## "THE GOOD SHEPHERD: THE MODEL OF MINISTRY"

Read John 10:11-19.

Jesus is a Master Teacher. He uses illustrations to teach spiritual truths. We call them parables.

This text is one of many that is a part of Good Shepherd Sunday, the Fourth Sunday of Easter. Jesus instructs concerning the Good Shepherd. In so doing, He reveals that He is the Good Shepherd – and no other!

In His claim, I am the Good Shepherd, He proclaims that He is Yahweh. He uses the words "I Am," which is the name that God gave to Moses when he was at the burning bush. (Exodus 3) He is the Good Shepherd, the very one that is described in Psalm 23 and taught in the Old Testament.

As the Good Shepherd, He protects the sheep. This is unlike a hireling who would abandon the sheep in times of danger. If that is not enough, He knows -His sheep by name – every one of them! His sheep even know His voice.

If this is not enough, He is willing to lay down His life for His sheep, and that is exactly what He did when He suffered death on the cross. No other Shepherd would do this as He did.

Furthermore, this Good Shepherd is intimately connected with His Father. You see Jesus, the Good Shepherd, you see the Father. As their relationship, so also the relationship between the Shepherd and the sheep. Jesus' sheep are "little Christ's." Jesus' sheep are "Jesus with skin on".

Jesus, our Good Shepherd are not just for the few. His "sheep pen" is open for all who hear His voice and follow Him. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, died so that the whole world might be saved. His sheep pen is open to all, as I have already said above.

Jesus the Good Shepherd is the model for the Office of Public Ministry – in the narrow sense, pastors; in the wider sense, all called church workers whose ministries are drawn from the pastoral office. The Good Shepherd died for pastors. So, pastors share in the same with those Jesus serves.

The pastor is an under-shepherd, not the Good Shepherd. Following the model of Jesus, they are zealous to serve and care for those placed under their charge. They know their flock by name and see to it that they are recipients of the Means of Grace – Word and Sacrament. Unlike the Good Shepherd, under-shepherds are in need of His grace and mercy, just as the sheep they are called to oversee on behalf of the Good Shepherd.

The pastor is also to be zealous concerning the expansion of the sheep pen. He is to be involved in reaching out and proclaiming the Good Shepherd so that many may come to know and believe in the Good Shepherd. As St. Paul would remind us, "Faith comes from hearing and hearing from the Word of God." (Romans 10)

As we continue to be shepherded by the Good Shepherd, may almighty God continue to provide undershepherds and flocks that are faithful to His voice.

To God be the glory! Pastor Schroeder

# "What Does Neighborly Love Look Like?"



In our Church, anyone who has gone through Sunday School or Confirmation will have studied the 10 Commandments at least a few times. In Confirmation, we dig into what the commandments mean for we poor sinners who can't keep them perfectly as God commands so that we clearly see our Savior Jesus, who kept them perfectly for us. Jesus' death & resurrection for you & me calls and empowers us to

confess our sins against them, and He sends us out as His forgiven people, who strive to keep them out of Love for God & love for our neighbors.

When I lead studies on the 10 Commandments, I always include episodes from the earthly ministry of Jesus. You may recall that one day, an expert in the Law asked Jesus what he should do to inherit eternal life. In response, Jesus asked the man how he would, as an expert, summarize God's Law. The expert's summary was a good one: "He answered, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.'" (Luke 10:27)

Jesus affirmed the expert's answer and then invited him to live out this greatest of the commandments. But something about Jesus' invitation made the legal expert feel defensive, and so he asked Jesus: "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus answered him with a parable in which a traveler fell among robbers and lay beaten & robbed on the side of the road. A priest and a Levite both passed by the man without giving assistance in any way.

Then a Samaritan happened on the man: "But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day, he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' Jesus then asked the expert: 'Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?' He said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' And Jesus said to him, 'You go, and do likewise.'" (Luke 10:33-37)

Notice that Jesus doesn't directly answer the expert's question, "Who is my neighbor?" Instead, He turns the question on its head, challenging the expert with the question, "Who was the neighbor?" to which the man answered, "the one who showed mercy." You and I have the blessed opportunity to ask the question: "To whom can I be a neighbor?"

In asking and seeking to answer this question, we will ultimately be led to love our neighbors as ourselves. As we shift our question from "Who is my neighbor?" to "To whom can I be a neighbor?" What does loving my neighbors look like?

Jesus was very clear that His disciples' everyday actions could bring glory and attention to God. "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

Peter repeated this hopeful outcome when he wrote to the Christians in Asia Minor: "Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak evil against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation." (1 Peter 2:12)

Here's the takeaway: Our behavior as Christians (little-Christs) and disciples of Jesus (followers) are in themselves a sort of message. Not just a spoken or written message but a message expressed through our actions toward others. The message of the Good News of our salvation in Christ is a message we have been given to share in Word, but especially in action/deed.

This message is not just unexpected and intriguing but can influence how others think about God. Peter is even claiming that good & honorable deeds will result in non-Christians one-day giving glory to God!

If we use the Cross as a lens through which we look at our neighbor, we will see them as one for whom Christ willingly died so that they might know Him & His forgiveness. Thinking about it this way, we can turn from the worldly expectation of 'What can they do for me?' or 'What can I get out of them...,' to "What good can I do for you? How can I show God's love to you?"

"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Colossians 3:17)

Pastor Fitch



#### **NOVEMBER SCRIP NEWS:**

With the temperatures and the leaves falling, it's not too early to start thinking about the upcoming Holidays and Christmas Shopping season! Don't forget about our SCRIP program.

Are you making your list? Are you checking it twice for SCRIP options?

Whether you are shopping for your holiday dinner or gifts to share, we can help you. Find gifts for everyone on your list while raising funds for our organization. Whether you buy the gift cards to give as presents to family and friends or to use them to buy your gifts—our organization earns with every gift card purchased. Mark your calendars: The deadline for ordering this year is **December 11, 2023,** to guarantee we receive the cards in time for your Christmas gift-giving.



We have some in stock Scrip cards like Subway, Taco Bell, Papa Murphy's, Big Lots, Fleet Farm, Menard's, and Target. We still have the usual Kwik Trip, Culvers, Dairy Queen, McDonald's, Pick N' Save, Festival Foods, Wal-Mart, and assorted other Scrip Cards available. **If we don't have what you want**, we can check into **ordering** it for pick up the following weekend. Many vendors are listed in our Look Book at the Visitor's desk, or you can visit www.raiseright.com online to see participating retailers. The retailers' list is amended continually.



**THANK YOU!** to all who have supported SCRIP regularly and to those who have given it a try!

**DID YOU KNOW?** So far, in 2023, the SCRIP Program has earned over \$2,600 for the funds we support. Currently, profits are divided between our Youth Group and the Lutheran School Scholarship Fund. Please consider using SCRIP for your shopping, dining, and other needs if you haven't.



Can you imagine what we could do if more people used and supported this program? Would you even consider helping with the program? If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Ehlert.



"Uncluttered Hearts" is the theme for the November pre-advent tea sponsored by Peace Mission Guild. Save the date Monday, November13th, at 6:30p.m. Light refreshments will be served along with a brief program focused on making room for God during the upcoming Advent and Christmas season. All confirmed women of Peace are invited.



Puppets Need a Hand. If you enjoy acting, singing, and sharing the good news of God's Love, here is a great opportunity. We welcome youth, Grades 5 and older, to join us. Youth will receive credit for ser-

vice hours for participation in practices and events.

The Peace Puppets are anxious to begin practicing for the "Very Neenah Christmas" community outreach on Friday, December 1. Practices will be held on Sundays after Sunday School for 1 hour, November 5, 12, and 26. We hope to see you there! If you have questions, call/text Judy Daley at 414-418-8101.

The Peace Mother's Group met on October 11th to discuss the grief we face in this world when a loved one is lost, especially a child or infant. Trauma and grief affects us all, but we cling to and look to our Heavenly Father to guide us through the storm to find comfort in our grief. In November, Peace Mom's will create crafts to donate for the church Bazaar and discuss how we can approach and discuss diversity with those inside and outside of our homes.

1 Corinthians 12:27 (NIV): Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. There, we find that each one of us is part of the body of Christ.



### Baptism:

October 1, 2023

Weston John Peterson

Parents: Travis & Brittany Peterson

### **Transferring From Peace:**

Alan Brieske

Transferring to: Good Shepherd Tomah

#### Return of Transfer:

Matthew, Kal-El, Lana, Lucija, Maria Catalano Return to Faith Lutheran Church Green Bay

Total Baptized members: 404
Total Confirmed members: 349
Households: 246
Men: 187
Women: 219

Δ



**Peace Mission Guild** had a good turn out for their October meeting with 21 women attending. Carol Brandt led a Bible Study titled, "An Age of Grace" where we learned about women of the Bible, both young and old, and the importance of their lives.

All women are invited to the November **Pre-Advent Tea,** on Monday, November 13 at 6:30pm. The theme is "Uncluttered Hearts", where you will be invited to prepare your heart for the coming of Christ. Refreshments will be served. Sign

up is the Fellowship Hall hallway.

Looking ahead to December, make plans to attend the Christmas brunch being held on Saturday, December 9, at 10:00am. **Theme: "10 Gifts to Unwrap from Jesus this Year".** Watch for further information in the bulletins later in November.

#### LWML mission moment -

Fortifying Faith in Those with Vision Impairment — Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) - \$100,000

There are millions of people around the world who are blind or visually impaired. They often find it difficult to access Scripture-based reading materials. This grant will provide LBW the opportunity to produce and add to their library 50 to 100 Scripture-based topical materials in Braille and specialized large print to help meet the spiritual and emotional needs of people who are visually impaired.





Thanksgiving Day meal. Traditional meal will be served on site from 11 to 2pm, all members of congregation are invited in addition to the community. This is a wonderful outreach opportunity so please share with anyone who might be interested. Meals will not be delivered but if you have friend/neighbor who would have difficulty attending you can pick up a meal to deliver to them. For more information call the church office or Todd and Linda Lueke.



Starting the first of November the cornucopia basket will be placed in the church. May this be a reminder that we have been blessed and this is an opportunity to share much needed food to the Trinity Food Pantry. Food items can still be placed in back hall bins. The area food shelters/pantries have been reporting an increased number of people seeking food.

Throughout the summer the compassion garden provided an abundance of produce that was very much appreciated. The garden has been tilled for the year. To God be the glory for all the efforts of many individuals who helped when and where they were able.

# YEAH OWLS YEAH! The OWLS have landed and we're having a HOOT!!! YEAH OWLS

 $\underline{\mathbf{Y}}$ (young)  $\underline{\mathbf{E}}$ (especially)  $\underline{\mathbf{A}}$ (at)  $\underline{\mathbf{H}}$ (heart)  $\underline{\mathbf{O}}$ (older)  $\underline{\mathbf{W}}$ (wiser)  $\underline{\mathbf{L}}$ (livelier)  $\underline{\mathbf{S}}$ (saints).

Our next get-together is Thursday, November 16, 2023. Coffee fellowship begins at 11:00 AM, with lunch served promptly at 11:30 AM. At noon, we will have our program. This month, Patrick

Fahrenkrug of Kessler-Fahrenkrug Funeral Home will join us. He will speak on what services a funeral home offers the grieving family and how they coordinate those support services with the church and final resting place for the loved one. Pastor Schroeder will also speak on the importance of letting the church know of your final requests for your service. Signup sheets will be in the Fellowship Hallway 2 weeks prior to the November 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. Make sure to sign up. We'd love to have you join us, and you can even bring a friend.

odds Ends



CELEBRATING OUR
NORING VETERANS On Saturday,
November 11, and Sunday,
November 12, we will be
celebrating Veterans and
those currently serving in
the Armed Forces.

 $\stackrel{\wedge}{\Rightarrow}$ 

☆ ☆

 $\stackrel{\wedge}{\Rightarrow}$ 

☆ ☆

 $\stackrel{\wedge}{\Rightarrow}$ 

☆ ☆

# COMMEMORATION OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

On Saturday, November 4, and Sunday, on November 5, we will be celebrating All Saints Day. Customary on that day, we recognize those of our "church family" who have departed this travail of tears and are now enjoying the nearer presence of our Lord before His throne in His heaven since All Saints Day 2022. This Rite will take place in all services.



#### THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

On Wednesday, November 22, at 7:00 P.M., we will be celebrating the National Day of Thanksgiving. Holy Communion will not be offered in this service. Come and join us in celebrating the bountiful blessings the Lord has bestowed on our nation!

**Re: VITALITY TASK FORCE: AN UPDATE** At our last meeting, we began the process of preparing the Strategic Plan for 2024-2026. Sessions 1 & 2 of the 9-session process served as the essence of our meeting. These sessions began to set the work in motion. Please continue to pray for the Task Force as it moves forward and completes its task. Pray that the Lord will guide and give discernment for the advancement of His kingdom and the future ministry of our congregation. Pastor Schroeder

Live Nativity 2023 - Our Annual Live Nativity will take place on December 8th at 6 p.m.

This is a wonderful opportunity to come out to hear the Nativity Story as it comes to life before us, singing beloved Advent & Christmas Hymns, and greet (and invite!) people from our community who come to hear & see it as well. If you are interested in helping out, there are a number of ways that we could use your assistance (yes, you!). You can pray for this excellent outreach endeavor, give assistance with putting the stable together & putting out the statuettes, or simply lending your voice in singing the beloved hymns. Either way, if you are able, please come and join us as we seek to share the message of salvation as we continue: Reaching Out, Serving Jesus, and Celebrating His Love!

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*



**Sunday School Christmas Service** – With Christmas Eve being a Sunday this year, the Boards of Education & Elders have decided to try something a little different with our Children's Christmas Service. The service will take place on the morning of Christmas Eve (Sunday, December 24th) at 9:00AM in place of our usual Sunday Divine Service, with Betsy Ehlert being the director this year. Information should be coming home with Sunday School students sometime over the next few weeks in October, so that families may be more able to make this part of their Christmas plans. Keep your eyes peeled as we prepare to celebrate our Lord's Nativity together as His people!



# Timeless Treasures Craft Bazaar – December 2<sup>nd</sup>

Did you know that one of our most popular sale rooms is our baked goods room? Last year we ran out of items by 10:30. Here is a list of potential items you may consider making:

- Homemade candy
- Decorated cupcakes
- Breads
- Pies
- Cinnamon rolls
- Coffee cakes
- Puppy chow
- Bars

# Let's fill this room up this year

**Youth needed** – We need young adults to help with the Kids Shopping Room.

Assistance includes:

Helping the little one's shop

Filling out gift tags for little ones who can't yet write

Assisting with wrapping presents

This room is so much fun as we help kids prepare for Christmas giving.



Sign-ups are in the West Hall for all areas of the Bazaar.

September 2023 YTD Income & Expense for the November Newsletter Prepared by Loren Wahl, Congregation Chairman, October 18, 2023.

# \$40,222 September Budget (anticipated expenses)

\$30,036 Actual September Income

\$38,472 Actual September Expenses

\$ -8,436

## \$361,997 YTD Budget (anticipated expenses)

\$341,801 Actual YTD Income

\$329,540 Actual YTD Expenses

\$ 12,261

Summary: September 2023, expenses greatly exceeded income.

Parsonage proceeds were received in September.

The two mortgage loans were paid off in early October.





# Reaching Out, Serving Jesus, and Celebrating His Love.

Sunday School is very busy. Our classes meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 a.m. for an activity/music and Bible study in classrooms at 11:00 a.m. and pick up at 11:30 a.m.

In October, we continued studying the Lord's Prayer in the younger classrooms and Apologetics in the Jr. High Class. We also ended October with singing in church and our Reformation Celebration.

In November, we look forward to more learning and fun fellowship activities.

For the month of November, the Sunday School will participate in the Food

Collection Drive. Bring non-perishable food items to be donated to the Trinity Food

Collection Pantry.

They specifically need donations of (listed in order of need):

- •Canned Fruit
- Juice
- •Cereal
- Large cans of soup (Campbells Chunky or Progresso, 16 oz)
- •Boxed Macaroni & Cheese Canned Vegetables

November 5th - Sunday School Teacher Meeting at 11:45 a.m. after Sunday School.

November 19<sup>th</sup> - Share a "Cup of Joy" - We invite the parents and congregation to join Sunday School with refreshments served.

November 26<sup>th</sup> - No formal Sunday School - but please join us for a Sundae Sunday celebration with a movie and ice cream treat. All members of the congregation are welcome to join us.

## Looking ahead to December:

Plans are being made for the Children's Christmas Worship Service, which will be held on December 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. **Participation forms** went home with the children. **Please complete and return** to church/Betsy Ehlert as soon as possible so plans can be made accordingly with speaking parts, costumes, etc. Thank you!

Practices will be held on Saturdays in December. Look for more information on the participation form and in the December newsletter.

Keep an eye out for updates for Sunday School in the weekly Bulletin News.

**November Memory Work –** In Sunday School, the students have Memory verses they work on together over 2-week rotations. One goal we have for this year is to begin integrating those Memory verses not just in Sunday School, but for our congregation together. What better way for us as adult members to show that what the students are learning, than to show that we ourselves are dedicated to learning as well. The Memory verse for the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Nov.: "*He is the one true God and eternal life.*" 1 John 5:20b The Memory Verse for the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Week of Nov.: "*Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever.*" Psalm 118:1

þ



### **2024 Mission Ballot**

We are blessed as a congregation, therefore we tithe on the blessings received. In addition to support of Amy Formella (LBT) and the Joint Seminary Fund, please vote for only 9 of the following LC-MS Recognized Service Organizations (RSO) missions or community outreach programs.

All confirmed members, who have reached the age of majority (18) <sup>1</sup>, have opportunity to vote on where a portion of our tithe for missions will be distributed. Ballots will be available the weekend of November 4/5, one ballot per member please. Those missions receiving the majority of the votes by the end of the Voters' meeting in November will receive our support in 2024.

<sup>1</sup>Peace Lutheran Church, Constitution and Bylaws, approved July 23, 2017

**Camp LuWiSoMo (RSO)** - Christian outdoor ministry program in Wisconsin in a suitable atmosphere in which the Gospel of Jesus Christ can be taught and a program of Christian education, fellowship, and recreation can be implemented.

**Lutherans for Life (RSO)** - Equipping every Lutheran, both individually and in community, to uphold the God-given value of human life and influence society to do the same.

**Lutheran Heritage Foundation (RSO)** –Thousands of people have come to faith in Christ because they've been able to read the Good News in more than 80 countries and 100 languages. LHF has published and distributed over 1,000 titles and 3 million Lutheran books to pastors, seminary students, missionaries and churches – all at no cost to the recipients.

**Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty (LCRL) (RSO)** - Where the government, the culture, and faith conflict, Lutherans can and must speak up in support of religious liberty, LCRL educates future generations about serving God through vocations in government, law, and public policy. An LC-MS presence is created in the U.S. capital, building coalitions with like-minded Lutherans and partners, accomplishing more together than alone.

**LC-MS Disaster Relief (RSO)** - Reaching out to LC-MS congregations and their communities with services that include on-site assessment, emergency relief and development grants, pastoral care for LC-MS church workers and members, and other resources.

**Orphan Grain Train (RSO)** – Sending truckloads of food, clothing, medical supplies, and religious materials to 69 countries and several disaster areas in the U.S.

**Wisconsin Family Council – Wisconsin Family Action** -- Advancing Judeo-Christian principles and values in Wisconsin by strengthening, preserving, and promoting marriage, family, life and liberty.

**Trinity (Menasha) Food Pantry** - The Food Pantry is available to families and individuals of the community, no questions asked, on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month from 9-9:30 a.m., to those who need assistance with food.

**Harbor House (Fox Valley) -** Empowering communities to be free from domestic abuse through safety, knowledge, and engagement.

**VIDA** - (formerly Mothers of Unborn Children-Fox Valley) - Walking with women through the trials and tribulations of unplanned pregnancies by offering hope and compassion.

**Pillars (Fox Valley Homeless Assistance - Warming Shelter)** Leading our community in finding effective solutions to homelessness, providing shelter, support, and solutions to address the housing needs in our community.

# MIDWEEK ADVENT – CHRISTMAS – NEW YEAR'S EVE SCHEDULE 2023

# Our Regular Weekly Worship Schedule

Saturdays at 5:00 P.M. & Sundays at 9:00 A.M.

## Midweek Advent / Christmas Day Services - Overall Theme: "Peace Came to Earth"

Wednesday, December 6 (7:00 P.M.) Theme: "Look, There is a Star"

Wednesday, December 13 (7:00 P.M.) Theme: "Peace to All, Near and Far"

Wednesday, December 20 (7:00 P.M.) Theme: "Our Peace Rests on Him Alone"

### **Christmas Eve**

#### Children's Service

Sunday, December 24 (9:00 A.M.) Theme: "Peace Came to Earth"

### Candlelight: A Service of Song and Lessons

Sunday, December 24 (7:00 P.M.) Theme: "His Name-Immanuel"

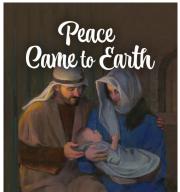
### **Christmas Day**

Monday, December 25 (9:00 A.M.) Theme: "The Diamond Found in the Manger"

#### New Year's Eve

Saturday, December 30 (5:00 P.M.) & Sunday, December 31 (9:00 A.M.) Theme: "A Time for Everything"





Advent & Christmas Theme "Peace Came to Earth" – Peace is our common Christian pursuit. As Advent leads us to the manger-side at Christmas, we are especially seeking peace, a quiet place to rest during a restless time. We crave the assurance that God knows all our needs and will provide for them, not just in these short weeks, but for every season of life, a peace that endures. Despite knowing God's promises to provide for us, we often seek peace on our own, defined even by the very ways we seek peace. In the end, we find lasting our treasure of lasting peace, not on impossible search or as a needle buried in a haystack but laid in a manger. The priceless Son of God, born in the stable and laid

in plain view for us all. As the Prince of Peace, he is the peace we seek.

#### Peace Lutheran Church

Missouri Synod
1228 S. Park Avenue
Neenah, WI 54956-4252
(920) 725-0510
Rev. Ricky P. Schroeder
Pastor
Rev. Josiah Fitch
Associate Pastor



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Reaching Out ... Serving Jesus ... Celebrating His Love



#### e-mails

pastor@peaceneenah.com assocpastor@peaceneenah.com

#### Web site:

www.peaceneenah.com

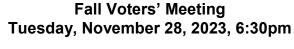
### Worship Services

Sat. 5:00 p.m. Sun. 9:00 a.m.

Bible Study/Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Sundays



Don't forget to "Fall" back with your clocks before you go to bed on Saturday, Nov. 4th.
Daylight Savings time end on Nov. 5th.



Our most important Voters' Body Meeting of the year is scheduled for Tuesday, November 28th. The meeting will start promptly at 6:30 pm. Please plan on attending and exercise your right to review/approve the 2024 Budget and nominate board members.