

GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

February 2013

God is Love

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Sometimes an adult tells a child, "God does not love you when you are bad." That is really not true. God always loves us. God loves us when things are going well and when things are going wrong. He loves us when in hurt and anger we ask why. God hates our sins but loves us sinners.

We read in 1 John 3:16: "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us."

God could have remained in heaven cursing His creatures for spoiling His beautiful creation. Instead He laid aside His divine might and majesty for a while. In the person of His Son He took our human form and experienced our problems and pains. Finally, He let the forces of evil take His life. But He came back to life. By trusting in Him through the power of the Holy Spirit we can be sure of living with God forever.

We may be battered and shattered by life's blows. Some of our troubles may never go away. Many things puzzle us. We may think nobody cares. But God cares for us right now. Love gives, and God gave all. Through the cross -- God's positive, permanent proof of His amazing love -- He tells each of us clearly: "You mean a lot to Me. I really love you."

Happy Valentine's Day; and remember: "God is love and He loves you."

Pastor Dan

Life Long Learning

I find that there's an interesting quandary which emerges in me as I age—the older I get, and the more I learn, the more I realize how much I don't know, and how much more there is to learn. At the height of my teenage years, I thought I knew everything I needed for life and happiness... and in retrospect, I knew almost nothing. Somewhere in my 20's, when I thought I had things figured out again, God brought me a lovely wife and two wonderful daughters, and taught me that once again, I knew nearly nothing. Throughout my 30's God gave me the opportunity to attend seminary, where I thought I would learn all the great things there were to know about God, the universe, and everything... emerging to find that in reality, I was just given some different tools to go and improve the feeble knowledge I had gained. And now, looking out from the vista of my 40th year into the decade to come, I find myself wondering if there is time enough in the next 40 years to learn half the things I hope to know someday.

I think many people have found this strange situation difficult to compute. Why is it, that when we're young, and full of vigor, we feel no need for learning anything? And later, assuming God has given us the grace to outlive our ignorance and stupidity, we can't see any hope of

learning half of what we want to know before our lives come to a close. It seems to me that our sinful pride tends to rule our youth, blinding us to the Law which commands us to learn the important things God has given for us to know, and a sometimes frantic regret that comes later when we begin to see ourselves in the light of the Law, and know we have misspent so much in our pride. At the beginning of a new year, full of possibilities and peculiarities yet to be revealed, where does the Christian find both motivation and solace to learn what we ought?

It occurs to me, that it is the Gospel which soothes us, whether we are in the heat of our youthful pride, or the regret of our later years. That Gospel speaks peace to us—and not just a “oh, I guess that's alright,” kind of peace. It's a peace born of our Savior, who reminds us that He has done all things necessary for us, and given all things necessary to us. When we are convinced that we don't need to learn anything else because we've got it all figured out, Christ calls us to return to His Word, where there is life and truth and peace, with a never ending depth of wisdom to enjoy spelunking in. And when we are older, thinking we may never figure out all the complexities of life we're supposed to understand, Christ calls to us as well, reminding us

that what He has given us in His Word is all that is needful for forgiveness, life, and salvation. The cavalier hubris of youth is redirected into the eternal mystery of God With Us, and the frantic panic of age is redirected into the eternal simplicity of God For Us—all of which is the greatness of our salvation, found in Jesus Christ alone.

And so, what should motivate you to continue your learning and your catechesis this year? The love of God in Jesus Christ, who saves you, and gives to you everything you need for this body and life, and the life of the world to come; the Gospel promise that Jesus calls you into fellowship with Himself, and the immensity of His love that is more expansive than all the oceans of the world, and yet as simple as the water which washed you in Holy Baptism. Our Lord Jesus Christ, in love and peace, calls you into fellowship with Him, through His eternal and everlasting Word. Hear His Gospel of love and forgiveness to you, and you will discover the faith that leads to learning of Him who saves you forever. Amen.

Pastor Brad

Men's Breakfast / Bible Study February 16th

Join us **Saturday, February 16th** 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: “A Bowl of What?” (Exodus 24:1-11). *Pastor Dan*

Using the Hymnal

No doubt, you have noticed that our projection screen has been repaired and refocused. Thanks to Tony Huset for his service!

Our congregation is to be commended for willingness to dive into the Hymnal in the absence of the Projections and for its steadfast desire to Worship. It is also gratifying to see that there is more Hymnal use continuing even after the return of the Projections. Perhaps some have discovered the Hymnal and are enjoying its use for the first time!

There are, however, members of our congregation that, because of sight problems or arm weakness, find the Hymnal a challenge to use. We must tend and care for these. While your Music Director still prefers to use the Hymnal when we worship together and, for reasons outlined in this space and on the blog musicingodsears.com, believes that we are better served

(and serve better!) when we use the Hymnal as our primary tool of Worship, nevertheless, the projections are welcomed back for those who need them.

So a few observations to share and seek your feedback:

1. Watching the congregation learn how to use the Hymnal again, the thought occurs that our bulletin may be more complicated than it needs to be. If you are trying to use the Hymnal, you may find that you need, at one point, the Bulletin, then your Hymnal and then you must jump to your Bible, only to go right back to the Hymnal. Some of us have been discussing ways to make this simpler and we may be offering some new ideas for your feedback.
2. It also occurs to this writer that certain inconsistencies in our worship from week to week may be disconcerting and confusing for some. We should

have an open discussion about these as we move forward.

If you wish to take an active part in these discussions, you have a few choices: For those of you who are computer savvy, come join the fun at the blogspot "Music in God's Ears" at musicingodsears.com or denesvanparys.com. A new thread dedicated to this discussion will be posted soon. You can ask questions, make observations and steer the discussion by your participation.

Of course, in person one-on-one conversations are also welcome! Write a brief note or grab me between/after services. I am always happy to answer questions and hear your comments!

Blessings.

DVP



Preschool News

We are officially more than halfway through our school year! It moves so fast and the children grow and learn so quickly. It is amazing to watch how God blesses each child uniquely as we go through our preschool year. We give thanks to God for all His wonderful blessings.

During the month of February we will continue learning more of the many miracles Jesus performed to help people. A few examples are the healing of Jairus' daughter and the feeding of 5,000 people. God continues to heal and provide for our needs on a daily basis.

www.littlelambstacoma.com

March 3rd is the date of our Next "Tea and Talk." The congregation and all the preschool families are invited to join us for this special time of fun and fellowship. Please mark your calendars for 4 pm and join us!

Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Bonnie Jean Huset
Director / Teacher

Lunch Bunch News

If you are interested in what the LUNCH BUNCH is all about, why not attend our gathering on **Tuesday, February 5th**? Pastor Gerken will have a devotion for us at **11:30 am**, followed by a shared meal. Our time of fellowship in February will be **BINGO** (bring a wrapped white elephant). **PLEASE JOIN US!!**
Tuesday, February 5th - 11:30 A. M

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR MARCH 5TH!

DO YOU HAVE A HOBBY? A COLLECTION? DO YOU DO HANDWORK? WOODWORK?
THE LUNCH BUNCH would love to have you share your interest with them. The date is our meeting date in **Tuesday, March 5th**. If you are willing to share your interest with us that day, please contact Myron Schmidt (ph. 472-0836) or Bill Retzloff (ph. 474-5526) so we have a space prepared for your display.

Pastor Ken Boetcher

Musings from the Stewardship / Fellowship Board

Mark your calendars. **Sunday, April 14**, the Stewardship /Fellowship Board as part of April's Pot Blessings will present the **2013 Good Shepherd Chili Cook Off**. As a result of feedback from past chili cook off, this year's event will be different. First of all, the chili competition will be limited to the first 15 entries. Also, the judging will be different. There'll be a limited number of appointed judges that will know the entries by number only. The

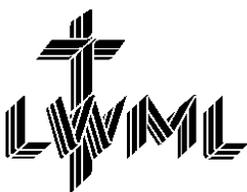
intent is to provide a real competition with no favoritism or ballot stuffing.

The congregation will enjoy the chilies and other items for the pot blessings on the second Sunday of the Easter season. Since the number of entries is limited to 15 for the competition, please contact any of the board members to sign up for the Chili Cook Off competition by February 28. Be one of the glorious 15 Chili cooks

that will be part of Good Shepherd's history.

The board members are:

- Norman Gerken
- Darren Schorer
- Caron Long
- Mike Burgardt
- Kathy Popplewell
- Patty Rybiski
- Kathie Brazell.



Women in Mission

Dear Sisters in Christ:

What are you doing June 27-30, 2013? Consider going to the **35th Biennial LWML Convention** in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. You could be one of 3,500 Lutheran women celebrating 70 years of LWML. You will join in worship, hear inspirational speakers, grow with Bible Study and really have a "mountain top"

experience. Come, celebrate, "Quenched by the Water," based on John 4:14.

If you prefer not to travel so far...and would like to participate in something closer to home...watch for the **Rainier Zone Spring Rally!** You are welcome to attend! Also, coming September 27-19, 2013...**Retreat**. This will be at the Wesley Inn, Gig Harbor,

Washington. "And one called to the other and said: 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!'" Isaiah 6:3.

Remember Mites – all count and help many ministries!

Serving the Lord with Gladness!
Jane Oberg

Concordia University Kapelle Coming Soon!



**Monday, March 4th
7:30 pm.**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND PLAN TO ATTEND!

The Concordia University Kapelle is the premier choral ensemble of the university. Chosen by audition, the choir prepares a variety of music for local and national audiences. At Christmas, the Kapelle presents a Service of Lessons and Carols; each spring the choir embarks on a 10-day tour that has taken them to all regions of the United States and an around-the-world-tour. The ensemble has produced five recordings and is in production of a sixth. The students who make up the ensemble include not only music majors, but also students who specialize in other disciplines. Recently, the Kapelle has performed internationally in Europe and South America including France, Finland, Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Chile and Argentina.

- ***We also need your help to host the members of the choir overnight.***

***Eighteen homes are needed. Please consider volunteering.
Please contact the church office (253-473-4848) if interested.***

RESTORE THE ROAR!



RESTORE THE ROAR!

The temptation is to put our hands over our ears to drown out *the* Lion's (God's) roar. The world, the devil, and our Old Adam continue to urge us to clip the claws on the Lion and clean up His bloody Passion which we are called to follow. Our Lenten series this year dares to let the Lion out of His cage to roam, roar, redeem, and restore. Join us this Lenten season as we listen and learn from *the* Lion using the Book of Amos. Come and learn again that the Lion of the Tribe of Judah has triumphed. Services are on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm, beginning February 13th. The Lenten Supper precedes the service at 6 pm. All are welcome.

February 13 (Ash Wednesday)	RESCUED FROM THE RUBBLE	Amos 1:1-2
February 20	UPSIDE DOWN	Amos 3:1-8
February 27	THIS IS THE NIGHT THE LORD HAS MADE	Amos 5:18
March 6	GRIEVING FOR JOSEPH	Amos 6:6
March 13	LOCUSTS HERE, THERE, EVERYWHERE	Amos 7:1-6
March 20	LION ALERT!	Amos 7:10-17
March 28 (Maundy Thursday)	THE TASTE TEST	Amos 8:11-14
March 29 (Good Friday)	BURIED	Amos 9:1-6
March 31 (Easter)	COME TO THE FEAST	Amos 9:11-15