

# GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

March 2015

## The Season of Lent

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(See John 21:1-14)

01-30-2015

HOW'R THEY BITING TODAY?

According to Saint Luke (chapter 5), Jesus was preaching by shores of the Sea of Galilee when the crowds began to press in upon Him. Peter and his brother lent Jesus their boat which became a pulpit for Jesus.

When the sermon ended, Jesus asked Peter to launch out into the deep and let down their nets for a catch of fish. Peter, the experienced fisherman that he was, could not help call Jesus' attention to the unreasonableness of such a suggestion. They had fished all night and had caught nothing. That left no hope, of course, for broad daylight. Least of all out where it was deep.

But Peter did what Jesus commanded him. As he sat down to row, he said with humility and faith: "At Your word I will let down the nets." Then a miracle: they caught so many fish that their nets were breaking and they had to call for help from their partners' boats. The boats were so filled with fish that they began to sink.

Then Jesus performed an even greater miracle for Peter.

Jesus performed a miracle in the heart of Peter. He saw the holiness and majesty of Jesus, and he also saw his own sinfulness. As never before. Peter was seized with fright and fell down at the knees of Jesus and confessed: "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." Never had he needed Jesus as he did then.

Jesus raised Peter and forgave him. And then Jesus invited Peter to follow Him and share the Good News about forgiveness and new life in Jesus. Peter left everything and did just that.

This is what the season of Lent is about. In the presence of God and His holiness, we repent and confess our sins – sins which drove Jesus to the cross for us. And God, in His grace and mercy, forgives and restores us for the sake of Jesus. And in joyful response to all that God has done for us in Christ, we follow Him.

Join us for our special Wednesday evening Lenten services as we explore Isaiah 40-55 under the theme, "Singing with the Exiles."

Blessings, *Pastor Dan*

# Revisiting the Augsburg Confession:

## Articles 21: Of the Worship of the Saints

There are probably few things that set Reformation Christians on edge as much as this topic regarding how the Church should treat the departed saints. At the time of the Reformation, medieval western Christianity had become embroiled in an out of control piety that the early church never envisioned. Various saints, the departed Christians of years gone by, whose lives were marked by heroic faith and confession, were embraced as patrons of all kinds of things. Popular piety of the middle ages assigned certain functions to each of these great saints, including their relics (bits and pieces of their bones, clothes, etc.) such that when people needed something in their lives, they often appealed to various saints to help them. The result, of course, is that saints began to eclipse Christ as the Christian's mediator and Savior, and the devotion of misguided people thought that the saints (particularly the Blessed Virgin Mary) were more approachable and compassionate than the Lord Jesus Christ.

All of this grew, of course, apart from Holy Scripture. Had the medieval Church been better read in the Word of God, they would have known that Jesus is the one who in love has come to save sinners, and is the one who has promised to save not only us, but every saint who has died in His grace since the dawn of time. The saints of the ancient church knew this well, as we read in their writings and the witness of their martyrdom. St. Augustine would have thought it just as insulting to place trust in him before Christ, as would St. Peter or St. Paul. Of the few words we have in Scripture from the Blessed Virgin Mary, the greatest were her call to listen to her Son and do whatever He says. The Prophets of the Old Testament pointed forward to the Messiah during their lives, and the Apostles pointed back to Christ throughout their lives; the great Fathers of the Church pointed the people back to Christ; the great martyrs of the Church died in various tortures confessing Christ. Why should the Church in our age do any different?

This is what the 21<sup>st</sup> article of the Augsburg Confession is attempting to deal with. Any popular piety or dogma that elevates the saints above Christ their Savior, is out of bounds, and tantamount to idolatry (violation of the First Commandment). Faith and trust should only be placed in Jesus our Savior, who the book of Hebrews makes clear is the only Mediator between God and mankind. Jesus is the

only one who suffers and dies for the sins of the world, and the only one who rises from the dead to freely offer forgiveness, life, and salvation to all who will believe in His Name. Jesus is not only approachable as our loving Savior, but it is He who condescends to approach us, seeking us out so that He might save us from sin, death, hell, and the power of the devil. From Jesus we have every consolation, every hope, and the fullness of divine love. There is no one else who is like Him in all creation, for He alone is the eternally begotten Son of the Father, together in the perfect unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

So what exactly do we do with the saints? That same book of Hebrews makes a catalog of great saints who came before Jesus' Advent, and notes that we in our present age, stand before God amongst a great cloud of witnesses. All the faithful, united to Jesus by grace through faith in Him, are also united to each other in Him. We are one Body, one Church, one Bride—from the first saint to die in Jesus' fellowship, to the last one who will be born into this world, we are united in our Redeemer. We are one communion of the saints, saved by Jesus' Most Precious Blood, and we shall live together in Him for eternity.

This means, of course, that we are free to celebrate the faithful saints who have come before us, giving thanks to God for the witness of His grace and mercy through their heroic faith. We give thanks for St. Peter and St. Paul, and their fearless witness to the Gospel, even unto death. We give thanks for the Blessed Virgin Mary, who by grace through faith became the Mother of God. We give thanks for St. Nicholas and the Fathers of the Council of Nicea who fought for the Scriptural faith of Jesus against the Arian heretics. We give thanks for St. Augustine and his faithful witness to Christ against the Pelagian heretics. And the list goes on, not only for the saints well known to history, but of the humble saints known perhaps to only a few, who lived lives of faith and grace in Jesus Christ. For all of them, we give thanks to God.

Secondly, we can use them as role models, according to our vocations in life. Are you a father? St. Joseph, the step-father of our Lord Jesus Christ, is a wonderful model of selfless Christian fatherhood. Are you a mother? Blessed Mary is an outstanding image of Christian motherhood. Are you a leader of men? St. David is a fantastic image of a godly king. Are you a student of theology? St. Augustine is a

marvelous doctor of Holy Scripture. Are you a preacher or teacher? St. Chrysostom is a remarkable example of soaring oratory based on the Holy Scriptures. Look across the roughly 4000 years of recorded Christian history, and you will find someone who God worked through in a vocation such as yours, who can be a good role model for your life of faith in Jesus Christ.

But even as we give thanks for the saints, and aspire to live up to their heroic model, we must remember that Holy Scripture called them and us to place our faith and trust in none other than our saving

Lord. We know that they pray for us, and that they are united to us through our Savior Jesus Christ. And we know that our fellowship with the saints is secure only by grace through faith in Christ alone. We give thanks to God for the saints He has raised up, we live in the shadow of their heroic lives and confession, we are thankful for their prayers and their witness—and together with them, we give all glory, laud, and honor to our Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen.

*Pastor Brad*

## Men's Breakfast / Bible Study Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup> – 8 am

Join us 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 "How Dare You Fight Without Us" (Judges 12:1-7).



*Pastor Dan*

## DO YOU KNOW WHO YOUR ELDER IS?

Zones are arranged alphabetically. Following is a list of Elders and their Zones.

| Zone | Elder                         | Names               |
|------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1    | Mike Dunn (253-538-5820)      | Alber – Burgardt    |
| 2    | Joel Wippich (253-754-1054)   | Burnside – Huntsman |
| 3    | <i>Unassigned</i>             | Huset – Morton      |
| 4    | Joe Morton (253-473-5649)     | Munoz – Skar        |
| 5    | Wayne Boudreau (253-405-4904) | Smith - Zmuda       |

*Members can contact any elder for any reason at any time.*

## DR. PAUL MAIER SEMINAR: "THE WEEK THAT SAVED THE WORLD"

Saturday, May 2, 2015....9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**Cost :** Pre-register: \$15 per person, (includes lunch)

At the Door: \$20 per person, (includes lunch)

Reserve your seat soon! Sign up in narthex to reserve.

# Lent 2015—

## Singing With the Exiles

Gathered by the waters of Babylon, Judean exiles wistfully wondered: Is God for real? If so, does HE really care about us? What does our future hold? Will this ever change? God's people had watched their world shatter into a million pieces. They were demoralized and disillusioned. Their disaster looked terminal.

Do you feel this way? Does it look as though your current problems are more than you can bear? Do you find yourself asking: Why did this happen? Why did God allow it? Is there any order in the world? Will God really deliver on what HE said?

Isaiah answers these questions in chapters 40-55 of his book. He announces that just when Israel's history seemed closed and controlled by hopeless Babylonian imperial policy, to the shock and surprise of everyone the Lord will stir up a king named Cyrus and a new exodus will explode in the desert! A Servant will be wounded for our transgressions and crushed for our iniquities. And barren Zion will be given so many children that, like the old woman in the shoe, she won't know what to do! Standing behind these marvelous promises is God's almighty Word. "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever" (Isaiah 40:8). The exiles are going home!

**That's why we are "Singing with the Exiles" as they are restored to their home.**

This Lent, Isaiah 40-55 will shape up as we . . .

**Listen** to the following sermons on our Wednesday evening services at 7 pm (preceded by a fellowship meal at 6 pm), Holy Thursday (7 pm), Good Friday (7 pm), Easter Vigil (6 am), and Easter (8 & 10:45 am).

**February 18<sup>th</sup> - Ash Wednesday:** "God Has a Word for That" (Isaiah 41:14-16)

**February 25 - Lent 1:** "He Only Has Eyes for You" (Isaiah 43:1-7)

**March 4 - Lent 2:** "Marked" (Isaiah 44:1-5)

**March 11 - Lent 3:** "Breaking Down the Gates" (Isaiah 45:1-8)

**March 18 - Lent 4:** "Get Out!" (Isaiah 48:17-22)

**March 25 - Lent 5:** "One Little Word Can Fell Him" (Isaiah 49:1-6)

**April 2 - Holy Thursday:** "He Prepares a Table" (Isaiah 49:7-13)

**April 3 - Good Friday:** "All" (Isaiah 52:13-53:12)

**April 5 - Easter Vigil:** "Nothing" (Isaiah 54:1-8)

**April 5 - Easter Sunday:** "We Are Going Home" (Isaiah 55:6-13)

Plan now to sing with the exiles as we learn from Isaiah to walk the Lenten way to the cross and to the empty tomb. God promises to turn our weeping into joy and our present pain into an endless Alleluia! Wednesday evening services begin at 7 pm. They are preceded at 6 pm by a fellowship meal.

**Endowment Fund Scholarship Applications** are available in the church 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.



## -Preschool News

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

### *Sharing Christ, Feeding Lambs*

This month our older preschool students will visit the dentist at his office and the younger class will be visited at the preschool. We will be discussing health and hygiene as we learn about Jesus healing the sick and bringing Jarius' daughter back to life. Later in the month the students will learn how Jesus really did come to save all people and He put our need for salvation above His own life.

March is the beginning of registration for our 2015-2016 school year. The preschool board has voted to keep our registration fee and tuition the same as it is for our current school year. If you know anyone interested in preschool for next year please direct them to our website or the office 253-473-4848 for more information.

As always, we appreciate your prayer support and ask you to keep the preschool, students, families, board, and staff in your prayers. Thank you.

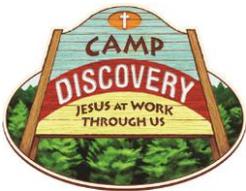
*Bonnie Huset*  
Director / Teacher

## Vision Builders Luncheon

You are invited to join Good Shepherd's tables at the Vision Builders Luncheon for **Concordia Lutheran Schools and Mount Rainier Lutheran High School** on April 30, from 11 am to 12:30 pm, at the Landmark Convention Center. This is a free lunch for people to come and learn more about our schools and their vision of *Sharing Values...Shaping Lives*. Yes, it is a fundraiser, too. You will be asked to consider

making a contribution. There is no minimum and no maximum gift requested. It will be the job of the schools to inspire people to want to give. This year's theme is "Growing Relationships that Last a Lifetime." You will find out about the great programs offered at our schools. If you are interested, call the church office to register, or call Pastor or Ruth Gerken.

## VBS – Calling all Volunteers!



Vacation Bible School has been scheduled for **July 27 – 31**. This year's theme is "Camp Discovery – Jesus at Work Through Us." We

have a wonderful opportunity to share Jesus' love with all children. For some this may be

their first time hearing about Jesus, for others the opportunity to learn more. Please prayerfully consider how God can use you to enrich the lives of His children. If you would like to volunteer, donate items or money, or get more information please contact Debbie Tanner, Bonnie Jean Huset, or the church office.

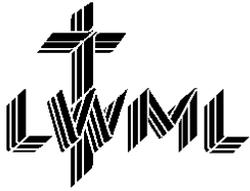
## EASTER CELEBRATION

**Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> beginning at 1:30 pm our church will sponsor an Easter Craft and Egg Hunt Celebration.**

**This will be geared for children 3 years of age up to 5<sup>th</sup> grade.**

**We hope to have all activities finished by 2:15 pm.**

**Please bring your children and join us for some fun. Thank you!**



# Women in Mission / Women's Ministry

- **Tuesdays:**  
**Bible Study** (9:15 am) **Quilting** (10 am)
- **Mites and Missions** –March 8<sup>th</sup>
- **Seafarers' Auxiliary** – March 24<sup>th</sup>

Blessings to all!

Tuesday Bible Study has been taking a look at the "Lord's Prayer." Have you studied it lately? We are reminded to practice living love and forgiveness and always trust God who provides everything for you.

All women of Good Shepherd are invited to all events such as Spring Tea, Saturday Game Time, Movie Night, Rainier Zone Spring and Fall Rallies, National LWML Conventions and Washington –Alaska District LWML retreats, etc. Participate as you can... *YOU are US!*

*Jane Oberg*

## Lunch Bunch

March 12<sup>th</sup> beginning at 11:45 am for a pot blessing meal. Bring a dish to share.



## ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF



The chili cook off is scheduled for **Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>**, following the second worship service. If you would like to enter your unique chili, please talk to Norm Gerken or Kathy Poppewell.

## FINANCIAL UPDATE



As of this writing, our giving has been in line with our budget. Where we owe the most is to Concordia Lutheran School (\$32,000) and Mount Rainier Lutheran High School (\$21,000). These amounts are for the entire school year. We have started payments to each school but are way behind in our total payments. A graph chart has been placed in the narthex to keep the congregation posted on our payment progress.

