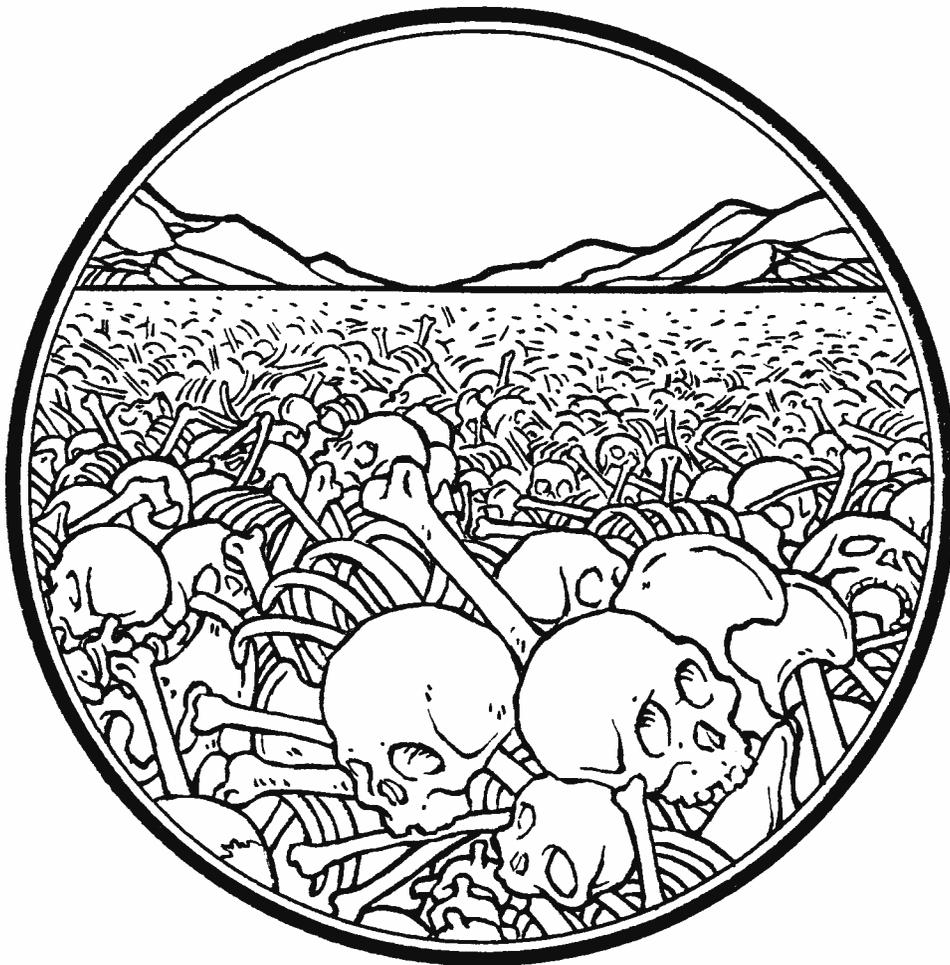


WELCOME TO GOOD SHEPHERD EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



We gather to celebrate the Divine Service. It is at the Divine Service that our Triune God is pleased to serve us. We are sinners who dare to stand on holy ground, confident that the Lord will receive us for the sake of Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross. We confess our sin and, therefore, our need for God's mercy and salvation. Since God is pleased to bestow his forgiveness through Word and Sacrament, that is the purpose of our gathering. In Word and Sacrament, the Holy Spirit delivers to us Jesus who presents us to the Father as his precious saints.



“Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.” (Ezekiel 37:5)

5th Sunday in Lent
✠ ✠ ✠
AD 2020, March 29th

Worship Tidbit for the 5th Sunday in Lent

While the word “Lent” comes from an Old English word meaning “to lengthen” (as in the lengthening of the days of spring), the focus of Lent is hardly spring. The focus of Lent is the Passion of our Lord. The word Passion comes from the Latin *passio*, meaning “to suffer.” So when we speak of the Passion of our Lord, we are not referring to his love for all mankind – though that is what motivated him to come and save us. We are referring to his sufferings and death for our forgiveness.

THE COMMON SERVICE – PAGE 15 *(without communion)*

It is a laudable custom to make the sign of the cross on yourself where you see the sign of the cross (+) in the order of service.

Notes for Passiontide

Today is the 5th Sunday in Lent. We are entering Passiontide (the final two weeks of Lent), in which the Passion of our Lord intensifies. Therefore, the Lenten fast also intensifies which we can observe in our worship setting. The sights and sounds in God's house are muted even more. For the past number of weeks, our celebration has been muted in the following ways:

There is no Alleluia in the Verse of the Day.
We do not sing the *Gloria in Excelsis* after the Absolution.
There are no flowers on the altar.

Now you will note these additional practices.

The *Gloria Patri* (Glory be to the Father) is omitted from the Psalms
All artwork or icons have been removed or veiled.
The ringing of the church bell ceases.
All music is muted except for the support of congregational singing.

Our services will practically be barren of celebration, but that is the point. We are fasting. We are penitent. We are intently focusing on the sufferings and death of Jesus. Ceremony and celebration will return with vigor on Easter Sunday when we rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord which declares that sins are forgiven and that death is destroyed.

Opening Hymn -- 120 ("What Wondrous Love Is This")

Prayer of the Day

Eternal God and Father, help us to remember Jesus, who obeyed your will and bore the cross for our salvation that through his anguish, pain, and death we may receive forgiveness of sins and inherit eternal life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Cong: Amen. (sung)

The 1st Reading Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. ³He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" I said, "Sovereign LORD, you alone know."

Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.'"

So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.'" So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

Then he said to me: "Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.' Therefore prophecy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.'"

The Psalm of the Day

Psalm 116 (page 107) *In unison*

We will omit the *Gloria Patri* ("Glory be to the Father...")

The 2nd Reading**Romans 8:11-19**

And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “*Abba*, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed.

The Verse of the Day**CW 194:3 (“Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices”)**

I praise you, Savior, whose compassion
Has brought you down to ransom me.
Your pitying heart sought my salvation;
You bore the cross triumphantly,
Brought me from bondage full release,
Made me your own, and gave me peace.

The Holy Gospel**John 11:17-27,38-45**

On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

“Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.”

Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

“Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. “Take away the stone,” he said.

“But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.”

Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”

So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.”

When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Readings are from the English Standard Version

Apostles’ Creed (page 19)**Chief Hymn -- 110 (“My Song Is Love Unknown”)**

SERMON TEXT -- Ezekiel 37:1-14

SERMON THEME -- THE WORD OF THE LORD BESTOWS LIFE.

SERMON PRAYER

Supplication during the COVID-19 pandemic (next page)

SUPPLICATION DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Almighty God, merciful Father, our ever-present help in time of trouble, once again we have come to realize that your thoughts are not our thoughts, your ways are not our ways. In your wisdom, you have permitted a highly contagious virus to cause fear and panic, pain and loss. Do not let the hearts of your people despair, but sustain and comfort them.

Grant health, wisdom, and courage to all governing officials so that they may serve in their offices to maintain order in society, to provide for the care and safety of the people they serve, and to prevent unrest and wickedness in a time of crisis.

Grant health, safety, and courage to all doctors, nurses, care-givers, first responders, and all others who provide care for the sick and the dying. Protect them from harm, and grant that their skills may be used for the benefit of those they tend to.

Grant all people patience and perseverance as we endure this pandemic. Bless all who have contracted this virus with healing and strength. Protect the elderly, the frail, and all others who are especially susceptible to great harm or death. Guide all people so that they may demonstrate love for their neighbors and seek the good of others.

Keep our hearts and eyes fixed upon you and your promises. While much in this world remains unsure, and while we are sure that all things in this world will finally pass away, keep us mindful that your word will never pass away and that your mercy endures forever. Bless us with confidence in your faithful care and comfort in the midst of fears.

Dear Lord, we even pray that you will use this pandemic as an opportunity to make your love and mercy known to a world which is consumed in uncertainty and to hearts that are at unrest. Make us bold to proclaim the certainty of your promises and to demonstrate your selfless love in all that we do for our fellowman.

Personal intercessions may be offered.

We ask all these things for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ; and trusting in his promises, we are bold to pray as he has taught us:

INTERCESSIONS

Intercessions that are requested prior to the bulletin's printing will be included in the bulletin. Requests may be made prior to the service as well.

- > For Rawland Storm who continues treatment for cancer
- > Thanksgiving for Roland & Nancy Schneider, parents of Dan Schneider, who are scheduled to return home

In our prayers....

While we offer up prayers for specific requests in our services, petitions and intercessions can be offered up throughout the week for continued concerns. Please continue to remember these in your prayers:

- > Josie Shipe, niece of Bob & Susan Shipe, now diagnosed with ataxia, a degenerative disease of the nervous system
- > Jan Papson, who continues to suffer from the effects of cancer at home

Lord's Prayer

Hymn -- 752 ("In Christ Alone") – next page



1 In Christ a - lone my hope is found.
 2 In Christ a - lone— who took on flesh,
 3 There in the ground his bod - y lay,
 4 No guilt in life, no fear in death,



He is my light, my strength, my song;
 Full - ness of God in help - less babe.
 Light of the world by dark - ness slain;
 This is the pow'r of Christ in me;



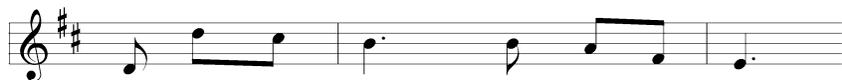
This cor - ner - stone, this sol - id ground,
 This gift of love and right - eous - ness,
 Then burst - ing forth in glo - rious day
 From life's first cry to fi - nal breath,



Firm through the fierc - est drought and storm.
 Scorned by the ones he came to save.
 Up from the grave he rose a - gain!
 Je - sus com - mands my des - tin - y.



What heights of love, what depths of peace,
 Till on that cross, as Je - sus died,
 And as he stands in vic - tor - y,
 No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man



When fears are stilled, when striv - ings cease!
 The wrath of God was sat - is - fied;
 Sin's curse has lost its grip on me.
 Can ev - er pluck me from his hand;



My Com - for - ter, my all in all,
 For ev - 'ry sin on him was laid.
 For I am his and he is mine—
 Till he re - turns or calls me home,



Here in the love of Christ I stand.
 Here in the death of Christ I live.
 Bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.
 Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.



This christological hymn summarizes the sacrificial, earthly life of our Savior and the glory that is now his forever and ours through faith.

Tune: IN CHRIST ALONE (88 88 D)
 Text, Tune: Keith Getty, b. 1974 and Stuart Townend, b. 1963 © 2002 Thankyou Music; admin. EMI CMG Publishing.
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Prayer & Benediction

Closing Hymn -- 608 ("I Fall Asleep in Jesus' Wounds")



Preacher & Celebrant Pastor Thomas E. Schroeder
Organist Jeanette Schneider

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REGULAR SCHEDULE

Divine Service is Sundays at 10:00 AM (Facebook Live only)
Lenten Vespers are Wednesdays at 7:00 PM (Facebook Live only)

OFFICE HOURS

Office hours at Good Shepherd have adjusted during the COVID-19 quarantine. Pastor Schroeder will be here Mondays and Thursdays, 8:00 AM - Noon and 6:00 - 9:00 PM.

CONCERNING PASTORAL CARE

Online Worship: You can join in our services via Facebook Live (Sundays, 10 AM and Wednesdays 7 PM). You can find it here, or by searching for "Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church." Make sure you click to the one in Novi.

Archived Resources: We now have a YouTube channel. A search for "Good Shepherd Novi" should bring up services. Currently, there are only two posted. As always, sermon manuscripts are posted on the pastor's blog (www.LutheranSubject.blogspot.com). You can use the search bar to find a particular date, day of the Church Year, or Scripture reference.

Person-to-person care: Pastor Schroeder will be in his office to offer private devotions, Holy Absolution, and Holy Communion to members in small groups or to individuals. You may come in without appointment at these times: **Mondays and Thursdays, 8:00 AM - Noon and 6:00 - 9:00 PM.** You may also set up an appointment at any time. Visits by appointment can be done either at church or at your home.

In case you contract COVID-19: Please contact Pastor Schroeder. He will alert the congregation so that your fellow members may pray for you, and he will keep everyone informed of your condition. If possible, Pastor Schroeder will visit you during your quarantine. At the very least, he will keep in contact with you and provide devotional materials. If you want to ask for intercessions for loved ones, we will certainly remember them in our prayers, too. If your loved one has no pastor, ask if they would like Pastor Schroeder to visit them.

LENTEN SCHEDULE

Our Lenten schedule continues with the theme, The Crucified King.

April 1 The King Mocked

Vespers begins at 7:00 PM (Facebook Live).

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

We are not too optimistic that we will have been given the "All clear" for large gatherings before Easter. Services will continue to be conducted via Facebook Live and posted on our YouTube channel. The Holy Week schedule will be:

Palm Sunday – Sunday, April 5 (10:00 AM)
Maundy Thursday – Thursday, April 9 (7:00 PM)
Good Friday – Friday, April 10 (7:00 PM)
Easter Sunday – Sunday, April 12 (10:00 AM)

TEDDY BEAR DRIVE

This will be suspended for the time being. We plan on distributing these through the hospital later in the year. For now, keep any teddy bears you may have purchased.

THIS WEEK AT GOOD SHEPHERD

Sunday (3/29)	Divine Service – Facebook Life at 10:00 AM
Monday	Pastor's office hours for personal pastoral care – 8:00 AM – Noon Catechism Class – TEST at home
Wednesday	Pastor's office hours for personal pastoral care – 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM 6th Grade Bible History Class – at home Lenten Vespers – Facebook Live at 7:00 PM
Thursday	Pastor's office hours for personal pastoral care – 8:00 AM – Noon Pastor's office hours for personal pastoral care – 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Sunday (4/5)	Divine Service – Facebook Life at 10:00 AM
Monday	Pastor's office hours for personal pastoral care – 8:00 AM – Noon Catechism Class – at home Pastor's office hours for personal pastoral care – 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

GLEN EDEN MEMORIAL PARK is our local Lutheran "cemetery" on Eight Mile Road in Livonia, just west of Farmington Road. It is our religious memorial park with in-ground (grave markers or stones), mausoleum and cremation placement of loved ones and ourselves when the Lord calls us home to heaven. It serves as a godly resting place of peace, remembrance, and visitation. See the new poster on the Narthex (Hallway/Lobby) bulletin board. You are welcome to tour the several sections (gardens) on the 120 acre grounds of lawn, trees, and statuary. We encourage you to take your family to Glen Eden for a look. For more information (on poster), call, email, or view the website of Glen Eden Lutheran Memorial Park.

A LOOK AT THE UPCOMING SCHEDULE

NOTE: All dates will be confirmed the closer we get to them.

APRIL

Note: All dates are subject to review, based on the COVID-19 updates. Assessment will be made April 6.

- 1 Lenten Vespers (Facebook Live -- 7:00 PM)
- 5 Palm Sunday
- 9 TRIDUUM: Maundy Thursday – 7:00 PM
- 10 TRIDUUM: Good Friday – 7:00 PM
- 12 TRIDUUM: Easter Dawn – 7:30 AM
- 12 Easter Breakfast – 8:45-9:45 AM
- 12 Easter Festival – 10:00 AM
- 14 Church Council – 7:00 PM
- 19 MLS Choir to sing at Good Shepherd – 10:00 AM

MAY

- 3 Sunday School Teachers' Meeting – 11:15 AM
- 15 HVL Spring Concert – 7:00 PM
- 16 Meet-Your-Neighbors breakfast – 9:00-11:00 AM
- 17 Ice Cream Social / Dedication of Church Bell Tower
- 17 Evangelism & Stewardship Committee Meetings – 11:15 AM
- 19 Church Council

NOTES from Huron Valley Lutheran High School (HVL)

Join HVL's Mailing List - Go to HVLHS.org and click on "Sign up for Newsletter" or call or email the school office at mail@hvlhs.org to be added.

International Program

We are excited to have a new international student beginning this semester from Italy. We are currently looking for host families for the 2020-2021 school year. Please contact HVL to find out more about this rewarding program. (734) 525-0160

Call News - On March 3, HVL extended a Divine Call to Mr. Tyler Morgan to be a teacher and to serve as an instructor and athletic director. Mr. Morgan currently serves at Divine Savior Academy—Sienna Plantation in Missouri City, Texas. Please keep Mr. Morgan, his family, and HVL in your prayers as Mr. Morgan deliberates where he may best serve the Lord and his Church.

On March 15, Mr. Neil Schlieve received a call to serve as the principal of St. John's in Bay City, Michigan. Please keep the Schlieve family in your prayers as they consider how God would have them serve.

Attention all 8th Grade Students - HVL is now accepting applications for next year. Call the office, schedule a shadow date, check out our website (www.HVLHS.org).

HVL Financial Position - We thank you for your support of HVL through your prayers, volunteering, words of encouragement, and financial gifts. One example of your support for HVL is shown in the individual gifts given to HVL each year. So far this year, individual gifts have totaled over \$140,000. This is a tremendous blessing! If we are able to meet our goal of \$300,000 for this year, it will allow us to erase the deficit from prior years and put HVL on solid financial footing for the future. This is a tremendous opportunity for which we are truly thankful, and it is only possible due to your support.

Thrivent Choice Dollars - Eligible members have until March 31 to direct 2019 Choice Dollars. If you are eligible and have not done so already, go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call 800-847-4836 and state "Thrivent Choice" at the prompt.

SHUT-INS - Please remember our shut-ins in your thoughts and prayers.

Sylvia Campbell	1745 Wickhamn	Royal Oak, MI 48073
Jim Hobley	6950 Farmington Road	West Bloomfield, MI 48322
Margaretha Lester	935 Union Lake Road Apt. 218	White Lake Twp., MI 48386
Elaine Patton	42600 Cherry Hill Road, Rm. 115	Canton, MI 48188
Mary Zuehlke	29451 Halsted Road Apt. 118	Farmington Hills, MI 48331

WELS RADIO HOUR broadcasts 10:30-11:30 AM, Sundays, out of Lola Park Evangelical Lutheran Church of Redford. It airs on WLQV, AM 1500 and 92.7 FM. It is also simulcast on faithtalkdetroit.com and can be heard on the faithtalkdetroit phone app.

WELS CHURCH LOCATOR - If you are traveling out of town or on vacation, you can visit www.wels.net and click **Find a Church/School** at the top of the page, to find a WELS Church near you.

Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church (WELS)

41415 W. 9 Mile Road Novi, Michigan 48375-4306

Office Phone
(248) 349-0565

Web Site
www.GoodShepherdNovi.org

Church E-Mail
welsnovi@aol.com

Pastor Thomas E. Schroeder

Pastor's Cell Phone (248) 719-5218

We encourage our members to utilize opportunities for Christian education, grounded in the Evangelical-Lutheran faith. While we do not own and operate a school on our property, we are able to enroll our children at the following schools.

St. Peter Lutheran School
(Pre-K only)
1343 Penniman Avenue
Plymouth, MI 48170
(734) 421-9022
www.splp.org

St. Paul Lutheran School
(Pre-K through 8th grade)
17810 Farmington Road
Livonia, MI 48152
(734) 453-0460
www.stpaulslivonia.org

Huron Valley Lutheran High School
(9th grade thru 12th grade)
33740 Cowan Road
Westland, MI 48185
(734) 525-0160
www.hvlhs.org

Becky Lohrmann, teacher

Mr. Paul Leifer, principal

Mr. Matt Foley, principal