

The Shepherd's Voice

November/December 2024

Photo by [Luke Hodde on Unsplash](#)

PASTOR'S NOTE:

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord!

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.
Galatians 5:22-25

Upon your receiving this newsletter, we are days away from our national election day. Many voices have been telling us that this is a most important election. Some are saying this is the most important election of our lifetime. Whether this is actually true, only God knows.

How we as a people will react to this election once the results are finally known has a great many of us concerned. As to how we should react as followers of Christ Jesus is known. As a matter of fact, as Christians, how we are to act before the election, is the same as how we are to act after the election. To be sure, as is often the case, we may realize that it is harder to follow Jesus when the results are different than what we may have wanted.

In our discussion group of the tv show The Chosen, a recent episode depicted one of Jesus' disciples struggling to understand the things of this world and how one should react to them. In the episode, Jesus shared advice that I believe would benefit each one of us, not just before and after this national election, but at all times.

In the show, Jesus told this disciple, "Whenever you are troubled, think back on my sermon on the mount." Now, turning to God's word is always good

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CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE INSIDE!



Good Shepherd
Lutheran Church

advice, so Jesus' instructions to do this should not be surprising. The question for us is, do we do this on a regular basis.

As a reminder, Jesus' Sermon on the Mount is found in the Gospel of Matthew, chapters 5-7. Jesus' sermon contains a wide variety of his teachings. All of them are instructive as to how we as Christians, as followers of Jesus Christ, are supposed to live, both before and after this upcoming election.

We cannot control how others will act or react to this national election. But Jesus does tell us how **we** are to act. Here are just a few of the things Jesus tells us in his Sermon on the Mount.

Blessed are the peacemakers.

Let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

If you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment, and with the judgment you make you will be judged.

Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

Here is what I am inviting each of us to do any time we are struggling to understand the things of this world and we are troubled, but specifically around this election day. On Tuesday, November 5th, read Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, Matthew chapters 5-7, and then spend time in prayer.

You will notice that at the end of Jesus' sermon, he is telling us to do more than simply read and hear his word. He says to us, "Everyone who hears these words of mine **and** acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock."

Our call is to live differently because of Christ Jesus. Jesus is inviting us to build our lives with his word as our solid foundation.

You might wonder just what that would look like to this world if we were to do this. The good news is we do not have to wonder, because Jesus tells us. In his sermon he says that we will be known by our fruit.

It is the Apostle Paul who then expands on what this will look like if we hear the words of Jesus Christ and act on them. While half of our nation may be angry and distraught, and others may be boasting and celebrating the results of this election, what witness can we be to our Savior Jesus, our firm foundation, if we were to live with the Spirit, showing love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

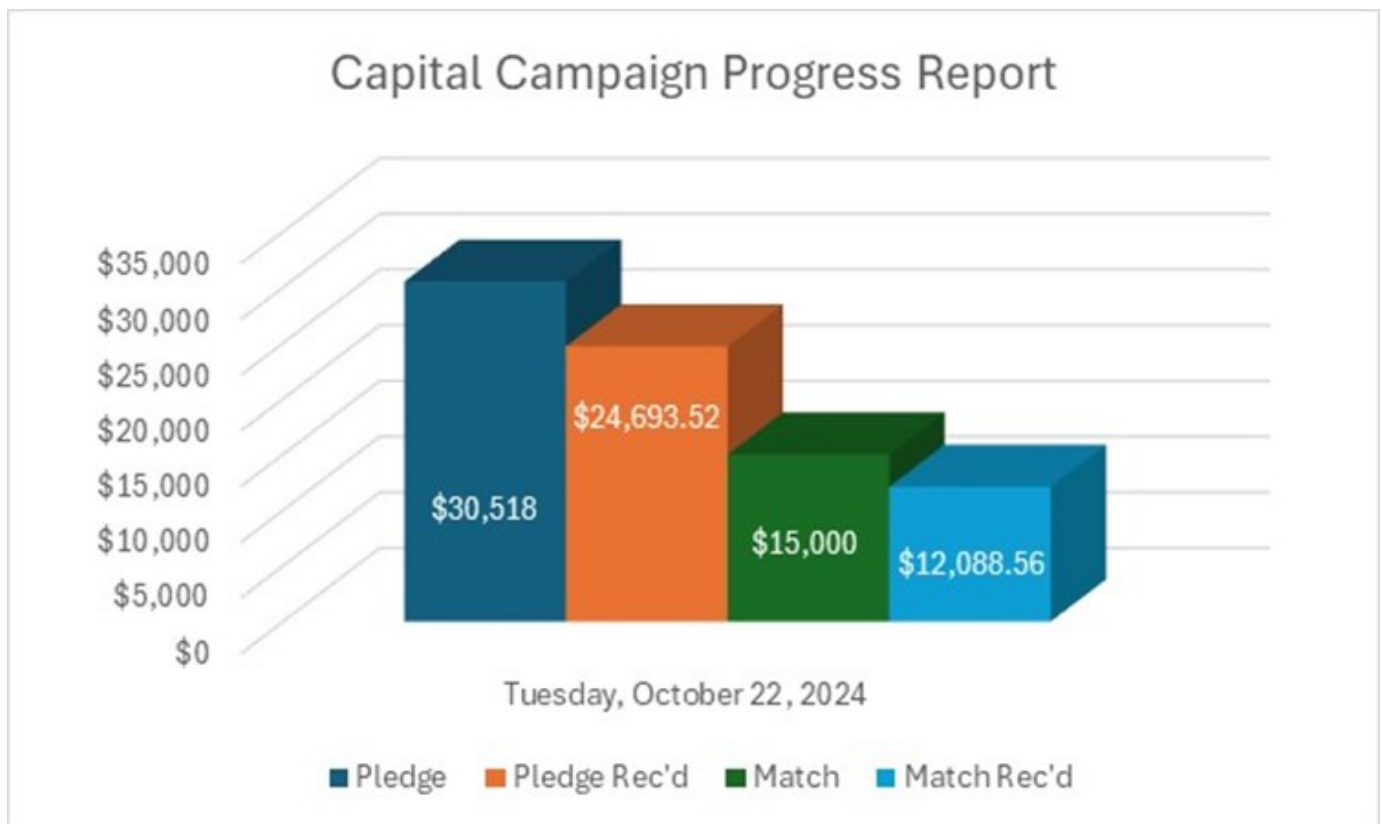
May we do exactly that this election day and in the days that follow because we hear Jesus' words and we act on them. May others be able to see that we live differently because our hope and faith is not in a political election of this world, but instead our hope and faith is in Christ Jesus. He is the solid foundation on which we stand. He is the foundation that allows us to live in the Spirit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Ted

Capital Campaign Milestone!

These are exciting times at Good Shepherd. In October our Capital Campaign hit a significant milestone when pledged giving exceeded \$30,000 thus maximizing the generous \$15,000 match extended to the campaign! Both the Pledges and the Match are more than 80% funded to date. Thank you to all who have pledged to support the various goals of the campaign. The pledge period will run through the end of the year and giving is encouraged to be completed by March 31, 2025. If you would like to add your pledge to the Campaign, please complete a pledge sheet found on the side table in the narthex to the left of the double doors and return to the office.

“With God, all things are possible” - Matthew 19:26



JUSTICE MATTERS

Seventeen Good Shepherd Justice Matters Network Members attended the Community Problems Assembly. We heard testimonies regarding each of the choices to select a new issue that requires Justice in our community. They were Hunger, Criminal Justice and Youth Trauma. The entire Assembly voted to make Youth Trauma our new issue. Ending Chronic Homelessness and Elder Care Workforce will continue at this time.

We learned that the Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between Dwyer Workforce Development and Heartland Workforce Development. There will be a class beginning in January to train CNAs. It is exciting because our Elder Care Workforce has worked very hard to get this MOU signed. The issue of getting the MOU signed was presented at our Nehemiah Assembly. Therefore, all of you that attended the Assembly are part of this wonderful news. ***You joined others with your attendance and voice.***

Music and Worship

Upcoming Music & Worship Calendar

Sunday, Nov. 3	All Saints' Day celebrated
Sunday, Dec. 1	First Sunday of Advent
Wednesday, Dec. 4	Advent Meal 6 pm; Worship 7 pm
Sunday, Dec. 8	Second Sunday of Advent
Wednesday, Dec. 11	Advent Meal 6 pm; Worship 7 pm
Sunday, Dec. 15	Third Sunday of Advent
Wednesday, Dec. 18	Advent Meal 6 pm; Worship 7 pm
Sunday, Dec. 22	Fourth Sunday of Advent; Greening of the church
Sunday, Dec. 24	Christmas Eve services 5 pm and 8 pm
Sunday, Dec. 29	Lessons & Carols – 10 am – one service only

Christmas Worship Schedule

Tuesday, December 24 th	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 5:00 pm Worship 2.0 8:00 pm Classic Worship
Sunday, December 29 th	10:00 am – One service only—Lessons & Carols

You can see the entire GSLC calendar on our website: www.gslc-lawrence.org

All Saints' Day

On Sunday, November 3rd, we will celebrate All Saints' Day at both worship services. We will give congregation members the opportunity to light candles to remember saints gone before (whether they died in the past year or at an earlier time), to celebrate living saints, or to rejoice in the life of a new saint born this year.

In addition, we will celebrate the lives of congregation members and loved ones who passed away in the previous year by reading their names during worship. Please join us.



Advent: How Does a Weary World Rejoice?

Advent begins on Sunday, December 1st. During this time, we will work on making room for Christ by refraining from Christmas celebrations in worship until the evening of December 24th. Our theme for Advent is: How Does a Weary World Rejoice?

One of the favorite Advent traditions of GSLC is the Wednesday evening midweek worship using the Holden Evening Prayer setting. It was written in 1985-86 by Marty Haugen during his musical residency at Holden Village, a Lutheran renewal center in the Northern Cascades in North Central Washington state. Join us for the midweek meal at 6 p.m. in the fellowship hall followed by the 7 p.m. service in the sanctuary.

During the season of Advent, we will come together during the week to experience God's peace and listen to God's word. Please join us Wednesdays of Advent (Dec. 4, Dec. 11, and 18)

6:00 pm	<i>Midweek Advent meal – meals are provided</i>
7:00 pm	<i>Holden Evening Prayer Worship</i>

Advent Devotionals:

As we prepare for Advent, GSLC will provide devotional options to guide us through the season. On Sundays leading up to Advent devotionals geared to adults, teens, and children will be available on a table in the entryway of the church. You may pick up these devotionals when you come for Sunday worship or whenever else you find yourself in the church. If you would like Advent devotionals but are not able to pick them up in person, please contact the church office - gslc.ks@gmail.com; or 785-843-3014. Let our Office Administrator, Kirsten, know your specific needs, confirm your mailing address, and materials will be mailed to you.

Greening the Church

Join us following Classic Worship on December 22, for a simple sandwich lunch and a joyful time of preparing our sanctuary and narthex for Christmas. We will decorate the Christmas tree and hang greenery and other decorations. Many hands are needed to make the transformation, so save the date. If you plan to come, let Becky Foerschler, or the office know so we can plan for food (If you don't let us know, feel free to come anyway!). Becky's contact info: 785-842-0904; rfoerschler@gmail.com.



Gold Bags for Jesus


While Christmas Eve is still many weeks away, it is not too early to start thinking about how we can honor the gift of a savior whom we received as a baby in a manger.

As the three wise men brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to honor Jesus, this year on Christmas Eve, we will have the opportunity to present a special offering of our own, either individually or as a family. Gold bags will be available starting November 3rd to be used for your offering, which will be placed at the foot of the manger on Christmas Eve.

If you are not able to get a gold bag at church, let the church office know you would like one sent to you. Keep your gold bag in sight and in the weeks to come, you are encouraged to think of all the gifts you have received from God and to identify meaningful ways that you might give back to Jesus as you give thanks for all that you have received. It's not about what or how much we are giving but what God has given us.

The council has approved the donation of half the contributions to local missions and half to overseas missions (such as Lutheran World Relief or something comparable) – specifics are yet to be determined.

Can You Help?



We are looking for a volunteer(s) to select and deliver a fresh-cut Christmas tree for our sanctuary.

Please speak to Becky Foerschler for further details 842-0904;

rfoerschler@gmail.com.

Funds are available for the cost of the tree.

Christmas Poinsettias -

watch for further details in our weekly *Baa the*

Way e-newsletter to

order poinsettias for our

sanctuary at Christmas.

Lenten planning? What? It's not even Advent yet!

We [are gathering a Lenten planning committee, and we would like you to join us to choose a theme and have input into making](#) the midweek Lenten services special. There will be 3 or 4 planning sessions (first in early Nov) so it is not a big time commitment. Learning about how the service emphasizes and reflects the lessons has been meaningful to previous volunteers. If participation in this aspect of worship planning is calling to you, please let Kim Mosher or Kris Sterbenz know about your interest by Nov 8 and we can let you know more. Kris@sterbenz.org or text 508-944-3068.

Kelley Witmer, Worship Committee Chair, kelley@wheatfieldtechnology.com, 785-760-0155

Elena Cressy, Music Minister – Classic Worship, elena.cressy@gmail.com, 651-354-5520

Megan Ebke, Worship Leader – Worship 2.0, megan.ebke@gmail.com, 785-844-1830

Thad Reist, Organist/Pianist—Classic Worship, tjreist@yahoo.com, 785-556-0333



Hello from the preschool!!!

The school year has begun and we are chugging along smoothly. We are serving 19 students this year, and hopefully having a positive impact on both them and their families. We continue to strive not only to educate our students, but to create a community of families.

School started after Labor Day, our Caterpillar Class is completely full this year and our Butterfly class still has some room. I'm hopeful that next year we will be completely full- we've already had several tours for next year! I think people are learning for the first time that we are here, our small preschool exists, and our new website has really helped with that.

We hosted our Fall Festival on October 5th where families came together to enjoy a fun filled afternoon. We had a bouncy house, face painting, pumpkin painting, hot dogs, and a cake walk! Thank you to all the church members who baked items for the cake walk, the children loved them and had a wonderful time! The fire truck also came for a visit to the preschool during fire safety week. This is always a highlight of the year- I heard several students exclaim "this is the best day ever!"

Looking ahead we have our fall field trip to the pumpkin patch. We are also planning for the first time ever to host our Halloween Party at Cedarhurst Assisted Living Center. I'm hoping this day will be beneficial and fun to both our students and their residents. The teachers and I are very excited about this collaboration!

Our Mystery Reader program has begun and we've already had some church members and parents sign up to read to the children. The kids love this activity and I'm hoping it is another way to bring the church family and preschool family together. We hope to host many more readers throughout the school year.

As always our little school is striving to be a warm first school experience for our kids, and we couldn't do it without the support of the church. We appreciate everything you all do for us! We hope to continue to grow and pour God's love into these children and their families. Thank you!

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