

Volume 1 | Winter 2023

The Shepherd's Horn



*Stories of faith & ministry from the community of
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Cincinnati, OH.*



Our Mission

*To be a caring Christian community
where we Share God's grace, Grow
in faith, and Serve others.*

Worship

*Saturdays at 5 pm (Traditional)
Sundays at 9 am (Contemporary)
Sundays at 11 am (Traditional)*

*Sundays live streamed at
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Special thanks to the staff & members for contributing articles and photos. Front cover photo credit: stylized photo from 2010 Christmas worship. Original photo taken by Larry Bresko.

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From The Senior Pastor

by Dr. Rev. Lorne Hlad | Senior Pastor



Dear Friends & Partners in Ministry,

Reflecting on my first nine months as Senior Pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, I am grateful and excited. In 2023, we have begun to chart a new course together for our congregation, and I am eager for the many ways God will continue to lead and guide our ministry into the future.

Despite Good Shepherd's challenges following the pandemic, this past year has been one of moving forward in faith while experiencing significant growth.

This past Spring, we established a renewed commitment to nurturing children's faith by launching special children's messages at each worship service and creating the Children's Ministry Staffing role dedicated to investing in our youngest disciples. Amber Holdt is already making a tremendous impact in this new role, and more families are being served!

We have navigated transitions and changes in our Campus Ministry outreach efforts at the University of Cincinnati. We are working collaboratively with other ELCA churches across Cincinnati, envisioning new approaches to campus ministry.

By God's blessing, we are experiencing a 30% increase in average weekly worship attendance and have welcomed over 75 new members this year, marking the highest number of new members in a single year in 12 years.

In many ways, this December marks a significant inflection point in the life of Good Shepherd. The longest-tenured minister in the history of our congregation has retired after 34 years, and on December 27th, the congregation will mark 70 years of ministry in Greater Cincinnati.

As we look forward, we are embarking on a new season of ministry together. Our neighborhoods, city, and world are hungry for hope, and we, as the Body of Christ, are called to be agents of Gospel peace for others.

In the new year, we will embark on an intentional journey of envisioning how God uniquely calls Good Shepherd to serve Cincinnati into the future. Through this edition of the Shepherd's Horn, you can learn more about the Vision Taskforce and read other stories of faith that are sure to inspire.

God loves you, and I do too!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lorne Hlad". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

From Pastor Pat

by *Pastor Patricia Badkey* | *Associate Pastor (Retired)*



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I am in my cleaned-out office, and I am writing my last email to the family of God at Good Shepherd. First, I want to thank you for the wonderful retirement celebration. It was a beautiful evening of remembering all the work we have done together. I know the speakers spoke about my ministry, but it was ministry I was able to complete because you called me to serve as your pastor. I feel blessed to have served so long at Good Shepherd. For me, Good Shepherd was a setting in which I was able to use all the gifts I was given for ministry because they matched well with the ways I was called to serve.

I want to say, **thank you, thank you, thank you** for the outpouring of well wishes and your generosity. I have only begun to read all the cards which were given to me. My plan is to read them throughout the month of December. What a blessing these memories and well wishes are because they give me perspective. I was overwhelmed by all the gifts I received from the congregation and the church council. It is truly amazing to receive such kindness, so thank you once again. The special touches of the quilt and the art glass piece will be constant reminders in our home of the partnership we shared over the years.

When I announced my retirement to our bishop, Bishop Suzanne Darcy Dillahunt, she reminded me that we should be intentional in the months leading up to it, to take the time to say “goodbye” well. That is, to acknowledge the blessings, joys and challenges we have shared in being partners in ministry; to be intentional about caring for one another, because transitions are hard; and to take time to remind each other that God is faithful and will lead us all into a new and hopeful future. I think over the last month, this has happened, and we have said goodbye to one another well.

Many have asked about where Steve and I will be worshipping, wondering about how we will be involved in the church. Pastor Lorne has been gracious and has said to us that we are welcome to be involved at GSLC in the future. However, over the next year we will be taking time away from Good Shepherd to rest and transition from the rigors of pastoral ministry. I know I will need time to adjust to not being a full-time pastor. I am looking forward to worshipping in other congregations throughout Cincinnati. And just like the previous pastors who have retired from Good Shepherd, I will not serve in Pastoral roles such as presiding at worship, baptisms, weddings, or funerals upon my retirement.

I will miss being a Pastor at Good Shepherd for many reasons, but I am confident that Pastor Lorne, Pastor Alex, the GSLC Staff and Church Council will continue to work towards God’s mission for Good Shepherd. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, I trust completely that God will continue to do new things so that God’s grace, hope and love will be brilliantly visible in the world through Good Shepherd Lutheran Church!

You might be wondering what is next for us. Steve and I will remain in Cincinnati. We are also looking forward to traveling and the chance to pursue other interests. Finally, I will be walking daily and resting in God’s love as the next part of my life unfolds. **So, thank you Good Shepherd for being a partner in sharing the good news of Jesus with the world. May God bless all you begin and do in God’s name.**

In Christ,
Pastor Pat



The Power of Vision

by Rev. Dr. Lorne Hlad | Senior Pastor

After the great fire in 1666 that leveled most of London, the world's most famous architect at the time, Christopher Wren, was commissioned to rebuild St. Paul's Cathedral.

As famous lore goes, one day in 1671, Christopher Wren observed three bricklayers on a scaffold, one crouched, one half-standing, and one standing tall, working very hard and fast. Christopher Wren asked the first bricklayer, "What are you doing?" to which the bricklayer replied, "I'm a bricklayer. I'm working hard, laying bricks to feed my family." The second bricklayer responded, "I'm a builder. I'm building a wall." But the third bricklayer, the most productive of the three and the group's future leader, when asked, "What are you doing?" replied with a gleam in his eye, "I'm a cathedral builder. I'm building a great cathedral to the Almighty."

The story of the three bricklayers can be seen as a parable on the power of vision. The "cathedral builder" operates with a sense of vision that transforms how he "shows up" in life.

The lesson is profound yet simple.

- For the first bricklayer, building the wall was a job.
- For the second bricklayer, building the wall was an occupation.
- For the third bricklayer, building the wall was a calling.

In his seminal work, *Man's Search for Meaning*, Psychotherapist Viktor Frankl wrote about his experience as a Holocaust survivor and the power vision and purpose played in the lives of prisoners. In his book, Frankl recounts how the prisoners who had a greater purpose or reason to continue to live beyond themselves tended to survive the most horrendous circumstances, while those who were focused primarily on themselves did not.

Frankl understood the power of vision in someone's life and the truth that God did not create anyone to simply build bricks. Frankl understood that every person was designed to build "cathedrals."

As we enter 2024, the leadership of Good Shepherd is embarking on a journey of deep reflection, discernment, and dreaming for how God might be calling us to “build cathedrals” into the future. The Vision Taskforce, a representative group of 12-15 staff and lay members, will champion a time of envisioning how God is uniquely calling Good Shepherd into the future.

The work of the Vision Taskforce will be marked by intentional prayer, listening to the congregation, and discerning the unique gifts and passions present within our community.

With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Vision Taskforce will seek to bring renewed clarity to the following questions:

- What is the unique mission to which God is calling Good Shepherd Lutheran Church?
- What specific values or beliefs will guide everything we do as a people of faith?
- What “fruit” do we hope the ministry of GSLC will grow or cultivate in people’s lives?
- What unique “God Dreams” or “cathedrals” does God want us to pursue in the future?

Once clarity begins to emerge surrounding

these questions, we will identify a compelling long-range vision with four strategic focus areas to guide our ministry into the future.

Over this year, you can expect to hear from me and the Vision Taskforce co-chair Susan Whaley frequently. There will be ample opportunities for everyone at Good Shepherd to participate in this exciting work through congregational surveys, vision sessions, and focus groups.

Good Shepherd will celebrate our 75th year in ministry in five short years. What do we want to be true by then? What amazing things will God do through us for the sake of the Kingdom by then? What additional stories will we share at our 75th-anniversary celebration because of the renewed sense of calling, vision, and purpose we establish over the next year?

What unique God dreams do you have for Good Shepherd Lutheran Church?

I invite you to pray for our Vision Taskforce and for the Holy Spirit to lead and guide this intentional time of discernment for our shared future.

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?

– Isaiah 43:19





A Tribute to Pastor Pat

by Adrienne Gordon

Many of you know me as Adrienne Gordon, Confirmation volunteer. What you may also know is that I have been a part of Confirmation for a long time. In putting together some thoughts about Pastor Pat, I decided to pinpoint the exact start. After a deep dive into the email archives, I found a message from 2009 that went something like this...

“Adrienne, Jen spoke with me about your interest in helping with the Confirmation program of Good Shepherd. I would love to share more information with you about the program and invite you to help lead if you are interested. God’s peace be with you, Pastor Pat”

An email from Anne Miller followed, with the schedule and information about the opening year potluck dinner. That kicked off my time with Confirmation. Which means, if we do the math, that for nearly 1/3 of Pastor Pat’s career, we have journeyed together in this particular ministry.

Confirmation has evolved quite a bit over the years. For example, retreats to Camp Joy and

Camp Kern used to last Friday evening through Sunday early afternoon. You can imagine the challenges that came with sustaining interest and engagement over an entire weekend! I relied on Pastor Pat’s patience and enthusiasm during evening sessions, when we wrangled groups of up to 30 students into a room; everyone some degree of exhausted from a full day.

Another way Confirmation changed is simply by the location of Sunday morning classes. We’ve traveled all over the church. Including a collection of years when we taught in room 100, which required carting supplies from a closet down the hall. No matter the space, in my mind’s eye I see Pastor Pat walking into the room carrying a Diet Coke (or bottle of water), her clipboard, sometimes a laptop, and always wearing a smile to greet the group.

A few other notable twists and turns include format changes as a result of two Task Force reviews. We shared events with the Gloria Dei Confirmation program under both Pastor Dave Young and Pastor Seth Bridger. We pivoted to virtual classes during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We shared Dewey's pizza and salad dinners over planning sessions. I hope all of this gives you an idea of the logistical effort and spiritual devotion that Pastor Pat committed to this area of ministry.

I'd also like to share one way Confirmation has not changed. At the end of a program year, we wrote affirmations for the outgoing students and shared them as part of a celebration designed to bless and honor the Confirmands. The affirmations are a way to acknowledge the gift that God created in each person. They are a way to say: you belong and matter. Thanks once again to electronic archives, I can tell you that we wrote 158 affirmations together! And so, as is our practice, **I'd like to send Pastor Pat in retirement with an affirmation:**

Pastor Pat, you have blessed our Confirmation community through your generosity of spirit. You made time to listen and learn our stories. You empowered adult leaders to find our own teaching style. We are grateful recipients of your guidance and friendship. You helped form the faith of not only countless students, but also my own over the years. You left us with a clear sense of God's unending love. We are thankful that the path of your journey stretched for such a long, dedicated time through Good Shepherd. Amen!



Pictures: Pastor Pat and Confirmation throughout the years (opposite, top left, bottom left, and bottom right). Pastor Pat and Adrienne on the Camino Pilgrimage (top right).



Handel's Messiah

by Dr. Kevin Seal | Director of Worship & Music

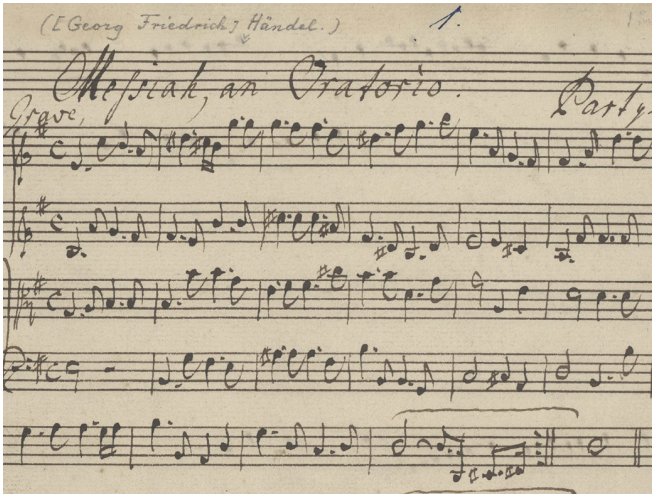
Perhaps no other work from the western classical music tradition is as associated with Christmas as George Frideric Handel's oratorio, *Messiah*. This enormous work (a full performance is about 3 hrs long!) seems to be ubiquitous this time of year, with presentations of the work in every major city in the United States, including Cincinnati, and programming of various choruses on concert programs and in church services worldwide. Interestingly enough, *Messiah* is much more than a Christmas work, and while the Christmas portion is justifiably famous, it doesn't contain the most famous movement, saving the Hallelujah Chorus for the Easter section.

Handel lived a very different life as a composer than his German contemporaries such as Bach and Telemann. While the latter two lived their entire lives in Germany, Handel lived and travelled throughout Europe, following musical trends wherever they led him. This led him from Germany to Italy early in his career, and then from Italy to England. Wherever he went, success followed. In Italy he became a leading composer of secular cantatas and operas. Then, when he moved to London in 1712, he became the leading composer of Italian opera in the country, leading him to become arguably the most famous composer in Europe. When tastes

among the English public shifted to oratorio, a form that combined the dramatic nature of opera with sacred themes, Handel turned his compositional focus to writing these works, which were truly "of the masses", as opposed to opera, which was more popular among the nobility.

In 1739, Handel began working with an English poet named Charles Jennens, collaborating to write oratorios together, with Jennens writing the texts and Handel composing the music. This partnership produced great fruit, including the works *Saul*, *Israel in Egypt*, and *Messiah*.

In 1741, Jennens compiled a series of texts taken from the St. James Bible and other sources. The topic? The life of Jesus Christ. He sent these texts to Handel in July of 1741, and the following month, on August 24th, Handel began working on the composition. He completed the entire 3-hour work in only 24 days, writing all of part 1 in only 6 of those days! Handel was a practical man, and while much of the work was new composition, he re-purposed some of his early works into *Messiah*, particularly the solo movements.



Pictures: Handel's Messiah Sing Along Concert in 2022 at GSLC (opposite), George Frideric Handel (top left), Messiah Sing-Along at the Royal Albert Hall, London, UK (top right), Autographed Score of Messiah (bottom left), Elizabeth Seal singing at GSLC's Concert in 2022 (bottom right).

The following spring, in 1742, Handel travelled to Dublin to give a series of concerts there to benefit a local hospital. He decided that one of these concerts would be the premiere of Messiah, and on the 13th of April, 1742, three weeks after Easter Sunday, Messiah received its premiere. And what a premiere it was! Over 700 people attended! The ladies in attendance were encouraged to remove the hoops from their skirts and the men to not bring swords, to squeeze more people into the venue!

In the late 1700s, choral societies became popular in England, and this led to a rise of a new Messiah tradition: the sing-along Messiah, where the audience became the choir, led by an orchestra and soloists. While we don't know exactly when the first of these performances took place, we do know that by the early 1800s, performances featuring over 200 in the orches-

tra and 1000 in the choir were taking place in England, and people would travel from around the country to the cities where these performances took place. Messiah became a cultural phenomenon that is unmatched in the western musical tradition!

Here at Good Shepherd, we hosted our very first sing-along Messiah last year, with over 170 in attendance, including over 125 singers in the choir. We are excited to do our part to continue this 250-year old tradition!

Join us for two concerts this December: the annual Christmas Concert at 3 pm on December 3rd and Handel's Messiah Sing-Along at 3 pm on December 17. Concerts are free to attend. Sheet music is provided for the Sing-Along. Learn more at goodshepherd.com/events.



by Scott Puthoff | Director of Digital Ministry & Communications

I'm walking around the living room in search of where my aunts have placed the bowl of cookies. Several men of the family are gathered in kitchen drinking light beer, cooking, and joking loudly with each other. The smell of anchovies and garlic fills the air. Cousins are running around with olives on each of their fingers. Folding chairs and tables are set-up anywhere there is space to spare.

These are memories from my favorite Christmas Tradition: the annual Puthoff Christmas Eve meal.

Since I was born - and well before my time - my dad's side of the family has gathered on Christmas Eve for a big Italian meal. While my grandfather was of German ancestry (thus the Puthoff name), my grandmother and her family were from the Castelfranco area of Italy. The meal is based on recipes that have been passed down from my great-grandparents.

The meal is relatively simple and doesn't

take much time to prepare: anchovy spaghetti, grated Parmesan and Romano cheeses, garlic bread, olives, and fresh orange slices with olive oil and fresh cracked black pepper. My Aunt also usually make lasagna for those that don't enjoy the spaghetti

But eat the lasagna with caution - the Puthoffs are unrelenting in their teasing for any newcomer that doesn't at least give the spaghetti a try. And I know the question you are asking yourself right know: *does Jen eat the spaghetti?* **Of course she does!**

For the full Italian experience, you have to finish your meal off with a couple of Tadals (aka Tadols, Anise Cookies or sometimes even called Taralli). These slightly sweet cookies dipped in icing are the perfect finish to the meal.

One of the unique feature of this meal is that the men of the family do the cooking. I have many memories of my Uncle Harry in the kitchen clad in his apron and hat, usually drinking

a beer, with a big smile cracking jokes, giving orders, and ribbing people. His help was almost always my father or another uncle.

As I got older, my Uncle Harry was ready for a break from cooking. I gladly stepped into the role. The first couple of years my Uncle and I did the meal together - but now I've taken over the role completely by cooking most of the meal and directing the traffic of those that are helping.

Over the past couple of years, things have really changed for the Puthoff Christmas Eve. People have moved away. We've lost some family members. People have other commitments. Even for me, I now work on Christmas Eve at Good Shepherd. We are no longer able to gather everyone together on Christmas Eve.

Thankfully, my family valued the tradition so much they were willing to make some changes. We now meet on a day around Christmas. If family is coming in to visit, we pick days where they will be able to attend. We are more flexible on when we meet so that the most of us can gather together.

And even though it's different, in many ways nothing has changed. We eat the same meal. We tease each other mercilessly. The men do the cooking. Kids run amuck eating cookies. Olives are still on everyone's fingers.

And the love. The love is still there.

That's the most important part of the night for me. I have always felt the love of my family during our annual Christmas meal. And I still feel it today.

Blessings to you and your family as you celebrate your family traditions or create new ones this Christmas Season!

We look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus with you and your family at any of our worship services this Christmas Eve on Sunday, December 24th!



Pictures: circa 1985 Christmas Eve celebration picture of all the cousins, can you find Scott (opposite), 2013 Puthoff Christmas Eve (above).

Christmas Eve At Good Shepherd

Celebrate communion at all services. Preludes begin 20 minutes before worship at all Christmas Eve services. All Christmas Eve services include candle lighting.

10 am | Advent 4 Blended Worship

Blended worship for the final Sunday of Advent. Note there will be no 5 pm Saturday worship this weekend.

4 pm | Christmas Eve Family Worship

Designed for families and smaller children. Uses small lights in place of candles.

5:45 pm | Christmas Eve Contemporary Worship

Modern take on classic Christmas hymns.

8 pm | Christmas Eve Traditional Worship

Classic hymns and music.

10 pm | Christmas Eve Traditional Worship

A more reflective style of Traditional worship.



Youth Leadership Summit

by Jen Jarman | Director of Ministry & Mission

Each year, the ELCA hosts a Youth Leadership Summit to empower and inspire young people within their congregations, communities and synods to embrace their calling and become influential leaders beyond their current context. Each synod is invited to send two youth leaders (grades 9-12) and one adult to the annual ELCA Youth Leadership Summit. Good Shepherd was honored to represent the Southern Ohio Synod at the 2023 Youth Leadership Summit by sending Lily and Will Walker (gr. 9) and Jen Jarman, Director of Ministry and Mission, to the churchwide office in Chicago, IL for this event.

This year's theme, "Called on the Way", focused on exploring the unique journeys that individuals take in response to their calling and how these journeys shape their leadership abilities. Jesus declares to his disciples, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6) Throughout the Summit, students and adult leaders explored the narratives of people being called throughout the scriptures and learned more about many of our ELCA advocacy partners.

Our time at the Youth Summit was filled with worship, advocacy workshops, faith stories shared by the Youth Core Leadership Team, community meals and of course, Jesus. We made new friends, such as with the representatives from the West Virginia and Northeastern Ohio Synods, who were in our nightly family devotional group. We connected with Drew Tucker, Executive Director for LOMO, who was a mentor for the Youth Core Leadership Team and dreamed about how to create a synod-wide high-school youth retreat. We sang praise songs in both English and Spanish and experienced a time of evening prayer stations.

After returning home, Lily reflected that "attending the Youth Summit helped me feel very much connected with God in a way only I feel in a few sacred spaces." Will shared this per-

spective, "When I went to the Youth Summit, I thought it was going to be boring and we would just talk about the Bible and planning stuff. But that is far from the truth. When we talked, no one was judgmental and no one was wrong. Everyone spoke on their thoughts. When we talked about God, it wasn't boring. It was immersing. It really helped me refresh not only my mind, but my faith. It was a really good learning experience that I recommend to everyone. It was also really fun."

As Good Shepherd strives to help our students better understand what it means to live out their faith in a complicated world, we feel truly blessed to have been able to be a part of this opportunity and hope to be able to be a part of this event again in the future.





by Pastor Alex Hoops | Associate Pastor

What can the early Church teach us?

This will be the question our community will be asking at the start of 2024 as we kick off a new sermon series the weekend of January 13-14 called “Back 2 Basics”.

This series will be a little outside the box: Instead of following the lectionary, we’ll instead focus on the book of Acts and explore key aspects of the early Church. And we have to look no farther than Chapter 2 for some insight into who they were:

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and hav-

ing the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.” - Acts 2:42-47 (NRSV).

During a time of year when many of us are thinking about refocusing our life & our community is embarking on a new path with a Vision Taskforce, let us join together in exploring how the early church can provide us guidance in what our focus should be going forward!

Our weekly themes:

- Week 1: The Church gathered beyond worship.
- Week 2: The Church was in awe.
- Week 3: The Church was generous.
- Week 4: The Church endeared the community.
- Week 5: The Church grew because God’s mission was bigger than their imaginations.

Faith Milestones

by Amber Holdt

There are many important milestones of faith in our lives.

Some, like Baptism or Confirmation, come with public affirmations and ceremonies that have been passed down through the years. But other equally important milestones, like learning how to pray, may not receive the same recognition.

This is where Good Shepherd's Faith Milestone program comes in. From birth through graduation, Faith Milestones recognize the unique ways that God is present in the important moments of our faith lives. *I'm excited to share with you some of our upcoming Faith Milestones for you and your family:*

Sunday, January 28th at 9 am: Bible Presentation and Workshop. Learn how to explore the Bible with your child. Geared primarily towards 4th graders, this presentation and workshop taught by Sharon Norris is open to children and families of any age who've not gone through the milestone. Parents are encouraged to attend with their child(ren).

Saturday, February 10th at 10 am: Worship Workshop. You and your child will get a behind the scenes tour of the altar and organ while learning about Lutheran worship with Dr. Kevin Seal and Pastor Alex. Geared towards student in Kindergarten and 1st grade.

Sunday, February 25th at 12 pm: Communion Workshop This workshop is primarily geared towards 3rd graders and their parents, but is open to all students, so that they more learn more about this Holy Sacrament. The 2-hour program, which includes lunch, is taught by Pastor Lorne. The milestone will be celebrated at your choice of worship service the weekend of March 2-3.

Saturday, April 6th at 10 am: Prayer Workshop. Geared towards 2 and 3-year-olds, this workshop teaches children (and parents) how to make prayer of part of their lives. Families will learn age-appropriate prayers to use in their homes.

Sunday, April 28th at 9 am: Hear We Stand Presentation and Workshop. 6th grade students are provided their "Here We Stand" Lutheran Student Handbooks as they prepare to enter confirmation in their 7th grade year. Following service, families and students are invited to an informational session about the book & upcoming year in Confirmation.

To learn more about these and other Faith Milestones, drop Amber Holdt a line at aholdt@good-shepherd.com or visit us at goodshepherd.com/events.





Watching a God-Filled Movie

by Doug McConnell

Those of you who know about my work with the Good Shepherd Film Discussion Series will sometimes ask the following question:

How do I select the films for our series? What sort of movies are appropriate for Christian viewers to watch together?

The classic biblical epics churned out by Hollywood years ago were often a lot of fun to watch (especially if accompanied with a big tub of buttered popcorn!) but they often lacked substantial depth. What films might we consider instead?

When selecting a film for our discussion series, my criteria will include the following items:

- *How well does the film fit in with the overall theme for the series?*
- *When does the film present significant social/moral issues that we can discuss together?*
- *Is the film “God-filled” in some distinctive way? Does the film present challenges that God might like us to consider?*
- *Saints and sinners will be represented in*

the films that we watch together; will the viewer respond well to their struggles, and their hope for redemption?

Here is the beauty of this list: **there are many excellent films available to us that are indeed God-filled, even if this was not the filmmaker’s precise intention at the time.**

This year, our theme is Truth, Beauty and the Meaning of Life. This title may sound a bit heady at first, but our series is populated with folks like us who are looking for meaning in their lives.

A few examples from our film series this year will allow you to see how this works:

- In September, we watched Samsara, a film that celebrates the beauty of God’s creation as it also challenges us to consider how we treat that world.
- In December, we will watch Sound of Metal, the sensitive story of a rock musician who is losing his ability to hear due to a tragic disease. How well will he embrace a new world of silence that God will reveal to him in a most unique fash-

ion?

- In January, we will watch *The Tree of Life*; like *Samsara*, it is a feast for the eyes! The main story presents a middle-aged man, a successful architect, who is struggling to understand his life and his relationship with God.
- In May, we will watch a Japanese film called *Departures*. Once again, our protagonist is a musician, who loses his job as a cellist when his orchestra disbands. God presents him with a new way to serve humanity, one that he could not possibly anticipate!

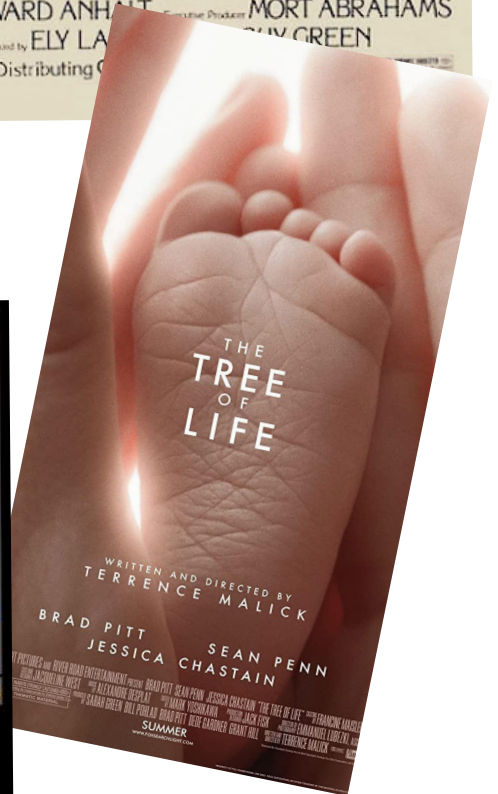
Each of the films listed above meet one or more of the items on our criteria list. Through them, we can discover examples of God's presence in our lives, even if we do not always immediately recognize the connection.

Please join us for a meaningful, God-filled journey! We gather on selected Saturday evenings to watch a film and share our views on what we have witnessed. Each film is self-standing; you do not have to attend every film event to derive benefit. Come whenever you are free; we will be happy to see you!

All films begin at 6:15 PM in the Fellowship Hall. For a complete list of films and dates, please consult the following link, or contact me: dmconne@heidelberg.edu

See you at the movies!

Learn more about Doug's group, the Good Shepherd Film Discussion Series, and upcoming films at onrealm.org.



Upcoming Events

Learn more at goodshepherd.com/events

God With Us Sermon Series Weekends in December

An Advent series that explores how God is with us on our human journeys.

Christmas Concert December 3th at 3 pm

Christmas hymns and songs performed by Good Shepherd musicians.

Handel's Messiah Sing-along December 17th at 3 pm

Join in the 250 year-old tradition in singing Handel's Messiah with a professional orchestra and soloists.

Christmas Eve Worship December 24th at 4 pm, 5:45 pm, 8 pm and 10 pm.

Celebrate the birth of Jesus with hymns, communion, and candle lighting at all services.

Back 2 Basics Sermon Series Starting January 13-14

Explore how the book of Acts can help us better understand our faith today in this 5-week sermon series.

Souper Bowl of Caring Weekend of February 10-11

Collecting food and money for the NEEDS Food Pantry.

Seven Hills Baroque Concert February 4th at 3 pm

Hear Cincinnati's newest Baroque ensemble play "Winter" and other classics.

Ash Wednesday February 14th at 12 pm (30 min) and 7 pm

Begin Lent by remembering our need for repentance and God's Grace.

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