

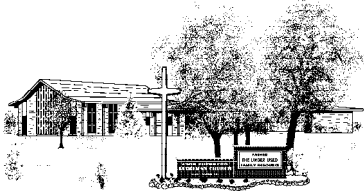
The Shepherd's Staff

of

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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Who Will He Send?

Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60

Seven Helpers

¹In those days, as the number of the disciples grew larger and larger, a complaint was brought against those who spoke Aramaic by those who spoke Greek that every day, when the food was handed out, their widows were being neglected.

²The Twelve called the whole group of disciples together and said, "It is not right for us to give up teaching God's Word in order to serve at tables. ³Now, brothers, select seven men from among you of whom people speak well, who are full of the Spirit and wisdom, and we will put them in charge of this work. ⁴Then we will devote ourselves to praying and to serving by speaking the word."

⁵The idea pleased the whole group. So they chose **Stephen, a man full of Faith and of the Holy Spirit**, Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, who had become a Jew in Antioch. ⁶They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷The word of God kept on spreading, and the number of disciples in Jerusalem was growing very large. Even a large number of the priests came to believe and obey the Word.

Allow me to do a little self-reflection about the Church.

I often wonder what the members of the people of Good Shepherd say about the congregation when they have a chance to speak about the Church. When we speak to a friend or co-worker, it's easy to say things about the Pastor, about the Church grounds, or about one of the Boards or Committees. But when we speak to a friend or co-worker do we speak – *ABOUT HIM* – Jesus Christ?

When Paul and Barnabas came to Antioch near Pisidia (Acts 13:13-ff) they began preaching and teaching the Gospel to the people. Verse 43 says, *When the meeting of the synagogue broke up, many Jews and others who had come to fear God followed Paul and Barnabas, who talked to them and urged them to continue in God's grace.* The Word

tells us that they could not restrain themselves in talking about Jesus Christ and the gift of salvation He offered to all mankind.

We see in the opening text above that the disciples were overloaded in serving the people in the daily routines of the Church and were not devoting themselves to preaching and teaching the Word of God. The congregation recognized that, stepped forward, and took on the responsibility of the every-day affairs of the Church. However, one who stepped forward was Stephen, "a man full of Faith and of the Holy Spirit." Not only did Stephen wash dishes, plant flowers, clean windows, and cut the grass, he also witnessed to the Gospel message of salvation to all he met. For that he was arrested and taken to court. (The Jewish Sanhedrin put him on trial) During his trial he witnessed in an even more desperate and fervent way to the Gospel of Jesus. For that he was stoned to death.

What is it that ties our tongue when the time to witness comes to us? Are we afraid to speak of Jesus because our friends may call us "Religious nuts" or might turn from us not wanting to hear our faithful witness? Did Stephen face any of these hindrances? No! In the face of those who rejected the message of Jesus Christ, Stephen kept on witnessing – **and then** – as he was being stoned to death by them, prayed that God would forgive them. Sure, he asked God to forgive them for murdering him but if I read Stephen correctly his plea for them to be forgiven was also a plea to forgive them for rejecting Christ in hope that the love and forgiveness of Christ would one day lead them to the Savior and salvation.

May the love of Jesus Christ untie our tongues, open our hearts, and give us the vision each day to tell that person we encounter, about Jesus.

Blessings,

Pastor Don

A Thought

Man's way leads to a hopeless end. God's way leads to an endless hope.



Christian Grade School News

Below is the Bio for a teacher for our school; God willing she accepts the contract we extended. Please pray for her and the school.

Robyn Gray was born Robyn Kitzerow in Madison, Wisconsin, and spent the first seven years of her life in Arlington, Wisconsin (a small rural community outside Madison.) There she and her family attended St. Peter's Lutheran Church. The summer that she turned seven, her father graduated from the UW and got a job in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Her family moved to Cedarburg, a suburb of Milwaukee where they continue to live there to this day.

In Cedarburg, she and her family were members of First Immanuel Lutheran Church. She and her sisters attended that Lutheran School. It was there that she decided to become a Lutheran school teacher. At First Immanuel, she enjoyed going to Sunday school, singing in the choir, playing handbells, cheerleading, playing softball and volleyball, and going to youth group. She attended the public high school where she participated in cheerleading, track, choir, band, and forensics. She was also a member of 4-H and took piano lessons.

After high school, she went to Concordia University in River Forest, IL majoring in Elementary Education with a concentration in Music. There she participated in various choirs including the Kappelle, track, drama, and intramurals including floor hockey and powder puff. She also held various jobs and babysat.

In 2005 she was called to Messiah Lutheran School in Ewa Beach, HI to teach Third and Fourth Grade. She met her husband Rob and was married July 15, 2006 in Wisconsin, at the church she went to as a child in Arlington.

In October of 2006, the board of directors at Messiah announced that they could no longer financially support all six teachers, and had to release three teachers including the principal. Because she knew her husband's pay was sufficient to support both of them, she volunteered to be one of the teachers to leave. She continued to participate in the church there, was a member of LWML, and occasionally taught Sunday School or played piano for services.

After working at Messiah, she was a teacher's aide at Good Shepherd Lutheran Preschool in Honolulu, HI, an educational tour guide at Kualoa Ranch in Kaneohe, HI, and sold Mary Kay. On December 7th, 2007, her son Trevor was born. After that, she stayed at home and continued to participate in church functions.

She is the eldest of three girls. Her sister Katie is 22 and graduated from Concordia in Mequon with a degree in early childhood education, and she just got married. Her sister Claire is 12. Her husband Rob is in the Navy stationed at Pearl Harbor and is a fire control technician. He is also active in the church. Their son Trevor is seven months old, and they have two cats named Thelma and Louise.

Robyn enjoys sewing, playing video games, playing the piano, cross stitch, cooking, knitting, crocheting, surfing, hiking, fishing, camping, working out, and watching the Packers and Badgers.

Another Thought

When praying, don't give God instructions – just report for duty.

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Another Thought

Most Christian want to serve God but only bin an advisory position.

Vacation Bible School

We have just experienced the wonders of God's love for His dear children. Vacation Bible School was a record for the Church since we had over 90 children enrolled in VBS. The average daily attendance was 87. That was a record sent to this mission. Well done children and parents of VBS.

Another Thought

Exercise daily – walk with Jesus.

Breaking the Pattern

More than half a century ago, a Johns Hopkins professor gave a group of graduate students an assignment. They were she had exerted such remarkable influence over a group of slum children.

Her only answer was: "I loved those boys."

Christian growth is almost impossible without brotherly love. The climate has to be right for the growth of gardens and plants. The same is true of Christian growth.

The Board of Education

Another Thought

If you feel you have no faults, that makes another one.

Utilize Your Energy for Christ

Mark Twain wrote; "When a child is 13, put him in a barrel with only a hole to feed him through. When he turns 18,

The Board of Evangelism

Another Thought

Sorry, but the fruit of the Spirit doesn't include sour grapes.

Notes from the Church

- On Sunday July 27th, we will be having a special service to honor and celebrate Pastor's 30 years with Good Shepherd.
- Thank you to everyone that planted and are taking care of the flower gardens, as they look beautiful.
- We are in need of a couple more cleaning crews. The more crews we have; the fewer times everyone has to clean!
- Men's Breakfast Club meets the 1st Saturday of the month at Hillcrest Restaurant on 75th Street at 6:30.
- Check out the church website <http://www.goodshepherdluth.org/>