



The FLOCK

The official Newsletter of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
822 Belvoir Ave., East Ridge, TN 37412



"Are You Being Wise? Are You Ready?"

We certainly live in the midst of trying days. There is a lot drawing our attention right now. To name a few, COVID-19 and the desire for a vaccine, racial tensions, some trying to get their lives together after the tornado. We have a presidential election that promises to be like no other with the other issues before us. Then you have the normal stuff that is part of the daily grind of life. Each calls for effort on our part to respond. Each takes up energy. Each is begging for our attention. It is this very thing that is so dangerous for our faith. Jesus is not on that list.

As we look at the parable before us, many miss some of the important lessons Jesus is trying to bring to us. One point that is often just brushed off by commentaries is this, the delay of the bridegroom. The bridegroom in the parable is Jesus. His return in the parable marks his second coming. Everyone gets the part right that the parable's thrust is that we are supposed to be ready when he returns. BUT, WHY DOES HE DELAY IN HIS COMING? Note what happens when he does; the virgins all fall asleep. Of course, they do. The delay was long. Life goes on as normal, just as Jesus said it had gone on as normal in the days of Noah when people were given and taken in marriage. So it is with us now. Life is going on. There are normal activities, and there are some

new crises. But when have there not been crises in the lives of people in this world? Yes, we have the Corona Virus. Is this worse than losing a spouse or a child or even facing your own death? I know it has been hard, but life is filled with broken moments, some worse than others. Racial tensions are nothing new. Prejudice fills the pages of history bearing witness of our broken, sinful humanity that hates without cause and does horrible things to those we judge as weaker than ourselves. So the question remains; Why did the bridegroom delay? Was he just taking his good old time? Did he just want people to stay in suspense so that he would be the man of the hour as he comes in late so that all attention is drawn to him? That is how many of the commentaries treat this delay like it is just a passing thing. It is not.

The bridegroom in this parable is no ordinary man. He is a man of high standing. They delay that is being portrayed here is the 2nd coming of Jesus. Why does he even go out of town, to begin with? Traditional marriage feasts have the groom at

his house coming to the house of the bride. So where did he go? Jesus knew why powerful people took long trips to Rome; to receive authority over the land from the emperor. So it is here. Our Lord, the Son of Man, goes on a journey to be given authority over God's everlasting kingdom. Daniel 7 talks of the Son of Man, Jesus, approaching the Ancient of Days to receive this kingdom. The journey he would take was through Calvary, then the empty tomb, and finally to the right hand of the Father, where he was given all authority. What is his kingdom about? Salvation for mankind.

When we planned for our wedding day, we were set to go. I would have loved to marry Brenda right away. However, we did not. We delayed. We wanted to make sure all those who were important to us could come! That is what the delay is about. If you read II Peter 3:6 as Peter responds to mockers who deride God for his slow coming as things continue as they have for years, you will see why he delays, "The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is PATIENT TOWARDS YOU,

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"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour. (Matt. 25:1-13 ESV)

"From the Pastor", continued from p. 1



NOT WISHING THAT ANY SHOULD PERISH, BUT THAT ALL SHOULD REACH REPENTANCE." That is why he delays, grace! That is why he delays his joy, still putting up with our sin and the sin of mankind, patient love that desires salvation for the straying. Are you taking advantage of that gift?! Are you being wise, that is, applying yourself on to salvation?

Oh, the danger of our days, days that so easily can sidetrack us from Jesus. You cannot find so many things on the shelves. Why? Because people are going crazy with buying! It is like our world thinks that buying is going to soothe our souls! People worry so much about staying safe from COVID-19 that they even put off all contact with the thing that will save them, Jesus. That is what is represented by the foolish virgins in the parable. Their heart was not really on Jesus. They looked no different at the beginning, but the end told the story. In their heart, they cared so little for the bridegroom they did not even make ready for the celebration of his coming. He was not their first love. They got caught up on the day to day things of this world. Jesus knew their heart. "I do not know you."

Oh, the precious oil! What is it? It is everything and anything you need to keep your eyes on Jesus. Yes, it is the Word! Yes, it is seeking his help to fight the evils of this world that threaten to take your eyes off Jesus. Yes, it is his grace that enables you to be about the task of serving in his name until he returns. It is everything that we need from God's grace to carry us through all of life. After all, only his grace can do that. Are you setting your heart on that grace? The wise do. They will be ready. May God make you wise in these perilous days.

In Christ,
Pastor Sheets

BCA'S Pre-K4 off to Kindergarten!

In May, our Pre-K4 teachers, Mrs. Jamie Sunderland and Mrs. Sara McIntyre, held a drive-through graduation for their students as a fun and safe way to end this very special year. We know they are well-prepared to excel in kindergarten!



JOIN A BIBLE STUDY AT CHURCH!

SATURDAYS: Bible Study with Pastor Rosser @ 3:45- 4:35 pm before the Grace Place service.

SUNDAYS:

Bible Study with Paul Henze OR Skip & Karin Hubby* @ 10 am after Traditional Service. *The Hubby's started a new study on June 28th called "Unshakeable Hope"

Pastor Sheets began a **NEW MEMBER CLASS** on June 28th. Meets Sundays @ 10 am.

Crossways! Class meets @ 2 pm on Sundays as well!

TUESDAYS: Bible Study with Pastor Sheets @ 10:30 am.





Notes From the Office

Congratulations to our 2020 8th grade graduates!!

Simon Bastnagel, Braxton Ervin, Sadie Pacenti, Samantha Woodfin and Jahel Valentin on their graduation from Belvoir Christian Academy on June 19. Graduation from BCA is such a special event for our families. We commemorate the relationship that our pastors, school board members, teachers/administration, parents and the students have worked on together for many years to accomplish all that it takes to be a BCA graduate. *They have much to be proud of for their academic accomplishments!*



Sadie Pacenti received the *President's Award for Outstanding Academic Excellence*, the *Thrivent Scholar Athlete Award*, the *Mark Amstutz Math Award*, the *Ned Brown Art Award* and was named *Valedictorian of the Class of 2020*. **Jahel Valentin** was named *Salutatorian* and also earned the *Citizenship Award* as well as the *President's Award for Outstanding Academic Excellence*. **Samantha Woodfin** received the *President's Award for Educational Achievement* and the *Music and Ministry Award*. We wish all of our BCA graduates blessings and success as they take their next steps in their educational journey!





The ladies of Good Shepherd are
cordially invited to a
BRIDAL SHOWER
in honor of
CHELSEA SKIDMORE,
daughter of Kevin and Ann Skidmore.

Hosted by:
Ann Skidmore and Katrina Skidmore Wagner

Date: Saturday, July 11, 2020

Time: 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Location: GSLC Fellowship Hall

Please RSVP by July 6

to Ann (423-260-1737) or Katrina (423-605-5809)

In the event that we become unable to host the shower at church due to coronavirus concerns, we will hold a drive-by shower at Chelsea's residence same day and time. We will have an e-mail and phone tree sent out to all members if that becomes the case.

Registered at:
Bed, Bath & Beyond, and Wal-Mart



High School & Jr. High

**You're Invited! PULSE meets
Wednesday nights @ 6:30 pm,
outside in the back parking lot,
weather permitting.**

*If the weather looks like rain/storms,
there will be a Zoom meeting instead.
An email will go out by 2pm Wednesdays
to let you know.*



**Don't forget about our
weekly devotional videos!**

Quarantime with Jesus

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels
nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any
powers, neither height nor depth, [*nor COVID-19], nor
anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from
the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."
- Romans 8:38-39 [*not even this]

It's been a journey, y'all. Need a bit of
encouragement? Check out our weekly
devotional videos, *Quarantime with
Jesus* Episodes 1-9, on the Pulse Facebook
page and our IGTV channel on Instagram.

Contact Katie:
dcekatieb@gslcflock.org

July

Everyday Faith from CPH

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1
Read
Ephesians 4:32.
Keyword: kind
Memorize this Bible verse with your family.

2
Read
Psalm 119:66.
Keyword: knowledge
What are God's commandments?

3
Read
Psalm 47:2.
Keyword: king
What is the job of a king?

4
Read
Philippians 3:20.
Keyword: Jesus
What does it mean to be a citizen where you live now?

5
Read
Psalm 16:11.
Keyword: joy
Come up with one word for each letter of "joy" that describes your joy today.

6
Read
Numbers 27:18.
Keyword: Joshua
Who is someone whom you could pray for today?

7
Read
Luke 18:16.
Keywords: kingdom of God
Draw a picture of what you think God's kingdom is like.

8
Read
Matthew 9:9.
Keyword: Matthew
Who are people you know who follow Jesus today?
Do you know anyone who doesn't follow Jesus?

9
Read
Proverbs 19:21.
Keyword: mind
Make a list of your plans and spend time praying about what you wrote.

10
Read
Proverbs 31:9.
Keywords: mouth
Brainstorm with your family how this verse applies to the community in which you live.

11
Read
Galatians 5:14.
Keyword: neighbor
Each day this week spend time praying for all of the neighbors who live around you.

12
Read
Micah 6:8.
Keyword: love
Brainstorm with your family how you can do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. Try to come up with one idea for each phrase.

13
Read
Proverbs 3:5.
Keyword: Lord
Ask an adult to share about a time that they tried to lean on their own understanding instead of God's.

14
Read
Genesis 1:3.
Keyword: light
Talk about all of the different ways we use light each day.

15
Read
Matthew 9:9.
Keyword: Matthew
Who are people you know who follow Jesus today?
Do you know anyone who doesn't follow Jesus?

16
Read
Proverbs 19:21.
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Genesis 1:3.
Keyword: light
Talk about all of the different ways we use light each day.

22
Read
Ephesians 6:1.
Keyword: obey
Pray and ask God to help you obey your parents.

23
Read
John 14:18.
Keyword: orphans
Who is the "I" in this verse?

24
Read
John 3:16.
Keyword: only
How many children are in your family? Do you know anyone who is an only child?

25
Read
Matthew 5:9.
Keyword: peacemakers
Talk about how you can be a peacemaker.

26
Read
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.
Keyword: pray
Set an alarm and pray for one minute of every hour today.

27
Read
Psalm 63:3.
Keyword: praise
What is your favorite song to sing when you praise God?

28
Read
James 1:19.
Keyword: quick
Brainstorm how you can be quick to hear today.

29
Read
Psalm 22:19.
Keyword: quickly
Ask God for help today with whatever you need.

30
Read
Proverbs 15:18.
Keyword: quiet
What is contention? Have you experienced something like that before?

31
Read
Ecclesiastes 9:17.
Keyword: quiet
Who are wise people in your life you can turn to for advice?

32
Read
Genesis 2:2.
Keyword: rested
How does your family take time to rest?

33
Read
Psalm 19:14.
Keywords: rock and redeemer
Memorize this verse with your family.

34
Read
2 Timothy 4:7.
Keyword: race
What race is this verse talking about?

35
Read
Revelation 22:13.
Keywords: Omega
Make a list of everything you can think of that has a beginning and an end.



Concordia
Publishing House



**Summer/CV-19
OFFICE HOURS**

Wed-Fri

8:30 am-2 pm



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
June 28 Traditional– 9am Sun. School– 10:15 am Contemporary– 11:15am w/Comm Crossways– 2 pm	June 29	June 30 Bible Study w/ Pastor Sheets – 10:30 am	1 MDO– 9am-2pm PULSE/YOUTH – 6:30 pm	2 MDO– 9am-2pm	3	4 Happy 4th! Bible Study w/ Pastor Rosser – 3:45 pm Grace Place– 5 pm w/Comm
5 Traditional– 9am w/Comm Sun. School– 10:15 am Contemporary– 11:15am Crossways– 2 pm	6	7 Bible Study w/ Pastor Sheets – 10:30 am	8 MDO– 9am-2pm PULSE/YOUTH – 6:30 pm	9 MDO– 9am-2pm	10	11 Bible Study w/ Pastor Rosser – 3:45 pm Grace Place– 5 pm w/Comm
12 Traditional– 9am Sun. School– 10:15 am Contemporary– 11:15am w/Comm Crossways– 2 pm	13 Board of Christian Ed.– 6:30 pm	14 Bible Study w/ Pastor Sheets – 10:30 am	15 MDO– 9am-2pm PULSE/YOUTH – 6:30 pm	16 MDO– 9am-2pm Chemo Caps Group– 10:30 am	17	18 Bible Study w/ Pastor Rosser – 3:45 pm Grace Place– 5 pm w/Comm
19 Traditional– 9am w/Comm Sun. School– 10:15 am Contemporary– 11:15am Crossways– 2 pm	20	21 Bible Study w/ Pastor Sheets – 10:30 am Servant Council Mtg.– 6:30 pm	22 MDO– 9am-2pm PULSE/YOUTH – 6:30 pm	23 MDO– 9am-2pm	24	25 Bible Study w/ Pastor Rosser – 3:45 pm Grace Place– 5 pm w/Comm
26 Traditional– 9am Sun. School– 10:15 am Contemporary– 11:15am w/Comm Crossways– 2 pm	27	28 Bible Study w/ Pastor Sheets – 10:30 am	29 MDO– 9am-2pm PULSE/YOUTH – 6:30 pm	30 MDO– 9am-2pm	31	Aug. 1 Bible Study w/ Pastor Rosser – 3:45 pm Grace Place– 5 pm w/Comm

JULY Anniversaries

7/3– Erik & Alina Earnshaw (27 yrs.)

7/3– Philip & Erin McCall (16 yrs.)

7/8– Tommy & Melissa Swafford (9 yrs.)

7/9– Julie Johnson (26 yrs.)

7/15– Steve & Penny Jordan (42 yrs.)

7/20– Robby & Debbie Allen (46 yrs.)

7/25– Jeff & Carla Stutz (28 yrs.)

7/28– Kurt & Shari Kappel (36 yrs.)

7/28– Mark & Karen Lumpkin (31 yrs.)

7/28– Lane & Konnie McKown (30 yrs.)

7/28– Dave & Becky Mietzner (41 yrs.)

7/28– Mike & Kaye Poe (49 yrs.)

7/30– Al & Gae Varnell (38 yrs.)

JULY Birthdays

7/1– Paul Ruud

7/2– Tyler Garner

7/2– BethAnn Lee

7/2– Linda Mauritzen

7/4– Rebecca Green

7/9– Makala Bumgarner

7/9– Terry Himphrey

7/11– Mike Poe

7/13– Theresa Dauby

7/14– Evelyn Coveyou

7/14– Craig Mullinax

7/15– Dean Dressler

7/16– Joanne Brownlee

7/16– Maria Irwin

7/17– Melissa Swafford

7/18– Barrett Gossett

7/18– Matthew Malone

7/19– Page Swafford

7/20– Jeffery Armour

7/20– Jamie Futrell

7/21– Michael Cameron

7/22– Will Besh

7/22– Amanda Browning

7/22– Jessica Durham

7/22– Jane Mullinax

7/24– Darren Downey

7/24– Donna Wingard

7/27– Wren Lee

7/28– Jeremy McIntyre

7/28– Bernard Meinert

7/28– Jacob Ruud

7/29– Jeanette Huddleston

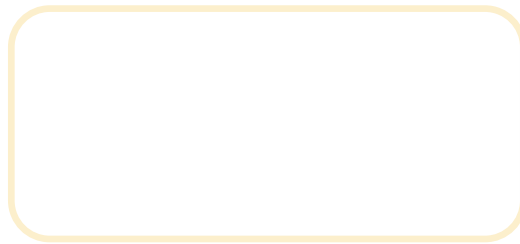
7/29– Ernie Meyer

7/29– Tad Whitaker

7/30– Alicia Webb



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President of Congregation: Stephen Meyer

Traditional Music Director: Sandy Morris

The Blessing Place/MDO: Jill Burns

AVL Director: Nolan Polley

Treasurer: Vickie Spiegelhalter

