



Our Mission: To share the Good News of God's grace through worshiping, teaching and reaching out to all in need of God's love.

Pastor's Message

May
2023

THE MESSENGER

When I came on board in February, I was introduced to the five-year plan your council had adopted. It is always a good thing to look ahead, often churches tend to focus only on that which is around them. But your council took the extraordinary step of casting a vision, and in doing so decided Good Shepherd was heading for a better future. I want to remind you of those goals and speak a little on each.

To increase worship attendance by 25% per year from the current average of 38.

The goal for 2023 is 47, since the first of this year the average is 59! Sunday attendance is one measure of factoring church health, but since COVID, this has been complicated. How to count online viewers? What of those we commune in home? Attendance is meant as a measure, so it needs to match the criteria used by the other churches. When people move into an area and look us up online, or when potential pastors check us out and compare us to other churches, we need to be using the same baseline. The Southern Ohio Synod asked that for online viewers, churches count 2 for 1, so 10 views = 20 viewers. Every church in the Synod uses this formula. Whenever a person is communed in that week, they too are added to the count. If we have multiple services, such as during Lent, Advent, Holy Week etc., those numbers are also added to the total and divided by the number of weeks. Our average has risen over 20 in less than a year, it we are doing very well, but the hard work still lies ahead!

To diversify our weekly worship by adding either a Saturday evening or a Sunday morning worship that would be different from our normal liturgical form.

This one is harder as there are passionate feelings about worship. Worship is first to honor God and second to provide Word and Sacrament to the greatest number of people possible. It should not matter the style, only the content. But to do this right requires an open and honest conversation between leaders and people, not only those who attend, but those we seek to invite.

To increase the number of activities offered here during the week so our space can be fully utilized. This would include social activities, educational opportunities, and support groups.

You have a beautiful, well-maintained building; a showpiece in this town: easy to find, great parking, great location. But it sits empty most of the time, so this goal is key. It has been many years since Good Shepherd was a "busy" place, but opening the building to outside activities is not about busy, it is about engaging the community and creating the narrative that Good Shepherd is a congregation ready, and willing to do service, education and fellowship her in West Milton. The recent Michael Wayne Smith concert is a good example, it was not as well attended as hoped, but it was engaging and spirited event that made us look good to the folks who came.

(continued)

Pastor's Message (Continued)

The next Two goals are ambitious, and will need to be vigorously over the next five years.

To secure a youth minister or leader.

What a great commitment! But right now, to call such a person would not be productive. What needs to come *before* this goal is a strategy for creating an atmosphere conducive to the needs of young people, and then to find a person committed and gifted for that ministry to serve as the “point of the spear”. We cannot just hire a person and hope they bring programs and expertise to create something out of nothing! It has to be a partnership from the beginning. We must already have laid a foundation before anyone can come and build on it.

And by 2027, to expand the facility to include a multi-purpose building to provide recreational opportunities, meeting rooms, office and community space for public use.

This is a BIG dream, but you are up to it. I remember when you first dreamed about the current building, all the concerns that you could not afford it, would never make use of it, that it might kill you. The people who first envisioned a church on this parcel of land were big dreamers too. They would be proud of what you have done here. You have both the capacity and ability to do whatever you want. The challenge is to create a vision for what such a building will be used for rather than just putting a building up and hoping someone will use it!

I plan to schedule a number of opportunities to gather and talk about these goals over the Summer as choir is on hiatus. Members of your council and myself will schedule several listening posts on Sundays prior to worship to discuss goals. They need to hear from you.

And we need to invite other stakeholders into conversation as well. Perhaps we can host an evening session or two and invite the Preschool board and parents, members of AA, folks in the neighborhood that would like to come and want to know more or would like to speak about our mission. There is so much to do, so much to plan, so much to anticipate. But nothing will happen if it only rests with the council and the pastor. We need YOU.

So, speak to your leaders and share your insights, ideas and aspirations for ministry as they relate to these goals. Talk informally when you can and, when asked, participate fully in the ‘formal’ conversations we will announce later in May.

In uncertain times, we are a church that believes in the power of the Risen Christ to shape the present and the power of the Holy Spirit to call us into the future. It is an exciting journey, and I for one am looking forward to the trip!

In Christ,

Pastor Craig

Free CPR/AED Training Class

Saturday, May 13, at 10 a.m. in the community room.

You may or may not have noticed that the members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church are getting older and older. No, really. And one of the unfortunate consequences of being an aging congregation is that health becomes more and more a front and center concern.

In keeping with Item #3 of our Five-Year Plan to offer more service opportunities and with the inevitable need to provide immediate care to an ailing member in mind, you are invited to attend a class to learn how to or refresh your ability to use our AED unit and to perform CPR. This will be actual, hands-on training using mannequins that Beth will provide.

This class will be offered on Saturday, May 13, at 10:00 in the morning. The class will be led by Beth Ewing RN. Beth is the Faith Community Nurse for the Lutheran Saints in Ministry (LSIM) and has served in this role for the past 10 years. She graduated from the University of Wyoming with an undergraduate degree in Nursing and from Georgetown University with a Master's in Nurse Midwifery. She is an Air Force veteran with 23 years of active service. Beth enjoys teaching and working in the community health environment and believes that faith and health go hand in hand. Beth lives in Fairborn with her husband John and their two furry kids – Coco and Izzy. In their free time, they enjoy bicycling, scuba diving, cooking and gardening.

Milton-Union Elementary Seeking Volunteers to Work with Students

Would you like to help young children at M-U with their learning?

Can you commit to at least one hour a week for one school year?

Can you come for a training on June 6 (9-11am or 6:30-8:30pm- must register ahead by emailing, below) **AND** in August (date and time TBA)?

If you answered YES to these three questions, please email me at bowerm@muschools.com with your contact information and questions.

I look forward to talking to you more about this opportunity!

Mary Bower

Milton-Union Literacy Coach

bowerm@muschools.com

(submitted by: Paula Barker)

Lay Delegates are needed to the Synod Assembly;
Saturday, June 3, at Peace Lutheran Church in Beavercreek.
If interested contact:
Council President, Les Barker or Pastor Craig.

Save the Date! Sunday, June 11 - church service at 10:30 a.m. at the Lange Estate at 3505 Calumet Road, Ludlow Falls. Picnic lunch and games will follow. We have the shelter reserved from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bring a covered dish to share. More information to follow.



The planning mats were blessed on April 23, 2023. These mats will be taken to First Lutheran Church for the homeless in Dayton to use. Thanks to our planning group and everyone who donates items for the homeless.



Good Shepherd Lutheran Preschool News:

A quick look at April...

Another month has gone by quickly. At the beginning of April, we started the month with our spring break.

In class this month we talked about butterflies, ponds and plants. We had an awesome Donuts with Dad's Day. We had a really fun time with our Dude Perfect Games. We also were able to release our butterflies at the end of the month.

For the month of May, we are going to talk about farms, oceans and camping. We are going to have an ice cream party on our last day. We are so excited to graduate 20 students on May 24 at 7PM in the sanctuary. Please feel free to come and support the preschool at their graduation.





Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2023

Present: Les Barker, President; Pastor Craig Fourman, Diana Frye, Amy Grile, Vice President; Ray Lewis, Toby Theis, Suzie Vagedes, Ric Warner, and Rob Williams

Meeting was called to order by Les Barker.

Opening prayer was offered by Pastor Craig.

Secretary's Report: Minutes were approved with corrections. Motion: Pastor Craig, Second: Amy Grile. All were in favor.

Financial Secretary's Report: Motion to approve as written: Diana Frye, Second: Suzie Vagedes. All were in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Motion to approve: Toby Theis, Second: Rob Williams. All were in favor.

Pastor's Report: Motion to approve: Rob Williams, Second: Amy Grile. All were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:

5-Year Plan review- nothing new to report

Pastor Search- Pastor Craig reported that everything has been frozen since Covid. Only 2 requests received in the past 2 years. But have recently received 4, so there should be some movement after Easter.

NEW BUSINESS:

June Picnic- Suzie Vagedes was able to reserve the Shelter at Lange Estate for June 11 from 9am-2pm. The facilities include adjacent restrooms, a playground and picnic tables under the shelter. Motion to approve Toby; Second: Molly Franks. All were in favor.

Playground- Last Payment Becky Garrett, Preschool Director, has asked for assistance in the form of a loan for the last payment which is approximately \$4000. Motion to approve that the final payment for the playground be made by Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and that Good Shepherd Preschool repay GSLC made by Pastor Craig; Second Rob Williams. All were in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Worship: Lent and Easter plans were reviewed: Maundy Thursday Agape meal-Pastor Craig asked for \$100 during Pastor's Report approved above. Funds will be used out of Fellowship fund. Good Friday Community Service is being held here. Easter Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt info has been e-mailed to all members and has been posted to Facebook for the Community. Michael Wayne Smith Concert is set for April 22 at 6pm. We will have a free will offering and will provide punch, cookies and fellowship after the concert.

Mission/Outreach/LSIM/MUCC: LSIM All Councils Retreat @ACLIC April 22. Council encouraged to go. Outreach: Amy Grile asked that the GSLC Web page be added to the April Agenda. Amy also asked that the Homecoming Event be added to the April

Agenda. Suzie Vagedes summarized the idea: Plan is to invite past members: 20's,30's, 40's (adults starting families) to gather at the church for food, live music and fellowship! Thinking of holding the event the end of July. Will present a formalized plan to be voted on in April.

Property: Les presented annual Flag placement offer by the City \$50/flag or buy 3 get 1 free. Diana Frye motioned to buy 3 for \$150 and get fourth free, Toby Theis Seconded. All were in favor. Will pull money from Thrivent Choice Dollars. The furnace broke down and was fixed with \$26 part. Les Barker would like to do a Spring Clean Up outdoors before Easter but is thinking that there won't be time to organize. If anyone is able to work on the flower beds in your spare time it would be greatly appreciated! Les is looking into getting quotes on sealing the driveway this spring.

Youth/Christian Education/Preschool: Pastor Craig and Leann are passing out fliers to the preschool parents about upcoming Easter breakfast, egg hunt and services. Les Barker asked about putting a 1 -month free prize in one of the eggs. After discussion, it was decided to do two 1-month free prizes. Motion to approve: Suzie Vagedes; Second, Amy Grile. All were in favor. The money to be used out of the Youth Luth fund. Sunday School: We have had children in Sunday School for the past two weeks! Pastor Craig will have JoAnn place the slide to invite the kids back to Sunday School during the service back in the overhead. Will not have Sunday School on Easter Sunday.

Fellowship: covered above

Next Meeting April 18.

Motion to Adjourn Council Meeting: Toby Theis, Second: Ric Warner. All were in favor.

Meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Suzie Vagedes

Hosanna!

Passion/Palm Sunday 2023



Maundy Thursday Service
and Agape Meal



MAUNDY
Thursday





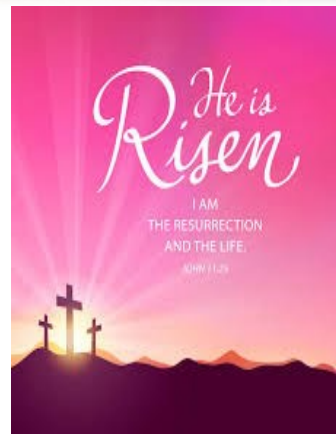
The Milton Union Council of Churches' Community Good Friday Service was held at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church with six pastors and 92 attending .

LSIM Saturday Easter Vigil at St. John's Lutheran Church, Vandalia



Happy
Easter







BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

May 2023



5 Susan Landis
 6 Bob Spitler
 Dawson Tinnerman
 9 David & Annette Stein
 12 Jeff Barth
 16 Phyllis Crowe

18 Connie McCarroll
 19 Mark & Susan Knife
 21 Jerry & Peri Bonner
 28 Barbara Menker
 29 Susan Jebens

M

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SERVING

ASSISTING MINISTER

Barbara Cecil

COMMUNION ASSISTANT

Ric Warner

ALTAR GUILD

Kristine Hayes

LECTOR

7 Marsha Fischbach
 14 Marsha Fischbach
 21 Judy Moncrief
 28 Judy Moncrief

USHER CAPTAIN

7 Barbara Cecil
 14 Jarrett Grile
 21 Dave Vagedes
 28 Molly Franks

SOUND

Les Barker

FLOWERS

7 In celebration of David & Annette Stein's anniversary
 14 In celebration of Jeff Barth's birthday, from Jodi
 21 In celebration of Jerry & Peri Bonner's 35th anniversary
 28 Available

COUNTERS

Debbie Bredeson
& Diana Frye



May 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 9-12 Preschool 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	2	3 9-12 Preschool 3pm Planning	4	5 9-12 Preschool	6
7 9:30 am Choir Practice 10:30 am Holy Communion	8 9-12 Preschool 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	9	10 9-12 Preschool 3pm Planning	11	12 9-12 Preschool	13 10 AED/CPR Free Class
14 9:30 am Choir Practice 10:30 am Holy Communion	15 9-12 Preschool 11:30 Lydia's Study 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	16 7 pm Council Meeting	17 9-12 Preschool Last Day 3pm Planning	18	19	20
21 9:30 am Choir Practice 10:30 am Holy Communion	22 Preschool Graduation Practice 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	23	24 3pm Planning 7 pm Preschool Graduation	25	26	27
28 9:30 am Choir Practice 10:30 am Holy Communion	29 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	30	31 3pm Planning			



Our Church Staff

Craig Fourman
Interim Pastor

Marsha Fischbach
Music Director

Darrell Fryman
Pianist

JoAnn Antonides
Administrative Asst.

Prayers and Concerns

Chuck Franks, Julie Jenkins, Bill Sims,
Barbara Theis, Jeff Theis, Judy Tipton, Patty Tipton, and
for the next pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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PASTORAL CARE: Pastor Craig Fourman

Email: craigfourman@yahoo.com

