us to the Father, he has made us children of God, and given us life together. In life together through Him with God, we have life together with each other. This life together spans all time and space, for we are part of the Communion of Saints. We are his people, the sheep of his

pasture, we are the royal priesthood, the holy nation, people belonging to God through the shed blood of the Lamb without blemish.

And, as it is written, he did not grumble- He was oppressed and afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, So He did not open His mouth. There is a beautiful hymn as well in our Lutheran heritage which goes,

*438 A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth st. 1*

1 A Lamb goes uncomplaining forth,  
The guilt of sinners bearing  
And, laden with the sins of earth,  
None else the burden sharing;  
Goes patient on, grows weak and faint,  
To slaughter led without complaint,  
That spotless life to offer,  
He bears the stripes, the wounds, the lies,  
The mockery, and yet replies,  
"All this I gladly suffer."

Thanks be to God, for without him, the judgment of the Ancient of Days would be against us! **But His Glory became Flesh!**

But, lo, the Lord is on our side. He has forgiven our grumbling. And he restores us daily by his Holy Spirit. He continues his mercies out-poured every week here. For he gathers us around his Word and Sacraments in worship. He gives us the gift of Holy Baptism. He gives us the gift of Holy Communion. He gives us his Absolution. He gives us his Word, Law and Gospel.

And he makes us family. This bond is stronger even than blood. His will is this bond not be broken. Behold the sacred origin of it— his cross. And beloved of God, we go forward by his grace. And there is much to do! Join me. We have much to do. You will hear more shortly, exciting and wonderful is His mercy. Glory be to God. Amen.

In Jesus' Name,

Pastor  
ILYCD

# WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

It is that time again! And we rejoice in the Lord for the incredible, wonderful time we had here this summer for camp! It is a phenomenon of God to see such joy every day!

Please keep us in prayer each day, for we bring the Gospel unto salvation to the children, without which many have no Gospel shared at all.



Κατα Μαθθαίον  
According to Matthew



"Matthew"

A study of the Holy Gospel According to Matthew,  
drawing from the original languages  
of the Holy Scriptures.



Wednesdays at 10:15 am, all are invited as we continue with a new series on the Gospel According to Matthew. This incredible Gospel account is full of the deepest and most wonderful of meaning for our faith and salvation and our lives as we follow Jesus. Join us! And on Sundays at 9:00 am, we have started a new series, "Romans" (see ad in this newsletter).

**Elder Russ' Bible Study Group is on Break for the next few months.**

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## Ladies of Good Shepherd - including Teachers and Staff,

You are invited to participate in our Ladies Luncheon that takes place every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month, at a new location each time. Bring a dollar that will be collected, and a name will be drawn, from the group of ladies. The person's name that is drawn will receive the money that will go towards their meal and will choose the next location. A fun way to get to know each other. If interested, please sign-up on the provided sign-up sheets in the back of the church, so we know how many will be going and we can reserve a table. Hope to see you there!

### **LADIES LUNCHEON**

**August 17th**

**Monte Alban**

4085 Hancock Bridge Parkway  
North Fort Myers

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Please remember our Food Pantry if you know of someone with an emergency need. They may contact pastor or the church office by phone at 239-995-7711, or email pastor at [pastordavis@goodshelopofnm.com](mailto:pastordavis@goodshelopofnm.com). Also, if you have food to donate, please let us know.

"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'"

(Matthew 25:40)



**Harry Chapin Food Bank**  
**OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA**

# Lectionary Summary for August

## ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (Proper 13B)

(4 August 2024)

Exodus 16:2–15;

Ephesians 4:1–16;

John 6:22–35

*Jesus Is the True and Living Bread from Heaven*

Having rescued Israel “out of the land of Egypt” (Ex. 16:6), the Lord manifested His glory and made Himself known to His people. He fed them with “meat to eat” in the evening and with “bread from heaven” in the morning (Ex. 16:4, 8, 12). But now, the “true bread from heaven,” which the Father gives to you, is the Son, “who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world” (John 6:32–33). Whoever comes to Him “shall not hunger,” and whoever believes in Him “shall never thirst.” He is “the bread of life,” who gives Himself to you as “the food that endures to eternal life” (John 6:27, 35). By the gracious working of God, you believe in Him by the calling of one Spirit through the Gospel, so that you also have “one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all” (Eph. 4:4–6). As you eat His one body in the Holy Supper, so you belong to the one Body of His Church, in which you “are to grow up in every way into him who is the head” (Eph. 4:15).

## TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (Proper 14B)

(11 August 2024)

1 Kings 19:1–8;

Ephesians 4:17–5:2;

John 6:35–51

*The Lord Jesus Feeds Us with His Flesh, in Order to Strengthen Us with His Own Life*

God the Father sent His Son into the world, so that the world might have life in Him. Now He “draws” you to His Son, Christ Jesus, by the preaching of His Gospel. “Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father” comes to Jesus, who will never cast him out but “will raise him up on the last day” (John 6:44–45). He is “the bread of life,” who “comes down from heaven” in the flesh, that you may eat of Him and “live forever” (John 6:48–51). Although “the journey is too great for you,” in the strength of this food you shall come to “the mount of God.” Do not be afraid, and do not despair, but “arise and eat” (1 Kings 19:5–8). And “no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds” (Eph. 4:17), but “walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us” (Eph. 5:2). In Him, you have been “created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness” (Eph. 4:24). Therefore, “be imitators of God, as beloved children” (Eph. 5:1), by “forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you” (Eph. 4:32).

## THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (Proper 15B)

(18 August 2024)

Proverbs 9:1–10 or Joshua 24:1–2a, 14–18;

Ephesians 5:6–21;

John 6:51–69

*Jesus Is the Word and Wisdom of God, Who Gives You Life and Light in His Flesh*

Jesus is the divine Word by whom all things were made, who has become flesh and dwells among us. He gives His flesh “for the life of the world,” not only as a sacrifice for sin but as “the living bread” from heaven (John 6:51). Eat His flesh and drink His blood (John 6:54–57), and no longer walk in the darkness of sin, but walk in His light. “Arise from the dead” and live in Him, because you are “light in the Lord” (Eph. 5:8, 14). Being filled with His Spirit, confess Him to “one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart” (Eph. 5:18–19). Fear, love and trust in Him, “and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness” (Josh. 24:14). For He has brought you “out of the house of slavery” by His cross and resurrection, and now He does “great signs” in your sight (Josh. 24:17). Indeed, He is the divine wisdom, who has built His house, prepared His feast and set His table; He bids you to recline and eat of His bread and drink of the wine He has mixed (Prov. 9:1–5).

**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (Proper 16B)**

(25 August 2024)

Isaiah 29:11–19

Ephesians 5:22–33

Mark 7:1–13

*The True Tradition of the Church Is the Ministry of the Gospel of Christ Jesus, Her Savior*

The true tradition of the Church is the Gospel, which is the preaching and administration of Christ Jesus. Other traditions, although not commanded by God, may serve and support that sacred tradition of the Gospel. But the Church dare not “[reject] the commandment of God” in order to establish or hold to “the tradition of men” (Mark 7:8–9). Sinful people attempt to draw near to the Lord “with their mouth” and to honor Him “with their lips,” while their hearts are far removed from Him (Is. 29:13). Yet, He is “the Holy One of Israel,” who brings about salvation by His cross. Therefore, “the wisdom of their wise men shall perish,” but “the deaf shall hear” and “the eyes of the blind shall see” (Is. 29:14–19). This mystery of Christ is profound, for He is the husband of the Church, and He is her Savior. Not because of any works that she has done, but solely for the sake of His great love, He “gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word” (Eph. 5:25–26).

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**This month we have many special events. Please join us, there will be two combined services this month! We will have the Meet The Teachers including their Installation this on August 18th at 10:00 am, followed by Potluck.**

**On Saturday, August 24th a Festival Carnival. On Sunday the 25th and the combined service and Meet the Families. After the service there will be a catered BBQ meal due to the generosity of a member of Good Shepherd!**

**Please join us! Exiting things are ahead.**

**TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (Proper 12B)**

(28 July 2024) Genesis 9:8–17; Ephesians 3:14–21; Mark 6:45–56

***Creation Is Redeemed and Sanctified by the Word of Christ Jesus***

Having spared faithful Noah and his family from the flood, the Lord established His covenant with them, *“and with every living creature,”* that never again would there be *“a flood to destroy the earth”* (Gen. 9:9–11). He signed and sealed this everlasting covenant with His rainbow in the clouds, by which He sees and remembers His promise that *“the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh”* (Gen. 9:13–16). Although creation suffers under the curse of sin, the Lord preserves and orders creation for the benefit of His Church. In particular, all of creation is redeemed and sanctified by the incarnate Son of God. *“Take heart,”* and *“do not be afraid,”* for He is with you on the sea. He is not a ghost, but He has come in the flesh to save you. He has gotten *“into the boat”* with you, and the wind that was against you has ceased (Mark 6:45–51). For He is the Word and promise of the Father, and His own flesh and blood are the covenant by which you are *“strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being”* (Eph. 3:16–17).

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**STATS FOR JULY 2024**

Our summer dry month this year is very similar to the last couple of years as well. As with every summer, like always, please remember the work of the Lord, including here at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd.

Date	Day	Attend- ance 1st	Attend- ance 2nd	Total At- tendance	Giving 1st	Giving 2nd	Giving Total
07/04/2024	Thursday	16	0	16	\$482.00	\$0.00	\$482.00
07/07/2024	Sunday	26	19	45	\$2,163.00	\$240.00	\$2,403.00
07/14/2024	unday	35	17	52	\$2,960.00	\$1,354.00	\$4,314.00
07/21/2024	Sunday	35	24	59	\$2,613.00	\$250.25	\$2,863.25
07/28/2024	Sunday	64	0	64	\$1,416.94	\$0.00	\$1,416.94
<b>Total</b>		<b>40</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>\$9,634.94</b>	<b>\$1,844.25</b>	<b>\$11,479.19</b>



**Katie Baumann**

DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (DCE) EXTENDED A CALL TO GOOD SHEPHERD!

Wow! Months ago the congregation voted to go forward with calling a Director of Christian Education. The idea is based on ongoing ministries throughout the Synod and our own Circuit, too. It is to directly work with ministry unto the youth of our school and community to bring them to faith through the Gospel in specific fashion to their ages, but also to bring them directly into our church itself!

After much research, the Call Committee recommended a slate of candidates to the Council, and that was presented to the Voters. And the Voters Officially have now Extended a Call to Miss Katie Baumann.

Her call documents have been sent to her from us this week, and the proper authorities in the respective districts as well. Please join us together in prayer that the Lord Jesus guide her to his will in this call, and for him to also be with us, and her current congregation.

We will keep you posted on this process. Lord, Bless Miss Katie, her congregation, and Good Shepherd. Amen!

## ***Mercy and Grace Lead to Generosity***

“Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift” (2 Cor. 9:15)! This is St. Paul’s exclamation upon hearing the Corinthian church’s response to the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and his request for support for the church in Jerusalem. The Christians in Corinth heard and received God’s mercy in Christ, and they responded to St. Paul’s call to support Christians in Jerusalem with a collection. The Corinthians’ joy filled Jerusalem’s need.

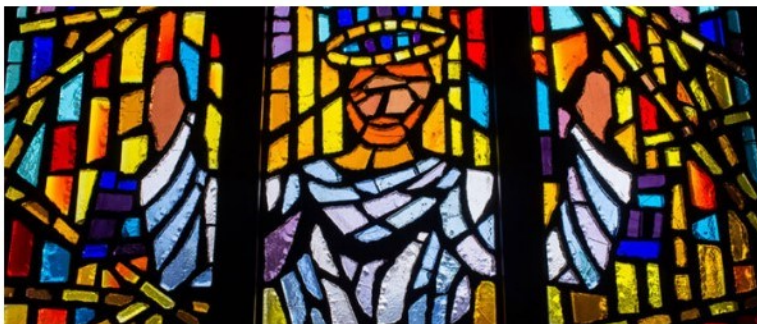
This is the reality of stewardship. Because of God’s generosity in the giving of His Son to die on the cross for us, we are to be generous with all that we receive from Him. What do we receive? Everything. All that we are and all that we have is the Lord’s. He is the creator and the giver. We are His creatures and those who receive what He gives.

It sounds easy. And it is. But then again it isn’t. Stewardship is easy because it is God’s work. Through what God gives, we give to others. Through what God gives, we support the work of the church for the life of the world. He gives; we receive. And like our generous Father in Heaven, we, as His children, use what He gives to us to love and serve others.

But stewardship is also difficult. That is because it goes against our natural inclination to think that what I have is mine to do what I want with. This is our sinful nature. It is our selfishness and our greed. How can we who have been given everything — life, food, clothing, house, home, forgiveness, divine sonship, an eternal inheritance — be so stingy with what we give to the church, the place where we hear about and receive all that God gives us and does for us? We are all guilty of this kind of thinking. And the only godly response is to repent and trust in the Gospel.

For if God has given you His own Son, will He not give you all things? Yes. He will. This is His sure and certain promise. God provides for His people. He provides everything we need for this body and life and for the life that is to come.

The church is a mercy place. It’s a place where God’s mercy in the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ, is given and received. For us who believe it means forgiveness, life and salvation in the face of sin, death and the power of the devil. Here in the church, we inhale God’s mercy in Word and Sacrament, and exhale this same mercy in love and service to our neighbor. And that is an enduring, joyful thing to do. Our joy fills our neighbor’s need because His joy filled ours (Heb. 12:2). Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift!



## CALENDAR: August 2024

**\* SUNDAYS, 8 /4, 8/11, 8/18\*, 8/25\* WORSHIP**

**9:00 am \_\_\_\_\_ BIBLE STUDY/SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**10:00 am \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST SERVICE OF WORSHIP**

**11:30 PM \_\_\_\_\_ SECOND SERVICE OF WORSHIP**

**\*\*SUNDAY, 8/18 WITH INSTALLATION OF TEACHERS, WITH BIBLE STUDY AT 9:00 AM, AND ONE COMBINED WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM, FOLLOWED BY POTLUCK AND MEET THE TEACHERS!**

**\*\*SUNDAY 8/25 COMBINED SERVICE WITH BBQ! MEET THE FAMILIES!**

**\*WEDNESDAYS MATTHEW BIBLE STUDY at 10:15 am, on 8/7, 8/14, 8/21, 8/28**

**\*THURSDAYS**

**8/1 Elders at 5:30**

**8/8 School Board at 5:30**

**8/15 Council at 5:30**

**\*SATURDAY**

- 8/10 LWML AT 10 AM**
- 8/17 AT 10:00 AM DROP AND SHOP FOOD GIVE AWAY**
- 8/24 AT FESTIVAL (TIME TBA)**

**Remember, Jesus loves you**