

GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

January 2013

Happy New Year!

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(See Genesis 5:27)

12-30-2002

DONE NEW YEAR, DONE NEW DECADE, DONE NEW
CENTURY ... FETCH ME WHEN IT IS A NEW
MILLENIUM

A blessed new year in Jesus our Lord! The Irish rock band U2's hit single "New Year's Day" echoes the world's divisions and the bloodshed they cause. It has a refrain of sorts: "Nothing changes on New Year's Day." It may seem that way to us too. We wake up to a new year, yet we still hear stories of hurt, of suffering, of bloodshed. Many are feeling the pain of the loss of a loved one to bloodshed, especially in the midst of this holy Christmastide.

But something does change on New Year's Day. Eight days after Jesus was born, He was circumcised. His blood was first shed on this day. Shed to fulfill the requirements of God's covenant. Shed that He might be the perfect Son for us before the Father. Shed as a precursor to His blood being poured out on the cross for our forgiveness, for the world's life.

His shed blood comes to us in His Holy Supper, not to cause us to mourn, but to lead us to rejoice that His blood brings us forgiveness, life, and salvation. In His shed blood is our peace for the New Year and forever.

May God bless you this new year and beyond.

In Christ,

Pastor Dan

Why it All Matters

We, as Lutherans, believe that once the Words of Institution are pronounced by the Pastor/Priest/Minister, the Body and Blood of our LORD is present in, with and under the Bread and the Wine. Starting from the premise that we believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, that belief should have repercussions on how we bear ourselves when we come together to worship.

The one simple statement “This is my Body” transforms this hour into a Holy time wherein we meet, in a very real way our Lord and Savior. The space is transformed in the House of God and the Gateway to Heaven. I would therefore encourage you to consider three ways in which we might better enter the presence of God.

1. Preparing for Worship – During the time of prayer that precedes the Service, we ought to be preparing to meet God. Socializing with our fellow worshippers ought to cease as we enter the Sanctuary. At the very least, we ought to be careful not to disturb the prayer of those who DO choose to use this time

accordingly. One congregation I served in New York was actually long in the practice of placing the Prelude AFTER the Welcome! What do you think of that?

2. Listening as Worship – It is easy to let one’s mind wander during certain points of the Service. Consider taking notes during the Sermon. Focus on the Children’s Message and don’t use it as a time to read the bulletin or check your e-mail. When one of our musical ensembles offers an offering, don’t use it as background music to chat, but meditate on the text or pray and reflect on the themes of the day.

3. Preparing for Communion – The Offering time is a time of transition. Yes, we are taking the Collection but we should also be prayerfully preparing to receive the Body and the Blood. What an awesome moment! Therefore, we traditionally provide appropriate music for prayer at Eucharistic Services. This is not just “background music” so that casual conversations may take place as if we were at a Holiday Cocktail Party. If the presence of music seems to give license for chatter, I would posit that we should omit

the music in deference to worship—but I think we can have both.

In considering how we should worship I encourage you to keep the Presence of Christ first and foremost in your mind. This is a long conversation that we should and must have about how we worship. It reaches to how we read scripture, to how we bear ourselves from the time we enter the Sanctuary to the time we leave, to what kind of music we choose for worship (*style, skill and content*).

If you would like to participate in the conversation I invite you to speak to me one-on-one or better yet, join the fun at my blogspot “Music in God’s Ears” at musicingodsears.com or denesvanparys.com. You can ask questions, make observations and steer the discussion by your participation.

DVP (Denes Van Parys)

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!

Your Staff:

*Pastor Dan & Ruth, Pastor Brad & Melissa,
Pastor Barry & Mary, Pastor David & Nikki, Denes,
Bonnie Jean, Caron, Debbie, Jerry, Matt & Jen, Sue, and Valerie*

Men’s Breakfast / Bible Study January 19th

Join us **Saturday, January 19th** at **8 am** for a delicious breakfast, wonderful fellowship, and in-depth Bible Study. We are going through the series “Stuff They Didn’t Teach Me in Sunday School.” This month our topic is: “What’s God Doing Here?” (Exodus 20). *Pastor Dan*



Preschool News

Thank you to everyone who supports our preschool with prayers and donations. We truly feel blessed to be a part of the Good Shepherd family.

Our preschool students will be learning about Jesus' baptism and how he welcomed children. We will also begin to cover a few of the healing miracles

www.littlelambstacoma.com

Jesus blessed people with and how these miracles also gave spiritual healing.

Please continue to keep our preschool in your prayers – especially our students and their families! Thank you!

Bonnie Jean Huset
Director / Teacher

Lunch Bunch News

Is there a purpose for groups like **THE LUNCH BUNCH** in a congregation? Fellowship with other believers is one of them. **THE LUNCH BUNCH** has been organized for such a purpose. It is very difficult to get to know others if you only attend worship on Sunday morning. As you gather in a group such as **THE LUNCH BUNCH** you become better acquainted with other members. You learn about their needs - perhaps spiritual and physical and what

you can do to help - perhaps only pray. So why not come and enjoy such fellowship in a group like **THE LUNCH BUNCH**? Our meeting for January is the 8th. For the shared meal at noon bring a dish, and this month also a favorite game some others might play with you. If you are free on **JANUARY 8th** come and join us at 11:30.

Pastor Ken Boetcher



Women in Mission

Sisters in Christ,
Each of you are special and talented. In 2013, please consider your talent for one or more of our projects –

1. Bible Study with us on Tuesdays or whenever – just do it!
2. Quilts – we sent 57 to Lutheran World Relief in 2012 and plan to do more in 2013 (LWR has a total goal of 500,000 quilts for 2013). Can't help on Tuesdays and like to sew? How about making *washable* tops 60" X 80" at home or finished washable quilts 60" X 80" at home and bringing them to church? Funds for shipping and help packing would also help.
3. Christmas boxes for Tacoma Seafarers Center – WE will again fill 150 boxes – could you knit a hat or two for them? November will come before we know it and our packing-wrapping day...join the fun!
4. Mites for Missions – Remember this is an easy way to help our Washington / Alaska District and national LWML reach goals of \$87,000 for District and \$1,875,000 for National all going to God's work. Over \$100,000,000 have been raised by Mites in the past 70 years. Praise God!

Pray, Praise, and Give Thanks!
LWML For YOU!

Jane Oberg

PS: Take a look on the downstairs bulletin board at the December Mooring Lines – see anyone you know in a picture?