LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
THE VOICE

OCTOBER—NOVEMBER 2026

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Life Lessons from the Story of Freddie the Leaf

Dear Friends in Christ,

A while back, I officiated a funeral service for a family member of our church. During that simple graveside service, attended only by close family, a family member read the entire story from the book, *"The Fall of Freddie the Leaf, A Story of Life for All Ages" by Leo Buscaglia, Ph.D.* Many of you may have read it years ago, perhaps even in childhood, but this was my first time hearing it. I found it deeply moving and meaningful on so many levels. Later, I received a copy of the book as a gift from this person. Since then, I've read it three or four times. It truly is that good.

As we enter the fall season, I've been reflecting on how the natural world changes and how we, too, move through seasons, both personally and within our workplace. For those who haven't read it, *Freddie the Leaf* is a gentle story that uses the life of a single leaf to help us understand the seasons we all experience. Through the changes a leaf undergoes, Buscaglia illustrates the delicate balance between life and loss, and how we can still find meaning and purpose at every stage. In all seasons, Freddie is surrounded by friends. But Daniel is his closest companion, offering wisdom and grounding answers to Freddie's questions.

One of their early conversations takes place during summer: Here is quote from the book: "There were many people in the park that Summer. They often came and sat under Freddie's tree. Daniel told him that giving shade was part of his purpose. 'What's a purpose?' Freddie had asked. 'A reason for being,' Daniel had answered. 'To make things more pleasant for others is a reason for being. To make a shade for old people who come to escape the heat of their homes is a reason for being. To provide a cool place for children to come and play. To fan with our leaves the picknickers who come to eat on checkered tablecloths. These are all reasons for being.'" In that moment, Freddie begins to understand that spring, summer, fall, and winter each bring their own opportunity to live out his purpose.

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK (continued)

As fall arrives, Freddie notices his color changing and the air growing colder. He senses that change is happening and turns again to Daniel for guidance. Daniel explains to him the falling of the leaves as dying. And Freddie didn't like death and he asked Daniel: "Then what has been the reason for all of this?" Freddie continued to question. "Why were we here at all if we only have to fall and die?" Daniel answered, "It's been about the sun and the moon. It's been about happy times together. It's been about the shade and the old people and children. It's been about colors in Fall. It's been about seasons. Isn't that enough?" Freddie seemed to be comforted knowing that his life was not in vain and that he made a difference.

Like Freddie, we experience seasons of blossoming, times when work/life feels energizing, our relationship are strong, and the rhythm of the day is steady. And we also experience seasons of transition, new roles, evolving expectations, job changes, or moments when familiar routines shift. These changes can bring uncertainty, curiosity, or even a sense of loss. Yet the story reminds us that change is not a sign of failure or abandonment; it is part of the ongoing movement of life. In each of those moments we can find a reason for being.

There are times when we must release what we once held tightly- old patterns, comfortable roles, or expectations we grew accustomed to. For some, these changes come suddenly; for others, gradually. Letting go is not the end, but often the beginning of transformation. Freddie discovers that what feels like an ending may lead to a deeper journey, held by something larger than himself- community, meaning, purpose, and the natural continuity of life.
Scripture speaks into this mystery of change as well. Isaiah reminds us, "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever" (Isaiah 40:8). Everything around us changes; seasons, routines, roles, relationships, even our own bodies. But God's faithfulness does not change. God's love and promises endure when everything else feels like it is shifting beneath us.

So, as we step into fall together, both the season outside our windows and the seasons within our own personal life, may we notice the beauty of change, honor the transitions and transformations happening among us, and support one another with the same steadiness that Daniel offered Freddie. Above all, lean on God and His promises. If you ever need space to reflect, share, or simply breathe, please know that I am available. See you in Church!

In Christ,

Pastor Kibreab

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN WORSHIP?

+ Reformation Sunday
October 25th
Festival Worship at 9:30 am
Join us as we celebrate + Reformation Sunday on October 25, marking 509 years since Martin Luther sparked the Protestant Reformation. We wear RED in celebration of the work of the Holy Spirit, ever-reforming the church! We will also welcome new members on this special day.

+ All Saints Sunday
November 1st
Candlelight Worship at 9:30 am

This is the day we remember all the saints who have gone before us, remembering especially those who have died in the last year. We honor and give thanks for the blessings of dear loved ones with a special opportunity to light candles and pray together. All are invited to bring framed photographs of those dear to them who have died and participate in this commemoration. If you received a letter from the pastor, your loved one is already included in our remembrance. To add the name of a family member or friend who has died in the last year, please contact the church office.

November 8th
Worship at 9:30 am

Today we will bless our dedicated Quilters and the quilts that they have made before they are shipped to those around the world in need. Join us for this colorful blessing!

FAITH FORMATION FOR CHILDREN: 8:30AM — 9:15AM

First Sunday of each month:
Little Sprouts (preschool) and Bible Explorers (K - 5)

Third Sunday of each month:
Little Sprouts (preschool) and Godly Play (K - 5)

Faith Formation for preschoolers and elementary school children is off and running for the fall season. We meet in the Gathering Room before church on the first and third Sundays. All are welcome—children, grandchildren, and friends. Together, we sing, pray, and learn about God's Word. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Susan Moon or Sharon Oslin.

MUSIC NOTES: HISTORY OF HYMNS

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Few hymns are as closely associated with the Protestant Reformation as Martin Luther's "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" (*Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott*). Dating from the late 1520s and based on Psalm 46, the hymn became a powerful expression of Luther's confidence in God's protection in the midst of persecution, political turmoil, and religious upheaval. The hymn's oldest surviving printing, with the music included, dates from 1533.

Luther is traditionally credited with composing both the text and the melody. A popular legend is that Luther adapted the tune from a tavern drinking song, but there is no reliable evidence supporting this claim. The melody is much more likely the result of Luther's own creative work and the traditions of German sacred song. The hymn has also inspired many later composers, most famously J. S. Bach, whose Cantata No. 80, *Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott*, was written for Reformation observance.

One curious feature is that the tune we commonly sing today is not quite the same as the original. The earliest version had a lively, syncopated rhythmic character. Over the years, its rhythmic variety was gradually simplified, with varied note values replaced by more equal, uniform rhythms. The original rhythmic version is preserved in our standard hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* Hymn #503, while Hymn #504 uses the later standardized rhythm with a slightly modified text. Hymn #505 uses the same standardized rhythm with Frederic H. Hedge's historic English translation. Indeed, our hymnal includes this iconic hymn not once, not twice, but three times, proving its importance to the Lutheran tradition!

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Pastor Kibreab and Rosie DeFrank will be holding a meeting to go over how to be a Communion Assistant. We will review bringing the Offering Plate to the Altar, and serving the Wine. There will be a handout, discussion, and a time to ask questions. Please join us in the Sanctuary after worship on November 15th.

INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP AT GOOD SHEPHERD?

We are blessed to welcome many new faces to this community. We will receive new members on +Reformation Sunday, October 25th during 9:30 am worship. If you are interested in becoming a member of the congregation, and have not yet indicated this interest to Pastor Gudeta, please do so as soon as possible.

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP: NOVEMBER 7th

At 10am we will enjoy breakfast, share a brief bible study and talk about possible service projects. One of the projects we are considering is working with the Veteran's Administration. Please sign up on the bulletin board. If you have any questions, please contact Faith Patterson, Sue Beachboard or Susan Moon. We hope to meet the first Saturday of every month.

LCS WALKTOBERFEST RECAP

We are happy to report that two of our members participated in Walktoberfest at Concordia Lutheran Church on September 19th, 2026; Linda Ulmanis and John Schneeweis. The weather was beautiful and there were about 150 participants. The walk/run began at 9 am with a gathering and commenced at 10 am. There was a long (5K) and a short route. Everyone gathered for Octoberfest afterwards with a grill, bands, booths and prizes. Use the QR code to the right or visit lcgsde.org if you would still like to make a donation.

BEHIND THE SCENES

There is always lots going on behind the scenes at Good Shepherd! Our Paten and Pouring Chalices were recently re-plated. This month we had the carpets cleaned, and this past Sunday replacement lights were installed in the Sanctuary by our own Property Brothers. In addition, there has been a considerable amount of work done in preparation for the installation of our new sign. Thank you to our Altar Guild and Property Team for helping to make Good Shepherd the place that all of us appreciate coming to on Sunday mornings.

QUILTERS

Have you noticed the changing display of quilts behind the Sunday refreshments? Those quilts will be shipped all over the world as part of our ministry in partnership with Lutheran World Relief (LWR). In 2025, over 315,000 quilts went to fifteen countries. LWR also now serves communities in the United States. Quilts made in our area went to Angola, Ukraine, and Mali, among other destinations.

The magic happens down the hall from the narthex, where we meet every Tuesday at 10am. We'd love to have you join us! You don't need to know how to sew. On Tuesdays we lay out patches for new quilts, knot and pin quilts in progress, and measure and cut fabric for backs and fillers. Along the way we share laughter, conversation, and friendship. Our group includes community partners as well as Good Shepherd members.

If you can't join us in person, you can partner with us at home! Others in our group cut fabric, sew together patches or stitch bindings, and take our completed quilts to the warehouse in Pennsylvania where they are shipped to Minneapolis for final distribution from there.

We are grateful for the many donations we receive from you! Right now we are particularly in need of flannel sheets. Large pieces of fabric are ideal for quilt backs. Donations of money will help us purchase batting for fillers.

At the moment we do NOT need regular sheets—thanks to your generous donations we have plenty, and LWR is requesting that we use heavier material for fillers. And please note—we cannot use fleece. LWR no longer accepts quilts that contain this fabric.

For more information, contact any of our in-person quilters — Karen Bitner, Sue Beachboard, Sue Hammond, Barbara Melosh, Lisa More, Arlene Steigler or Carole Lee Waslick. Or just show up on Tuesday—we'd love to see you! And bring a friend.

~ Barbara Melosh bmelosh@gmu.edu

DONATION DAY

We will collect items for the LCS Food Pantry at St. Stephen's Church on Wednesday, October 21st. You are also welcome to bring your donations on Sundays, or any weekday morning. This month St. Stephens is in need of Snacks, Condiments and Sanitary pads or Tampons.

TOWN HALL

The next Town Hall Meeting will be held Sunday, November 8, immediately after the service. Grab some coffee and come back to the sanctuary for an update on all things Good Shepherd! The purpose of our Town Hall meetings is to keep the congregation updated and informed. If you have a question or concern that you would like to be addressed at the meeting please contact Susan Moon or Rosie DeFrank. See you there!

JOIN THE WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE!

Are you passionate about music, worship, and helping create meaningful experiences in our church community? We have an exciting opportunity for members to get involved by joining the Music and Worship Committee! This is a wonderful way to share your ideas, gifts, and talents while helping shape and enrich our worship services. We welcome your enthusiasm and fresh perspectives as we work together to glorify God through music and worship. If you're interested in learning more or would like to get involved, please reach out to the pastor or Bill Krapf. We would love to have you join us!

THANKSGIVING BASKETS FOR HILLTOP

The race is on to see who can provide the most turkeys/Thanksgiving baskets to needy families in the Hilltop area of Wilmington. We usually provide dinners to between 300 and 400 families. Let's see if we can exceed that number! This annual "competition" is friendly only - with no prizes, just bragging rights and the knowledge that we answered Christ's call to feed the hungry.

The baskets consist of frozen turkeys, boxed mashed potatoes and stuffing, canned vegetables and yams/sweet potatoes, nonperishable fixings for pumpkin pies and more. See the list available in the Narthex soon. However, the most important element is the turkey.

Donations will be taken from Good Shepherd to the Hilltop Center on Sunday, November 22, after church. If you can help to deliver, please contact Martha. Bags can be left on the ramp and/or turkeys left in the freezer any time before then. Thank you!

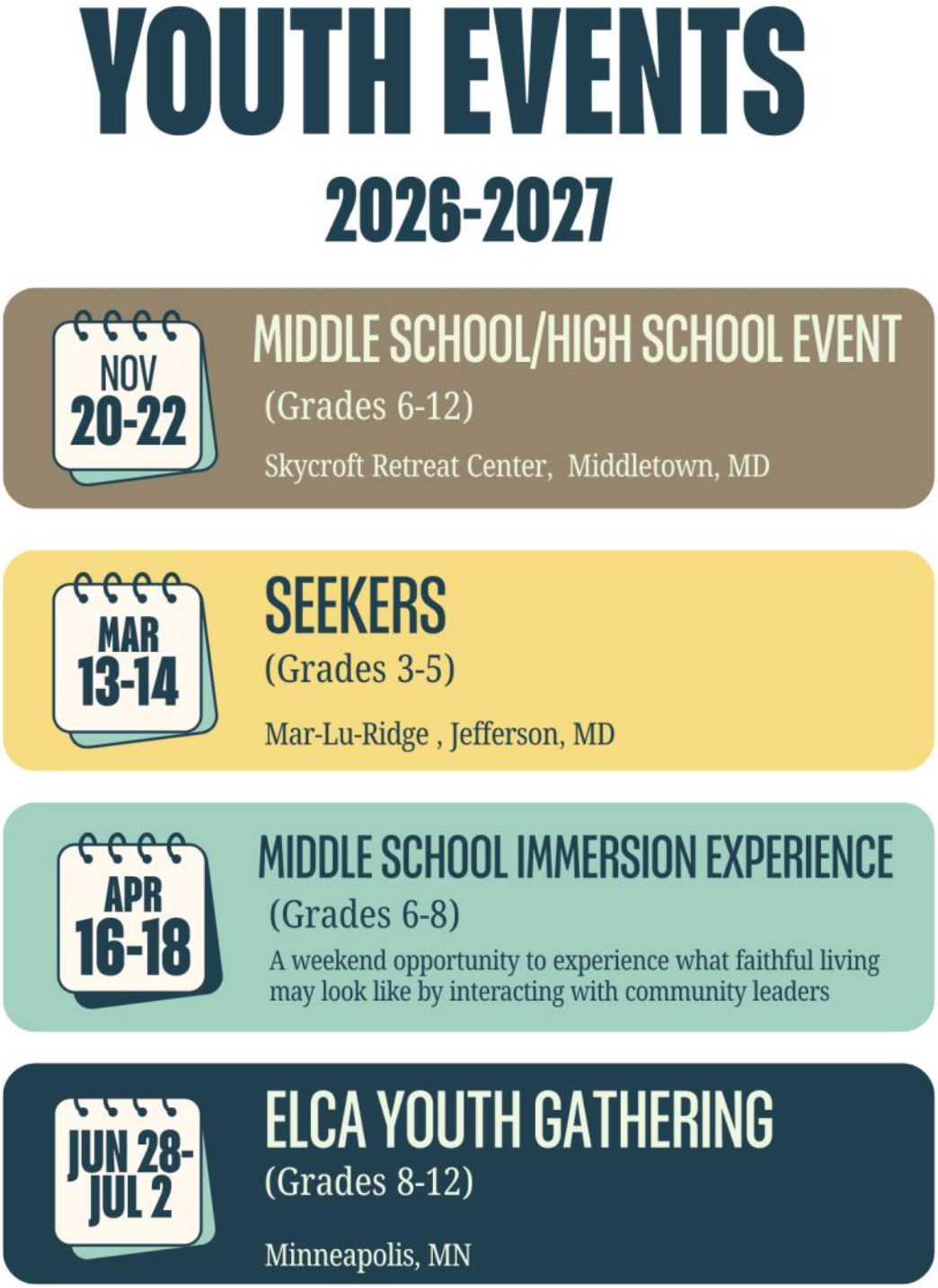
THANKSGIVING PIES

LCGS is happy to announce our annual collection of PIE DONATIONS for the Ogletown Baptist Community Thanksgiving Dinner. We will be collecting pies November 23 and 24, both during office hours and from 6-8 pm, and on November 25 from 7-8pm. Please place the pies in the refrigerator in the kitchen.

Not a chef? Not a problem. Store bought pies will be gratefully accepted too!

Let's bring a sweet treat to those who are in need of a meal this Thanksgiving.

DELAWARE —MARYLAND SYNOD YOUTH EVENTS



MAR LU RIDGE

Dear LCGS DE,

Thank you! Two weeks ago, we challenged the incredible MLR community with a chance to double their impact up to $10,000. We're proud to report that **we have reached $15,449 so far!**

With the match from an anonymous donor and the God's Grace Fund at the Community Foundation of WA County, MD, that means $25,449 to kick start our 2027 Campership Fund and address practical facilities needs and upgrades.

You made this happen! We are grateful for all the ways you continue to sustain Mar-Lu-Ridge: with your prayers, with your presence, and with your contributions of time and treasure.

It is not too late to make a gift in support of facilities and camperships! Can we reach $20,000 ($30,000 with the match)?!

We hope to see you at **Fall Work Day** on Saturday, October 31 from 9 am to 2:30 pm. We will be painting and repairing infrastructure around the cabin area. Don't worry, you'll be home for Halloween!

Thank you for the love and care you share for Mar-Lu-Ridge. Your generosity is inspiring!

In gratitude & peace,

Diana Edelblute

Diana Edelblute, Executive Director

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME IS ENDING

Please be sure to turn your clocks back before you go to bed on October 31st!

AGING GRACE-FULLY

The next and final Aging Grace-Fully session is on Thursday, November 12th at 1:20 pm. Kate Bowler, PhD, four time New York Times bestselling author, will be discussing her book, *Joyful Anyway* via Zoom at St. Marks Lutheran Church, 501 Duncan Road in Wilmington. Discussion and refreshments will follow the presentation.

FROM THE RECIPE FILES OF JOHN SPOEHR

Basque Cheesecake — enjoyed by many at Coffee Hour in August

Ingredients

- 8-ounce block cream cheese - room temperature
- 8 ounces Ricotta Cheese
- 8 ounces Marzipan
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- ¾ teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 4 large eggs
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour - (substitute corn starch in order to be gluten free)
- 1½ cups heavy cream

Instructions:

See YouTube for procedure.

Search for: The Best Basque Cheesecake Recipe, The Preppy Kitchen

https://preppykitchen.com/basque-cheesecake/

Notes:

John finds the combination of Cream Cheese, Ricotta and Marzipan to be more flavorful than cream cheese alone as shown in the video.

FROM THE RECIPE FILES OF BILL KRAPF

Mexican Street Corn Salad — enjoyed by many at God's Work. Our Hands. Picnic
Serves 4

This easy Mexican street corn salad is the ultimate summer side dish! Lightly creamy, spicy & bright, it's a recipe you'll make again and again.

Ingredients

- 4 ears fresh corn, husked
- Extra-virgin olive oil, for brushing
- 1½ tablespoons mayo, or vegan mayo
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- Zest and juice of 1 lime
- ⅓ cup chopped scallions
- ¼ cup crumbled Cotija, or feta cheese
- ¼ cup finely chopped fresh cilantro
- ¼ teaspoon smoked paprika, or chili powder
- 1 jalapeño pepper, diced*
- ¼ teaspoon sea salt

Instructions

Preheat a grill to medium-high heat. Brush the corn with olive oil and grill for 2 minutes per side, or until char marks form. Remove from grill and set aside.
In a large bowl, combine the mayo, garlic, and lime zest and juice. Slice the kernels off the corn and add to the bowl along with the scallions. Stir to coat, then add the cheese, cilantro, smoked paprika, jalapeño, and salt. Season to taste and serve immediately or chill until ready to serve.

Notes

*Roast the jalapeño alongside the corn if you'd like.

https://www.loveandlemons.com/mexican-street-corn-salad/#wprm-recipe-container-63728

NEWS FROM THE ELCA: WORLD HOMELESS DAY

We recently (October 10th) commemorated World Homeless Day and look ahead to National Homelessness Awareness Month in November. Both are occasions to renew our collective efforts for what needs to be done to support neighbors who are unhoused or at risk of losing housing.

In 1990, the ELCA adopted the social message "Homelessness: A Renewal of Commitment." This social message has guided our church's advocacy and public witness for nearly four decades. But much has changed in those years, in the church and the world. Our understanding of homelessness, including the words we use to describe homelessness, has grown and deepened. Emerging ministries with and among people who are unhoused have challenged our perspectives on housing, homelessness and what it means to be a neighbor.

Given these changes, the ELCA Church Council, at the request of the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, has authorized reconsideration of two sections of "Homelessness: A Renewal of Commitment." A reconsidered draft of the social message is now available for public comment from all ELCA members until Nov. 30.

I invite you and members of your worshiping community to join the church in reviewing and providing feedback on this draft. Your discernment of the draft and your feedback are critical to this process and will guide revisions to the text before it is proposed to the ELCA Church Council next year.

Please consider gathering a small group to read and discuss the draft reconsidered social message. To learn more and to download the draft social message, visit ELCA.org/Homelessness. Thank you for your prayers for the church in this process of communal moral deliberation.

In Christ,

Ryan P. Cumming, Ph.D.

Director, Theological Ethics

PRAYER LINE

PRAY FOR:	CONCERN:	REQUESTED BY:
LYNNE BERTOLET	Diverticulitis	Gege Cahoon
JOAN BERRY	Leukemia	Carole Lee Waslick
CARA BLUME	Confusion	Martha Wondoloski
DAVID BONIVITIA	Biopsy results	Diane Soring
ELAINE BUSEMI	Kidney Stones	Diane Soring
MONROE COWAN	Cancer	Fran and Jim Dixon
FRAN COWAN	Caregivrer for Monroe	Fran and Jim Dixon
BOB DEMUTH	Crohn Disease related issues	Joan DeMuth
ANNA EVERLY	Radiation for an Ear tumor	Carole Lee Waslick
GINNY HERTZENBERG	Recovery from Infection	Susan Hendrich
AUDREY HIDDEMEN	Transition Assisted Living	Bert Hiddemen
KATHY HOWARD	Osteoporosis/Pagets Disease	Diane Soring
SAMANTHA KIRK	Brain surgery recovery	Martha Wondoloski
WIN MCCANN	Terminal Cancer	Carole Lee Waslick
NICK MELLOS	Mild Stroke	Diane Soring
ROBIN MELLOS	Heart Attack	Diane Soring
BARBARA MELOSH	Recovery from Knee surgery	Karen Bitner
CRAIG MIKUS	Problems after emergency surgery	Beth Trebilcock
CHERYL MONGILLO	Recurring Health issues	Donna Hiddemen
KATHY PATANE	Breast Cancer	Kathy Patane
THOMAS PATANE	Pending Surgery	Kathy Patane
LORIN RICHTER	Upcoming Eye Surgery	Carole Lee Waslick
ROBIN SCHNEEWEIS	Multiple Health Concerns	John Schneeweis
DIANE SORING	Recovery from surgery	Kerry Kirkham
LOIS STASULIS	Kidney Decline	Kerry Kirkham
BOB WEBB	Ongoing recovery	Sue Beachboard
DONNA WILLIAMSON	Beginning Chemo	Joan DeMuth
JADA YAKICH	Auto Immune Disease	Diane Soring
STACEY ZGLESZEWSKI	Double Lung Transplant List	Sue Beachboard

Friends and families of those persons removed from the prayer line thank everyone for their prayers and concerns. Prayer requests may be made by contacting Karen Bitner or the church office.

+ Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life." +

With both sadness and hope for resurrection life, we share news of the death of Mary Ellen Moser on October 5, 2026. Funeral services will be held in Eau Claire, WI on October 20, 2026. Plans for a memorial service at Good Shepherd are to be determined.

We hold in prayer all of Mary Ellen's family and friends, as together we find comfort in Jesus' promise to make all things new.

+ Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. +

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

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Sunday Worship:

9:30 AM

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Minister of Music: Christian Lyons

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Office Assistant: Rosie DeFrank

Sexton: Bob Bateman

Church Council President: Susan Moon

Note to Contributors:

For the November –December issue, please submit your articles by November 4, 2026. If you would like to send a contribution by e-mail, please send an attachment in Word to lcgsde@gmail.com.