



APRIL 2024



JOYFULLY ON HIS JOURNEY

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

Recently I was given a letter to the editor published on January 4th from the local paper. This letter is worthwhile to engage in because it has many claims that are worthwhile addressing for a number of reasons which I will get into later in my article. By the end of my article, I hope you are better equipped to have these discussions with those around you in our homes, and our community. I hope to accomplish this, in a winsome, tactful, and as the 8th commandment calls us to, putting the best construction on the intent and content of the letter to the editor all while giving clarity through God's word.

The article is titled, "People with different beliefs about sexual orientation can coexist in peace and harmony". The first and last two paragraphs contain the authors foundation and goal for how to achieve their idea for peace and harmony. They have observed that the LGBTQ+ community does not live in a harmony and peace with the rest of the world. The reasons they cite are threefold. First, the author claims Judaism has traditionally held there are eight total genders. Since there was no evidence to back up that claim I did some research and found out this claim comes from the Talmud. The Talmud is a "commentary" on the Torah (the Old Testament) filled with the oral tradition of Rabbis in throughout Judaism. However, when looking at the Old Testament, ancient Judaism never puts forth the idea of there being more than two genders. A few times scripture does talk about people not having defined physical looks causing people confusion, but from Genesis 1:27 it's quite clear that God makes Adam and Eve male and female respectively, not in any androgynous way. God further communicates this point in verse 28 when he commands Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply. Although there is asexual reproduction in nature, if you continue reading in Genesis, you'll find quite clearly Adam and Eve aren't reproducing in that way. (See. Genesis 2:23-25 then Genesis 4:1). There is much more we could explore regarding this claim but for sake of brevity and clarity, I will end this point and continue on to the second point regarding Sodom and Gomorrah and Leviticus 18:22.

The writer continues in their argument that Sodom and Gomorrah is not about God's judgment upon shameful sexual acts, but rather about judgment on lack of hospitality. While I'm not sure where this claim originally comes from, I have encountered this argument in the book, "God and the Gay Christian" by Matthew Vines. His goal is to make a case for how to be a practicing Christian while maintaining it is compatible with a non-heterosexual lifestyle. While it is true that Genesis 19:1-27 does address the lack of hospitality as shameful and ancient Judaism prided itself on hospitality (see Genesis 18:4, Exodus 23:9, Leviticus 19:33-34, Leviticus 25:23-25 etc.,) it is undeniable based on history of interpretation, and even from the rest of the biblical narrative, God does not condone or support their behavior or desire.



JOYFULLY ON HIS JOURNEY

This is clarified and expanded on even further in the New Testament by Jesus, and in Romans 1-2, which Matthew Vines, and the author of this letter to the editor cannot deny or overcome. (See also 1 Corinthians chapter 5 for a condemnation on incest which is going unaddressed in the Corinthian church.)

Those arguments are all based on the foundation of a practice called Tikkun Olam. This practice was created in the 3rd century from an interpretation in the Mishnah. In modern Judaism this is a belief that extends from the Golden Rule which is known as "repairing the world." This is a good and noble goal. We in Christianity call in reconciliation, we see it as possible with one another, but it must first start with being reconciled to God. And that's what brings me to my final point.

I'd like to finally address the letter's goal, "people with different beliefs about sexual orientation can coexist in peace and harmony." The writer seeks to do this by addressing historical and even biblical interpretations that seemingly have gotten in the way of that goal. While I hope I have displayed why the writers' arguments don't hold water, our God and Father who sent our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ calls us to speak the truth in LOVE, while bearing one another's burdens (Ephesians 4:15, Galatians 6:2). This means that we should seek to be at peace with all people so far as it depends on us (Romans 12:18). We cannot stop Jesus' concern, help, and love for people when He wants to bring them God's peace but because of sexual identity issues, sexual desires or activity that are not praised by God fight the peace and harmony he wants to bring.

So far as it depends on us, we have God's peace, and should extend that to all people, period, full stop. So, I hope to start by extending an open door to the person who wrote the letter to the editor, and trying to strike up a conversation with them so that I might be able to understand what peace and harmony from that perspective looks like.

We know that God's peace is not something we fashion after our own image, it is God's gift to give because as Colossians 1:13-14 says, "He [Jesus] has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."

So dear brothers and sisters in Christ, when you encounter someone with different beliefs about sexual orientation, so far as it depends on you be at peace with them according to God's standard of peace. No matter what difficulty or trial or suffering, or sin, or tension is going on in someone, behind and underneath it all perhaps there is no peace between them and God, may we help be a bridge of reconciliation.

Joyfully His,

Pastor Jonathan Jahnke

ELDERS CORNER

Christian comedian, Jeff Allen, tells his story of when he was an atheist and one of his peers suggested they talk about the bible. When Jeff replied that he didn't want to as he didn't believe in the bible, the man asked him what about the bible did Jeff think was untrue. At which Jeff replied that "he didn't know, he never read it." The man exclaimed, "Well you're not an atheist, you're a moron." He went on to explain to Jeff that "...a true atheist is not only a biblical scholar but is scholarly in all the facts of the earth, and after a long intellectual journey has come to the conclusion that there is no god in the universe. You, on the other hand, want to circumvent the entire intellectual process and just come to the conclusion that there is no god – that's lazy and moronic."

Hearing this, I asked myself, if I was a true scholar of the Bible, or a moron (those of you who know me, don't have to answer)? Sure, I have read the Bible, but have I *really* read the Bible? Have I studied the text and context in which it was written? Have I read it with the true understanding that God never changes and that He is true to us in the past, present and future?

My thoughts also went to Pastor Jon's recent sermon regarding our belief statement. As part of that sermon he asked us to review some faith statements that were written by members of our congregation and identify those that resonated with each of us personally. While several of them resonated with me, I found myself instead circling words from the statements which included: "overflows", "life", "died", "rose", "grace", "embraced", "worthy", "mercy", "believers" and "loves". I then realized that each of these words have a direct link to Jesus and our Triune God.

As I continue my faith journey, I want to keep the questions I have presented in this article in mind. Am I a "moron" or a "biblical scholar"? I know that it is easier to answer that question if I attend bible studies with my Good Shepherd brothers and sisters! By considering what I "...believe as a Christian" and "How would [I] put it...In seven words or less", I can directly address the "scholar" versus "moron" question. Spending time in the Word, discussing with other believers and 'taking to heart' the true meaning of the Bible, I can feel better about my faith, about myself and about others and am able to intelligently be a disciple of His gospel.

Your brother in Christ,
Greg

OUR ELDERS

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 Dave Erickson 320.491.3703	 Brandon Luedeke 320.304.4237	 Paul Luedeke 320.760.6937	 Keith Ramsay 320.886.5574

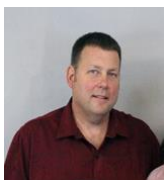
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL & TREASURE UPDATE

Greetings~

The Executive Council is yet gathering information on the childcare options are goal is to have a congregation vote sometime in May.

The Executive Council decided to have our Mission Council meeting on Sunday April 14 right after church instead of Bible study. This is for everyone long time members and those who have just joined Good Shepherd. Each group or ministry explains what they do, when they meet and what they have on their agenda in the next few months. It's interesting what all goes on in Good Shepherd Church, maybe there's 1 or 2 groups or ministries you might want to pursue and join. God has an important role for each of us. We are all given special gifts for building up the body of believers. We start by using the talents, recourses, and abilities we already know we have. As we serve others in this way, God will further reveal our spiritual gifts so that we can continue to bless others.

Romans 12: 6-8 In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So, if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.



*Loren Boysen,
Executive Council
Chairman*

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Fund Balance February 2024			
		FUNDS	EXPENSES
Current Month's Offerings		\$25,304.19	
Year To Date Total Offerings		\$46,393.38	
Thrivent Choice Dollars - YTD		\$647.00	
Miscellaneous Income - YTD		\$0.00	
LCEF Account Transfer- YTD		\$0.00	
Current Month's General Expense			-\$26,397.21
Year to Date Total Expense			-\$53,918.26
Current Month Net Less Expense	-\$551.02		
Year to Date Net Less Expense	-\$6,877.88		



*Evelyn Beulke,
Treasurer*

*Weekly Income and Attendance
info will be emailed on
Thursdays @ noon!*

*If you have not been receiving
this email, please inform the Church
office asap so you may be added to our
list.*

*Executive Council Monthly Minutes /Treasure
reports are posted on Bulletin board in hallway
by Fellowship Hall*

**Mission Leaders- Plan to have 2 members at the April 14th
Mission Council Meeting!!**

ALTAR GUILD

LWML



We have now observed Ash Wednesday and the seven Sundays in Lent, as well as Maundy Thursday, when we remembered the institution of the Lord's Supper in memory of Christ's Passion. Good Friday followed with us remembering the climactic event in the life of our Lord on earth as a man, and crucifixion. Saturday, we saw our Savior resting in the tomb. Our focus this week was on the suffering and death of our Savior and the importance that it has for us and our salvation.

We have now concluded the high point of the Church year, Easter, called the "queen of feasts." Easter is the time of greatest joy because of the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus proving that He is the victor over sin, death and the grave.

Thank you to all who stayed to help cover the windows in preparation for Good Friday evening service, and to take them down once again on Saturday morning to prepare for the floral arranging of the victory garden that will adorn the Altar for Easter Sunday Morning. Thank you to all who ordered flowers to beautify the Altar.

Please thank Brenda Wysoski, Kathy Niewind, Danielle Meinert and Marian Brelje for their Altar care in March. Evelyn and Elaine Buelke will care for the Altar in April.

*If you care for the Altar, we are asking that ALL open wine be stored in the refrigerator, all the time. **Please**



Amory Anderson



In March, our LWML Society does not have a regular meeting, but alternates with the Zion Alexandria LWML Society hosting the LWML Prayer Service. This year Zion hosted us with an inspirational presentation of the Grace, Mercy and Peace Prayer Service. After the service in the sanctuary, they invited us to their Fireside Room for food, fellowship and a gift for each of us of a refrigerator magnet reminding us that we do indeed have Grace, Mercy and Peace. For those of us that attended, it was a special evening together.

Our April meeting is **Monday, April 15, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. in the Education Wing. Shawna Kohls** will introduce us to her profession as a nurse. Nursing is something all of us need at different times in our lives. We look forward to having Shawna share her love of nursing with us.

All ladies of our congregation are invited and encouraged to join us.



"Serve the Lord with gladness!"
Psalm 100:2
Barb Schuneman,
LWML president

WHAT MISSION GROUPS ARE AT GOOD SHEPHERD? FIND OUT ON APRIL 14TH AFTER WORSHIP!



TO READ



Janette Oke and T. Davis Bunn wrote a Song of Acadia series. Because of unforeseen circumstances due to the unrest between the British and French, two babies were separated when they were a few days old. Their mothers were friends and they spent time trying to find each other. The girls were young ladies when it finally happened. These stories took place during the Revolutionary war in America. Each book is a thrilling story of what they have gone through. They also wrote "Another Homecoming" which is a story of a young soldier just married who had to leave to go to serve in WWI. She received a telegram stating her husband was missing in action. Because of that she made a decision that tore her and her husband apart after he returned home. Another thriller that keeps you wanting to read more.

From the Library.....

Marian Brelje

HELP NEEDED IN LIBRARY

Nancy Schmidt was involved in the revival of the library and she will be dearly missed.

The renovations may be nearly done, but running it isn't. We need somebody to help us, keep the books and room organized.

If interested, please contact
Marian 320-510-1081



Amory Anderson's newest Great Grand Daughter is surrounded by Love with her new quilt made by

Love Patches



LOVE PATCHES

So far this year the Love Patches Group has completed 22 quilts. This has been done because we were given 10

quilt tops ready for batting and tying from Gail Johnson. We are very appreciative of this gift. We also have been blessed to have two new members join us. Kay Nibbe and Jennifer Adamek are wonderful additions to our group. We meet from 9am to 12 on Thursday mornings. Please consider joining us if you are able.



Put on the
Armor of God
Ephesians 6:10-18

Vacation Bible School 2024 "Put on the Armor of God" Ephesians 6:10-18

Please prayerfully consider helping with this fun event.

Join us April 10th @ 6:30pm for our next planning meeting.

Questions?

Contact Brenda Wysoski @
320.460.0946



DO YOU HAVE AN INTEREST IN HELPING GROW THE FAMILY OF GOOD SHEPHERD?

THINK ABOUT IT....

FOR THE GARDEN OF YOUR DAILY LIVING

Plant 3 Rows of Peas:

- 1) Peace of Mind
- 2) Peace of Heart
- 3) Peace of Soul

Plant 4 Rows of Squash:

- 1) Squash Gossip
- 2) Squash Grumbling
- 3) Squash Indifference
- 4) Squash Selfishness

Plant 4 Rows of Lettuce:

- 1) Lettuce be Faithful
- 2) Lettuce be Kind
- 3) Lettuce be Patient
- 4) Lettuce Really Love One Another

Plant 3 Rows of Turnips:

- 1) Turnip for Gatherings
- 2) Turnip for Service
- 3) Turnip to Help One Another

Plant 3 Rows of Thyme:

- 1) Thyme for Each Other
- 2) Thyme for Family
- 3) Thyme for Friends

*WATER FREELY WITH PATIENCE AND
CULTIVATE WITH LOVE.*

*“CELEBRATE YOUR ABUNDANT GARDEN-
WHAT YOU REAP IS WHAT YOU SOW.*

GROWING IN THE WORD

This is what our confirmation class has been working on for memory work.
Can you fill in the blanks?

What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

It is the true _____ and _____ of our _____ Jesus _____ the
_____ and _____, instituted by Christ _____ for us _____ to _____
and to _____.

Where is this written?

The holy _____ Matthew, _____, Luke, and _____. Paul write:
Our _____ Jesus Christ, on the _____ when He was _____, took
_____, and when He had _____ thanks, He _____ it and _____ it to the
_____ and said: “_____, eat; this is _____, which is _____ for _____.
This _____ in _____ of Me.”

In the _____ way _____ He _____ the cup _____ supper, and _____ He _____
given _____, He _____ it to them, saying, “_____ of it, all of _____;
this _____ is the new _____ in My blood, which is _____ for you
_____ the _____ of _____. _____ do, as _____ as you _____ it, in
remembrance _____.”

What is the Benefit of this eating and drinking?

These _____, “_____ and _____ for _____ for the _____ of _____,”
show us _____ in the _____ forgiveness of _____, _____, and
_____ are given us _____ these _____. For _____
_____ is _____ of sins, there is _____ life and _____.

How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?

Certainly _____ just _____ and _____ do these _____, but the
words _____ here: “_____ and _____ for _____ for the _____ of
_____.” These _____, along _____ the bodily _____ and _____,
are the _____ thing in the _____. Whoever _____ these
_____ has _____ what they _____: “forgiveness _____ sins.”

SINGING? TEACHING? RELATIONSHIP BUILDING? BOOKS? AND MORE!

MISSION CONTACTS

Altar Guild

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Worship Team and Music

Sue Nelson 320.766.5221 sknelson4@charter.net
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Cradle Roll:

Vacant -Office updating at this time

Elders

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Love Patches

Marian Brelje 320.859.5085 ambrelje@hotmail.com

LWML

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Les Kruse 320.333.8405 leslie.donna.kruse@gmail.com

WHERE DO YOU FIT INTO A MISSION DOING GOD'S WORK?

MISSION CONTACTS

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Jason Norheim 320.808.4156

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Howard Breitkruetz 320.808.8975

HSBREITKREUTZ@gmail.com

Stephanie Bertek 320.491.8825

stephaniebertek@yahoo.com

Youth Ministry

KFC-(3rd-5th graders)

LOOKING FOR A LEADER

Jr/Sr. LYF (6th-12th graders)

Amanda & Jeremy Thurk 320-491-0854

scarlettroses16621@gmail.com

Zion School

VACANT

Are you ready to share your time, talents and treasures with one of our Mission Groups?
Prayerfully consider helping with one of the above or possibly filling a vacant area

WHERE DO YOU FIT INTO A MISSION DOING GOD'S WORK?

APRIL CELEBRATIONS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO....

4th:

Noah Tabbert
Finan Jonas

14th:

Roman Jonas
Leandra Boysen

26th:

Anne Isder
Ramona Colton

5th:

Brynn Erickson
Dominik Meyer
Cheryl Schwanke

18th:

Brandon Luedeke

27th:

Evan Larson

6th:

Ricky Walberg

19th:

Sharon Nack
Colton Carlsrud

28th:

Lee Barenz
Pam Bettermann
Aaron Runge

10th:

Paul Luedeke

22nd:

Joyce Hausmann

29th:

Marlene Froemming
Abigail Nelson

11th:

Irene Roth
Rochelle Tvrdik

24th:

Ray Bohn



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO....

April 2nd: Ralph and Cheryl Erickson
April 8th: Charlie and Val Christopherson
April 17th: Bob and Karen Nolz
April 10th: Larry and Joan Lobitz

GROW IN YOUR FAITH AND YOUR RELATIONSHIPS IN CHRIST!

EVENTS

APRIL 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Easter Sunday 7:00am Sunrise Easter Worship/Communion 8:00am Easter Breakfast 9:00am Easter Worship Communion	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 9:00am Worship Communion 10:15am Bible Study/Sunday School 10:30am Confirmation Class	8 4:15pm LWML Lead Meet 6:30pm ONLINE Bible Study	9 5:00pm Fellowship Team 6:30pm Executive Council Meet	10 9:00am GS MOMS Group 10:00am Bible Study 12:30pm FHALL RSVD PEO 4:30pm Worship Team Practice 6:30pm VBS 2024 Meeting	11 9:00am Love Patches Quilting	12 10:00am LIFE Home School Coop.	13
14 9:00am Worship Communion 10:15am Bible Study/Sunday School 10:15am Mission Council 10:30am Confirmation Class	15 6:30pm LWML Meeting 6:30pm ONLINE Bible Study	16 7:00pm Elders Meet	17 10:00am Bible Study 4:30pm Worship Team Practice	18 9:00am Love Patches Quilting	19 10:00am LIFE Home School Coop.	20 8:30am LWML Zone Spring Rally
21 9:00am Worship 10:15am Bible Study/Sunday School 10:30am Confirmation Class	22 6:30pm ONLINE Bible Study	23 7:00pm 2024 Fair Booth	24 9:00am GS MOMS Group 10:00am Bible Study 12:30pm FHALL RSVD PEO 4:30pm Worship Team Practice	25 9:00am Love Patches Quilting	26 10:00am LIFE Home School Coop.	27
28 9:00am Worship w/Communion 10:15am Bible Study/Sunday School 10:30am Confirmation Class	29 6:30pm ONLINE Bible Study	30	1 10:00am Bible Study 4:30pm Worship Team Practice	2 9:00am Love Patches Quilting	3 10:00am LIFE Home School Coop.	4

SEE YOU AFTER WORSHIP APRIL 14TH AT THE MISSION COUNCIL MEETING!