

GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

January 2018

From the Pastor

A New Morality?

Today we are seeing a morality of self-fulfillment. Life has become about me. People want self-fulfillment even if it means doing things outside the bounds of cultural Christianity. We don't want other people telling us what we can or cannot do. Christian morality has been replaced with what some have called a moral code of self-fulfillment. Its basic tenet is a religion that pursues personal fulfillment without any outside constraints. Anyone or anything that becomes a "personal fulfillment obstacle" must be removed. That obstacle must be removed because it is the enemy. We believers are told to keep our beliefs to ourselves.

This new morality can infect the Church in many areas from the act of sexual relations outside of marriage to something as simple as the person who quits coming to church because of a worship time change. Both these actions are done because "life is about me" or self-first religion. All of us are infected with sin and sin is really nasty stuff! We are thankful for a blood-stained cross that rescues us from a life about self and "self-comfort first."

So what is God's moral order? Well, according to the Bible, here's how life ought to be lived:

- Discover truth **OUTSIDE** yourself, in Jesus.
- Loving others does not always mean staying silent.
- Joy is found not in pursuing your own desires but in giving ourselves to others.
- The **HIGHEST GOAL** in life is giving glory to God in all we do.
- Beliefs always affect society (others around us).

God gives us boundaries so we can flourish in meaningful ways.

"But training in godliness is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come." -1 Timothy 4:8

It has been a great 6 months of serving God's people at Good Shepherd. Your warmth and love for me was visible every Sunday. It was a joy to visit most of you in your homes and the good discussions we had together in Cottage Meetings.

The years ahead will be challenging ones but always remember...the real Church is not 140 East 56th Street, Tacoma! The real Church is you, the Body of Christ, that will never die. God's blessings to all and I will see you again!

Pastor Toby Joeckel

Have a Blessed New Year!

President's Corner

January starts a new year. Good Shepherd continues to have many opportunities to **Serve**, not only the congregation, but also our community. How we do this will depend on each of us. It will not be easy but it will be rewarding.

Last month we held our annual Voters Meeting. A recap of that meeting included the following:

- **Election of Officers and Board**

Members:

President – Joe Morton

Vice President – Wayne Boudreau Jr.

Elders (*none elected, already in place*)

Education – Angela Doyle

Tammy Boudreau

Trustees – Paul Boulè

Mike Dobiash

No one was elected to Evangelism, Stewardship / Fellowship, or Youth Boards.

- **Adoption of Spending Guide.** This will be a little over \$302,000. We will need about \$6,000 per week to meet our budget.
- **Missions:** Continue to support Pastor Shauen Trump and his family in East Africa.
- **2018 District Convention Delegate:** Norm Gerken
- **Updates on the Call Process, Interim Process, the Constitution, our Rental House, Finances,** and why we will have a **Congregational Meeting on January 6, 2018.**

January will also bring a change for us in Pastors. Pastor Toby Joeckel will deliver his last message to us on January 14th. Pastor Noel Koss will take over pulpit duties on January 21st. He will continue to serve us on a part-time basis until we are able to call a new pastor.

2018 will be challenging as we focus our efforts for the future of the congregation. We will start **January 6th** with a **Congregational Meeting**. This meeting will focus on a **Mission and Vision Statement**. These statements will be where and what Good Shepherd needs to focus on in the future. They are important. All members of the congregation should attend. This is **your** congregation and everyone needs to have a voice in our future.

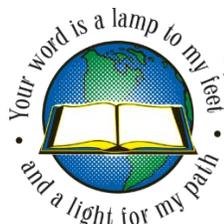
As stated in previous newsletters, we want to hear from you! Your church leaders are available before or after church. Remember, if it's on your mind, it's on someone else's mind also. We don't know what is on your mind unless you speak up. **Communication** is **important** and the lines are open.

See you in church on Sunday!

Joe Morton
President

Do You Know Who Your Elder Is?

Zone	Elder	Names
1	Norm Gerken (253-845-1521)	Alber – Classen
2	Joe Morton (253-473-5649)	Cunningham – Jaech
3	Wayne Boudreau (253-405-4904)	Jindra – Merkel, L.
4	Julian Doyle (253-584-7244)	Merkel, R. – Scott
5	Tony Huset (253-753-3764)	See - Zmuda



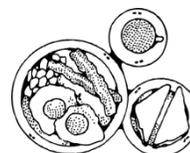
Sunday Sermons are now being audio recorded

and are available for you to listen, share, and enjoy again anytime on our website @ www.goodshepherdluth.com

Men's Ministry Schedule for October



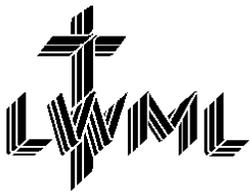
January 20th – 8 am
BREAKFAST AND BIBLE STUDY
"It's Intermission – Scenery Change"
 (The Intertestamental Period)



Financial Update

As we start a new year, we are also starting a new fiscal year, along with a new budget. **Our budget this year will be a little over \$302,000.** This will include financing a full-time pastor, fully funding the preschool (they are paying their own salaries), and keeping the doors open for ministry. We will still need about **\$6,000 per week** to meet our budget. Your help and cooperation is extremely important! Your church needs you! Let's all step up to the challenge!

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow!



Women in Mission / Women's Ministry

Tuesdays:

Bible Study (9:15 am)

Quilting (10 am)

Greetings in the New Year of 2018! How blessed we are every day and so we share His love with others. One way we do this is through our quilt project with most of the finished quilts being sent to Lutheran World Relief for distribution as needed. There has been some interest expressed in a time for anyone unable to meet on Tuesday mornings to meet for quilting. So....

Mites—Sunday, January 14

Seafarers Auxiliary – January 23, noon

You are invited to:

HOW ABOUT QUILTING

Saturday, January 20th

10 am in the **Social Hall**.

Refreshments will be provided. Come and see what we have, what we do, and where we quilt. Join in the fun of spending time together! See you January 20th at 10 am!

Serving the Lord with Gladness

Jane Oberg

Congregational Meeting

We will hold a Congregational Meeting

Saturday, January 6th

starting at **9 am**.

This will be about our mission and vision for the future.

Plan to attend!

Combined Epiphany Service

A Combined Epiphany Service will be held at **Zion Lutheran Church** on **6th Avenue** on **January 6th at 7 pm**. Good Shepherd, Zion, Grace, and Prince of Peace will participate in this service.



Preschool News www.littlelambstacoma.com



Sharing Christ, Feeding Lambs

Happy New Year! May God bless your 2018 as we all endeavor to live our lives for Him.

Thank you to everyone who supported the preschool through prayers, time, monetary and classroom donations and by an encouraging word. We appreciate the many ways people find to donate-whether by cleaning, Thrivent Choice Dollars, or anything done anonymously. Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

During the month of January our students will learn of Jesus being a special baby, to a boy in the temple, to being a grown man and calling his first disciples. God's ultimate plan for our salvation and the love He gives to us will be part of these lessons. Please pray for our students that God's love would be very real to them.

Serving our Savior,
Bonnie Jean Huset
Director / Teacher

Lunch Bunch

At our December get together, it was decided to forego further meetings and get-togethers until Summer when we will have a picnic. We will announce the time and date when it is closer to the event. Please stay tuned!

Thank You! to the congregation of Good Shepherd for the expressions of appreciation and love, cards and gifts this Christmas season! We all greatly appreciate your generosity and thoughtfulness very much!

*Pastor Toby, Pastor Schmidt, Denes,
Bonnie, Caron, Kelly, Jerry, and Valerie*