

# *THE GOOD SHEPHERD GAZETTE*



## *A Letter From The Undershepherd*

BY PASTOR EDWARD KILLIAN

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The life of Jesus Christ our Lord is an historical fact. The Old Testament in many ways subtle and bold foreshadowed and proclaimed that a Messiah was coming to reconcile God and mankind. The New Testament tells of his birth and life. Shepherds heard the herald angels sing. Wisemen brought him gifts of tribute. The deaf heard His voice, and the blind saw His face. The crippled rose and walked beside Him. Nature itself deferred to His power, and death itself obeyed His commands.

The death of Jesus Christ our Lord is an historical fact. The apostles, the Pharisees, the Sadducees and the Romans all saw Him flogged, punched, kicked and crucified to death. They heard Him give up his spirit. They saw the blood and water separate as it left the wound of the spear.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord is an historical fact. He rose from the dead on the first day of the week as He said He would. He walked the earth in scarred flesh for 40 days, and was seen by over 500 people. Eyewitnesses ate with Jesus, walked with Jesus, prayed with Jesus, and embraced Jesus.

Jesus Christ lived. Jesus Christ died. Jesus Christ rose from the dead. Eyewitnesses saw these things, and testified to them. There is more evidence of these events than any other event in all classical antiquity. We are children of the crucified and risen King, and our sins are forgiven! Live in this peace! He is coming again. Amen.

*Pastor Killian*

# Monthly Missions

During February and March, we at the Good Shepherd were summoned to support our community. In February, Southern California faced devastating wildfires that destroyed over 16,000 homes. The need for action was urgent, and we quickly began gathering hygiene products. It wasn't just our Good Shepherd family that contributed; sister churches from across the country, particularly Faith Lutheran Church in Waterloo, joined in our efforts. Thanks to the generous donations, we were able to assist 137 families who had lost their homes.



In February, our congregation collaborated with Wine to Water on a meaningful mission project. Wine to Water is a nonprofit organization dedicated to delivering clean water globally. Together, we assembled 50 water filters, with each filter capable of providing clean water for 10 to 12 people over a span of 10 years!



## Evangelism at the Good Shepherd

Evangelism is the act of sharing the Gospel message with others, inviting them to put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ. In sharing the Gospel, we are tasked with communicating the good news of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. To do so, we can build connections with others by stepping into vulnerability, listening to their stories and sharing our own. Building these relationships gives us the opportunity to share the love of Jesus by showing kindness, compassion, and care for others.

Join the conversation on Sunday, May 4 after service at the first Evangelism Meeting.

### How Can We Put Evangelism into Action?

We start with prayer! Our prayers are not only for the growth of our church but also for God to empower us to share His Word.

Next, we begin having open and vulnerable conversations with our close friends, family, and fellow church members. The more comfortable we become with these discussions, the better we can engage with our local community and broaden our outreach. We are called to pray for everyone we meet in our daily lives. Let us unite and proclaim the immense love of our God!

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

ACTS 1:8

## MAY SCHEDULE

Sundays  
Morning Bible Study  
8:30 - 9:15 AM

Sundays  
Divine Service  
10 AM

Wednesdays  
(Beginning 05/14)  
Zoom Bible Study  
7:00 - 8:00 PM

## *Bible Studies at the Good Shepherd*

*My son, be attentive to my word; incline your ear to my sayings. Let them not escape from your sight; keep them within your heart. For they are life to those who find them, and healing to all their flesh. Proverbs 4:20-22*

Beginning in May, Pastor Killian will launch two new Bible Study Series! Starting the first week of May, we will have a fresh Sunday morning Bible study focused on the book of Ephesians.

### **Key Themes to Explore in Ephesians:**

*The Church as the Body of Christ:* Ephesians highlights the unity and interconnectedness among believers in Christ.

*The Nature of the Church:* The letter highlights the church's role in God's plan, its relationship to Christ, and its mission in the world.

*The Christian Life:* Ephesians provides guidance on living a life worthy of one's calling, including instructions on relationships, spiritual growth, and practical living.

Beginning in the second week of May, the Midweek Virtual Bible will resume! Pastor Killian will be leading us through a new study of the book of Acts. Acts aims to demonstrate the power and relevance of Christianity, showcasing the early church's faith, perseverance, and missionary zeal. Its themes and stories continue to inspire and inform Christian practice today.

*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”*

1 PETER 1:3-5

## *Easter Celebration!*

A Huge Thanks to Our Congregation! A sincere thank you to all who dedicated their time and effort during the vibrant Lenten Season, Holy Week, and Easter! It was genuinely uplifting to see everyone come together to bring these celebrations to life!

On Easter morning, congregants and visitors gathered in joyful celebration of the risen Savior. The festivities continued with a delightful Easter Brunch. Thanks be to God!

