



FOOD FOR THE FLOCK



FALL Festival

FRIDAY

OCTOBER 24

5 PM - 7:30 PM

The Fall Festival is a great way to engage with our community and invite them to church.

It's also a fun time for kids of all ages!

Tell your friends, mark your calendars, and plan to join us for a great time!

Games

Hot Dogs, Chips

Candy

Potato Sack Races

Door Prizes

Bon Fire with S'mores



VOLUNTEERS and DONATIONS NEEDED

Contact Mattie at
443-975-5020 or

whats.happening@shepherdofthebay.com



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TOMORROW

You're invited!

The **LWMS Heritage Circuit Fall Rally** will be held on Saturday, October 4th at Atonement Lutheran Church in Parkville, MD. Registration and light breakfast starts at 9 am and we will be done around 3 pm. More information can be found at LWMSheritage.org

What is LWMS? The Lutheran Women's Mission Society is an organization of the WELS for all women to participate. LWMS wants to encourage women (and men) to learn about, pray for, and financially support WELS mission efforts in North America and around the world. We have sisters and brothers who share our faith in over 60 countries around the world.

We are very excited about our Speaker, Missionary Joel Nitz as he will be presenting on Grace to All in Asia. We will learn about Vietnam, Nepal, and India. Due to security reasons, Missionary Nitz's morning presentation can only be seen in person. For those who livestream, the Rally link(s) will begin at 12:15 pm and can be accessed at LWMSheritage.org. If you are interested in attending this rally, please speak with Pastor or Elaine.

THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

BY PASTOR NATHAN WONG

Unusual Kindness

In 2022, my wife and I attended a WELS church in Wisconsin on a slushy day in the spring. The music? Beautiful. The sermon? Excellent. Our prayers and praise? Uplifting! Everything about our worship that morning was great except for one thing: our welcome. The sad truth is that from the moment we stepped into the church to the moment we walked out, not a single person greeted us or even took time to say 'hello.' As you can imagine, it was very disheartening. We had consumed a five-star meal of spiritual food throughout the service but ended up leaving with a sour taste in our mouths. Why? Because no one showed us kindness.

Kindness is key – a necessary ingredient in God's recipe book for his people. Our God isn't merely concerned that we ponder and proclaim the gospel in truth. He's also mindful that we do so with kindness. Listen to Paul's encouragement to an early, Christian church: "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." (Col. 3:12 – NIV)

You have heard it said that 'one act of kindness goes a long way' and that today, 'kindness is rare.' According to Paul, kindness ought to be a something we wear every day! When you get dressed in the morning, don't just put your socks on. Add kindness as a layer to your outfit. Accessorize with kindness (not just speaking to the ladies of our congregation).

When we left that church in Wisconsin, how likely do you think it was that we come back the following Sunday? Well, certainly less likely than if someone had taken the time to greet us. It's not hard, is it? "Hi! How are you? I'm _____, it's great to meet you! Are you from here? ... and so on."

Kindness matters. Can we as God's holy people gathered at Shepherd of the Bay, follow Paul's exhortation? To an extent, we already are. "Pastor, you (meaning, y'all) have such a nice and welcoming church here." I hope that y'all take that as a compliment.



"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."

~(Col. 3:12 – NIV)

People want to feel welcome when they come to church, whether for the very first time or whether it's the 586th time they've come to God's house. And I pray that our kindness is continued and contagious.

Could we make becoming an exceptionally kind congregation a goal of ours in October? Actually, why stop there? How about for the next church year, beginning in November? Now we're talking! What if we could be so bold and motivated that we make kindness a landmark of our church forever? Lord willing, if we are still worshipping in this building in 2030, may every single person who enters the front doors be welcomed with unusual kindness. Please consider how can you clothe yourself with kindness, compassion, humility, gentleness, and patience on a Sunday morning. If you see someone you don't know, tell them that you're happy that they are here! Introduce yourself, learn their name, ask about their story. Invite them to stick around after church for coffee and refreshments! Tell them that you hope to see them next Sunday because, after all, that's the truth. We hope everyone comes to hear once again about the love of God in Jesus Christ. God gives us enough reason to be kind to others: God has been unbelievably kind to us in sending a Savior from sin. Moreover, He commands us to be kind!

When a person goes to a new church for the first time, he isn't always welcomed with genuine kindness. As we continue to serve and connect with our community, wouldn't it be a blessing to build that positive reputation? Only God knows the fruit that may come from a reputation as the "unusually kind" congregation. Our hearts will overflow with kindness as we remember the all-so-important truth at the beginning of this Bible verse: that God has made each of us holy and He dearly loves us.

Prayer:

Compassionate and Kind Father, we praise you for your kindness to us, not treating us as our sins deserve, but punishing your Son for us. In your mercy, hear our prayers. Cause your Word to work genuine kindness in our hearts, that in all we say and do, we reflect your kindness to all those around us. Through our kindness to others, lead more and more people to see the goodness of God to the glory of your name. Amen.

I humbly share that our operating account continues to be drawn down, as offerings in September once again fell short of our monthly expenses. This month, we experienced a deficit of \$3,318. Since the beginning of the year, our expenses have exceeded offerings by \$20,906. We remain committed to careful stewardship. The only expenses paid this month beyond our essential "Must Pay" list were Mission Offering to the Synod – \$765 and Lightbulbs & ballast – \$78.

As a result, our operating account now stands at \$7,127—well below the \$15,000 typically needed to meet our regular obligations. This also includes using \$5,000 of the \$12,000 we borrowed from our capital improvement fund to help bridge the gap. Looking ahead, we are grateful that a \$23,176 CD will mature in November. These funds will be transferred into our operating account to help sustain our ministry in the coming months.

We ask for your continued prayers—for wisdom and discernment for our church council as they make decisions about our financial resources, and for the overall financial health of our congregation. May God continue to provide for us so that we may faithfully carry out His work and share the Good News of Christ.

WE WARMLY INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT QUARTERLY INFORMATION MEETING ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26TH,
WHERE WE WILL SHARE FURTHER UPDATES AND ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.

SHEARING TIME, Financial Reports

BY SEAN CASE, TREASURER

Cumulative Activity through September	Budgeted	Actual	Delta	Actual vs Budget
Offerings	\$154,500	\$130,413	-\$24,087	-16%
Expenses	\$154,500	\$151,319	-\$3,181	-2%
Net	\$0	-\$20,906		

FOOTPRINTS IN THE FIELD EVENTS HELD IN THE LAST MONTH

SotB Book Club - September 24 12 PM

For September we read *Letters of Trust*
by Wanda Brunstetter

Our Co-Host Jennifer Case made the pie from the book for our snack - it was amazing!

The book for October is
The Visitation by Frank Peretti

Join us for discussion
October 22 at 12:00 PM



CHURCH PICNIC

September 7

We had such a wonderful time at the annual church picnic. Even though it rained, we were able to quickly pivot and move the festivities indoors and everyone enjoyed some excellent food and terrific fellowship.



CHURCH CLEAN UP DAY

September 6

So many volunteers came and worked hard to make our grounds beautiful heading into the fall season. Thank you all for an amazing job!



LADIES ARTS AND FELLOWSHIP

September 6

The ladies met to start our holiday outreach project, *Hats for the Homeless*. We are crocheting or knitting hats to be given to Project Echo on December 3, 2025. Our goal is to collect 50 hats. If you would like to participate please talk to Mattie.



NEW PASTURES

UPCOMING EVENTS



It's time again for our Thanksgiving Feast



November 23

11:45 AM

Speak with Lenore Blevins
to let her know what you can bring!

LADIES ARTS AND FELLOWSHIP

November 1

1 - 3 PM

Join us for some holiday fun
and make some Christmas
themed crafts! It's a great
opportunity for fellowship
and fun! Can't wait to see
you there!

**GRANT & ANNA
WILLIAMS
WELCOME
DEAN DAVID WILLIAMS
SEPTEMBER 26, 2025**



Words from the Well

Bear with each other and forgive one another if
any of you has a grievance against someone.

Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Colossians 3:13

mornings with mommy

*Mornings with Mommy isn't preschool, and it isn't childcare,
it's something different!*

WHAT IS IT: Mornings with Mommy is a fun and
easy way for you to enjoy activities with your
children and meet other Moms. Educational play-
dates with Mommy (or Dads or other caregivers!)
for infants through pre-kindergarten. Each session
has a different theme:

October 16 - FALL FUN

November 20 - MUSIC + INSTRUMENTS

WHERE: *Shepherd of the Bay* @ 9463 HG Trueman
Rd, Lusby, Maryland

WHEN: 9:30am to 10:30am

COST: \$5 per family

REGISTRATION: Advance online registration is
required ([click here to register!](#))



			1	2	3	4 8:30 - 10am Men's Breakfast 9am - 3pm LWMS Rally
5 9:30 - 10:15am Adult Bible Study & Sunday School 10:30 - 11:30 am Worship with Holy Communion	6 5:30 - 6:30pm Bible Information Class	7	8	9 6 - 7pm Church Council Meeting	10	11
12 9:30 - 10:15am Adult Bible Study & Sunday School 10:30 - 11:30 am Worship	13 5:30 - 6:30pm Bible Information Class	14	15	16 9:30 - 10:30am Mornings with Mommy	17	18 8:30 - 10am Men's Breakfast
19 9:30 - 10:15am Adult Bible Study & Sunday School 10:30 - 11:30 am Worship with Holy Communion	20 5:30 - 6:30pm Bible Information Class	21	22 12-2pm So1B Book Club	23	24 5 - 7:30 pm Fall Fest	25
26 9:30 - 10:15am Adult Bible Study & Sunday School 10:30 - 11:30 am Worship	27	28	29	30	31	

Bible Study Series: "Christ Through Us"

You've seen that slogan now in the WELS Connection and on the cover of the new pictorial book in the hallway. Christ Through Us tracks the 175-year history of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Join us as we dive into our synod's history. This study highlights not only the blessings God has poured out on the synod as it carries out its mission across the nation and the world but also the theological and cultural challenges that refined WELS into a distinctly Christ-centered, confessional Lutheran church body.



WE'RE ON THE WEB
WWW.SHEPHERDOFTHEBAY.COM

Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church

Pastor Nathan Wong
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cell: 507-995-5978
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Adult Bible Study at 9:30am

**Sunday Worship
at 10:30am (livestream)**



Shepherd of the Bay Annual Fall Festival

Join us

Friday, October 24

for an amazing evening of,
food, fun, and s'mores!



9463 HG Trueman Road
Lusby, MD 20657

*Growing
Together
in
Faith*