

June 16, 2020

Greetings!

Word and Sacrament ministry continues at Good Shepherd. People are caring for one another and we are serving in the community as individuals and as a congregation. Thanks be to God!

Last Sunday we baptized one and confirmed nine. Saturday, we will commit to God's keeping the ashes of Theresa Loeber at Wisconsin Memorial Park where they will remain until the resurrection of all flesh. Sunday, three adults will be confirmed: Rick Krueger and Troy and Leah Bertram. This weekend, we will also celebrate the Lord's Supper at all three services. Please sign up here <https://bit.ly/2Y0gtcO>.

Next week Tuesday I'm heading to the Rocky Mountains to officiate at a wedding for Sara Scheler and her fiancée John Griffin. Planning this wedding has been anything but simple or predictable; they've had to disinvite all but the bridesmaids, groomsmen, and a few family members. I admire them, however, for pushing forward, mostly because they just want to be married!! We were going to fly; now we will drive. Honestly, I haven't tasted boredom in a long time, and so a good dose of that on the freeway sounds good.

Enclosed is the last of the devotions on our sanctuary windows. Once the remaining four are installed (two in the sanctuary, and two somewhere else in the building), we will complete the series. I recently sent Oakbrook Esser an email asking if they are up and running again but have not yet heard back. Once I do, I will be sure to relay the message.

Ron Wille pointed out a new Bible Study published by CPH about healing the racial divides in America. Entitled "One Nation Under God" it confronts racism with Biblical truths. It's certainly relevant today. The author is one of my classmates, Rev. Keith Haney. (We pushed each other around, or tried to, under the basketball hoop at the seminary. He has me by a couple of inches in height and a few pounds as well!) The online sessions, I believe, are free and can be found here <https://my.demio.com/ref/mAH7i90zTZixWhF>. If you want to purchase the book from CPH, it's about \$35.

The memory verse challenge for this week is from Isaiah 53:5, "But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed."

In your prayers, in addition to our national crises, please pray for Marge Goecke (in the ICU), Wendy Wilson, Rae Ann Wegner, Agnes Thurow (hospice), John Block (hospice), Jim Strege, Patricia Fox (hospice), Carol Marshall, Walter Batterman (brother of Sue Kleinmann). We pray also in celebration of the 57th anniversary of Vern and Marge Schuett, the 63rd wedding anniversary of Melvin and Diane Knaack, the 91st birthday of Del Oestreich, and the 93rd birthday of Irma Schoenike.

Finally, here we are, already the middle of June. The weeks are ticking by and there's certainly grace in that. 2020 has thus far been a disappointment and I'm *already* hoping for a better 2021. Yet 2020 has not been without its blessings. God is seeing us through step by step, and we have the promise of brighter days. He is Immanuel – God with Us.

Peace.



Pastor