

THE HEARTBEAT

OUR SHEPHERD CHILDCARE'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Ms. Leanne	9/08	
Elijah Fredrick	9/10	2
Eric Luther	9/12	3
Ms. Allison	9/12	
Beckett Millhouse	9/13	5
Linley Goodyear	9/14	5
Izaak Markman	9/16	3
Oliver Smith	9/16	1
Axel Grobe	9/17	2
Delaney Fry	9/18	3
Alivea Balza	9/22	3
Avery Mueller	9/23	1
Aiden Quella	9/25	3

SO, WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

PASTOR ZACH GEBERT

What on your mind most of the day? Work? School? A relationship that's needing attention? Protests and pandemics? Money? The things that stick in our mind are the things that need attention and the things that need attention are often the needs and/or the threats in our lives. They come in different varieties for all of us, but it's probably fair to say that we all devote a lot of mental space to fear.

Sound accurate? Yeah, me too.

We don't have to though. I mean, it seems like we do. The needs we face and the threats we face are real and ignoring them doesn't make them disappear. But we don't owe our mental and heart space to fear.

In Colossians 3, Paul makes the point that the earth-bound part of us that would be owned by fear isn't even part of us anymore. It died. So, when fear comes knocking, there's no one to answer the door. God has taken us and hidden us with him.

We still face needs and threats, but we face them from within our safe hiding place in the arms of God. There, we know that Christ has mastery over all things, even those things needs and threats that try to intimidate.

Because Christ is in control and because we're safely hidden in the arms of God, we have the freedom to give our mind not to fear but to better things. (continued on page 2)



OUR SHEPHERD
CHILDCARE



ON YOUR MIND (CONTINUED)

:1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. Colossians 3:1-3

Still, it's hard. Even when we know that God has made it so we don't owe anything to fear, it's hard to not dwell on needs and threats. That's why God's given us something to directly speak the voice of fear and something to help enforce that pattern of living hidden in Christ.

That which speaks against the voice of fear is the voice of God. We find that in his Word. There the Spirit works in the gospel of Jesus to comfort and protect us. But then God kept going and called believers to gather together around that Word as well. When we gather as a church, we not only hear God's message of life and comfort together, but we become that voice of encouragement for each other. And it means so much to be with other people who, like you, have been living in a life of need and threats, but are finding freedom from fear in Christ.

Point is this: if you find that fear and need is occupying your heart, it doesn't have to. Hear Jesus speak through his Word. And come back to his house to gather with your church (in a socially-distant germ-free way!) and find the encouragement that God designed to happen in the church. Through his Word sacrament and the gathering around it, God releases our minds from fear.

MRS. ANN POTTER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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A MINISTRY OF **BETHANY**

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BACK TO SCHOOL & PARENT TALKS

MRS. MAURA HEGMAN, DIRECTOR OF STAFF & CURRICULUM

Our Shepherd has been fortunate enough to remain open since the end of May. We have adapted new health and safety procedures with our return, to ensure a safe environment for families, children, and staff.

All adults in the building wear masks, curbside drop-off and pick-up procedures have been implemented, med checks occur upon arrival and frequently throughout the day, and sanitation protocols have been updated.

Along with implementing these new CDC and licensing recommendations, we will be adding a new program beginning September 1, 2020. Our Shepherd is opening a Learning Support Room for all children five years and older. This classroom will support children in their virtual learning while in a safe and supervised environment. The Our Shepherd staff will enhance the children's day with movement activities and Bible stories, as well as social and emotional support.

We will be relaunching our weekly Parent Talks in September, beginning with a month long series on Safety. We will discuss the many ways we can stay safe and support children mentally, physically, emotionally, spiritually, and even while using technology.

We are consulting a wide range of experts such as technology support staff, educators, a family medicine doctor, a psychologist, and a Christian counselor. We understand that returning to school in person under new circumstances or attending school virtually can be tough for our children and our families. But we look forward to sharing information and strategies to support our children as they grow and develop at home and in the classroom.



Order your Our Shepherd apparel
(for both adults and children)
by September 7, 2020 by going to
ourshepherdchildcare.com/store



Outdoor Classes on Saturdays at 9AM beginning
September 12 in the Our Shepherd back parking lot.
Class is FREE! Join the "Faith Fit at Our Shepherd"
group on Facebook for details!