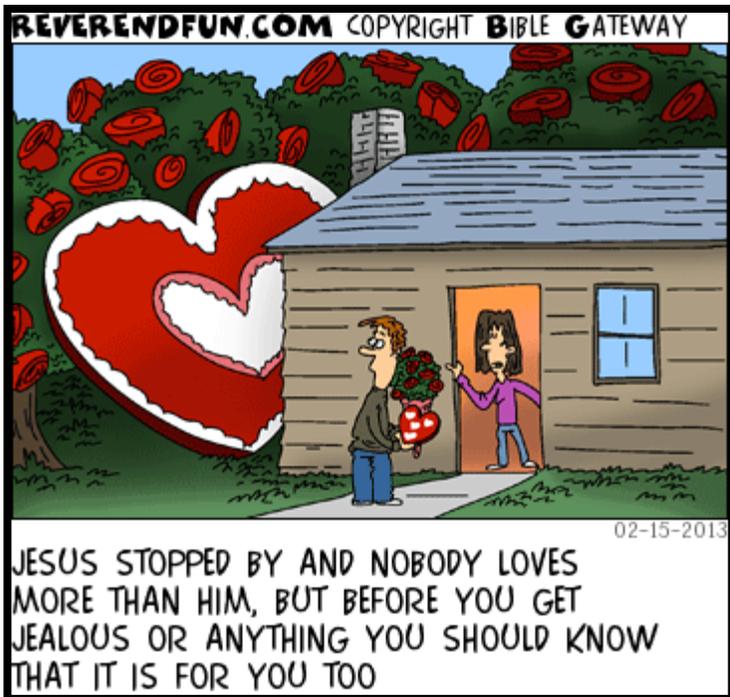


# GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

February 2014

## God's Valentine Love



Who is your best friend? Who is the one who loves you no matter what? Who sticks with you despite what others may do? One such girl, Emma, rejected by many of her peers and surrounded by poverty in a family that struggled to make ends meet, found herself rich in faith as she counted God as her best friend.

This Valentine's Day, we can celebrate God's great love in Christ Jesus. Unlike traditional valentine exchanges that can leave some of us feeling like an empty-handed Charlie Brown, God's "Valentine" is for each of us. His love is

everlasting (see Psalm 103:17). His love endures forever (see Psalm 107:1). His love is so great it reaches to the heavens (see Psalm 57:10). And His love is so powerful that it never fails (see Psalm 52:8).

Jesus Christ made God's love visible as He walked to Calvary to carry our sins. As we meditate on His suffering for our sake, we see Love so powerful it even overcomes death (see John 3:16). Our world does not often acknowledge those in Emma's circumstances, but God's love, without boundary or limit, loves her—and us—with a rich (see Psalm 145:8) and priceless love (see Psalm 36:7).

Share that Love of God with someone today. Send them a "Valentine" from God.

God's Blessings,  
*Pastor Dan*

# Revisiting the Augsburg Confession:

## Article I, Of God

*Our Churches, with common consent, do teach that the decree of the Council of Nicaea concerning the Unity of the Divine Essence and concerning the Three Persons, is true and to be believed without any doubting...*

For most Lutherans, the doctrine of the Holy Trinity is assumed without much discussion. As Christians who have inherited the catholic faith in a continuous stream from the Apostles themselves, we don't often hear of controversy regarding this central teaching of Scripture. However, it is not always the case in our contemporary circles, that the Holy Trinity is held in high regard, or even recognized. New pseudo-evangelical, non-denominational movements have questioned this ancient doctrine, including Oneness Pentecostals and some in the Emerging Church movement, together with the older heretical sects of Mormonism and the Watchtower Society. As Lutheran Christians come into contact with these folks, and the growing atheistic, agnostic, and pagan culture around us, it is important to remind ourselves of fundamental truth. And we can't get much more fundamental, than understanding the God we worship.

God has been revealing Himself from the beginning of Creation, and continues to do so today through His Word. Even in Genesis chapter one, God is in the Beginning, His Spirit hovering over the face of the deep, and His Word calling forth all things into being. In His unity, there is plurality; and in His plurality, there is unity. While the clues to this Mystery are scattered throughout the Old Testament, it is revealed most fully in the New Testament, where we find the unity of the great Shema

of Israel (Hear, O Israel, The Lord our God, the Lord is One) and the plurality of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, are perfectly and mysteriously reconciled. The revelation that God is fully One in His essence, and yet Three in His Persons, is fundamental to the salvation He brings to the world. For we know that there is salvation in no other God, than the One True God; that He does not give His glory to any other; that He is a jealous God, who visits judgment upon all who presume to have other gods before His face; that He is the savior of all who call upon Him. And likewise, our One True God has revealed Himself in the Person of His Son, Jesus Christ, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life; eternally begotten of the Father; no one comes to the Father, but by Him; there is no other Name given under heaven whereby we must be saved; that if we know the Son, we know the Father, for the Father is in the Son, and the Son is in the Father. Likewise, we are shown that the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son; that He is true God; that He is the giver of life, who gives birth to us from above by His power; that He works through the Word preached, and united to Water, Bread, and Wine; that He prays in and with our spirit, so that God is both in the Christian and the Christian prays to God worthily; that He brings about the sanctification and holiness of life in the Christian, through faith and repentance in the Word of Christ. Thus the Mystery of Salvation is wrapped up in the Mystery of God Himself. As we are sealed in His Holy Name at Baptism, and kept in true faith unto life everlasting, the Mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the Mystery of redemption for the world.

And so, the Church of God guards the doctrine of the Holy Trinity above all others, because it is the hope of eternal life we have been given by the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We confess the Holy Trinity in our liturgy, in our prayers, in our Creeds, in our Confessions, and in everything that we do in our Baptized lives as His born-again and adopted children. We will worship no other gods than the True God, and we will worship Him as He has given Himself to us, bearing witness to His Divine Name. And if anyone would make light of this doctrine, or attempt to take it from us, we will cling to it more ferociously than we shall cling to our own lives, for only in the One True God is there forgiveness, life, and salvation forever. Or, as the Athanasian Creed sums it up:

*Whosoever will be saved, before all things it is necessary that he hold the Catholic faith.*

*Which faith except every one do keep whole and undefiled, without doubt he shall perish everlastingly.*

*And the Catholic faith is this, that we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity;*

*Neither confounding the Persons, nor dividing the Substance.*

*For there is one Person of the Father, another of the Son, and another of the Holy Ghost.*

*But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost is all one:*

*the glory equal, the majesty coeternal.*

All hail the One True God, who seeks and saves the lost: The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen.

*Pastor Brad*

# Music in God's Ears

During the Christmas season, I was asked a few questions about how one organist accompanies differently from another. Having received a variety of these kinds of questions over the past few months, I thought it time to take you inside the thought process of an organist. I promise, it won't be scary and hip-waders will not be required.

A number of years ago I heard Cantor Richard C. Resche, head of the music programs at Concordia Seminary in Ft. Wayne, speak on organ playing. Two things he said have stuck with me. The first was that an organist should, first and foremost, "shepherd the congregational song. After that, everything else will take care of itself." Enabling and inspiring the congregation to sing well is the priority at all times. But how does an organist successfully do that? There is much more to accompanying a Hymn than opening the Hymnal and playing the notes on the page.

One step is the other thing that Cantor Resche said: Unless the tune is one the congregation sings often, they will always sing better when the Hymn is introduced by a "full, clear presentation of the entire tune." This is why an entire verse is often used as an introduction.

Beyond that, an organist must look to the text. A quick look at any hymn reveals that punctuation and phrasing vary from verse to verse. The sensitive organist must reinforce that phrasing by how they break or connect the melody. This not only makes the hymn easier to sing but also points the singer to greater awareness of the meaning of the text.

Speaking of text, sometimes the meaning of a verse requires a different accompaniment to reflect the mood. This may often be the last verse, to set off a Doxological text, the verses for which we stand. They deserve special treatment.

Finally: a word about interludes between verses. When an organist feels the need to provide a special accompaniment he or she will offer an interlude to signal the congregation that something different is coming. Sometimes there is a modulation involved. Other times, the coming harmonization will be different. This way those who like to sing harmony on other verses will know to sing the melody on the last verse.

I hope these answers will enlighten your participation in the singing of hymns. Our goal is always to worship God and we do that best when we sing and read with intelligence and understanding. May you always be served by organists that support that end.

Blessings.

*DVP*

*(Dennis Van Parys)*

## -Preschool News



Our preschool will be hosting an **Open House on Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>** from **6:30 – 7:30 pm**. Please let your families, friends, and neighbors know about this event. We will be accepting registrations for the 2014-2015 school year at this time as well as providing tours, tuition information and answering questions. Please pray that this night would go well for us and that we as a board continue to seek God's guidance for our preschool. Thank you!

Our **Tea & Talk** is scheduled for **Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>** at **4 pm** in the **fellowship hall**. Please join us as we invite congregational and preschool families to come together for this social time and enjoy fresh

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

scones along with each other's company. We appreciate all the people who come to our special preschool events. Thank you!

During the month of February our students will be learning about Jesus and His love for us in demonstrating His power over illnesses and death. Pastor Dan Gerken will also be leading our students during their Bible story time one day per week in the church through the remainder of this preschool year. Thank you to Pastor Dan for sharing his love of Jesus with the children.

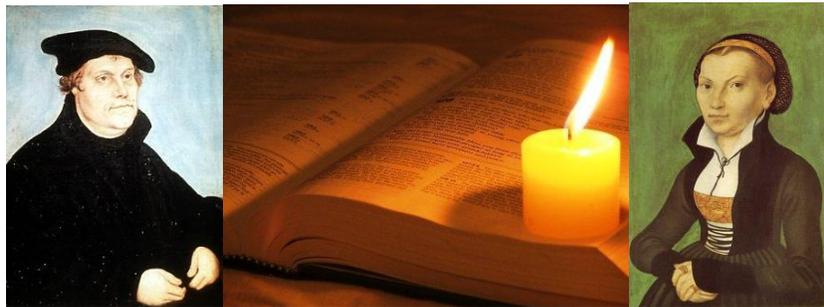
*Bonnie Huset*

Director / Teacher



**YOUTH SKATE PARTY** All Youth, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade are invited to Tiffany's Skate Inn, 1113 Meridian St. N. Puyallup, WA 98371, **Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup>**. We will meet at Good Shepherd at 12:15 pm to carpool to Tiffany's. You can meet us there at 1 pm if that is easier. We will skate and hang out from 1-3 pm. The Youth Board will pay for the entrance fee and skate rental. We hope to see all of you, Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup>!

**Spring Study and Prayer Retreat:  
Reading Scripture for Conviction and Comfort**



**Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, from 10am to 3pm**  
**Valley Camp Lodge, North Bend**  
**Coffee, Tea, and light lunch provided; \$15 per person**  
**Pastor Brad Varvil will facilitate– contact to RSVP**  
**(206) 963-7397 Brad@GoodShepherdLuth.com**  
**Seats are limited to 30 – reserve yours today!**

Ever wonder how to read the Bible, so that it challenges you when it should, and provides comfort when you need it? It's an old Lutheran practice called distinguishing Law and Gospel, considered by Luther as the height and pinnacle of theology.

Join us to study, pray, and converse around God's Word, learning how to reflect on the Scriptures with Christ always at the center.

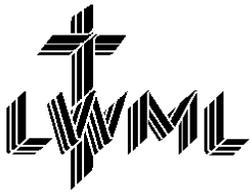
**Open Gym**

Our church has use of Concordia's gymnasium on Sunday afternoons from 2 – 4 pm. We are mostly meeting every other Sunday to help accommodate busy schedules. You are welcome to come join us

as we have use of the gym through the month of April. Please check with Tony or Bonnie Huset about specific Sundays we will be there. Thank you!

**Lunch Bunch**

Join us on **February 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am** for a Valentines Pot Blessing. There will be lots of fun and fellowship. Our guests from King's Manor will put on a Jeopardy Game. Learn facts in categories such as Heart Health and Dementia and win prizes. King's Manor will also provide our dessert for the day. We will be making summer plans as well.



# Women in Mission / Women's Ministry

To ALL WOMEN OF GOOD SHEPHERD,  
Greetings in the Name Above All Names,

Dear Sisters,  
What joy we shared on January 11<sup>th</sup>. Let us,  
**you** and each of us continue in joy as we serve  
the Lord.

Tuesday morning Bible Class continues  
studying Lutheranism 101 – drop in anytime.

Quilters continue the project for Lutheran  
World Relief. If you would like to make a

quilt or quilts at home, please remember –  
finished size 60” X 80” and **washable!**

Sharing together with Christian Women is a  
special joy so mark your calendar for  
Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. **You Are** invited to St.  
Paul's Lutheran Church, Graham, for the  
Rainier Zone Spring Rally

All Praise and Thanks to Him!  
Serving the Lord with Gladness

*Jane Oberg*

## Thanks to all the Good Shepherd Ladies

who came to our recent luncheon. It was great to fellowship with each of you. Keep an eye out for  
news of our next event.

\*Note: If you did not get a phone call inviting you to the luncheon, it could be the office needs an  
update of your demographic information. Please give Valerie a call so we don't miss you next time.

### Men's Breakfast / Bible Study

### February 15<sup>th</sup>

Join us Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup> 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." We will be  
discussing the chapter "What'd You Say about My God?" (Deuteronomy 6:4) *Pastor Dan*



**Do You Remember** Evelyn Bruhns? If so and you would like to contact her, she would be  
most appreciative. Evelyn's address is: 2021 Alveno Road, Manitowee, WI 54220. Phone Number: 920-682-  
4899. Thank you!

**Endowment Fund Scholarship Applications** are available in the  
office. Deadline to return the completed form is **April 1<sup>st</sup>**. The interest from the Endowment Fund is used to  
help members of Good Shepherd in their endeavor to have their children attend Christian schools.