

October 2026



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It's in the Way that You Use It *Originally Published October 2023*

Consider the humble baseball bat. It is a simple tool designed for a complex task. The batter needs a tool that can consistently deliver force to a small ball which may be thrown at over 100 miles per hour, but which might also come slanting across the plate as a slow curve. For a game like this, the founders of baseball had to redesign the old cricket bat, which is more of a flat paddle. The tool had to fit the job.

But even a specially-designed tool can be used for a different purpose. It turns out that some years ago in England, the home of cricket, baseball bats suddenly started selling like hot-cakes. What were folks across the pond doing with all those baseball bats? Using them as clubs in riots!

A tool can be used, and it can be misused. It's all in the way that you use it.

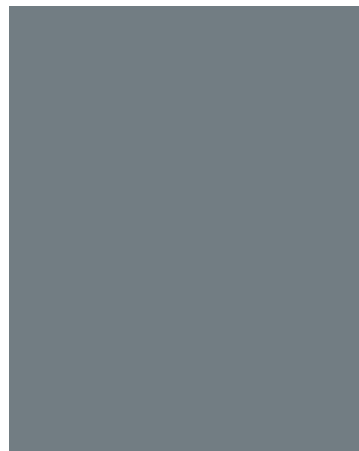
The same is true with the things of God. The Second Commandment states that we should "not misuse the name of the Lord." In the Small Catechism, Luther goes on to tell us exactly what this misuse is, as well as the proper use:

"We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks." (SC I)

The Lord has given us His name: He has placed it upon us in Holy Baptism and He has invited us to pray to Him as our Father. In this sense, the Lord's name is something for us to use. We should not misuse it ... and we should not fail to use it. The Pharisees of old were so afraid of misusing the name of God that they decided to simply never say the name of God (YHWH, Jehovah) at all! This non-use is just as bad as misuse. The Lord gives His gifts for our use.

A Christian steward is one who is called to use all of God's gifts for His purposes. This includes things like the Name of God, the Sacraments and the Word, and it also includes things like our family and friends, our talents and skills, our money and resources. Everything that God has given to you, He has given to you so that you may be blessed to use it for His kingdom.

It's all in the way that you use it!



AUGUST ATTENDANCE AND OFFICIAL ACTS

	5 pm	9 am	Total
Aug 1-2	47	88	135
Aug 8-9	40	89	129
Aug 15-16	39	81	120
Aug 22-23	33	103	136
Aug 29-30	28	80	108
Communion			293

Transfers/Releases: Sarah Sperr to St. Paul, Garner
Official Acts: None
Burials: Bea Naeve and Ann Roberson

LWML NOTES

The LWML Board meeting will be
 Tuesday, October 6th at 6:30 pm.



Mary's Circle will meet
 Thursday, October 1st at 10am

Dorcas Circle will meet
 Thursday, October 8th at 6:30 pm

Hannah's Circle will meet
 Tuesday, October 13th at 6:45 pm

**October 4th is LWML Sunday and the LWML will be
 hosting their Annual Omelet Breakfast Fundraiser
 following the 9am service.**

Free Will Donation

All proceeds will go to their adopted
 Seminary Student



Please sign up to help us out! We need cooks and help preparing on Saturday and cleaning up on Sunday. Sign ups are in the Narthex.

C.I.A.

Will not meet in October due to the Senior and Junior Youth Gatherings both being in October.

Voter's Meeting will be held Sunday, November 1st following SS/Adult Bible Study at 11:30am. Please make a note of the date change.

Newsorthy Notes



Beacon of Hope Meal will be served on Thursday, October 1st at 5 pm.



JOY Group will meet at 11:30 am, Tuesday, October 20th. This month will be a Potluck! So, please bring a dish to share and meet us in the Fellowship Hall for some fun, fellowship and great food!

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

Please keep our Youth and their chaperones in your prayers:

Our Senior High youth and their chaperones will be traveling to Camp Okoboji for the Iowa District West Senior Youth Gathering October 3-4 and our Junior High youth and chaperones to West Des Moines October 24-25.



**October is Pastor Appreciation Month
 October 11th is Pastor Appreciation Day!**



October 9 - 10: CAMP OKOBOJI FALL VOLUNTEER WEEKEND

Fall Volunteer Weekend is a great way to share your time and talents while you enjoy God's Creation at Camp Okoboji. Help prepare Camp Okoboji for the upcoming winter. Room and board will be provided for volunteers. Please save the date and make plans to come and help! For room and board accommodations, please call the office at [\(712\) 337-3325](tel:7123373325)! We will also provide a special dinner on Saturday, Oct. 10 at 5 p.m. to celebrate our Volunteers from throughout the year. Please join us – if possible, let the office know if you plan to attend: [\(712\) 337-3325](tel:7123373325).

NEEDS/WANTS LIST: Sharing opportunities to assist Camp with specific items:

Brooms

Laundry soap, bleach and hand soap

Queen size mattress pads

New commercial grade vacuums

Thrivent Action Team Cards (contact Kellie Jones for potential projects; [712-337-3325](tel:7123373325))

Also, see our Amazon Wish List at:

<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2U3MCM8Z6HG>

PERSONNEL: We are already thinking about staff for next summer! It's never too early to begin recruitment, please encourage youth (at least 16 years of age) and college students to consider serving with us in 2027. The summer staff receive a weekly salary plus free room and board. Even if the youth you know can't work the whole summer, we'd be happy to have them help us even for part of the summer.



The LWML is accepting donations of fake flowers, greenery, accessories and ribbons which will be used for the Ladies Night Out Craft Project in March. Please put donations in the tote on the bench by the mailboxes in the narthex.



**Good Shepherd's Trunk or Treat Event
Sunday, October 25th**

Pumpkin Carving will take place 3:00pm-5:00pm
Trunk or Treat will take place
5:00pm-6:30pm

Hope to see you there with your decorated vehicles to help hand out candy to the little smiling faces from our community!



PIZZA AND GAME NIGHT

Cancelled for October.

Pizza night will resume
Friday, November 13th at 5:30pm



WE ARE COLLECTING STORE BOUGHT SNACKS TO THANK OUR LOCAL FIRST RESPONDERS. ALL SNACKS MUST BE STORE BOUGHT. WE WILL HAVE COLLECTION BINS IN THE NARTHEX.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SAY A PERSONAL THANK YOU, PLEASE WRITE A NOTE ON THE POSTER BOARDS PROVIDED.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT!



To everything there
is a season



Ecclesiastes 3:1

Online giving means one less check to write and one less thing to remember.

Scan the barcode below with your phone and it will take you to the Vanco online giving app to Download. Use Invite code **FNUVVB** to take you to Good Shepherd. You can also search for us by zipcode. You will need to Sign up and create a password.

Choose a one-time payment or set up a recurring payment. Be sure to turn **OFF** the recurring payment option (the default) if you only want to choose a one-time payment.

We can only accept ACH payments from your bank account. You will need your bank account information. (Routing number and Account number)

The LCEF is supporting us by paying our ACH transaction fees. So, there is zero cost to the church for using this service. It actually saves us money on our regular Banking Fees. The bank only allows us so many transactions per month. Each online donation is one less physical check to deposit at the bank every week or every month and that saves us when it comes to bank fees.

Will you be out of town for the holidays? Special offerings are now available. Choose your service and payment choice by clicking the down arrow where you see General Offering. Scroll down to see all of the special services available.



Lord's Cupboard - Has a need for cereal, canned soups, chili beans, baked beans, tuna, instant mashed potatoes, macaroni & cheese, toothpaste, bar soap, shampoo, dish soap, deodorant, and plastic grocery sacks. Please put items in the basket in the main entrance and they will be delivered.

They are also looking ahead to the holidays. They would like ingredients to bake pies, cakes, and cookies. **Please put items in the box in the entryway and we will make sure they get delivered.**



"Families love holiday treats so thank you in advance."



October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
*Times and dates are subject to change				1 7 am-Men's Bible Study 8:15 am-LL Preschool 10 am-Mary Circle 12 pm-LL Preschool 5pm-Beacon of Hope 5:30pm-Christian Management	2 No Pre-school/PD Day 9:00am-Bible Study at Ardy's Mae	3 5 pm-Divine Worship/HC Sr. High Youth Gathering Breakfast prep 9-12
4 9 am-Divine worship/HC 10:30 am-SS No Adult Bible Study Sr. High Youth Gathering LWML Sunday Omelet Breakfast fundraiser after service. 	5 12 pm-LL Preschool	6 8:15 am-LL Preschool 9 am-Sewing 12 pm-LL Preschool 6 pm-Bd. Of Ed 6:30pm- LWML Board Meeting	7 12 pm-LL Preschool 4 pm-Swaddling Clothes 5:15 pm-Anchored	8 7 am-Men's Bible Study 8:15 am-LL Preschool 12 pm-LL Preschool 3:00 pm-Dorcas Circle 6:30pm-Sisters of the King-Soldier Creek	9 8:15 am-LL Preschool 12 pm-LL Preschool	10 10am-12pm Swaddling Clothes Distribution Day 5 pm-Divine Worship/HC
11 9 am-Divine worship/HC 10:30 am-SS/Adult Bible Study	12 12 pm-LL Preschool	13 8:15 am-LL Preschool 9 am-Sewing 12 pm-LL Preschool 1:30 pm-Fr. Haven Comm. 6:30pm-Kingsmen 6:45 pm – Hannah's Circle	14 12 pm-LL Preschool 4 pm-Swaddling Clothes 5pm-Christian Outreach 5:15 pm-Anchored	15 7 am-Men's Bible Study 8:15 am-LL Preschool 12 pm-LL Preschool	16 8:15 am-LL Preschool 9:00am-Bible Study at Ardy's Mae 12 pm-LL Preschool	17 5 pm-Divine Worship/HC
18 9 am-Divine worship/HC 10:30 am-SS/Adult Bible Study	19 12 pm-LL Preschool	20 8:15 am-LL Preschool 9 am-Sewing 10:30 am-Memorial 11:30 am-JOY Group 12 pm-LL Preschool 5:30 pm-Endowment 6:30 pm-Trustees; 7:00 pm-Council	21 10:30 am-Lamplighters 12 pm-LL Preschool 5:15 pm-Anchored	22 7 am-Men's Bible Study 8:15 am-LL Preschool 12 pm-LL Preschool	23 8:15 am-LL Preschool 12 pm-LL Preschool	24 5 pm-Divine Worship Jr. High Youth Gathering
25 9 am-Divine worship 10:30 am-SS/Adult Bible Study Voter's Mtg moved to November 1st. 3:00-5:00pm Pumpkins 5:00-6:30pm-Trunk or Treat 	26 12 pm-LL Preschool	27 8:15 am-LL Preschool 9 am-Sewing 12 pm-LL Preschool 6:30 pm—Elders	28 12 pm-LL Preschool 5:15 pm-Anchored	29 7 am-Men's Bible Study 8:15 am-LL Preschool 12 pm-LL Preschool	30 8:15 am-LL Preschool 12 pm-LL Preschool	31 5 pm-Divine Worship

Good Shepherd
Lutheran Church

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Pastor Nicholas Thackery
Pastor Email:
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We're on the web
www.goodshepfortdodge.org
Check us out on Facebook
Good Shepherd Fort Dodge



Servanthood Opportunity!!

We are revamping the way we serve funerals here at Good Shepherd. We are welcoming to our committee, any member (man or woman) that would like to bake, set up, or serve for funeral luncheons.

What a special way to give of your time and talent to the glory of God and to be present for our brothers and sisters in Christ when they are experiencing loss.

You can contact the church office ([515.573.3174](tel:515.573.3174)), Annie DeBoer ([515.408.8571](tel:515.408.8571)) or sign up by responding with the word **funeral** to the text alert you received from Good Shepherd on 9/10. You will then get a text back with a link for you to click on to get signed up.

So, please call or text to let us know if you would like to become involved in this special area of service.

