

Week four of our five-week Worship Series looking at our values. LCGS values deep and meaningful relationships that cross generations for the sake of the Gospel, lived through: nurturing faith together. We are reminded of Jesus command to go and nurture disciples, teaching them all that we have learned from him. Paul, in his letter to the church in Corinth, reminds us that we each have a part, this is work we do together.

Greeting – The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be God,
the one who forms us,
✠ Jesus who bears the cross,
the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

Amen.

Let us bow before God in humility,
confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Steadfast and faithful God,
**you have revealed the ways of justice,
yet we fail to follow you.
We are overwhelmed
by the world's violence and suffering.
We are afraid to risk what we have
for the sake of others.**

**For the harm we have caused,
known and unknown, forgive us.
For the unjust demands we place on others
and your creation, forgive us.**

**For the ways we turn away
from you and our neighbor, forgive us.**

**Lead us back to you
and set us on the right path;
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.**

Amen.

Beloved in Christ,
God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.
God's compassion is beyond compare.
In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.
In ✠ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.
Amen.

Gathering Hymn

“Now the Feast and Celebration”

#167

Prayer of the Day

Ever present and renewing God, open the eyes of our hearts and minds to what is new around us. You call us into that holy community of being together. Help us each to see our part in that, and hear the call to nurture our faith together for the sake of the Gospel.

Amen.

Reading from 1 Corinthians 12:12-18, 27-31

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work

powerful deeds? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew 28:11-20

¹¹ While they were going, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests everything that had happened. ¹² After the priests had assembled with the elders, they devised a plan to give a large sum of money to the soldiers, ¹³ telling them, "You must say, 'His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.'" ¹⁴ If this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." ¹⁵ So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story is still told among the Judeans to this day.

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ

Sermon

People of God, grace to you and peace from God, and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. AMEN.

Following Jesus' resurrection there were efforts by those in power to control the narrative of what had taken place. The religious leaders paid the guards to tell a different story than what actually took place. "Tell anyone who asks, 'His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.'"

Those in power did not want word to get out that Christ had risen as he said he would. It would not be good for their position of power for people to hear about that. "And this story is still told among Judeans to this day."

But.

The disciples had their own resurrection encounter. They had their own story to tell. Jesus had come to them, not stolen by them from the tomb, but appearing to them outside of it, in their homes, in their wandering, in their feelings of being lost, in their gardens, wherever they were, Jesus met them.

And so, they were on their way up the Galilee mountain where Jesus had directed them. And it is there that he appears to them.

It is in this encounter that we get perhaps one of the most recognizable things that Jesus says throughout scripture. Right up there with "for God so loved the world that God gave God's only son," and "Love God with all that you are and love your neighbor as yourself," is

"Go and make disciples!"

In Matthew's Gospel these are Jesus last words to his disciples before he ascends into heaven. They would seem to be important words to remember.

The Lutheran Study Bible defines disciples as “students, called for the sake of the world to learn from Jesus and to bear witness to his kingdom.”

Jesus calls us as people of faith to go and make students, called for the sake of the world to learn from Jesus and to bear witness to his kingdom.

If you’ve ever made or grown anything, literally anything, you know that it doesn’t just happen. Whatever it might be, whether a garden, a single plant, a home, a family, or a simple craft, it did not just happen.

Most often, when making something, there is some level of nurturing involved.

Nurture, as a verb, is defined as, “care for and encourage the growth or development of;” and as a noun it is “the process of caring for and encouraging the growth or development of someone or something.”

We, as Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, have defined one of our core values to be “nurturing faith together.”

Nurturing faith is something that just about any church or Christian Community is going to define as a value of theirs. It is the tagline for Luther Park Bible Camp. Nurturing Faith Through Holy Play. We are not alone in declaring that something we will not waver on is nurturing faith, but our true value is found in the word that finishes the statement. Together.

Paul, in his letter to the church in Corinth, (which remember, was a church that was at each other’s throats) reminds them that they are in this together. They are many members but belong to the same body. The body needs the nose just as much as it needs the eyes just as much as it needs the ears. So to is life in Christian Community.

Here in this Christian Community that we call Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd we have discerned that one of our core values is that we nurture, we care for and encourage the growth or development of faith, together.

This means that we don’t *just* nurture the faith of the youngest among us, but we realize that we are all Children of God with a faith that is continually nurtured. Like boy Jesus in the temple last week we are free, at any age, to say that _____ doesn’t make sense in my life of faith. We are free to come to one another, together, and say “I have this question that I am pondering in my life of faith.

And, in those moments we are met with nurturing relationships because we have each been called to nurture disciples, students, called for the sake of the world to learn from Jesus and to bear witness to his kingdom. AND, to teach them everything that we have learned from Jesus.

This world is full of messages, full of narratives that one can find about what it means to be a person of faith, and to be brutally honest many of them may very well make you cringe. So, what are we doing to nurture faith together to ensure that future generations learn from Jesus and bear witness to his kingdom?

How are we living out the promise that God so loved the world that God gave God’s only son?

How are we living out the greatest commandments to love God with all that we are and love our neighbors as we love ourselves?

What is it that we are teaching each other, together?

What are we doing to nurture our faith, together?

Who is telling God’s story today, and what is that story going to be?

Let’s explore this together.

Thanks be to God.

AMEN

Song of the Day

“Break Now the Bread of Life”

#515

Apostle’s Creed

Prayers of Intercession

Trusting in the transformative power of God’s loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

For the church of Jesus Christ in this and every land, that all followers of Christ share the mind of Christ and strive to live together in peace, staying firm in the Lord. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

For green pastures and still waters and all the beauty of the natural world (*local natural areas may be named*), that creation flourishes and humankind lives in right relationship with all you have made. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

For the nations of the world and all who hold positions of authority, that they govern in accordance with God’s vision of justice, providing shelter and refuge to all in need, striving toward the goal of peace and prosperity for all. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

For all experiencing valleys of illness and grief, that they be healed and comforted and find rest in the presence of the Good Shepherd who walks beside them. (*We pray especially for Peyton, Matt, David, Verna, Irene, Clarice, Steve, Kathy, Val, Jacob, Cherri, Keith and JoJo, Bob and Joanne, Bill and Bonnie, Frank and Heather, Bob and Sonja, Bill and Betty, Tom and Kay, Sherm and Mary, Ada*). God of grace,

hear our prayer.

For this community of believers, that wherever there is conflict or discord, the love of Christ may keep us united and make us mindful of all that is true, honorable, just, pure, pleasing, commendable, and excellent. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

In thanksgiving for the beloved saints who now rest in your mercy, that their faithful witness guides your church until the day we join them at your heavenly feast. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Offering

Offertory Prayer

God of power, God of plenty,
all things belong to you.

We bring your gifts to the table,
that all might be fed.

Form us into the body of your Beloved,
Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

Communion **#471 & #474 vs. 1,2**

Prayer

Blessed be your name, O God,
for we have feasted on your Word,
Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.
Strengthened by this food,
send us to gather the world to your banquet,
where none are left out and all are satisfied.
Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. God is at work in you.
Okay! We will! Thanks be to God!
And all of Good Shepherd said...
AMEN!

Sending Song **“Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises”** **#535**

Blessing

The God of glory,
✠ Jesus Christ, name above all names,
and the Spirit who lives in you,
bless you now and forever.
Amen.

If you have prayer requests or needs that we can help with, please contact one of us.
pastorlcgsec@gmail.com or lcgseauclaire@gmail.com.

October Financial Snapshot

Your Generosity in Action:

Generosity isn't just about money. We are blessed with a wonderful group of volunteers that make this place run. Monday mornings is when many (but definitely not all) of them can be found here. We paused this week for a delicious treat!



THANK YOU!!

Through October 11

Total Revenue **\$13,451**

3 Sunday Offerings Remain

Total Expenses **\$7,045**

Last October: \$21,632

Difference to date:
\$6,406

Trunk or Treat

Saturday, October 28
2-4 pm
Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd parking lot

If you'd like to decorate your trunk, email: lcsfaithform@gmail.com

Have you remembered Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in your will or estate plan?

When you make or revise your will or estate plan, or review your life insurance or retirement fund beneficiaries, please consider naming Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd/Endowment as one of your beneficiaries.

The use of the following sample bequest language will ensure that your gift is directed appropriately:

I hereby leave
(% of estate/dollar amount/residue of my estate,% or residue) of my estate/trust to
Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd/Endowment
1120 Cedar St. Eau Claire, WI 54703
to be used in such a manner as outlined in the LCGS Gift Policies
(or designated for a specific purpose)