

The



Call

Dear friends,

I owe you an apology. When I prepare and preach a sermon, there are usually lots of different themes or 'paths' that I can take. I might mention some of the various angles in passing, but typically I end up focusing on one particular point. Of course, I am persuaded by our context in picking out what that one point will be.

On the weekend of September 19 & 20, the gospel text was what is commonly known as The Parable of the Vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16). In this parable, Jesus tells a story about a vineyard owner who goes to hire workers at the beginning of the day, and again at 9 and noon and 3 and even as late as 5. He sends the workers into the vineyard and negotiates to pay them. Then when the end of the day comes, he pays the workers who worked the least first. Not only that, but he pays everyone the same amount.

I used this text as an example of God's grace. It's an example of God's abundance. I also spent time talking about other passages that show God's generosity, like the story of Jonah, the Prodigal Son, and the story of the Canaanite Woman. God is gracious and merciful to all of us.

While I touched on the fact that we are all poor sinners and poor beggars looking for and receiving God's goodness, I really did not spend a whole lot of time on this common ground. Why? Well, quite frankly, I often see myself and most of us as people who are either the ones working through the bulk of the day if not even the manager or even the landowner. That is my bias. And for that, I am sorry.

The truth is, the bulk of congregations that are growing are congregations where the emphasis is on the workers who are there at the end of the day. Yes – the workers at the end of the day receive the message of God's grace and mercy the same as those who worked all of day. But there is more. To the workers at the end of the day, not only do they receive God's grace, but they also receive God's message of justice.

Have you ever been told that your work isn't good enough? (anyone who has ever been to school knows what it is to be corrected) Have you ever been told that your work isn't needed? (far too many folks have been laid off or replaced for whatever reason) Or maybe you've encountered the unemployment line wondering if anyone would ever be able to use your unique set of skills? (there is certain hopelessness in those days)

People who hear the gospel of Jesus Christ as a message of lifting people up (are you the Good Samaritan or the person lying on the ground beaten and bruised?) hear The Parable of the Vineyard as one of people valued and cherished.

Peace, and many blessings,

The Rev. Kathleen J. Baker, STM
Pastor

Parish Staff:

Kathleen J. Baker, STM, Pastor
 Nicholas P. Werner, Music Director
 Carol J. Thai, Church Administrator
 Kester T. Sobers III, Pastor Emeritus
 Herbert O. Fowler, Cantor Emeritus

Church Officers:

Dixie McCauley, President
 Sue Bricker, Vice President
 Don Lausch, Treasurer
 Fred Sprunk, Secretary

Congregational Council Members:

Bill Baum, Greg Borzok, Karen Borzok, Sue Bricker, Vicki Delp, Don Lausch, Dix McCauley, Robert Roller, and Fred Sprunk.

THE CALL is a monthly publication of
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 of the Good Shepherd
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The editor reserves the right to edit for brevity and clarity.
 Unless otherwise publicized, the deadline for submissions
 is the third Sunday of the month.



From Our Treasurer: August Financials

	2026	
	AUG	YTD
Giving		
Spending		
Surplus/(Deficit)	20,533	181,214
	18427	163,223
	(2,106)	17,991

BALANCES

General Fund	49,925
Exchange (Restricted)	36,390
Memorial	22,631
Mission Investment Fund CD	33,648
Investments	452,004

**COMMUNITY DAY BRINGS OUT OUR BEST:**

Thank you to the many, many people who chipped in to make our 2026 Community Day another bonafide success. The initial accounting showed Good Shepherd raised nearly \$3,200 to be distributed among several area charitable organizations. It is noteworthy that every dollar we receive is passed along to help those groups. More importantly, we had 33 members of our Good Shepherd family participate directly in event as well as the dozens of others who helped by donating soups, bake goods, clothing and yard sale items. Finally, a huge thank you to the talented folks of the Keystone Concert Band for providing an entertaining and fun musical program.

**October 2**

Lynnsey Murlin

October 3

Scott Leedy

October 4

Emily Fagan

October 5

Thomas Anderson

October 6

Bonnie Grossman

October 7

Julie McCauley

October 9

Jeffrey Fagan

October 11

James Dermes

October 13

Janice Ulerick

October 15

Mary Sprunk

October 17

Brian Greene

October 18

Betsy Anderson

October 22

Susan Gleiter, Barbara Zeigler

October 24

Lisa Bridges, Sally Swartz

October 26

Annette Spagnolo

October 27

Amanda Stettler

October 28Karl Coleman, Scarlett Mink-
border**October 30**

Dixie McCauley

October Readings

- 10/1** Psalm 80: 7-15, Jeremiah 2: 14-22, Colossians 2: 16-23
10/2 Psalm 80: 7-15, Jeremiah 2: 23-37, Philippians 2: 14-18; 3: 1-4a
10/3 Psalm 80: 7-15, Jeremiah 6: 1-10, John 7: 40-52
10/4 Psalm Isaiah 5: 1-7, Psalm 80: 7-15, Philippians 3: 4b-14, Matthew 21: 33-46
10/5 Psalm 144, Ezekiel 19:10-14, 1 Peter 2: 4-10
10/6 Psalm 144, Isaiah 27: 1-6, 2 Corinthians 5: 17-21
10/7 Psalm 144, Song of Solomon 8: 5-14, John 11: 45-57
10/8 Psalm 23, Isaiah 22: 1-8a, 1 Peter 5: 1-5, 12-14
10/9 Psalm 23, Isaiah 22: 8b-14, James 4: 4-10
10/10 Psalm 23, Isaiah 24: 17-23, Mark 2: 18-22
10/11 Psalm 23, , Isaiah 25: 1-9, Philippians 4: 1-9, Matthew 22: 1-14
10/12 Psalm 34, Exodus 19: 7-20, Jude 17-25
10/13 Psalm 34, Amos 9: 5-15, Philippians 3: 13-4:1
10/14 Psalm 34, Song of Solomon 7:10, 8:4, John 6: 25-35
10/15 Psalm 96: 1-9 (10-13), Judges 17: 1-6, 3 John 9-12
10/16 Psalm 96 : 1-9 (10-13), Deuteronomy 17: 14-20, 1 Peter 5:1-5
10/17 Psalm 96: 1-9 (10-13), Isaiah 14: 3-11, Matthew 14: 1-12
10/18 Psalm 96: 1-9 (10-13), Isaiah 45: 1-7, 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10 Matthew 22: 15-22
10/19 Psalm 98, Daniel 3: 19-30, Revelation 18: 21-24,
10/20 Psalm 98, Daniel 3: 19-30, Revelation 18: 21-24
10/21 Psalm 98, Daniel 6: 1-28, Matthew 17: 22-27
10/22 Psalm 1, Numbers 5: 5-10, Titus 1; 5-16
10/23 Psalm 1, Deuteronomy 9: 25-10, Titus 2: 7-8, 11-15
10/24 Psalm 1, Proverbs 24:23-34, John 5: 39-47
10/25 Psalm 1, 1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8, Matthew 22: 33-46
10/26 Psalm 119: 41-48, Deuteronomy 6: 1-9, 20-25, James 2: -13
10/27 Psalm 119:41-48, Deuteronomy 10: 10-22, James 2: 14-26
10/28 Psalm 119:41-48, Proverbs 16: 1-20, Matthew 19: 16-22
10/29 Psalm 43, 1 Samuel 2:27-36, Romans 2: 17-29
10/30 Psalm 43, Ezekiel 13: 1-16, 2 Peter 2: 1-13
10/31 Psalm 43, Malachi 1:6-2:9, Matthew 23:112



What is W/ELCA?

“WE ARE CALLED”

“As a community of women...called to discipleship in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit...to promote healing and wholeness in the church, society and the world.”

October is Domestic Violence Month.

*Every 9 seconds a US woman is beaten or assaulted

*1 in 3 women and 1 in 4-6 men are physically abused by an intimate partner

*10 million+ individuals experience domestic violence yearly

*Hotlines receive over 20, 800 calls daily

*15.5 million children witness violence

A few years ago Good Shepherd's WELCA had a field trip to our Harrisburg YWCA to learn about the facility and programs. It was very informative, educational and inspiring. YWCA - Harrisburg provides housing for the homeless, violence intervention and prevention programs, human trafficking help, and civil legal services. They also have a daycare and provide a supervised family visitation center.

We're planning another yearly spring field trip or speaker. Suggestions are welcome.

LSS WELCA along with many ecumenical faith traditions were instrumental in changing the PA law about human trafficking. We decriminalized the victims. They no longer go to jail for being trafficked.

However, most remain silent about their abusers. They suffer from being drugged, beaten, raped and branded. How to change attitudes about the worth of women? How to protect our daughters / sisters ?



At a past Churchwide President's Conference, we were advocates and mentors to other WELCA groups who were working to pass similar legislation in their states. Our story was profiled in a "Living Lutheran" article. It's a never ending mission. Our LSS WELCA also prepares and places wrapped soap in restaurants and hotel and motel women's bathrooms. You can find samples of these soaps in Good Shepherd bathrooms during October. These soaps are made and collected at our conventions and our LLS Synod story was even told at our Churchwide Triennial.

"We are called."

Here are other ways to "engage in ministry and action" at Good Shepherd: October 12 We will meet in the Gathering a room for our next meeting & Bible study.

October 15 9:50- 11:00 a.m. (CDT) livestream our WELCA Churchwide Thank offering service from Concordia College.

November 9 We collect donations for our annual Prison Ministry Angel Tree Project.

December 8 We bake & bring homemade Christmas cookies for our homebound members. A sign-up sheet will be available at our October meeting. We also pack and deliver them.

We don't take attendance. Walk-ins welcome. The 2nd Monday 9:30am in the Gathering Room.

"We are called Come! to act with justice. We are called to love one another. We are called to see one another - to walk humbly with God." - Lois

Family Promise Update



FAMILY PROMISE NEWS We will be hosting Family Promise guests the week of October 18-25 at Our Saviour. We still have some slots to fill! If you are able to help with a meal, serve as an overnight host, or drive the van between Our Saviour and the Day Center, please contact Georgia. YOU are what makes this program the success that it is!

Currently we have 2 families in the program: a single father with a 6 year old daughter and a mother and father with 6 children. We will be told the week before exactly how many we will be hosting.

—Georgia Rehm

OCTOBER DATES:

October 11—Pet Blessing

October 17 and 18—Services of Healing

Sunday, October 25—Reformation Sunday

You are invited to celebrate with our sister congregation, Holy Trinity Lutheran (206 Cocoa Ave., Hershey) as they install their newly called pastor, The Rev. Susan Scott (you might remember her as Susan Erikson) on Sunday, October 4 at 2 p.m.

Mission and Ministry: There will be a Mission and Ministry meeting on Wednesday, October 14th at 10:45 a.m. in the Gathering Room to assemble and set up delivery of fruit baskets for our homebound members. Everyone is welcome.

WEAR RED ON REFORMATION: According to history, Martin Luther was led by the Holy Spirit to post a list of 95 statements (theses) on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany on October 31, 1517. These theses concerned false teachings within the church. This was the beginning of the Reformation. Red is the liturgical color for Reformation because it represents the Holy Spirit. This year, Reformation Sunday will be celebrated the weekend of October 24th and October 25th at our worship services. When you come to worship that weekend, you are invited to **WEAR RED** in remembrance of Martin Luther's bold act over 500 years ago and in honor of the continuing work of the Holy Spirit in our congregation.

Annual Congregational Meeting November 8 at 10:30 a.m.

Mark your calendars for this important meeting, following one service of worship to be held at 9:30 a.m. that day in the Nave.

Committee reports (due to the office by **October 13**) will be presented, along with a proposed 2027 operating budget as well as the nomination and election of new Congregational Council members.

Workshop News

October is always a very busy month for workshop! **IN-GATHERING** will be the weekend of October 3 and 4. This is when all of our work for the past year is on display in the Sanctuary. At the conclusion of the 11:00 a.m. service we pack everything in boxes and place the boxes in the Breezeway to be delivered later in the month to our distribution site where it will be sent to Lutheran World Relief.

Anyone who is able to stay after the service to help pack the items to prepare them for delivery would be very much appreciated!

Workshop meets on Tuesday mornings from 9:30 to noon. Come and join us and bring a lunch to eat with us after workshop!

Donations of needed items to put in the kits are also welcome!

Items needed for School Bags include: 70 sheet spiral bound notebooks (**currently \$.35 at Target and \$.40 at Walmart and Staples**), rulers with inches and centimeters, pencil sharpeners, black or blue ball point pens, Crayons (16 or 24 count), 2.5" erasers, and unsharpened pencils

Items needed for Personal Care Kits include:

nail clippers, towels (thin 52"X 27" dark color preferred), large tooth combs (not picks), Toothbrushes, and individually wrapped bars of soap



Items needed for Sewing Kits: fabric (60" – 2 1/4 yd., 42"-45" – 3 yd., 34-37" – 4 yd.) and matching or neutral color thread 250 – 300 yds.

Please contact Georgia Rehm with any questions.

—Georgia Rehm



Why do we do what we do.

Mix water with the wine in the Eucharist.

No, its not because we want to extend the wine!

Although in Biblical wine was thick and people did cut it with water to make it more consumable which probably happened, as was custom at the Last Supper.

In the Eucharist, the wine and water are mixed to show Christ's divinity (the wine) and His human nature (the water). This also reminds us of the Incarnation with God taking on human flesh to dwell among people. The action also recalls the water and blood that flowed from Christ's side on the cross.

This simple act is rich in meaning in that it reminds us we are made one with Christ in the Eucharist just as water joined us to Christ in Baptism.

- **Gary Wendt, Worship and Music Committee**



HAPPY 79TH BIRTHDAY, GOOD SHEPHERD!

On October 19, 1947, 109 individuals signed the original charter, and The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd was born. One week later, on October 26, 1947, the new congregation celebrated its first Holy Communion. Then, on April 24, 1949, the groundbreaking ceremony took place, and six months later, the Good Shepherd building was dedicated.

During these past 79 years, Good Shepherd has been blessed by the ministries of six devoted, faithful pastors:

The Rev. Charles C. Frazier 1947-1959

The Rev. Lee F. Snook 1959-1962

The Rev. Craig J. Dorward 1963-1966

The Rev. Larry J. Hofer 1967-1975

The Rev. Kester T. Sobers III 1975-2008

The Rev. Kathleen J. Baker 2008-present

Together, over the past 79 years, these pastors and generations of dedicated members have shared their time, talents, and resources to ensure that Good Shepherd's ministry would continue.

We will remember this 79th anniversary on Sunday, 10/18/26, during our worship. Please take a moment on our Anniversary Sunday or in the weeks to follow to look at the Anniversary Banner hanging in the rear of the Nave. This banner was created for our 75th Anniversary by several of our members, and it depicts not only Good Shepherd's story, but also the chapter that was added in 2018 with the merger of Zion Lutheran, Penbrook. The banner will remain in the Nave for several weeks before it returns to its wall in The Gathering Room.

For 79 years we have been an important presence in our community, and we will continue living our purpose **as the eyes, ears, hands, feet, and voice of Jesus...**not only in this place but throughout the world for many years to come.

Worship Sponsorships

	Flowers \$25	Bulletins \$30	Lamps \$10
October 4	McCauley		
October 11	E. Hafer	Sprunk	McCauley
October 18	E. Hafer		
October 25	Master		

Sponsorship Form

Please return this slip with your contribution to the church office. Dedications are printed in the bulletin each week. For Sunday, _____ 2026



_____ Flowers \$25 _____ Bulletins \$30 _____ Sanctuary Lamps \$10

_____ To the Glory of God _____ In Memory Of _____ In Honor Of _____ In Celebration Of

Submitted by: _____

Amount: _____ Deadline: Wednesday a.m. prior to the upcoming Sunday

October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 11 am Ready for School, Ready to succeed (St Peter/Paul)	3 5 p.m. W & S (Chapel)
4 Call Deadline 8:30 a.m. W & S (Nave /YouTube) 9:45 a.m. Adult Faith Formation (Gathering Rm.) 11 a.m. W & S (Nave)	5	6 9:30 a.m. Workshop 10am Ready for school, ready to succeed (St Peter/Paul)	7 9:30 a.m. W & S (Chapel) 7:00 a.m. Keystone Concert Band (ASH)	8	9 11 a.m. Ready for school, ready to succeed (St Peter/Paul)	10 5 p.m. W&S (Chapel)
11 8:30 a.m. W & S (Nave /YouTube) 9:45 a.m. 11a.m. W & S (Nave) 2 p.m. Pet Blessing (Rose Garden)	12 9:30 a.m. WELCA Gathering rm. 6:30 p.m. Cub Scout Congregational Council (Gathering rm)	13 9:30 a.m. Workshop (St. Lydia/ASH) 10 A.M.—Ready for school, ready to succeed (St Peter/Paul) 11a.m. Prayer Shaul	14 9:30 a.m. W&S (Chapel) 10:45 a.m. Mission and ministry 7:00 p.m. Keystone	15	16 11 a.m. Ready for school, ready to succeed (St Peter/Paul)	17 5 p.m. W & S (Chapel)
18 <i>Call Deadline</i> 8:30 a.m. W & S (Nave /YouTube) 9:45 a.m. Adult Faith Formation (Gathering Rm.) 11 a.m. W & S	19 6:30 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 42 (ASH) Congregation Council (Gathering Room)	20 9:30 a.m. Workshop (St. Lydia/ASH) 10 am Ready for school, ready to succeed	21 9:30 a.m. W&S (Chapel) 7:00 p.m. Keystone Concert Band (ASH)	22	23 11 a.m. Ready for school, ready to succeed (St Peter/Paul)	24 5 p.m. W & S (Chapel)
25 8:30 a.m. W & S (Nave /YouTube) 9:45 a.m. Adult Faith Formation (Gathering Rm.) 11 a.m. W & S (Nave)	26 6:30 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 42 (ASH)	27 9:30a.m. Workshop (St. Lydia/ASH) 10 a.m. Ready for school, ready to succeed (St Peter/Paul)	28 9:30 a.m. W&S (Chapel) 7:00 p.m. Keystone Concert Band	29	30 11 a.m. Ready for school, ready to succeed (St Peter/Paul)	31 5 p.m. W & S (Chapel)
						

Our Purpose

To be the eyes, ears, hands, feet, and voice of Jesus.

Guiding Principles

When you see us at our best, you will see us in worship and living our faith by being:

welcoming/accepting

generous and giving

supportive and caring

active/involved

joyful

spiritual/faithful

*Adopted by the Congregation Council of
Good Shepherd on October 11, 2020*



Church Office

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Monday through Thursday

Phone : 717-564-0385

email:

goodshepherdpxtang@gmail.com

Website:

www.goodshepherdpxtang.com

Pet Blessing
Sunday, October 11
2:00 p.m.
Good Shepherd Rose Garden

Sunday Holy Eucharist

5:00 p.m. Saturday (Chapel)

8:30 a.m. Sunday (Nave)

10:00 a.m. Sunday 9/6 (Chapel)

9:30 a.m. Wednesday (Chapel)



You are invited to join in this opportunity to have your special animal (or animals) blessed, with Pastor Baker presiding.