

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

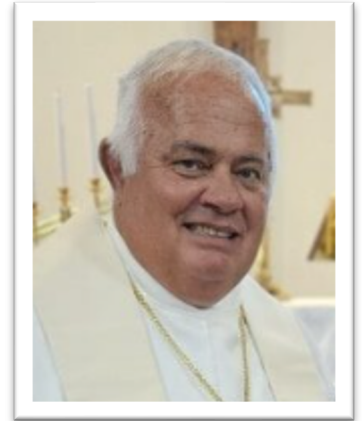
October 2024

Dear Friends,

As we travel through another hotly contested election season, we do well to remember the purpose of government, which is to maintain law and order.

Paul writes this to the early Christians in Rome, who would be suffering greatly at the hands of a corrupt government,

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. 2 Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, 4 for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. 5 Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. 6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. 7 Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.



Luther taught that “It is the task of political government to concern itself with order and law rather than with faith and salvation. While it is well equipped to attain a moderate success in achieving the former for its citizens, it is bound to fail utterly in the effort to secure faith and salvation for them.”

Luther also commented on the folly of trying to rule a country with the Word of God, “If anyone attempted to rule the world by the gospel and to abolish all temporal law and sword on the plea that all are baptized and Christian, and that, according to the gospel, there shall be among them no law or sword-or need for either-pray tell me, friend, what would he be doing? He would be loosing the ropes and chains of the savage wild beasts and letting them bite and mangle everyone, meanwhile insisting that they were harmless, tame, and gentle creatures.



Not only would it be foolish to have a “Christian government,” he pointed out how dangerous it would be,

“It is out of the question that there should be a common Christian government over the whole world, or indeed over a single country or any considerable body of people, for the wicked always outnumber the good. Hence, a man who would venture to govern an entire country or the world with the gospel would be like a shepherd who should put together in one fold wolves, lions, eagles, and sheep, and let them mingle freely with one another, saying, “Help yourselves, and be good and peaceful toward one another. The fold is open, there is plenty of food. You need have no fear of dogs and clubs.” The sheep would doubtless keep the peace and allow themselves to be fed and governed peacefully, but they would not live long, nor would one beast survive another.”

Gracious God, we thank you for the privilege of living in this great country with so many privileges and freedoms. Help us always to be grateful for all that is good and praiseworthy, even as we stay engaged in the process of maintaining law and order. Bless us as we prayerfully advocate and vote for that which will allow us to live quiet and peaceable lives, in all godliness and honesty. In Jesus’ Name. Amen.

Together in Christ

Pastor Larry J. Griffin

News and Notes

Caring Fund

- At our September 15th Church Council meeting, we approved a proposal to establish a Caring Fund.
- The purpose of the Caring Fund is to glorify God by caring for the practical needs of both members of our congregation and community.
- This Fund is a separate account and will receive monies specifically designated for this purpose.
- The Pastor and one or more members of the Church Council would administer the Fund and report to each Council meeting.
- A jar has been placed in the church entry as a way of receiving funds for this cause.
- Foundational Scripture passages include:
 1. I John 3:16 By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. 17 But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how



does God's love abide in him? **18** Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

2. Matthew 5: **14** "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. **15** Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. **16** In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that**[b]** they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.
3. Acts 2: **42** And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. **43** And awe**[d]** came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. **44** And all who believed were together and had all things in common. **45** And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

Out to Lunch

Our next "Out to Lunch" event will be Sunday, October 27, at Beef O Brady's right down the road from Good Shepherd. All members and friends are invited to join us at noon that day for this fellowship meal (Dutch treat). Please sign up in the church entry, to help us plan.

Pledge Forms

Our October bulletins will include forms which will include

1. A Menu of Opportunity offering all members a chance to sign up for various offices and tasks here at Good Shepherd.
2. A form inviting members to either pledge a dollar amount or offer an Estimate of Giving for the calendar year, 2025.

Upcoming Dates

1. Friday and Saturday, October 11-12 - Good Shepherd Yard Sale
2. Sunday, October 20 Council meeting, to prepare budget
3. Sunday, October 27, Out to Lunch at noon at Beef O Brady's
4. Sunday, Nov. 17 Annual Meeting with approval of budget and election of officers
5. Wednesday, Nov. 27, Thanksgiving Eve Service at 4 pm, with Bible Class at 3 that day.
6. Advent services on Wednesdays, December 4, 11, 18 at 11am, with Bible Class at 10 am and lunch at noon.
7. Christmas Eve Service on Tuesday, Dec. 24 at 4 pm



Average Weekly Attendance

All members are urged to invite family, friends, and neighbors to join us for Divine Service on Sundays and Bible class on Wednesdays (11 am).

Upcoming Sermon Themes - Sermon Series Theme - In Christ Alone

- **October 6 - Christ - Centered Marriage**
- **October 13 - Christ - Centered Encouragement**
- **October 20 - Christ - Centered Rest**
- **October 27 (Reformation Sunday) - Christ - Centered Freedom**