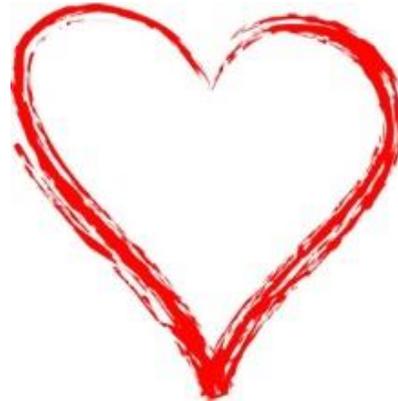


GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

February 2017



The month of February brings many of us thoughts of love and Valentine's Day. I would like to discuss love in terms of the great commandment to love. Jesus's opponents attempted to set a trap for Jesus. Jesus correctly identified love for God and for neighbor as the two main concerns of the divine commandments. The summary of the law given to Moses.

Among our many sins, none is more grievous than our failure to love God above all else. Thankfully, God does not respond to our selfishness by reciprocating. Instead He gives us the greatest gift: his only begotten Son. In response to God's greatest gift to us, we are to imitate Christ and to love God and our neighbor as completely as possible with the help of God. This love is shown in the active servanthood. Christ is the greatest king and servant of all. Jesus himself stated that He came into this world to serve and not to be served. To the best of our ability, with God's help, let us strive to be imitators of Christ.

Happy Valentine's Day,

Norm Gerken,
Elder

The Open Door

By Michael J. Dunn
Congregation President

WALKING FORWARD IN FAITH

As you read this message, Pastor Dan Gerken will have retired, and we will be welcoming one or several Vacancy Pastors to conduct services and preach sermons on the Sundays to come, before we select and receive a new Pastor. The Call Committee is responsible for arranging the support of Vacancy Pastors for our Congregation. Another option is an Intentional Interim Pastor, in the case where we agree that a longer term of congregational counseling is needed to prepare for a new Pastor. This typically takes 6 months or more. The Call Committee does not yet believe this will be necessary.

We face several major developments in the months to come:

1. The progression toward Easter, which has always been a reminder of rebirth, both of the spirit and of all human things.
2. The call of a new Pastor, to be our Shepherd, to whom we must submit.
3. The welcoming of new members to our Congregation.

You can see the interconnections: Without the promise of grace in Christ's gift, we can hardly choose wisely a new Pastor. Without a new Pastor, it will be difficult to gain new members. And without new members, we will not ourselves be reborn as a Congregation.

As a flock in winter, we are walking across a frozen lake to get from one side to the other. It is slippery, the destination shore seems distant, and the exposure is unwelcome. But we know that we can and will cross this lake of solitude in the footsteps of faith—that we will be borne up, that we will be guided to the far shore, that we will find there our proper place of life. And if there are those who join our flock on this journey, we must encourage them the most, to assure them that we are together, and that there is warmth and comfort in sharing faith, one with another.

This temporary absence gives us pause to reflect on the fact that Jesus is with us *every* waking and sleeping moment, in *every* place, in *every* circumstance...at our elbow, as we sit alone, as we mingle with family, as we walk amid His creation. This has been so, and is so now, and will always be so. If only we really knew how much power is in His presence, and how quickly and lovingly He would offer it to us when we ask. We walk in faith because He upholds us, surrounds us, and gives us light by which to continue.

It is as though in this occasion we are meant to hear his words:

“Jesus beheld them and said unto them: ‘With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.’”—Matthew 19:26

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

February is now here. We still need to keep our doors open and pay bills as they come in. Our mission is unchanged, God's Word for Good Shepherd and Follow God's Word.

Offerings for January to date:

January 1:	\$4287
January 8	\$4878
January 15	\$5856
January 22	\$3294

Possible proposed budget: \$293,784. Needed Per Week: **\$5650.**

This was written before the month ended. We will update it in February with the information available. Thanks for your support!

Lunch Bunch The activity / program for our February Lunch Bunch (**Thursday, February 9th**) will be a "History of the Pretzel" field trip. The tour begins at **11:00 am** at the Auntie Anne's Pretzel store at the Tacoma Mall. Try to be there at least 10 minutes before. The tour is limited to 15, so be sure to add your name to the sign-up sheet in the narthex. Following the tour, we will return to the Church for our pot blessing lunch.

The tour includes the history of the pretzel story, a pretzel twisting lesson, what a pretzel is made of, a tour gift bag, and a very fun time.



DARE TO READ

The Book of Concord
The Lutheran Confessions

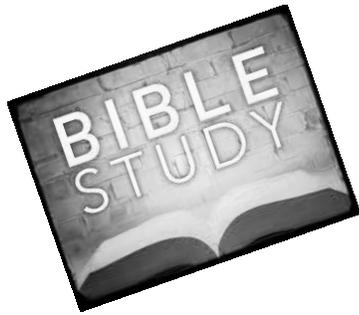


Reading and Studying

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 (2nd and 16th for February). 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.

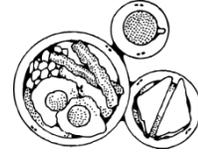
Men's Ministry Schedule for February



February 4 – 8 am
COFFEE AND BIBLE STUDY
“Didn’t See that Coming” (2 Kings 6-7)



February 18 – 8 am
BREAKFAST AND BIBLE STUDY
“World’s Worst Prophet?” (Jonah)



Women in Mission / Women's Ministry

Tuesdays:

Bible Study (9:15 am)
Quilting (10 am)

Mites—Sunday, February 12

Seafarers Auxiliary - Tuesday, February 28

Happy 75th Birthday Lutheran Women's Missionary League! (1942-2017). Lutheran women joined together to form this great organization "Serving the Lord with Gladness" to spread His Gospel and enrich each other. Many blessings have come from LWML and more are to come.

"Jesus Christ above all" is the theme of Convention June 22-25, 2017 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. YOU ARE INVITED to this and / or WA-AK District Retreat, "Called to Be" September 29-October 1, 2017 in Gig Harbor, Washington.

Please remember Mites and give generously!

Do you ever wonder where quilts go? There is a new map / information poster on the downstairs bulletin board showing LWR distribution 2016. Sixteen counties, \$13.3 million of goods, 534,144 beneficiaries. We are blessed to be a small part of this wonderful effort.

Sharing God's love because He loves me!

Jane Oberg

Preschool News

www.littlelambstacoma.com

Sharing Christ, Feeding Lambs



“Music & Muffins” will be held on Sunday, February 12th, beginning at 2:30 pm. Our preschool students will lift their voices in song before we begin enjoying a variety of muffins. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall as we enjoy a short afternoon with fun, food, and fellowship!

The month of February is our health and hygiene month at the Preschool. Our Bible stories this month focus on the healing miracles Jesus performed during His earthly ministry. We will have a doctor’s office set up for the children to use stethoscopes and band aids. We will also be going to visit Dr. Kevin Song’s dental office and learn how to clean our own teeth.

Enrollment for the 2017-2018 preschool year will begin on March 1st. If you, or anyone you know is looking for a preschool next year please check us out! We look forward to serving you.

Your prayers, encouragement, and donations are truly appreciated. Thank you for your prayer support.

Serving our Savior,
Bonnie Jean Huset
Director / Teacher



Music and Muffins

Sunday, February 12th
Fellowship Hall at 2:30 pm



Please join us for a fun filled hour of music presented by the Little Lambs Preschool Students, followed by marvelous muffins and fun fellowship!



SAVE THE DATE
Sunday
Oct 29, 2017
Overlake Christian Church
Redmond, WA

more info & get involved:
nwreformation500.com
presented by Lutheran Ministry Services Northwest | lmsnw.org