September 2026

1436 21st Ave N
Fort Dodge, IA 50501

The Shepherd's Staff

Phone: 515-573-3174
Email: office@goodshepfortdodge.org

In this issue

GSLC News 2
LWML Notes 2
Other News 2-4
Calendar 5

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We hear the term **G.O.A.T.** quite often these days. It stands for **"Greatest Of All Time."** Athletes, musicians, and other celebrities are given the title as people debate who is the greatest. But when it comes to our relationship with God, perhaps we need a different message: **Don't be a G.O.A.T.**

The world encourages us to think highly of ourselves. Believe in yourself. Trust yourself. Follow your heart. Look inside yourself for the answers. Be the greatest you can be. But Scripture calls us to something very different. It calls us to **humble ourselves**.

The truth is, when we look inward, we do not find everything we need. We find weakness. We find selfishness. We find sin. We find a heart that often wants to put itself first.

How often do we think we know better than God? How often do we trust our own opinions, our own desires, and our own wisdom more than His Word? How often do we want glory for ourselves? That is the danger of trying to be the G.O.A.T.—the greatest of all time. We begin looking to ourselves as though we are the answer. But we are not.

There is only One who truly deserves to be called the greatest. **Jesus Christ.** Jesus did not come demanding that everyone serve Him. Instead, He humbled Himself. The eternal Son of God took on human flesh. He became a servant. He was rejected, mocked, and crucified. As Philippians reminds us, Christ "humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." And He did all of this for us.

Jesus did what we could never do. He lived the perfect life we have failed to live. He carried our sins to the cross. He died the death we deserved. And He rose again, defeating sin, death, and the devil. So perhaps the better question is not, **"How can I be the greatest?"** but **"How can I humble myself and look to Jesus?"**

That begins by being in God's Word. In James 4:10 it reads, "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up" or Jesus says in Matthew 18:4 "Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of Heaven." Of course, there is only one whom has humbled himself to be called the greatest and recognizing that we need Jesus is everything. And the good news is that Christ has already come for us.

In Holy Baptism, He made us His own. Through His Word, He speaks forgiveness to us. In the Lord's Supper, He gives us His very body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. Repeatedly, Jesus turns our eyes away from ourselves and toward Him.

Humility does not mean thinking that we have no value. It means recognizing where our value comes from. We are loved—not because we are the greatest, but because **Jesus is gracious**. We are forgiven—not because we deserve it, but because **Christ died for us**. We are children of God—not because we earned that title, but because **God has made us His own**. So don't spend your life trying to be the G.O.A.T.

Humble yourself. Look to Jesus. He is the One who is truly great. He is the Christ, the Son of the living God. And because He humbled Himself for you, died for you, and rose again for you, you are free to live—not seeking your own glory, but loving God and serving your neighbor.

God's Blessings
Pastor Nicholas Thackery

JULY ATTENDANCE AND OFFICIAL ACTS

	5 pm	9 am	Total
July 4-5	23	59	82
July 11-12	40	77	117
July 18-19	33	109	142
July 25-26	36	87	123
Communion			271

Transfers/Releases: None

Official Acts:
Burials: Sandra Fiala 7/23

Baptism: None

LWML NOTES

LWML Board
Will meet
Tuesday, September 1st at 6:30m

GROUP MEETING
Tuesday, September 8th
Social at 5:30pm Eat at 6:00pm

Dinner will be served (Mashed Potato Bar)
Please sign up in the narthex so we know how much food to prepare.

In-Service will be to collect cash donations to purchase items for the Fall Rally Service Project

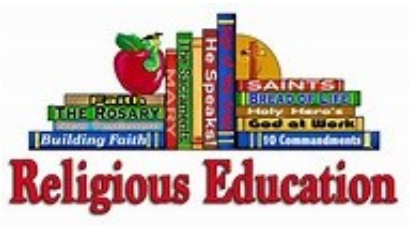
Produce Table:
The produce table is still available for you to share your fruits, veggies or other items.
Donations are very much appreciated.

Thank you for your support!

Newsworthy Notes

Beacon of Hope Meal will be on Thursday, September 3rd at 5pm. We will be cooking the meal here in the kitchen starting at 1:30 pm. If you would like to help, we would love to have you.

JOY Group
Please join us Tuesday, September 15th in the Fellowship Hall at 11:30am. We will be having a served meal this month. Invite a friend and come have lunch with us at 11:30am. Be sure to sign up in the Narthex.



Rally Day Sunday School Kick Off
Sunday, September 13th @ 10:15am

Catechism classes begin
Wednesday, September 16th @ 5:15pm
Pre-K thru Adult

End of Summer BBQ and Potluck

Please join us

Sunday, September 13th
6:00pm

Meat will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Lutheran World Relief pick up on Saturday, September 19th.
8:30am-12:00pm

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sept 6:	**9:30 AM TO 1:00 PM OMELET BRUNCH**
Sept. 9-11:	**Outdoor Education Session 1**
Sept. 16-18:	**Outdoor Education Session 2**
Sept. 23-25:	**Outdoor Education Session 3**
Oct. 2-4:	**IDW Senior High Youth Gathering**
Oct 4:	**9:30 AM TO 1:00 PM OMELET BRUNCH**
Oct. 9-10:	**CAMP OKOBOJI FALL VOLUNTEER WEEKEND**
Oct. 9-11:	**IDW Pastors Wives Retreat**

Camp Okoboji

Sister's of the King Bible Study

Starts Thursday, September 3rd at Soldier Creek Winery at 6:30pm
Women's Bible Study.

Kingsmen Men's Bible Study

Resumes Tuesday, September 8th at Shiny Top at 6:30pm
All Men are welcome.

TEXT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ALERTS

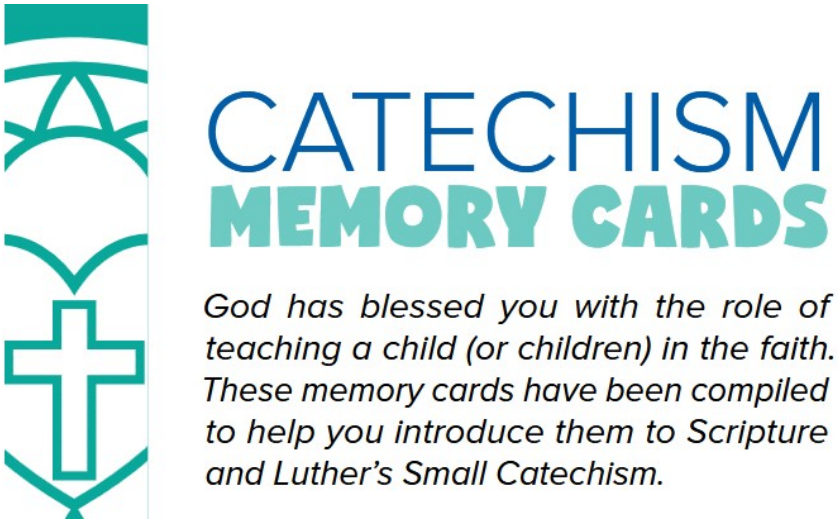
Please make sure you are signed up to
get alerts from the church.
To sign up **text** the word **JOIN** to **515-417-3174**. You will
get a link texted back to you. Click that link to enter your
information to get signed up.

LCMS Family

Find family ministry memory cards at:

https://resources.lcms.org/general/catechism-memory-cards/.

We hope that this resource will bless you and help your children learn Scripture and Luther's Small Catechism.



LCMS Family Ministry

"So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith" (Galatians 6:10).

God has given us communities in our own families, in our church family and in other places as well. This verse reminds us of what a great blessing our church family is. In our culture, we often have Sunday morning as the only time that we see our church family. Our time together on Sunday morning is good and important, but we can also have a relationship with those in our church family beyond that time. Find ways with your family to build connections with other members of the congregation. You can talk to someone that you do not know well and encourage your children to do the same, or even invite them over for a shared meal.

September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 8:15 am-LL Preschool 9:00 am-Sewing; 12 pm-LL Preschool 5:30pm-Funeral Luncheon meeting 6:00pm-Board of Ed 6:30pm-LWML Board	**2** 12 pm-LL Preschool	**3** 7:00 am-Men's Bible Study 8:15 am-LL Preschool 12 pm-LL Preschool 5:00pm– Beacon of Hope Meal 5:30pm-Chr. Management 6:30pm-Sisters of the King BS Soldier Crk	**4** 8:15 am-LL Preschool 9:00am-Bible Study at Ardy's Mae 12 pm-LL Preschool	**5** 5 pm-Divine Worship/HC
6 9:00 am Divine Worship/HC 10:30 am-Adult Bible Study	**7** Office Closed 	**8** 8:15 am-LL Preschool 9:00 am-Sewing; 12 pm-LL Preschool 1:30 pm-Fr. Haven Comm. 5:30-LWML Group Dinner Meeting 6:30 pm-Kingsmen BS	**9** 12 pm-LL Preschool 5pm-Christian Outreach	**10** 7:00 am-Men's Bible Study 8:15 am-LL Preschool 12 pm-LL Preschool	**11** 8:15 am-LL Preschool 12 pm-LL Preschool 5:30pm-Pizza Night	**12** 5 pm-Divine Worship/HC
13 9:00 am Divine Worship/HC 10:15 SS Rally 10:30 am-Adult Bible Study 6:00pm-End of Summer BBQ 	**14** 12 pm-LL Preschool	**15** 8:15 am-LL Preschool 9:00 am-Sewing 11:30 am-JOY Group 12 pm-LL Preschool 6:30-Trustees 7:00-Council	**16** 10:30 am-Lamplighters 12 pm-LL Preschool 5:15pm-CC Class	**17** 7:00 am-Men's Bible Study 8:15 am-LL Preschool 12 pm-LL Preschool	**18** 8:15 am-LL Preschool 9:00am-Bible Study at Ardy's Mae 12 pm-LL Preschool	**19** 5 pm-Divine Worship/HC 830am-12pm Lutheran World Relief Pick up
20 9:00 am Divine Worship/HC 10:30 am-Adult Bible Study	**21** 12 pm-LL Preschool	**22** 8:15 am-LL Preschool 9:00 am-Sewing 12pm-LL Preschool 6:30 pm—Elders First Day of Fall	**23** 12 pm-LL Preschool 5:15pm-CC Class	**24** 7:00 am-Men's Bible Study No Preschool	**25** 8:15 am-LL Preschool 12 pm-LL Preschool	**26** 5 pm-Divine Worship
27 9:00 am Divine Worship 10:30 am-Adult Bible Study	**28** 12 pm-LL Preschool	**29** 8-3:30 IDW Admin Asst Conference 8:15 am-LL Preschool 9:00 am-Sewing; 12 pm-LL Preschool	**30** 12 pm-LL Preschool 5:15pm-CC Class			

Good Shepherd
Lutheran Church

1436 21st Ave N
Fort Dodge IA 50501

Phone: 515-573-3174
Email: office@goodshepfortdodge.org
Pastor Nicholas Thackery
Pastor Email:
pastor@goodshepfortdodge.org

We're on the web
www.goodshepfortdodge.org
Check us out on Facebook
Good Shepherd Fort Dodge

LCMS Health Ministry
September is a month of transition for many people. School is back in session, the weather cools and schedules naturally change pace. Fall is also a great time to re-engage in physical activity and exercise - whether indoors or outdoors. It may seem unusual to hear the church talk about exercise, but LCMS Health Ministry exists to promote a Christ-centered approach to health. Yes, even physical health! The church cares about health — spiritual, mental, physical — because our Lord cares for us in every bodily need. We confess that God creates, redeems and sanctifies our whole person: body and soul, mind and spirit (Gal. 2:20). As such, we are given the task to steward our bodies as members of the larger body — Christ's church (1 Cor. 6:19–20; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27)!

For more information on LCMS Health Ministry, visit *lcms.org/health*.