

September 2016

The Staff

The Newsletter of Shepherd of the Glen Lutheran Church

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Sunday Worship & Sunday School 9:30 AM



A community of Christians, called Together by the Holy Spirit, where all people Can come to know God's grace and grow in Faith, give and receive The love of Jesus Christ And of one another, and Serve one another and The community in which We live."

Right now as I write, we're in the middle of a record heat wave. But the other day I saw it—the first red leaf, a sign of changing seasons whatever the temperature feels like. And when I dashed into Target the other day, the school supply aisle was hopping. Watching the parents and kids buying pencils, paper, crayons, notebooks take me back to when my kids were in school! Those last couple weeks before school started were always a time when we suddenly realized that we had things on our summer “bucket list” that we hadn't gotten around to. Summer seemed so endless on that last day of school in June. We were busy over the summer, for sure, but aside from a week of camp here and a few swim lessons there, there weren't as many time deadlines, and so despite all my good intentions to stay on a reasonable schedule over the summer, we didn't. We got lazy and we loved it. The long days encouraged us to stay up late, because, hey, we can sleep in, right? It was great--until that rude awakening the first day of school when the alarm went off.

But, I have to admit, even as someone who hates alarm clocks, it was good to get back to the routines of the school year. We need a change of pace from the routine, but we also need structure in our lives.

The ancient people who expressed their faith in God in the creation story we have at the very beginning of the Bible knew this. There is an orderly-ness—a routine-- to it all: out of the watery darkness and void God calls out day and night, water and dry land, plants bearing seed, sunshine and starlight, fish in the sea, animals on the land, and human beings. There was a time for working and a time built in for resting. At each step “There was evening and there was morning,” and a new day. There was an order to it all, a structure that creation could grow on.

We all need some order and routine in our lives, not to confine or constrain us, but to give us a structure from which we can grow. We need this to get to school or work on time and get something accomplished with our time, and we need it in our spiritual lives as well. We need the orderly routine of prayer, scripture reading, worship and fellowship with others in our faith community so that we can grow closer to God and to each other. Whether this September brings a return to school, a new adventure at college, a return to work or simply an anticipation of changing seasons, I encourage you to get into a routine that will feed your growth as a follower of Jesus. We'll be starting a new Bible Study after worship on Sunday September 4 to look at the "other" lectionary readings and I hope you'll plan to make it part of your Sunday routine. Those passages were written as God's people struggled to find their way to live faithfully, often in a changing world, just as we are doing at SOTG, particularly in this time of interim transition.

On Sunday, August 28, we will have blessed new school supplies as well as the students and teachers themselves. There's so much promise in those new school supplies, and so much growth that will be happening in the daily routines of getting up, going off to school.

As we move into the Fall season, my hope and prayer for you is that you'll find renewed growth in faith in the routines of your day.

Peace+
Pastor Susan

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lectionary Alive beginning September 4 Each Sunday, we share a common lectionary with other churches and we all read the same passages from the Old Testament, Psalms and Epistles (letters written to the churches formed in the first years after Jesus' resurrection) as well as a gospel reading. We often gloss over the first readings in favor of the gospel, but they are full of relevant wisdom for our times and situation. Beginning September 4 after the fellowship time, we will have a study/discussion on those *other* readings, the ones we often overlook or don't understand. We'll look at the background/context of the reading, then consider the following:

1. What does the reading say about the people/time/place where it was written and heard?
2. How does this apply to the situation in our world today?
3. How does this apply to our church/congregation?
4. How does this apply to me?

Please consider staying for a short while after church on Sunday to explore the richness of scripture for us today. We will not meet September 25 because we'll all be enjoying the church picnic.

BOOK SALE COMING UP

Just to remind everyone that the 21st annual book sale is coming very soon. The committee members are hoping that all who are physically able will make it a point to get to church on SUNDAY SEPT. 11. That is our D-DAY when we need all hands on board to help us set up for the sale. The sale will be open to the public on Thur.15th, Fri.16th from 3-7pm, & Sat. 17th from 9am-3pm Bag Sale all day. The committee members will continue setting up on Monday while a dealer arrives from NYC to pay us \$300 to be first + payment for all he purchases. We will continue setting up on Tue. while we have a dealer come from WVA & a record dealer, who came last year bought \$167 worth of records & paid \$320 for them. On Wed. we will have all the other dealers in the Baltimore, Washington, & Delaware areas here from 9am- 1pm. That means that as usual the members of the committee will be working every day that week. If you are physically able to come during the public hours of sale & straighten up books that are displaced & assist the buyers with any questions they might have, it would be greatly appreciated. Our group of full time workers is much smaller this year. Speak to Carole Kramer if you think you can help. Don't forget we will need help at cleanup time on Sat. 2:45 pm. We usually can do that job in 1-1 1/2 hours.

Thank you, Carole Kramer

Outdoor Worship and church picnic September 25 One of the assets of our church is the beautiful grounds, so why not praise God right outside our own doors? Weather permitting, we will have an outdoor worship service followed by a church picnic. Dress casually and let nature be our cathedral. We'll need help setting up that morning and help with the food. There are sign-up sheets on the bulletin board to bring a pot luck dish to share, and we need at least a couple people willing to bring a grill and cook some burgers. Please let Pr. Susan, Linda K or one of the deacons know ASAP if you can help.

Opportunities to volunteer: Your help is greatly appreciated. *Thank you.*

First Sunday Fellowships – the next fellowship will be September 4th and will continue with every first Sunday thereafter. Signup sheet is on the bulletin board next to the kitchen.

Sunday school begins September 18! The signup sheet for teaching and/or assisting volunteers is posted on the bulletin board next to the kitchen.

Stop by Dunkin Donuts at Rt 97 and 144 Friday mornings from 10-11 AM. Pastor Susan is "in" to chat, pray and connect with you or anyone who the Holy Spirit sends by.

Thank you to all who donated and/or served at Route 1 Day Center. Your generosity was abundantly appreciated. ***And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'*** (I can't improve on that verse. 😊)