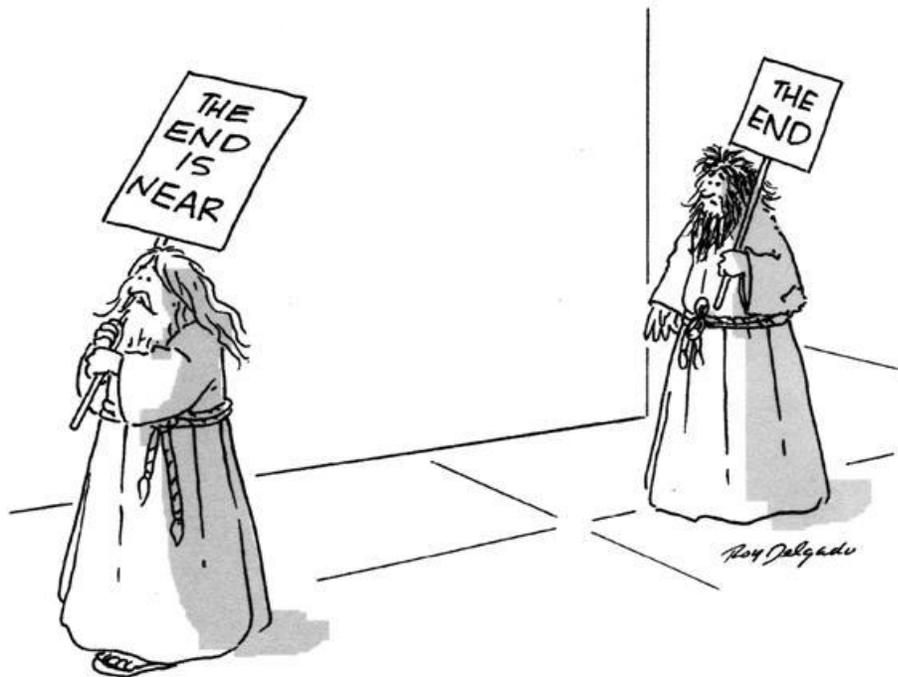


# GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

January 2017



Yes, the end is here. After 40 years in the ministry, and 20 as your pastor here at Good Shepherd, I will be retiring at the end of January. That does not mean that my ministry will end. I will still be available in our circuits for vacation fill-ins and such.

Several people have remarked that the membership and attendance here at Good Shepherd is down. That is true. It is symptomatic of what is happening in our Synod and many other denominations in America, and especially true here in the Northwest (often called the none zone because that is the box they mark when asked what church they belong to). What it means is that we still have a job to do of proclaiming the Good News in our community and throughout the world.

Church attendance and membership are not the only signs of the successfulness of a congregation or church. Scripture only lists faithfulness. So, how have we been faithful in the past 20 years? Here's some of the ways.

*(Continued on page 2)*

In the past 20 years, we have been faithful in proclaiming the Gospel, the Good News of Christ crucified and risen for the salvation of all humanity. As of this writing, 254 souls have been baptized (including 33 adults, the oldest being 89), 204 have been confirmed (including 96 adults), 61 marriages have been performed, and 207 souls laid to rest (the youngest at 23, the oldest at 104).

A Preschool was started which has touched, and continues to touch, the lives of many with the Good News. We continue to hold weekly services at Pioneer Place and Memory Haven Sumner. Thousands of lives have been and are being fed and clothed through our Operation Thanksgiving (now in its 32<sup>nd</sup> year of serving a weekly free hot meal to those in need). We also feed many others through our food bank.

We have supported hundreds of our young people as they furthered their Christian education at Concordia Lutheran School, Mount Rainier Lutheran High School, and other Christian schools. This mission continues.

We conducted 2 mission trips to Alaska to conduct week-long Vacation Bible Schools. We've supported the Tacoma Seafarers Center, Lutheran Bible Translators, and the Tacoma Lutheran Retirement Center. We've supported Lutheran Community Services, Care Net Pregnancy and Family Services, and 4US, which supports women in crisis pregnancy centers with ultra sound machines. Each machine saves the lives of babies precious to God. Our quilt ministry has donated thousands of quilts, school kits, and health kits to areas of need. Our Project Christmas has provided food baskets and gifts for thousands in need. In 2009 our congregation was presented with the John Briehl Award from Lutheran Community Service Northwest which is given annually to an "outstanding organization or individual for their community service."

We have also adopted special mission projects, including missionaries in several parts of the world, the most recent being the Trumps in eastern and southern Africa. These special mission projects/offerings have also supported and helped train 6 new pastors for the work of the Lord (Rick Johnson, Shauen Trump, Brad Varvil, Barry Malone, Micah Schmidt, and Jonathan Durkopp). We have sponsored 13 annual Dr. Paul Maier lectures. (He is scheduled to be back with us on May 20, 2017).

Yes, a lot has happened over that past 20 years, but there is still more to do. My ministry as your pastor may be over, but the work of the Lord here at Good Shepherd is not. We have the Word of God and the power of the Holy Spirit to do the work we have been called to do: preach the Word in word and deed. May God continue to bless Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in its mission to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Blessings,

*Pastor Dan*

# The Open Door

By Michael J. Dunn  
Congregation President

## THE DECEMBER 2016 VOTERS MEETING

On December 4th, following second service, a Voters Meeting was held in the Fellowship Hall to address several items of congregational business, with 33 voting members in attendance. The minutes from the meetings of 6 December 2015 and 7 February 2016 were approved as read.

**Elections:** No one ran for the office of Vice President, which has been vacant for a year. Joe Morton and Julian Doyle were elected as members of the Board of Elders. Renata Jaech was elected as a member of the Board of Evangelism. Kathy Popplewell was elected as a member of the Board of Stewardship and Fellowship. Their terms extend to 2019. There are no limits to participation in the Boards, so do not take these results as “filling” a limited number of opportunities. If you would like to participate, please contact me or any member of the Church Council. Board Members can also be appointed by the Church Council.

**Budget:** The staff salary portion of the proposed 2017 budget was approved. The entire budget will be presented at an additional Voters Meeting when all the financial information is available.

**Mission Projects:** Two mission projects were approved, namely (1) Shauen and Christa Trump ministry in Africa, and (2) the Synodical celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. It was expressly understood that both these mission projects would proceed on a goodwill offering basis.

**Amendments to Synod Constitution:** Three amendments, previously proposed at the Synod level, were approved by the voters. These amendments concerned the legal necessity of the Synod establishing subsidiary “corporate” entities for the sake of legal representation and business transactions.

## Updates & Announcements:

- The next Voters Meeting will consider (a) the remainder of the 2017 budget, (b) amendments to the Constitution and By-laws, and (c) any further elections for officers or board members.
- Discussions have opened with Grace Lutheran Church (Pastor Matthews and their congregation President) on the subject of a possible unification of both our congregations. Nothing definite; just exploring ways and means.
- The Call Committee will shortly have available a corrected Self-Study and will be submitting it to the LCMS Northwest District. (This has been accomplished. If you would like a copy, please inquire of Valerie Rice at the church office.)
- Kathy Popplewell made an announcement on behalf of the Board of Stewardship and Fellowship, that guests are expected to clean up the Fellowship hall when they have finished their gathering. We all must do our part to share the burden.
- Sue Tofflemire remarked that it was hard to hear the President chairing the meeting and that we should in future use the speaker-amplifier system that is available. (Also, those who have hearing problems should seat themselves closer to the person chairing the meeting. There were empty chairs close at hand.)

We hope to have a draft of minutes available for the review of attendees, and to obtain approval much more quickly than waiting a full year.

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As always, I am available outside of services, in the Narthex, down in the Fellowship Hall, by telephone (home 253-838-5820), and by e-mail (michaeljdunn@msn.com). Every question deserves an answer.

## Do You Know Who Your Elder Is?

Zone	Elder	Names
1	Norm Gerken (253-845-1521)	Alber – Durkopp
2	Joe Morton (253-473-5649)	Ellwein – Ladou
3	Wayne Boudreau (253-405-4904)	Laie – Retzloff
4	Julian Doyle (253-584-7244)	Rogers - Zmuda

## Financial Update

When we left 2016 our finances were not in the best of shape. Good Shepherd did not end its fiscal year with a surplus. We actually ended with a deficit.

2017 brings with it new challenges and a different focus. Not only are we going to be looking for a new Pastor but we will be moving forward with conversations with our sister congregation, Grace.

The one things that will be constant will be the that the bills will need to be paid. Our focus is going to be on God's Word and God's will for Good Shepherd. The doors will need to be open. Your continued contributions and offerings allow us to do just that

Thank you for your support. We can't do it without you!

Praise be to God!

**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 David & Nikki, Denes, Bonnie, Melika, Caron, Tammy, Debbie, Jerry, and Valerie*

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**Lunch Bunch** Please join us **Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup>** at **11:30 am** for our Pot Blessings Lunch. Bring a dish to share and join us for the fun!

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## Reading and Studying the Lutheran Confessions

Our Nisqually Circuit (and the adjacent Rainier Circuit) has begun a study group aimed at reading and exploring the Lutheran Confessions as contained in the Book of Concord. We are meeting on the first and third Thursday of each month (5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> for January). We meet in the chapel in the annex of Good Shepherd from 7-8:30 pm. We will read sections of the Confessions and talk about them.

## Men's Bible Studies

**Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> – 8 am**

We've added another Bible study. We will now meet twice a month – on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of each month beginning at 8 am. The first Saturday will be coffee and a Bible study. The third Saturday will be breakfast and a Bible Study. Bible studies for January's "Stuff They Didn't Teach Me in Sunday School are:

January 7 – God's New Starter – 2 Kings 2

January 21 – Missionary Slave – 2 Kings 5



# Women in Mission / Women's Ministry

## Tuesdays:

**Bible Study** (9:15 am)

**Quilting** (10 am)

**Mites**—Sunday, January 8

**Seafarers Auxiliary Dessert Meeting**

(at The Village, not TSC) –

Tuesday, January 24 at noon

Welcome to 2017 Sisters in Christ!

2017 – 75 years of LWML-Rallies, Conventions, Retreats...all for YOU to share with YOUR Christian sisters.

Tuesday Bible Study starts our 26<sup>th</sup> year together sharing and learning as sisters in Him.

Quilters are still going on with the blessing of enjoying time together and completing such works of warmth and beauty.

Watch for notices about upcoming events!

*Jane Oberg*

## Preschool News

[www.littlelambstacoma.com](http://www.littlelambstacoma.com)

### *Sharing Christ, Feeding Lambs*



Happy New Year!

My God grant you and your family a blessed 2017. We thank God for our continued blessings on and in the preschool.

Our Emergency shed is up and the shelves are completed in it. A big thank you to Joe Morton for all his extra work and time on this project!

This month our students will be hearing and learning about Jesus as a child in the temple, the Baptism of Jesus, His calling of disciples, and Jesus blessing the little children. All these lessons focus on the love Jesus has for all his people – including His precious preschool students.

Our next parent seminar is scheduled for January 30<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall. Miss Angie Kamrath will be our speaker on “What my child needs to know for kindergarten.” Angie is the kindergarten teacher at Concordia Lutheran School and we welcome her expertise and willingness to share with us. All who are interested are invited to attend this seminar.

Thank you for your continued prayer support for the preschool – the students, their families, the staff, and the preschool board. Your prayers are encouragement are truly appreciated.

Serving our Savior,  
*Bonnie Jean Huset*  
Director / Teacher



## Divine Service with Holy Communion

**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church**

(10333 Bridgeport Way, S.W-Near Lakewood Towncenter)

**January 6, 2017 – 7 pm**

**Fellowship Reception to Follow**

