

# Thank you!

A special thank you to my family for putting in **many** hours of front porch roof repair!!!



The Evening Shift



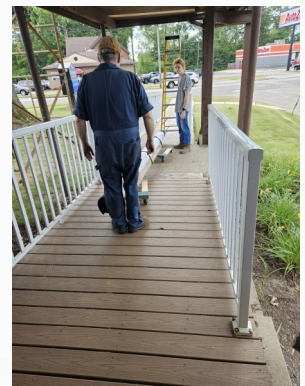
One large sheet of rubber!!!



Break Time!



Half Way Done



Here comes the large roll

## THE VOICE

July 2024

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

4120 Cleveland Ave. NW

Canton, Ohio 44709 330.492.2743



Large roll— going up!

# From Our Council President, Lei Fahrner

## Small Can Be Mighty!

I recently listened to a podcast from Luther Seminary (MN) about lay leadership in the church. The Rev. Clara King, an Anglican priest and researcher in Canada was interviewed. Dr. King travels around Canada to the small churches to see if she can be of assistance. She also researches what these churches do to stay viable and continue their mission. Apparently, a small church is considered 100 people or less. Rev. King said that most of the churches she visits worship much smaller than that.

Rev. King has a great deal of respect for these churches as the majority of them are lay led. Given that there is a significant shortage of clergy, these churches are too small to attract a full time pastor so their lay leaders have taken charge. This has created some edginess amongst the church hierarchy. In a system that has maintained the ideal of thou must go to seminary and be ordained to be a church clergy leader, lay leadership is not something that has been encountered before. In a nutshell, the hierarchy isn't certain what to do, and in the meantime, the lay leaders can't wait for the decision makers to figure it out so they continue on since they know that if they don't no one will.

One common theme throughout the churches Rev. King has visited is the disappointment of the members at the lack of worshippers. In other words, they don't want to be small. Rev. King states that being small is ok. She frequently finds more vitality in the small congregations and they are often willing to try new ideas since they really have nothing to lose.

Unfortunately, we long time church members have been conditioned, or perhaps reduced, to number counting. We view success as high numbers of warm bodies in the pews on any given Sunday. The bigger the number the better we feel. We stare longingly at the mega churches and their hundreds of worshipers, and we wish that was our church. One thing to remember, though, is that small isn't necessarily bad and big may not be necessarily good. The larger the church, the more parishioners get lost in the crowd and become just another number. Small churches can better develop personal relationships amongst the members. The smaller the church, the more frequently that all members, or at least the majority, become involved in one way or another.

Whether you agree or not, I view Good Shepherd as a vibrant small church. We have a very active membership. When you consider that 50-75% of the membership attend every, or almost every, Sunday, that's pretty darn good (as my mom would have said)! We have folks who want to do things and go places. There are always at least 4 or 5 faithful people participating on Zion's bus trips. Many of you sign up to attend dinners or lunches when we have them. Good Shepherd is a congregation that acts like it's very alive, hence my question for you during the congregational meeting. If we do nothing, Good Shepherd probably has a good five years left as a church, but if we transform ourselves we can go beyond those five years. What can we do to transform Good Shepherd into a church that continues beyond the years we have left?

Only one of you have come back to me. Bob L. wanted to get together with my family and me to talk about his vision, but we had to take a raincheck as we were working to get the front porch roof finished before the massive heat wave. Bob, we're still interested in your vision, and everyone else's thoughts as well. Remember, small can be mighty! I think that's a great thing for Good Shepherd to strive for!

Faithfully,

Lei Fahrner

# Pictures from the Akron Zoo!



We're Here!



Check Out This Giant Turtle!



What a Good Looking Group!



Having a Great Time! Wish You Were Here!



Yes, Ladies! These are the ONLY animals you can take with you!

# Church COUNCIL

Church Council will not be formally meeting during the summer months. We will be communicating via email or meeting informally after service if necessary.



During the month of July, Lester will need some assistance getting gifts ready for the Christmas Bazaar in December. More information will come soon. Watch the bulletins!



Thank you all for all the cards I have received since my move to The Inn at White-wood. I really appreciate receiving them!

Joanne Wile



Both Hannah Circle and The Quilting Group will not meet again until September.

## July Concern of the Month

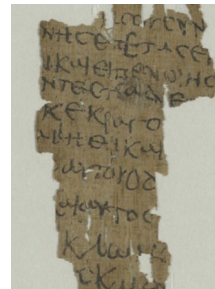
### School Supplies

### Or Monetary Donations



A list will be provided soon in the bulletin.

Stay Tuned!



This papyrus fragment had been catalogued but went unnoticed for decades at the Hamburg University Library in Germany. Researchers recently ran across it and realized that it was one of the oldest fragments of the *Infancy Gospel of Thomas (IGT)*. Originally written in Greek, the IGT was an apocryphal gospel that describes unique miracles and other “incidents” during Jesus’ childhood.

This specific fragment describes a miracle where a five year old Jesus is playing in a stream and diverts the water to create pools. From the mud in these pools, he creates clay sparrows. When Jesus’ father chastises him for doing this on the Sabbath, Jesus claps his hands and brings all the sparrows to life.

Jesus is quite full of “cheek” in this gospel as he goes so far as to curse several people to death. Don’t worry, he brings them back to life later. The IGT ends with Jesus in the temple and Mary and Joseph frantically searching for him which actually appears in the second chapter of Luke.

# July 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> Prayer & Praise Zion 1pm	<i>3</i> AA 7pm	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i> Pr. Eli Here Worship 9:15am	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> Prayer & Praise Zion 1pm	<i>10</i> AA 7pm	<i>11</i> Yoga 10am	<i>12</i> Crafts & Conversations 10am	<i>13</i>
<i>14</i> Worship 9:15am	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i> Prayer & Praise Zion 1pm	<i>17</i> AA 7pm	<i>18</i> Yoga 10am	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>21</i> Pr. Eli Here Worship 9:15am	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i> Prayer & Praise Zion 1pm	<i>24</i> AA 7pm	<i>25</i> Yoga 10am	<i>26</i> Crafts & Conversations 10am	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> Worship 9:15am	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i> Prayer & Praise Zion 1pm	<i>31</i> AA 7pm			