

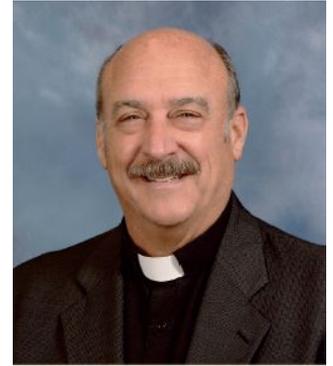


The Shepherd's Voice

February 2022



PASTOR'S PAGE



As I write this note to all of you, I am undergoing a bit of a rough time right now. It is caused by the pain of grief. Michael's ongoing challenges have both Linda and I frustrated and sad. Compound that with the fact of the challenges caused by the ongoing (and lingering) pandemic. We have lost friends suddenly and unexpectedly. A few of our friends have moved away from this area to live closer to their families. We have a couple more friends that will be leaving us very soon. It is getting to be a bit too much! I know that what I have written may sound a bit petty and selfish but, right now, it is the truth. "How long O Lord?"

In the midst of this, I was reading one of the Gospel stories that we will hear in worship. I cannot help but find some inner peace in this story. It is the account of Jesus telling his disciples that he is going to suffer, be rejected by the religious leaders, chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed. Peter pulled Jesus aside and "rebuked him" to which Jesus in turn rebuked Peter by saying, "Get behind me, Satan!" Then Jesus goes on to tell the disciples and the crowd which had gathered that "If any want to become my followers, let them take up their cross and follow me."

It has been my experience over time that some people hear these words as a call to be patient in the face of long-suffering illness, injury or some just cause while others have understood it to be justification to remain in an abusive relationship and understand their situation as "their cross to bear". Others will hear the promise that all things, even something as awful as the cross, work together "for the good of the one who believes" (Rom. 8:28) and so Jesus' words invite us to take up our cross trusting that God is in control. I have witnessed that counsel provides comfort during difficult times. Others I have encountered take a more introspective approach and have asked the question of themselves what things we've used to try to save our lives instead of giving ourselves over to the difficult work of justice and asking whether we are ashamed of Jesus's words.

I have my own way of understanding Jesus's words in this particular story. The way I understand what Jesus is saying is that amid the brutality and violence that seem to permeate the world, we are being asked to be willing to embrace the pain of others - rather than explain it, simply seek to comfort it, fit it into some larger plan, or even merely decry it – trusting that God is in the midst of our brokenness, working for and calling us to life.

Just maybe Jesus points out that to live is to struggle, to hurt, and to experience loss and brokenness. I have been struck over my years of ministry that perhaps the one thing that unifies us most fully is that each of us has experienced brokenness: it may be the abandonment of a parent, the betrayal of a loved one, the loss of a child, the death of a dream, the oppression of those who hold power over us, or any number of other things.

I have also been struck by the reality that on most occasions we would prefer to hide that brokenness from others. Perhaps that desire comes from a kind of embarrassment - we do not know if others will respect us if we show our wounds. Or perhaps it comes from a fear of being vulnerable - we wonder if others will take advantage of us when our guard is down. Or perhaps it comes from a fear of being overwhelmed by our loss and grief. I don't know; I suspect it is all of these and more. But I do know that we tend to favor strength, health, and self-sufficiency, or at least the appearance of these things, over weakness, pain, and dependence.

But while this predisposition may be understandable, I think that ultimately, we are called to take up our cross expecting that God is most clearly and fully present in the suffering and brokenness of the world. We are called to take up our cross by being honest about our brokenness and thereby demonstrate our willingness to enter into the brokenness of others. We are called to take up our cross because we follow the One who not only took up his cross, but also revealed that nothing in this world, not even the hate and darkness and death can defeat the love and light and life of God.

Denying brokenness and pain may indeed be so incredibly understandable. Just as understandable as Peter being struck sideways by the possibility that God's promised Messiah had come not to conquer and rule but rather to suffer and die. No wonder Peter rebuked Jesus. Peter knew where to look for God and it was in places of strength. For this reason, he could only imagine that grief, loss, betrayal, suffering, and death were things to avoid at all costs because they seemed to him to be, quite literally, God-forsaken. Yet in the cross God demonstrates that there is no place God refuses to go in the quest to love and redeem us.

Yet here we should be both clear and careful: entering into another's pain and loss is not the end of the story. When we embrace each other's brokenness, we experience first that God is with us through the cross and then also hear and experience God calling us to life and courage in and through the resurrection. How that resurrection call will take shape is hard to predict. Perhaps it will be to believe without question the person who has shared a story of sexual assault or to stand unflinchingly with a person seeking fair treatment. Perhaps it will be to keep faith with the one who no longer remembers you because of dementia or to hold vigil with the one near death's door. Perhaps it will be to call for action when action needs to be taken. Perhaps it will be to share the outrage and demand for change that has taken place in our society in the last couple of years.

However, God's cross and resurrection call comes, embracing another's pain and will not stop with "thoughts and prayers" but moves also to love for, as well as action with and on behalf of, those for whom we are praying.

Why? Two reasons. First, I don't think we can stand with people by standing over them. What I mean by that is reaching from our place of strength to comfort or help them. We meet people most truly when we admit and embrace that we are like them. Second, when we discover that God is not absent but indeed fully and powerfully present in our brokenness, it transforms how we look at everything, and emboldens us in the struggles of this life. After all, if loss and suffering and death cannot separate us from God's love, then what is there to fear?

This is not an easy road, but it can start – actually needs to start – by recognizing that what unites us – to each other and to the God we know in and through Jesus – is our suffering. Suffering that should not be glorified but yet is nevertheless hallowed by God's commitment to be joined to it. Can we – will we – make room for the God of the Cross and Resurrection to encounter, call, and eventually transform us and the people of our congregation? This is the road we all travel and I cannot imagine taking this road without all of you.

Pastor Dennis

**Bear one another's
burdens,
and in this way
you will fulfill
the law
of
Christ.**

Galatians 6.2



Deacon's Corner



Joy

Joy to the World, the Lord is come. We sing this every Christmas Season. How can we be joyful in the world today? Drugs, gang violence, high divorce rates, high suicide rates, on and on, how can we experience JOY?

In his letter to the Philippians, the apostle Paul speaks about Joy and the Christian response to Jesus. Paul writes, "Rejoice in the Lord always." This is one of those times when we are told to do something. It's a Christian imperative. A Christian can't not rejoice. We are to rejoice always—not sometimes, periodically, or occasionally. Then he adds, "Again, I say rejoice!" Paul wrote this letter from prison, and in it, he addresses some truly grave matters such as the possibility that he might be martyred - poured out as a sacrifice. Yet he tells the Philippian believers that they must rejoice despite his situation.

So, how can we be joyful as a matter of discipline or of the will? How is it possible to be joyful all the time?

The key to Christian joy is its source, which is the Lord. If Christ is in me and I am in Him, that relationship is not a sometimes experience. The Christian is always in the Lord, and the Lord is always in the Christian. In Baptism, we have the promise of the Holy Spirit, and we are then a member of the body of Christ. In the Easter resurrection, we have the promise of eternal life because we are Baptised into a resurrection like his. That is always a reason for Joy. Even if the Christian cannot rejoice in his situations, if he (she) finds themselves passing through pain, sorrow, or grief, they can still rejoice in Christ. We rejoice in the Lord, and since He never leaves us or forsakes us, we can rejoice always.

Deacon Rick



Church Council News



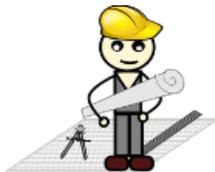
President's Update:

Many of you may remember that we, as a Congregation, overwhelmingly approved a line of credit loan back when things were “normal”. Well, we are approaching the time when we will have to start paying back the line of credit.

However, before we concern ourselves with paying back, you might wonder on what the funds were expended. Over the almost two years of remodeling we have:



- Completely torn out and rebuilt the kitchen. I think the only item that remained was the dishwasher. We replaced all the cabinets and cupboards, the refrigerator, sinks, stove, and oven. We also installed garbage disposals and an ice maker.
- The library was completely refurbished and organized.
- The Fellowship Hall was painted and vertical blinds installed. The windows that at one time were exterior windows and later became a glass wall between the Fellowship Hall and the classrooms, have now been covered.



- The Media Center has been enlarged and a multitude of equipment has been purchased and installed. Thankfully, we had acquired the equipment that allowed live broadcast of our worship service during the pandemic.



Applying Biblical Principles

A recent Gallop poll suggests that 95% of people in America believe in God. However, a great many Christians have either stopped serving Him or have quit going to church altogether. In fact, in many communities across North America, 50-60 percent of adults are unchurched.

We can speculate on some of the reasons for this, starting with the idea that many people have stopped going to church because the language they hear there about God neither matches the reality of their lives nor feeds the hunger of their hearts.

Others may have had a bad experience in their desire to serve the Lord. Maybe someone spoke sharply to them and hurt their feelings, or another Christian disappointed them. Maybe a pastor or a lay leader expressed strong criticism of what they were doing and how they were doing it. Maybe there was no financial support for their work.

Others may have had the wrong motivation for their service in the first place. Maybe they were motivated out of a fear of God and got involved because they were wrongly convinced that if they didn't serve, God would somehow judge and punish them.

Still others may have been burned by "worm theology", where their preachers espoused a fear-based gospel full of hell-fire and damnation. The more they went to church, the worse they felt about themselves. Maybe they were told that as a member of a particular church, they were saved but everyone else is going to hell - this tenet also relies on the factor of fear.

What's the cure for this type of negative fear-based thinking? Rather than being motivated by fear, why not be motivated by the love of Christ? Second Corinthians 5:14 puts it this way: "For the love of Christ urges us on." Instead of being motivated by fear, we are to be motivated by Christ's love for us. We do what we do (which we usually call "good works") not because we have to or because we are afraid not to. We do what we do out of a sense of gratitude for the love of God in Christ Jesus. Christ left heaven's glory to die on the cruel cross of Calvary for our sins. His love for us prompted Him to do that.

What should be our response to Christ's love for us? 1 John 4:19 gives the answer: "We love [Christ] because He first loved us." In other words, when we realize Christ's love for us, we respond by loving Him.

But what does that mean in practical terms? How do we express our love for the Lord in response to the love shown to us? We do this by serving in Christ's kingdom with whole-hearted devotion.

Does that mean we will never be discouraged by the actions of other people? Not at all. Does it mean we will always be upbeat and positive about our Christian service experiences? Not really. Does it mean we will never be tempted to quit or to drop out? Probably not.

It does mean, however, that when we are ready to voluntarily serve our Lord, we should remember Christ's love for us. We are to contemplate all that He has done for us. We are to realize afresh what He suffered for our sins, "...the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God" (1 Peter 3:18). When we do this, when we fully realize just what He sacrificed for us, we will rededicate ourselves anew to the task(s) which God sets before us and we will begin and continue to be actively involved in the work and ministry here at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. That realization of God's great love for us will give us the motivation we need to "... not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest-time, if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:9).

Shelly Fortin, Stewardship

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HELP WANTED

A Listing of Opportunities to Serve Our Lord and Have Fun Doing It at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is included in this edition of the Newsletter. Please prayerfully consider volunteering for one or more of these positions.

We especially need volunteers to pick up Bread at Publix on Saturday evenings, and/or deliver it to Citrus United Basket (and on alternating weeks, to the Family Resource Center) on Monday mornings.

If you would like to help build our church family, please consider taking on the role of Chairperson for the Evangelism Committee.

Opportunities to Serve Our Lord and Have Fun Doing It!

| Committee | Leader | Contact # | Volunteer Position Descriptions |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| WORSHIP | | | |
| Altar Guild | Anne Neville | 352-601-0622 | Altar Vestments, Set-up Communion, Clean Up, Candles |
| Worship Assistants | Lisbeth Goetter | 352-419-6260 | Worship Assistants, Readers |
| Crucifers | Deacon Robert Bonomo | 352-220-4307 | |
| | Deacon Rick Mainster | 352-207-8140 | |
| Eucharistic Minister | Sandra Gumm | 352-527-8474 | Take communion to people unable to attend services |
| Flower Committee | Jane Isenstead | 352-513-4205 | Order Appropriate Flowers as Needed, Placement, Distribution After Service |
| Funerals | Mary Krol | 352-270-8316 | |
| Greeters | Gerri Fallanca | 352-637-2663 | Greeters for Early Service, Greeters for Late Service |
| Ushers | Dan Cashman (Early Service) | 352-419-4356 | Light candles, seat, & count attendees |
| | Don Schroeder (Late Service) | 352-634-2642 | " |
| | Harv Johnson (Late Service) | 352-270-0635 | " |
| MUSIC | | | |
| Bell Choir Adult & Youth | Renate Williams Slick | 352-228-7809 | |
| The Flock | Renate Williams Slick | 352-228-7809 | |
| Soloist (Vocal or Instrumental) | Renate Williams Slick | 352-228-7809 | |
| Choir or Early Morning Singers | Roger Johnson | 352-746-7321 | |
| STEWARDSHIP | | | |
| Annual Campaign | Shelly Fortin | 352-587-7007 | Annual Campaign Posters, Mailings, Temple Talks |
| FINANCE | | | |
| Counters | Louise Osborn | 352-746-2405 | Counters - Sunday Offering (Counted after second service) |
| TECHNOLOGY | | | |
| Media Booth | Fran Stetson | 352-419-7227 | Media Center (Tape/Sound, Video, Lighting, Church Web Site, YouTube, Facebook) |
| FELLOWSHIP | | | |
| Coffee Hours | Betty Sanger | 352-446-0638 | Set Up and Clean Up |
| Bereavement | Mary Krol | 352-270-8316 | Set Up and Clean Up |
| Tag Sale Fundraiser | Gloria Peterson | 763-785-6910 | Coordinators, Publicity, Set Up, Clean Up |
| Member Get-Togethers Offsite | Lisbeth Goetter | 352-419-6260 | Tues 7:30 AM Breakfast @ Mama's Kuntry Kafé, First Thurs Noon Lunch at Angelotti's Pizza |
| Special Events | Betty Sanger | 352-446-0638 | Lenten Suppers, Seder, Advent Potlucks, Breakfast with Friends, Pasta with Pastor, Pastor Appreciation Day, Rally Day Cookout, etc), need Coordinators, Publicity, Set Up and Clean Up, Refreshments, Servers |
| | " | " | |
| | " | " | |
| CHRISTIAN ED | | | |
| Sunday School | Sue Fowler | 352-464-0571 | Sunday School |
| Adult Ed | Tom Clutz | 352-465-8246 | Continuing Adult Education |
| Library Book Donations | Shelly Fortin | 352-587-7007 | Help Log in and Shelve books |
| YOUTH MINISTRY | | | |
| Nursery | Sue Fowler | 352-464-0571 | Nursery Help (prefer teenagers - will satisfy volunteer hour requirements) |
| VBS | " | " | Vacation Bible School (Publicity, Crafts, Snacks, Games) |

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Library Book Donations | Shelly Fortin | 352-587-7007 | Help Log in and Shelve books |
| YOUTH MINISTRY | | | |
| Nursery | Sue Fowler | 352-464-0571 | Nursery Help (prefer teenagers – will satisfy volunteer hour requirements) |
| VBS | " | " | Vacation Bible School (Publicity, Crafts, Snacks, Games) |
| EVANGELISM | | | |
| General Info | Chairperson Needed | | Chairperson position is open – please prayerfully consider taking this on |
| Visitation | | | |
| Sponsors for New Members | | | |
| Piano Recitals | Renate Williams Slick | 352-228-7809 | Greeters, Seaters, Announcers |
| Winter Music Series | Angela Busler | 860-906-8723 | Publicity, Greeters, Seaters, Set Up and Clean Up |
| SOCIAL MINISTRY | | | |
| General Info | Vera Swade | 352-476-9072 | |
| Bread Pick Up | Gerri Fallanca | 352-637-2663 | Drivers to Pick Up at Hernando Publix (Saturday evening) |
| Bread Delivery | " | " | Drivers to Deliver (Monday morning after 10am) to Citrus United Basket (CUB), or Family Resource Center (alternating weeks) |
| " | " | " | |
| Serving Our Savior (SOS) | Amy Gilbert | 352-212-2211 | Food Distribution Set Up (Wednesdays), and/or Distribution (Thursdays) |
| World Hunger | Vera Swade | 352-476-9072 | Annual Spaghetti Dinner Organizer, Publicity, Set Up, Clean Up, Greeters, Servers |
| Quilting | Gerry Kauth | 352-637-2412 | Shelve Fabrics, Measure and Cut, Sewers, Quilters, Folders, Baggers |
| Tea and Coffee Sales | Gerry Kauth | 352-637-2412 | Assemble Personal Care Kits, Assemble Fabric Kits |
| Craft and Share | Maggie Bregger | 352-419-9902 | Pillowcase Dresses, Stuffed Animals for hospitalized children, Assorted Crafts |
| We Care! | Doris Herp | 502-693-8181 | visit sick, take blood pressure, etc |
| Drivers With a Mission | Lynn Bechdolt | 276-252-2960 | Transport Church Members to Hospital and Doctor Visits |
| Prayer Chain | Vera Thorne | 352-726-2527 | |
| WELCA | | | |
| General Info | Shelly Fortin | 352-587-7007 | Vice President position is open - please prayerfully consider taking this on |
| Monday Circle & Bible Study | Nancy Gomes | 352-601-7136 | |
| Wednesday Circle & Bible Study | Maggie Bregger | 352-419-9902 | |
| Saturday Programs | Shelly Fortin | 352-587-7007 | Event leaders |
| WELCA Stewardship Programs | Cindy Gaertner | 860-331-0806 | Rachel's Day (special monetary collection, named charity varies yearly) |
| " | " | " | July Schools Supplies Collection - Packers, Load Trucks, Drivers (Tampa) |
| BUILDING/PROPERTY | | | |
| | Harv Johnson | 352-270-3391 | Handyman, Mowing |
| ENDURING GIFTS | | | |
| | Deacon Robert Bonomo | 352-220-4307 | |
| PASTORAL CARE | | | |
| | Deacon Rick Mainster | 352-207-8140 | |

Welcome aboard Flight 2022!



I am your flight attendant and we are preparing for take off into the New Year. Please make sure that your attitude and blessings are secure and locked in the upright position.

All self-destructive devices and thoughts should be turned off at this time. All negativity and discouragement should be stored in the overhead compartments.

We have removed some of the excess baggage that has been flying with us on Flight 2021 and we're hopeful that our flight to our future destinations will be a better one. Should we lose altitude under pressure during our flight or if we experience turbulence, please reach up and pull down your faith and hope, it'll be tucked in those little compartments that hold those dumb little masks that always drop down during crappy movies that no one ever uses.

When you have your own faith and hope activated you can assist your fellow passengers.

Remember.... this flight we ALL MUST TAKE and we take it together!

We offer NO return policies on time, so make every mile and moment count! All of us now have 364 beautiful, clean, blank pages.

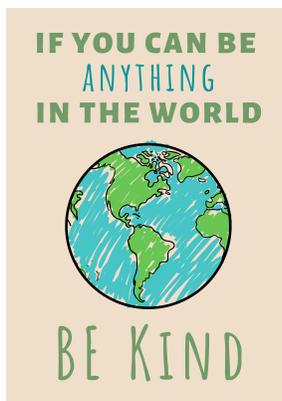
Even though none of us are capable of flying this plane, we can write our own stories.

So I wish you luck in writing the most beautiful and happy chapter of this part of our flight.

And do try to help others struggling with their own stories if you are capable. Kindness can go a long way.

A quiet smile can mean the world to a fellow passenger that is afraid or unsure. And do please remember; the only time you should look down on a fellow passengers is when you are bending down to help them up.

WE HAVE BEEN CLEARED FOR TAKE-OFF!!





Fellowship

The church looked beautiful for Christmas thanks to the helping hands that came for the Greening of the Church. A big thank you to our Building and Grounds team (Harv, Joe, and Randy). We couldn't do it without you. It's not as rewarding to take down decorations, but thank you to those who came to help.

The Bereavement Subcommittee would welcome some additional members to help with Funeral Luncheons. If you are interested, please contact the Chair, **Mary Krol at 270-8316**

The February Tag Sale has been **postponed** and will be at a later date. The Fellowship Committee has put in a request to the Church Council to reschedule it in September. Once a date has been decided and approved, everyone will be updated on the new date and when drop-offs will be received.

It truly takes a village to put on the Tag Sale. Please consider helping with the Tag Sale as you have months to decide.

Please Note: We are not taking furniture, TVs, VHS tapes, cassette tapes. Items should be clean and in working order -- no outdated electronics. If you had any of these with the intent of giving to the Tag Sale, please discard at your discretion. Any questions, contact **Gloria Peterson, 465-1018 or cell 763-785-6910.**

Remember, the money raised goes to a worthwhile charity. The Family Resource Center of Citrus has been designated to receive the donation this year.

Betty Sanger, Fellowship Chair



Serving Our Savior

The dedicated volunteers of SOS Food Pantry were blown away by the response from the congregation of Good Shepherd in their participation of the reverse Advent calendar! The need in Citrus county is great - as evidenced by the fact that we served over 6,000 families last year. It has become increasingly hard to find food sources for our clients, but we have persevered in these unprecedented times giving out approximately 625,000 pounds of food annually.

Thank you good people of Good Shepherd and if you would like to feel the satisfaction of volunteering with us - please consider joining our group!

Sincerely, Maria Cyr - President

SOS Food Pantry
PO Box 640774
Beverly Hills, FL 34464
email sos4food@gmail.com



Social Ministry



**Saturday Night Pick-Up
&
Food Share Monday Delivery**

Bockers



Adopt a Highway Program

Next cleanup scheduled March 6th at 8:00 AM



Building / Property

Not just brains and brawn



Curb moving, pressure washing, and painting over the holidays!



We should never allow a negative experience in serving the Lord to prevent us from seeking and responding to further opportunities for Christian service.

“So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest-time, if we do not give up” (Galatians 6:9).

WECLA NEWS



As a community of women created in the image of God called to discipleship in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.

The January WELCA Board meeting was held on January 4th, 2022. Kathy Metz, GSLC Faith Community Nurse, spoke to us about her new role as teacher and advocate for healthy living. She will be holding programs throughout the year to meet the needs of our church. We are very fortunate to have her serving in this capacity at GSLC.

Also at this meeting, Shelly Fortin presented the preliminary calendar listing for our Saturday events. This was well received and the Board approved going forward with the proposed events.

On January 9th, the 2022 WELCA officers were installed by Pastor Dennis Koch at both the 8:30 and 11:00 AM services. President: Shelly Fortin, Secretary: Anne Storan, Treasurer: Aagot Green, Stewardship and Projects Secretary: Cindy Gaertner, Circle Leaders: Maggie Bregger and Nancy Gomes.



2022 WELCA officers

A combined Circle meeting was held on January 12th and the Bible Study was led by Maggie Bregger. The proposed Saturday event calendar was also distributed and discussed and the women were asked to volunteer as event leaders. Some of the events in 2022 will be limited to WELCA members only, but starting in March, the majority of events will be open to our whole church and their guests, including friends and neighbors. Sign-up sheets for the January and February WELCA-only events were circulated at the January meeting with good response.

The first WELCA-only Saturday event was held on January 22nd. Deacon Robert Bonomo spoke about his faith journey and entertained us with stories from his Catholic beginnings and his recent days at seminary.

Our next WELCA-only Saturday event will be held on February 5th and will kick-off our "You Matter" program for 2022. We will also have a few Valentines themed games and treats for attendees.

The Saturday calendar for the events that will be open to all of GSLC and friends will be published in the March newsletter once all speakers and event dates have been confirmed. One event that you will definitely want to mark on your calendars is our Spring Fashion Show which will be held on Saturday, April 9th from 2 to 4 PM. Sign up sheets for models will be in the Narthex. Models will use clothing from their own wardrobes. The theme will be All Things Spring, so some clothing categories you may see might be Cruise Wear, Spring Weddings, etc. More info to come next month!

The women of GSLC are invited to attend the annual Spring Gathering for the Pinelands Conference on March 19th at Hope in The Villages. More information on this meeting will be forthcoming.

The Vice President position for GSLC WELCA is available for 2022. If you are interested in learning more about this position, or know someone who is looking for a way to "serve the Lord and have fun doing it", call or text Shelly at 352-587-7007.

The February WELCA Board meeting will be held Tuesday, February 1st, at 9:30 AM at Good Shepherd and the March WELCA Board Meeting will be held Tuesday, March 1st at 9:30 AM at Good Shepherd.

Shelly Fortin, WELCA President



MALE AND FEMALE MODELS WANTED!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND SAVE THE DATE!

SATURDAY APRIL 9, 2022 2:00 to 4:00 PM

SPRING/SUMMER FASHION SHOW AT GSLC

Bonnett Washington, a professional NYC Fashion Week expert, will be conducting the show.

WE WILL BE MODELING CLOTHING FROM OUR OWN CLOSETS.

Attendance at rehearsals before the show date will be required.



SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX.

Worship & Music

Feb 1st 10:00 AM - Monthly Meeting



Winter Music Series 2021-2022

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
439 E Norvell Bryant Hwy
Hernando, FLORIDA 34442



Larry Stephenson Bluegrass Band

February 18, Friday, 7pm

[Click for More Information](#)

Johny Carlsson & The MegaBones

Five professional trombone players performing original compositions that characterize jazz from the 50s and 60s.

February 27, Sunday 3pm

[Click for More Information](#)

Special Consensus, Bluegrass Band.

Grammy nominee and IBMA "Best Song of the Year" award winner.

April 29, Friday 7pm

Tickets for each concert are \$15 at the door.

We will be masking and distancing based on current CDC requirements.

Please call, text, or email for confirmation!

For Information contact: Angela Busler, 860-906-8723 (cell), AMBusler@gmail.com

Sponsors: Tom and Barb Laing

CRAFT N SHARE

We will meet next on Wednesday, February 23, 2022 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We will social distance and wear masks. Bring your lunch and a beverage. JOIN US.

In February we will make a simple felt bookmark for our shut-ins and will address a Valentine card to insert the bookmark to mail to our shut-ins. Join us for fun, chatty time.

And if time allows we will start a clothes pin nativity project for Pastor Koch's 'supply'. We will be using our supply of glue guns or bring your own if you have one to use for these projects.

Pam Dionne has made and delivered more knitted neck scarfs and we passed on to her more donated yarn which she will use at home to make more items like lap robes.

Some of our home sewers are working on pillowcase dresses for the Little Dresses for Africa project. We have a goodly supply of donated pillowcases if you would like a pattern to sew some.

We have also sorted items in our Craft closet for the Tag Sale in later this year.

We have patterns for prayer shawls, lap robes, and pillowcase dresses for anyone who likes to work on home projects. If interested, call Maggie 352-860-2215.

We plan to meet on the 4th Wednesday each month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. this year.

Questions? Call Maggie at 352-860-2215.

Lutheran World Relief

February 5th, our church brought many boxes of quilts and care kits to be shipped for Lutheran World Relief. The Gaertner family drove these boxes to Clermont, FL for shipping.

Please stop for a look at the world map and tracking on our quilts. This map is located in the Fellowship Hall. The tracking is a bar code on the poster.

In addition to quilts, we assembled care kits for overseas. See poster for totals of our church donations.

For questions about quilts:

Call Gerry Kauth 352-637-2412.

For questions about this Church wide project :
Email Cindy Gaertner WELCA board member.

<https://lwr.org/quilts>



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

QUILTING GROUP

On Nov. 3rd, we had four quilters and one sewer and we finished 3 full sized quilts. On Nov. 17th, we had five quilters and one sewer and we made 2 quilts. We also put 35 full sized quilts and 49 baby quilts on the pews. They were beautiful. We thank those that helped put on quilts and take them off and box them after church on Sunday.

On Dec. 1st, we had only six quilters and we finished 3 quilts. We folded 29 quilts and put labels in boxes and amount of quilts on the outside of the boxes to ship in Feb.

On Dec. 15th, we had five quilters and one sewer and we finished 4 quilts.

We met on Jan 5th and would like to have more quilters come and work with us. We will meet the first and third Wednesdays of 2022. We meet at 10 AM and will work until 2 PM or as long as we can stay.

Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Gerry Kauth, Chairperson



Photos by Cindy Gaertner

In the Mail Bag



I am so blessed to have been called to such a loving church family here at Good Shepherd. I am deeply humbled by all the beautiful cards, gift cards, gifts, and monetary gifts that I have received! Some of you, I was able to thank in person or with a phone call. Others who wish to remain anonymous, I thank you as well from the bottom of my heart. I love you all!

Renate Williams



*Dear Friends of Good Shepherd,
Linda and I were deeply touched by the outpouring of your gracious gifts at Christmastime.
Thank you for the beautiful cards, treats (which we are still enjoying), sweets, gift cards and
monetary gifts.*

*I am humbled by your expressions, and I thank God for the gift YOU are
to us.*

Pastor Dennis



Dear Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Family,

Thank you to all who attended the funeral of my beloved husband Kenny. The service was beautiful and handled very professionally. A special "shout out" to the kitchen team. Everything went smoothly and everyone enjoyed the meal. At the end of the lunch the kitchen team continued their work by packaging leftovers. We are so fortunate to have this group of dedicated volunteers who made this event successful and very organized.

Gratefully,
Vera K. Swade



To my Good Shepherd family,

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all the Christmas gifts, gift cards, cash, checks, cakes, cookies, candies, hugs and most of all the love and kindness you showered upon me during the holiday season. Your generosity continues to warm my heart and overwhelm me. I thank God daily for the privilege of knowing and serving such a loving congregation. May you receive His love and grace in abundance throughout this new year.

In Christ's love,
Shirley McField



THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS UPDATE



Did you know that 4 times a year THRIVENT posts “Choice Dollars” into each member’s account? These are dividends that can be directed to a deserving non-profit organization. Choice Dollars are awarded to members who either have investments or insurance policies with this 120-year-old fraternal benefit organization. Since the launch of their Choice Charitable Grant Program in 2010, THRIVENT has been helping congregations like Good Shepherd. Just look at what has been accomplished by our members in the past 3 years.

- \$ 2,971.00 = 2019 Choice Dollars directed to our church.
- \$ 1,386.00 = 2020 Choice Dollars were directed, even with church closures due to COVID.
- \$ 1,777.00 = 2021 Choice Dollars directed to our church.

\$ 6,134.00 = TOTAL received by Good Shepherd over the past 3 years

I can think of no other way that’s this easy to support the mission and ministry of this congregation. How easy is it you ask??? Well, I just directed my 2021 “dollars”. Once I was logged into their web site, it took less than ONE MINUTE. So come on and join me by either....

- Going to www.thrivent.com and up in the top right-hand corner you will see a search box. Type in the words “Thrivent Choice” which will then link you to the designation page.

OR

- Call THRIVENT at (800) 847-4836 (M-F: 8am-6pm). When prompted, just simply say the words “Thrivent Choice” and you will be connected to a representative who will assist you.

REMEMBER...All 2021 Choice Dollars expire on **MARCH 31, 2022**. So, it is very important to act now. If you have trouble navigating their web site or have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call me.

Wendy Wolber – (516) 510-3801



Thrivent Choice Dollars

The following Thrivent for Lutheran Members have directed December’s Choice Dollars to be given to Good Shepherd.

Dennis Wayne Koch

Linda C Koch

Memorial and Special Gifts



- S.O.S. Food Pantry by Gary & Sarah Willoughby
- General Fund by Jack & Maggie Bragger in memory of **Ken Swade**
- General Fund by Mike & Angela Busler in memory of **Ken Swade**
- Media Center by John & Melissa Gifford
- S.O.S. Food Pantry by Wendy Wolber
- Capital Improvements by Gladys Kean in memory of **Ken Swade**
- Enduring Gifts by Eric Hahn in memory of **Ken Swade**
- Building/Property by Dell Peterson



Be kind!

"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."
Ephesians 4:32

Special Dates

Black History Month - 1st - 28th

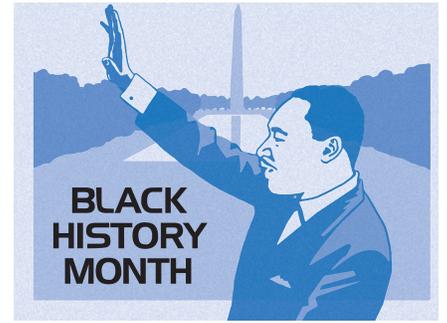
Ground Hog Day - 2nd

WELCA - "You Matter" - 5th

Boy Scout Sunday - 6th

Valentine's Day - 14th

Presidents' Day - 21st



Every Tuesday @ 7:30 AM

Breakfast at Mama's Kuntry Cafe



February 2022

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | 7:30A - Breakfast at Mama's Kuntry Cafe <i>Every Tuesday</i> | 1 9:30A WECLA Board Mtg 10:00A Worship & Music | 2 Ground Hog Day 8:00A - SOS 10:00A- Quilters 1:00P - Newcomer's Club 6:30P - Choir | 3 8:30A - SOS 9:30 A Executive Council Zoom 12 P Lunch Angelotti's | 4 8:00A – Workday on Grounds  | 5 2PM WELCA “You Matter”  |
| 6 8:30 & 11A Worship  Boy Scout Sunday | 7 10:00A – Bible Study | 8 6:30P - Scouts 6:30P- Bells | 9 8:00A-SOS  1:00P - WELCA Bible Study zoom 6:30P - Choir | 10 8:30A- SOS  3:00P Church Council Zoom | 11 8:00A – Workday on Grounds  CCGS Set up | 12 10:00A- 3:00P Genealogical Society |
| 13 8:30 & 11A Worship | 14 10:00A – Bible Study <i>Valentine's Day</i> 1:30P Fellowship Study | 15 6:30P - Scouts 6:30P- Bells | 16 8:00A-SOS  10:00A - Quilters 6:30P - Choir | 17 8:30 A- SOS  | 18 8:00A – Workday on Grounds  Winter Music Series 7:00 P | 19  |
| 20 8:30&11A Worship | 21 10:00A – Bible Study 1:30P - Social Ministry <i>Presidents' Day</i> | 22 6:30P- Scouts 6:30P - Bells | 23 8:00A-SOS  10:00A- Craft n Share 6:30P - Choir | 24 8:30 A- SOS  | 25 8:00A – Workday on Grounds  | 26 |
| 27 8:30& 11A Worship  Transfiguration Winter Music Series 3:00P | 28 10:00A - Bible Study | 29 6:30P- Scouts 6:30P - Bells | | | | |



Let us remember:

| | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| Benefiel, Larry & Karen | Jimenez, Jeannette | Pawelko, Diane |
| Brit-Busler, Elizabeth | Johnson, Carol Lee | Thomas, Maria |
| Burfeindt, Janet | Koch, Dennis,Linda,& Michael | Whitcomb, Ray |
| Clark, Dawn | Lauer, Barbara | Wildman, Joe |
| Dionne, Pam | Lawrence, Ivalee | Wolff, Jack |
| Drennen, Rose & Family | Lepore, Linda | |
| Hartsfield, Sylvia | Masters, Leith | |
| Hassinger, Doug & Donna | Page-Wood, Jeremy | |

Those who are shut in or residing in assisted living homes:

| | | | |
|----------------|-----------|----------------|------------------|
| Hehn, Margaret | Moll, Bob | Phillipp, Dick | Whitcomb, Maxine |
|----------------|-----------|----------------|------------------|

All who serve our country in the military:

| | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Burba, Jake | Holman, Evan | Posa, Codymicheal | Timpe, Chris |
| Ceballos, Jason | Jackson, Brad | Radloff, Steven | |
| Corsino, Mykael | Johnston-Garcia, Christian | Radosevitch, Eric | |
| Day, Kenneth | Luchay, Alan | Seefeld, Jessica | |
| Gaertner, Jerrod | Martin, Aaron | Springer, Dennis | |
| Harrington, Bryan | McCann, Jim | Stroble, Jeramy | |
| Heinz, Karinen | Miller, Tyler | Swain, Jr., Terry | |
| Hickman, Richard | Much, Jason | Thomas, Peter Chris | |
| Hicks, Nathan | Piott, Trenton | Thompson, David | |



Relatives and Friends:

| | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Arbuckle, Amy & Matthew | Burgess, Louise | Crooks, Candi | Gifford, Judy |
| Balastieri, Casey | Burkhardt, Faith | DeGina, Fran & Family | Goetter, Thomas |
| Barber, Steve & Kitty | Campano, Thomas | Dortin, Rachel | Goforth, Jeffrey |
| Beck, Bryan | Cato, Cecelia | Egan, Tom | Goodloe, Ernestine |
| Beeftink, Paul | Cipollone, Elaine | Farmer, Tom | Graves, Janice & Declan |
| Bell, Ian | Clarke, Charlotte | Fidwell, Eloise | Guberman family |
| Blunt, Robert | Clarke, Father Peter | Fowler family | Hertel, Karl |
| Blyth, Ruby | Costa, Denise | Fratto, Joseph | Johnson, Jim |
| Brockschmidt, Donna | Crawford, Cleola | Gaertner, Kent | Kamm, Mike & Nancy |
| Brugger, Tristan | | Garling, John | |

| | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Kraft, Carter | Maidhof, Dexter, Gary, Jeremiah | Rothmeyer, Heidi | Vulkelich, Alejandra |
| Krol, Shirley | McHugh, Mark | Scheetz, Cathy & Family | Wells, Emmarie |
| Krutzikowski, Karl | McPhee, John | Schoenleber, Sara | Wilder, Gayle |
| Lavaja, Jim | Mena, Steve | Sillen, Rita | Williams, Dorothy |
| Lewellen, Emily Anne | Nickerson, Mike & Beth | Small, Brenda & Steven | Wierzel, Rosalee |
| Lobenthal, Jean | O'Berry, Darlene | Stewart, Sam | Wittman family |
| Loftin, Tracy | Page-Wood, Jake | Stuart, Neil & Family | Wood, Rowen |
| Longworth, Kathy | Powell, Bill | Thatcher, Jean | Woods, Donna Jean |
| Lublemon family | Priselac, Lorrie | Thompson, Lori | Wolf, Nick |
| Lundsford, Victoria | Queen, Max | Traywick, Edward | Woolley, Carol & family |
| Magnotta family | Rajotte, Keith | Tuegel, Chuck | Wright, Matthew |
| Magrum, Corbin | Ralph, Bruce | Van Wyck family | Wizard, Joe & Dana |
| Mainster, Arlene | Rambaldini, Jim | Vera, Mireya | Yonker, Veronica |
| Magri, Steve | Rivera, Roberta | Vespa, Hazel | |

ATTENTION: PLEASE READ

Please take this prayer list and use it in your private or family devotions in the coming month. You can see that our congregation has a great many people who are in need of our prayers. We will continue to pray for those folks for as long as they need our prayers. However, **please call the church office by the third Sunday of the month to ask that your loved one or friend be removed from the prayer list - otherwise,** they will joyfully remain on the list. Please let us know if your loved one is no longer serving in the military.

Contact gslchernando@gmail.com for any updates.

Newsletter Editor

We have made it to the 21st century and we are all getting tech savvy, please use your media device to access the newsletter via email or website. You can print out the pages that you need to keep. There are members that do not have computers (or smart phones) and we print it for them so they can get updated on church activities. Some copies are mailed and some are in the Narthex for them. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Newsletter deadline is February 19th.

Stephanie



ALTAR & COMMUNION

FLOWER DISTRIBUTION

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adult Class - Deacon Rick Mainster

Children's Class - Susan Fowler

MONEY COUNTERS

Diane Spengler

Dianne Kohm

Gloria Peterson

GREETERS

USHERS

8:30

Dan Cashman

Bill Mehnert

11:00

Cheryl Cox

Doris Herp

MEDIA CENTER

Fran Stetson

John Gifford

Joe Adams

LECTORS

February 6th

8:30 - Lisbeth Goetter

11:00 - Ginny Gopadze

February 13th

8:30 - Linda Koch

11:00 - Leith Masters

February 20th

8:30 - Ann Neville

11:00 - Sharon Maxwell

February 27th

8:30 - David Sotrines

11:00 - Vera Swade

DEACONS

Serving All Weeks

Deacon Rick Mainster

Deacon Robert Bonomo

NURSERY

Susan Fowler



God's work. Our hands.

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Dennis W. Koch Pastor

Office: 352-746-7161 * Fax: 352-746-5013

Phone: 386-872-1031

E-mail: gslcpastor@outlook.com

Deacon

Rick Mainster

Cell: 352-207-8140

Email: twoboats@tampabay.rr.com

Deacon

Robert Bonomo

Cell: 352-220-4307

Email: deaconbob73@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant

Shirley McField

Phone: 352-746-7161

Email: gschurch@live.com

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Building / Property

Harv Johnson 352-270-3391

Christian Education

Tom Clutz 352-465-8246

Sue Fowler 352-464-0571

Enduring Gifts

Deacon Bob Bonomo 352-746-8171

Evangelism

VACANT

Fellowship

Betty Sanger 352-527-1630

Finance

Louise Osborn 352-746-2405

Mutual Ministry

Mary Krol 352-270-8316

Pastoral Care

Deacon Rick Mainster 352-207-8140

Social Ministry

Vera Swade 352-637-5308

Stewardship

Shelly Fortin 352-587-7007

Worship & Music

Roger Johnson 352-746-7321

Technology

Fran Stetson 352-419-7227

COUNCIL LIAISONS

Building /Property

Randy Wagner 352-270-8485

Christian Education - YOUTH

Dan Cashman 352-419-4356

Enduring Gifts

Joe Adams 352-302-0444

Evangelism

Ann Neville 352-601-0622

Fellowship

Pat Ouwerkerk 352-419-7527

Finance

Kathy Swartz 352-746-5374

Mutual Ministry

Mike Busler 860-906-8234

Pastoral Care

Cathy Heaps 941-586-5376

Social Ministry

Gladys Kean 352-514-6998

Stewardship

Shelly Fortin 352-587-7007

Worship & Music

Jane Isenstead 352-513-4205

Technology

Tom Stickler 610-659-5553

WEBSITE

gshernando.org

Webmaster: Stephanie Adams

NEWSLETTER

gslchernando@gmail.com



Kids Corner



Click link for more activities:

<https://www.sunnydayfamily.com/2018/01/robot-valentine.html>

Puzzle!

Answer each statement (based on Matthew's gospel) True or False by circling the letter in the correct column. Then write each circled letter on the appropriately numbered line below to discover why Jesus died.

| | TRUE | FALSE |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------------|
| 1. Jesus healed Peter's wife <i>(Matthew 8:14).</i> | E | (N) |
| 2. Jesus fed the 5,000 with two loaves and five fish <i>(14:17).</i> | R | A |
| 3. At Jesus' Transfiguration, Peter saw Jonah and Elijah <i>(17:3).</i> | M | S |
| 4. The rich, young ruler decided not to follow Jesus <i>(19:22).</i> | T | C |
| 5. Jesus said the temple had become a "den of robbers" <i>(21:13).</i> | I | G |
| 6. Famines and earthquakes are signs of the end of the age <i>(24:7).</i> | V | D |
| 7. Jesus tells a story of the six wise and six foolish maidens <i>(25:1-13).</i> | F | A |
| 8. Judas betrayed Jesus with a secret handshake <i>(26:48).</i> | P | L |
| 9. The Roman governor Polonius interrogated Jesus <i>(27:11-14).</i> | W | O |
| | | N |
| | 3 | 2 |
| | 8 | 6 |
| | 7 | 4 |
| | 5 | 9 |
| | 1 | |

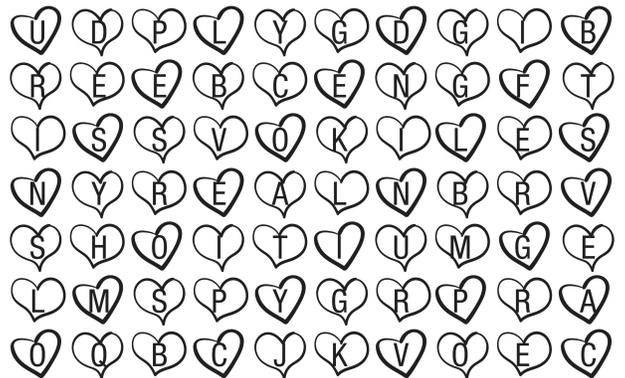
Answer: N, A, S, T, I, V, A, L, O; salvation



The heart of a friend

Big-hearted friendliness comes from generously serving others.

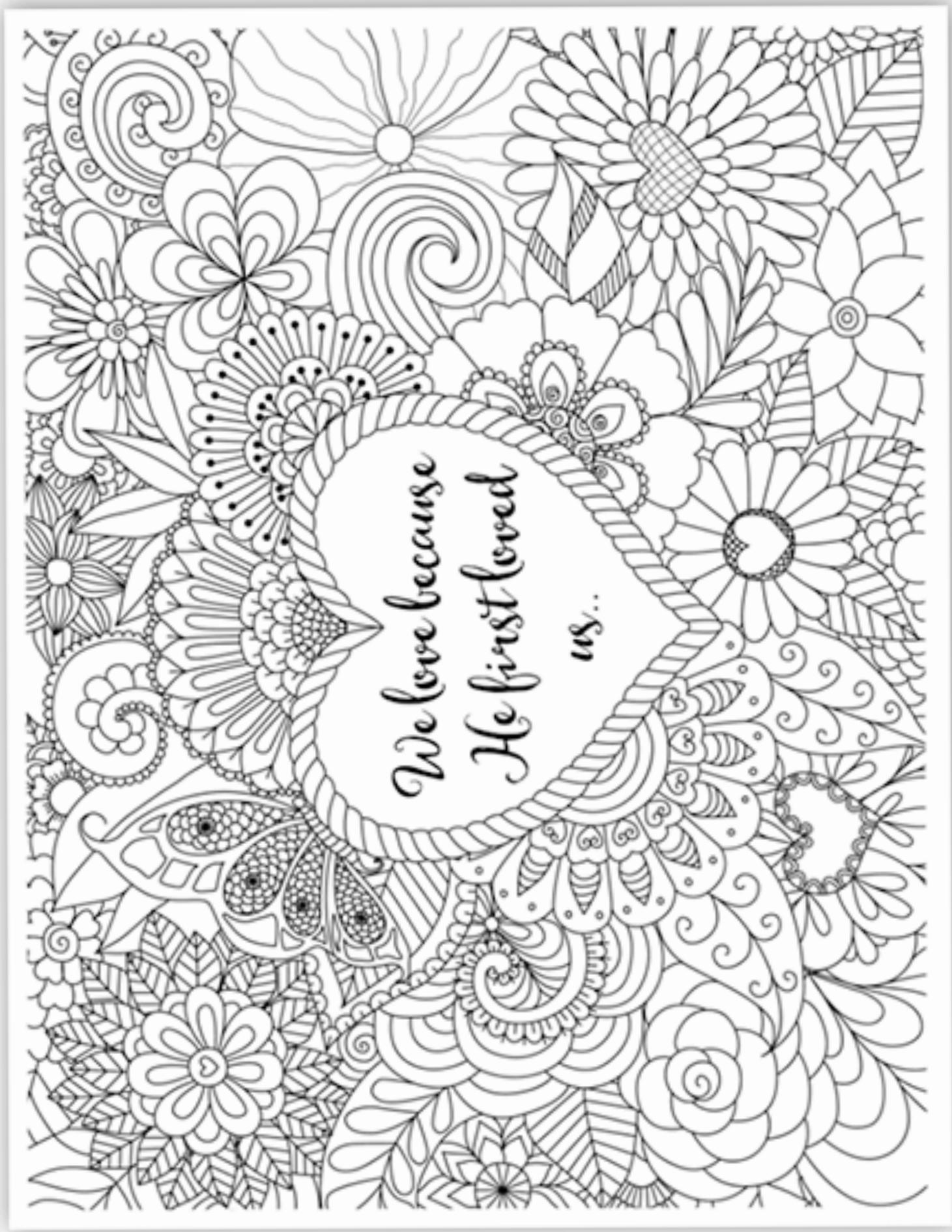
Directions: Start with the first D and move according to the arrows beneath the blanks. Then fill in the letters to complete 1 Peter 4:8-10.



Above all, love each other D , because love
 over a multitude of . Offer
 to one another without
 . Each of you should use whatever
 you have received to others, as faithful
 stewards of God's in its various forms.

1 PETER 4:8-10, NIV

Answer: deeply, covers, sins, hospitality, grumbling, gift, serve, grace



*We love because
He first loved
us..*