

GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

March 2013

THE OLD RUGGED CROSS



Once there was a little girl who proudly wore a shiny cross on a chain around her neck. It was pretty and had found a special place over her heart. Things would have stayed that way, except that one day she was approached by a man -- one of those crabby kinds of guys that, thank heaven, you don't meet very often. The man said, with acid in his voice: "Young lady, I imagine you think Jesus died on a cross for you. If He did, and I'm not saying He did, I don't think that cross was pretty like the one you're wearing. It was an ugly wooden thing. I don't think you should wear it as a piece of jewelry. After all, you wouldn't wear a hangman's noose or an electric chair around your neck, would you?"

That little girl, placed in a position far too personal for her to deal with, responded with respect: "Yes, sir, I do believe Jesus died for me on a cross. And I know that His cross would not have been as pretty as mine. But I also know, sir, what they told me in Sunday school."

"And what was that?" the man queried. "In Sunday school, my teacher told me that whatever Jesus touches, He changes," she answered. "I think that is true for this cross. I know that it's true for me."

That grouch was absolutely right. The cross upon which Jesus died to save us was not a pretty thing. It was rough and rude and crude. It was an instrument designed to give torment to the one who hung upon it. Even as the grouch was right about the horror of the cross, the little girl was right as well. The death of Jesus transformed an ancient instrument of torture into God's means and symbol for the salvation His Son won for us at such a high cost.

Yet it is not just the old rugged cross that has been changed by Jesus' life, suffering, and death. The power of His redeeming and forgiving sacrifice transforms all who are called to believe on Him in faith. Christians, whose souls were once blackened by sin, are by the washing of Baptism, made white as snow. We who once were lost and without a family are -- through the cleansing of Jesus' blood -- found and adopted into God's family of faith. The cross of Christ truly is a wondrous thing.

Happy Easter!
Christ is Risen!

Pastor Dan

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



Thanks to Alex Arguelles

03-25-2011

EVERYBODY ELSE MERELY TALKS ABOUT
SURVEYING THE WONDROUS CROSS ... HE
ACTUALLY DID IT

Lenten Walk—through darkness to light

One of the things I've found challenging about living in the Pacific Northwest, is the long period of cloud and rain that marks our Winter... or perhaps better said, our late Fall through early Spring. When the Summer heat passes and we begin to get that chill in the air from Autumn, I usually take a long, deep breath, and prepare for the coming darkness. I know it will end eventually, and there may even be a few sunny days between the end of November and the end of March, but if I don't brace myself for the journey, it can get a little depressing. I can find myself in late January or mid February lamenting, "When will the sun come out again?!"

In many ways, I think Lent can be like this, too. It's a season that always seems to last longer than it really does, probably because we spend much of that time focusing on our sins... and the consequence of our sins, which is death. We start the season with the reminder that we are dust, and to the dust we shall return. We walk through that season reading the Scriptures about

how our sin destroyed the world, left us in the thrall of the devil, and ultimately bound for death and hell. We see the gravity of our sin in the mirror of the Divine Law, and we are mortified by our depravity. Sure, there may be moments of brightness in the Lenten walk, but it can feel like a long and ponderous path... and we may lament, "When will we sing Alleluia again?!"

At the end of this month, we'll walk through the darkest valley of Lent, which we call Holy Week—a week punctuated with a remembrance of the Cross our Savior bore to save us. But through that dark valley of sin and death, lies a path that leads to eternal life. Our Savior walked that long and dark road for us, conquering all its demons and binding the devil who lurked around every corner. Jesus took all that death and darkness upon Himself, so that even as He yielded up His spirit in death, He conquered death for everyone, everywhere. Our Savior walked through the valley of the shadow of death, and feared no evil—so

that we might walk through that same valley, knowing our conquering Savior is with us. His rod and His staff, continue to comfort us. He continues, even in the darkness, to prepare a table before us in the presence of our enemies, and our cup continues to overflow. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives, because Jesus leads us through this dark valley, into the glorious brilliance of His eternal life. There, we shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever, in the Light of the Son which shall drive away all remembrance of this short and painful walk.

Be of good cheer—though this world is dark, and our sins are great, our Savior has overcome them all. Our walk continues with our Lord through the valley He has already tread, into the glorious resurrection He has already won. Come and see. Amen.

Pastor Brad

Men's Breakfast / Bible Study March 16th

Join us **Saturday, March 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: "God's Tent" (Numbers 9:15-23). *Pastor Dan*

Ripples

Over the past several weeks, Pastor Varvil has been going over Luther's Small Catechism with our young confirmands, their parents and some of us have been sitting in for a review. Most recently he dealt with Dr. Luther's teaching on the *Eucharist*, also known as the *Sacrament of the Altar* and *Holy Communion*.

What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink.

As we meditate on this teaching it strikes one with fresh strength that a very profound statement is being made: Jesus Christ, our Lord, is *physically* present with us at that moment of our Worship Service. This simple statement should shape our entire corporate worship life like a pebble dropped into a pond.

When we know that we are going to meet our Savior, we should be moved to prepare. Confession, Repentance and a period of quiet reverence before the Service seem wise.

When we know that we are going to meet our Savior, we should be moved to focus on the other blessing of Divine Service: the proclaimed Word – which is another manifestation of Christ Himself, who was and IS the Word.

This is why the subjects of this column over the past months (and our continuing discussions at *musicingodsears.com*) are so important. When we know that we are going to meet our Savior, this knowledge will affect the way we carry ourselves, the selection of music appropriate for worship, and how moved we are to share this special blessing beyond our congregation.

Blessings.

DVP

Preschool News



Registration for the 2013-2014 preschool year is here. Our registration fee and tuition will remain the same as this year. The registration fee is \$65.00, tuition for our Tuesday/Thursday class is \$1035.00/year and \$1552.50 for the

Monday/Wednesday/Friday class. Monthly payments are accepted. Registration forms are in the narthex, by the offices—preschool and church, or can be downloaded on our website (www.littlelambstacoma.com).

www.littlelambstacoma.com

Our “**Tea and Talk**” is scheduled for Sunday, **March 3rd** at **4 pm** in the fellowship hall. Please join with us as we gather our congregational family with our preschool families. The Casual Chapel will begin at 5 pm following our Tea and Talk.

Please continue to keep the preschool, students, families, staff, and board in your prayers. Thank you

Bonnie Jean Huset

Director / Teacher



TEA AND TALK

FAMILY AFTERNOON TEA
Sunday, March 3rd
4:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

You and your family are cordially invited to join the preschool families and staff for tea and scones. Water and punch will also be available for those who do not wish to drink tea. There will also be activities for younger children.

Following our time together with “tea and talk” everyone is invited to attend our casual chapel beginning at 5:00 pm in the annex building.



EASTER CELEBRATION AND EGG HUNT

Our congregation will be hosting an Easter celebration for our young members up through 5th grade.
Please join us Saturday, March 30th
In the Annex Chapel at 2 pm.



We will have the Easter story, a craft project and an egg hunt. We hope to be done by 3 pm.



*We need wrapped candy donations for this event.
Thank you for your help!*



Lunch Bunch News:

HOBBY & COLLECTION DAY March 5th -11:30 am

The **LUNCH BUNCH** would love to have you share your interest in a hobby, a collection, handwork you do-so why not join us on **TUESDAY, MARCH 5th** ?

We try to start at 11:30 am with a devotion from Pastor Gerken, followed by a shared meal. See you on Tuesday, March 5! Invite a friend or neighbor to join this time of fellowship!

Pastor Ken Boetcher



Women in Mission

To ALL women of Good Shepherd:

YOU are invited to the Rainier Zone LWML Spring Rally, Saturday, April 20th at Zion Lutheran Church (340 66h Avenue, Tacoma). Registration begins at 8:45 am and is \$5.00. We will have a Worship service with Holy Communion. Lunch will be served. Our speaker is from the Family Renewal Shelter. Many needs are addressed by Family Renewal Shelter so let's (you and me) help them reach out to our community. They need gift cards (Target, K-Mart, etc), children's books, personal care items, toys, cleaning supplies, non-perishable

food items, and much more. See lists on bulletin board.

Plan to attend the Rally, April 20 and give generously as Christ has given to each of us!

Serving the Lord with Gladness!

Jane Oberg

PS: Tuesday Bible Study is using "Lutheranism 101 The Course." How much do you know about Lutheranism?



LADIES! GLAD-HATTERS TEA PARTY



April 27th -- 1 pm

"A joyful heart doeth good like a medicine." Proverbs 17:22a

Ladies—come share your joy!

Wear a hat designed to let your personality shine!

There will be a fashion show of hats, lots of tea, food and fellowship.

Come be blessed as you are a blessing.

Anyone interested in hosting a table, please see LaVonne Borcharding, Debbie Gustas, Ruth Gerken, Michelle Boulè, or Delia Stallard by March 24th.



Concordia University Kapelle Coming March 4th!



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

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.
Or sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex.***

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. The Lenten Supper precedes the service at 6 pm. All are welcome.

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