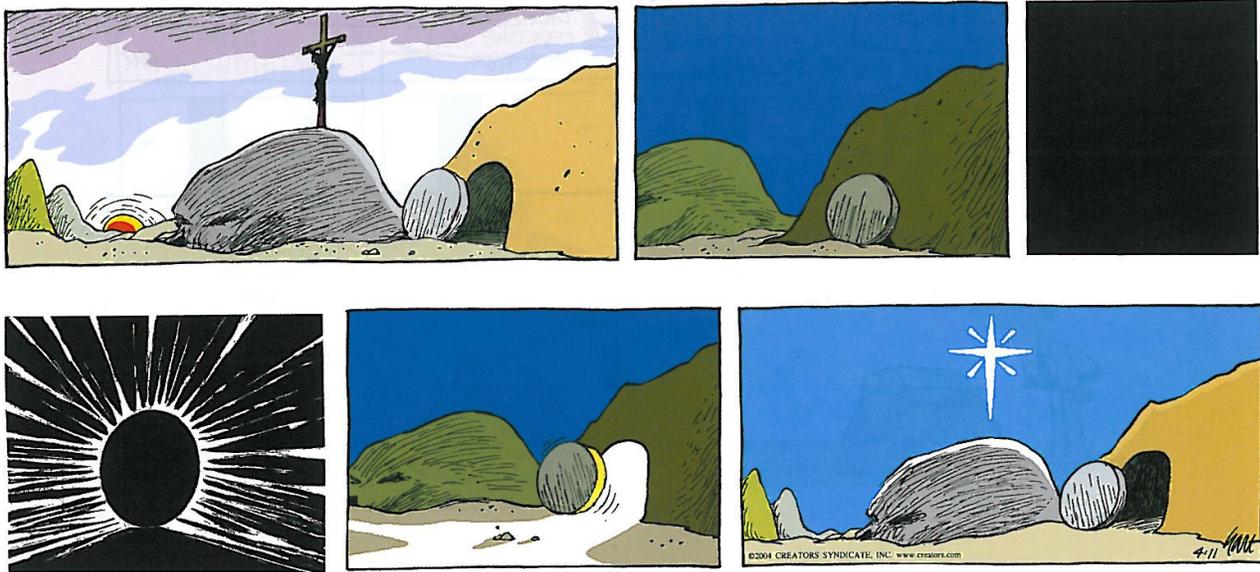


GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

April 2011

Darkness Overcome



It was against the background of broken hopes and utter despair that the Easter dawn began. The women came to the tomb, their hearts almost failing with fear and grief. But the words of reassurance came quickly and with authority.

God's great gift of the resurrection came with power to recreate life and renew hope. To live again is no longer a pious hope – it is a living certainty. Here is cause for rejoicing. We have a God who is faithful to His promise.

Out of the darkness it began to dawn, and gloom was replaced with joy. Sin, death, and satan's power are defeated.

Jesus lives! He lives forever. Our future is secure in God's resurrected love. Rejoice. This is the resurrection hope we must share.

Easter blessings,

Pastor Dan

President's Corner

This month's article is all business. But its ok, it is all church business, and that is good too.

First off, I want to bring your attention to one of the goals that I alluded to last month. We are looking to significantly grow our home-based Bible studies. The atmosphere, the willingness of people to open up and share about themselves, the chance to see how God is working in people's lives, and the opportunities to get to know one another are all different during the week when meeting together at someone's house.

We have some great bible study opportunities on Sunday. Now we need to extend that to the rest of the week. If you are interested in hosting, leading, or both, please speak to one of the two pastors. It is important that the leaders touch base with the pastors. (It has always been a fear of mine to have a misunderstanding of the Word of God and yet still be off teaching others as if I had it correct. All the while, God is up there rolling his eyes at me, about to bless my head with the hammer of knowledge correction.) The pastors can offer direction, resources, and other support.

Another goal we have is to get a photo directory published this year. Expect to see more on that sometime this year.

A couple needs I would like to bring to your attention. First off, the external church building is going to need some paint this year. We are looking at whether to just paint portions showing the most wear and tear, or if we have the resources to be able to paint the entire building.

Another need to keep in your thoughts and prayers is computers for the church office. The current computers for the church office are outdated. They are having some difficulty with compatibility issues with today's software. In addition, they are having challenges keeping up to date on virus protection because virus protection isn't being offered or updated for the old operating system they use anymore. They have been working around these challenges for a while, but as time goes on, this challenge will continue to grow.

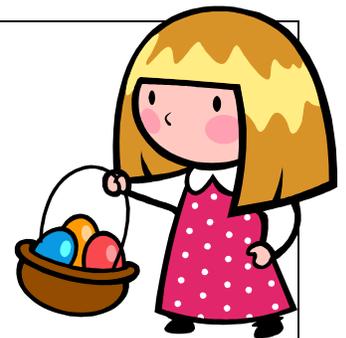
Thanks for all you do and may God bless you and your family.

Julian Doyle



Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 23rd
2 - 3 pm



Easter video, craft project, and egg hunt.

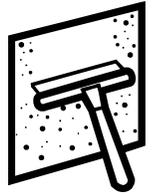
Children from toddler to 5th Grade are invited to participate.

Older children may come and help with the activities.

Parents are also invited to stay during this event.

Donations for the egg hunt can be given to a Board of Education member: Melissa Varvil, Donna Gerzevske, Jean Morton, Jeanie Singler, Denes Van Parys, Katy Van Volkenberg, and Bonnie Jean Huset or the Church Office.

SPRING CLEANING PARTY!



SATURDAY, APRIL 16TH

9 am – 12 pm.

We need lots of volunteers

as we work together to clean the House of the Lord!

Please come and help with windows, pew polishing,

pew pad cleaning, vacuuming, getting rid of cob webs, dusting and ??..

For those who would like to help our congregation with something that day but cannot physically do the work party tasks we are also asking for volunteers to help stuff Easter eggs that day for our egg hunt on the 23rd.

Thank you for your help!

SEMINAR BY DR. PAUL MAIER: THE “LOST BOOKS” OF THE BIBLE

Saturday, May 7th -- 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.



Today, loud voices are claiming that some important writings that should have been part of the Bible were excluded, and that it's time to restore them. Is this true?

1. WRITINGS NEVER INCLUDED

The documents that never made it include apocryphal gospels, epistles, acts, apocalypses, and other writings that are interesting, but report useless miracles, contradict historical fact, and are novelistic additions to the biblical accounts.

2. COMPARING TRUE AND FALSE GOSPELS

With only two true Gospels covering the Nativity, the false gospels add many more curious details about Jesus' early years and his adult ministry as well. All of them reflect a later, derivative version of what really happened.

3. THE “GNOSTIC GOSPELS”

The discovery in 1947 of a manuscript horde at Nag Hamadi in Egypt provided a new collection of apocryphal documents that reveal an even more bizarre portrait of Christ. Yet, these are highly touted today by sensationalist authors and theologians who ought to know better.

4. RESPONDING TO ALL SUCH “LOST BOOKS”

The authors of these strange writings, however, did the church a favor in causing early Christianity to develop its rules for the canon and guard against heresy.



Dr. Paul L. Maier,
Professor of Ancient
History, Western
Michigan University
and widely-read
author.

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

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

Reserve your ticket soon! Sign up in the narthex
or contact the church office (253-473-4848).

It's Music in God's Ears

We live in a culture that is increasingly fragmented. Real and imagined fault-lines run fissure-like across the landscape of our world: Black vs. White, Red vs. Blue, Science vs. Faith, and America vs. almost everyone else.

One division that is both more prevalent and more easily ignored is also the most natural: Young vs. Old. We don't even like the sound of it. It conjures up an image of a boxing ring:

"And in this corner – a grandmother of three, well-seasoned by a life of struggle, weighing in at 136 pounds and wearing the rose-print shorts..." well, you get the idea.

Market researchers love these divisions because they make it easier to sell things. Make a product that appeals to one audience and you can count on them to buy it again and again. This is particularly true in the area of the Arts: music, movies, television and books. There is a certain amount of logic to this, of course, since there ARE differences across ages. We make toys that are safe for one age group that should be kept out of the hands of another. We have books that are simple enough for children that would

bore an adult. It makes perfect sense.

Two places, however, where this kind of division makes very little sense are in our families and in our corporate worship.

Unfortunately, marketing in search of greater profits can lead away from products that appeal to a broad spectrum of people. We have fewer and fewer experiences designed for generations to enjoy together. And whereas our culture was historically shaped by the Church and the Family, now the Church and the Family are being transformed by the Culture—often in ways that weaken them and their messages of support, love and Grace.

If we fall prey to "niche" marketing in church, we weaken the fabric that binds us across generations. If we choose music and worship styles to appeal to a particular demographic group, we risk alienating—and excluding from true worship—every other demographic group.

Furthermore, to stay "current" with this kind of marketing, our music and worship styles would have to be radically different every week, according to the

fickle trends of human desire. Congregations that try become lost in a ceaseless whirlwind of new material that never feels "comfortable" and "traditional." Is it any wonder that so many people have stopped singing all together and just observe like spectators?

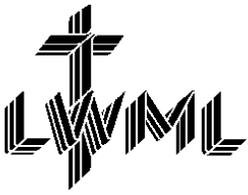
To combat this division, we all need to be open and adventurous. Some generations need to see that there is life beyond a cherished setting of Divine Service that they grew up. Some in my generation need to recognize that what we once embraced as "contemporary" is now seen as dated and hackneyed by younger people. On the other hand, we need to teach our young people that there is value in the older material through loving and careful teaching.

There really IS one worship and musical language that we can all share. What is difficult—*really* difficult—is that this language *will* and *must* slowly change over time. It is terribly hard work, but God demands such worship of us and, if we fail, we will lose a vital life-source for the Church.

Your Servant,
DVP (Denes Van Parys)

Men's Breakfast / Bible Study April 16th

Join us **Saturday, April 16th** at **7 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's lesson is "God Chose Abraham." Join us. *Pastor Dan*



Women in Mission

Please join us for the following events:

Weekly Bible Study on Tuesdays at 9:15 am. We are currently studying Luther's Small Catechism.

Weekly Quilting on Tuesdays at 10 am.

A monthly Bible Study on the second Saturday at 9:30 am.

Rainier Zone Spring Rally Day / Joy Shop "Being with Jesus, Living on the Edge" (Acts 4:13b & 20) at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Milton, Saturday, April 9th

National LWML Convention, - June 22-24

Washington / Alaska District Retreat September 30 - October 2nd in Post Falls, Idaho

To ALL Good Shepherd Women:

April...is Spring here? How about your Spring - new birth I Christ? Are you bursting into bloom, sharing the beauty of the Lord with others? His blessings shower on us daily for He is LOVE.

Tuesday morning Bible Study is continuing a study of Luther's Small Catechism. When did you last study confirmation? Time for a review?? Join us!

Remember: Mites (cash and checks as well as coins) are needed to meet National & District LWML Goals.

Remember: National LWML Convention, Peoria, Illinois, June 22-24, 2011. Pray, attend if you can, and praise Him for blessing the LWML.

Remember: You are the FACE of the LWML.

Jane Oberg
475-2832

Women's Brunch & Bible Study / Pink Shoe

Our monthly Bible Study will meet again on the second Saturday of the month from 9:30-11:45 am in the fellowship hall. Please join us **April 9th** for a shared brunch and fellowship

followed by our Bible Study. **The Pink Shoe Club** is for girls from kindergarten - 6th grade. We all come together for brunch and then Miss Sue (Sue Tofflemire) takes the girls for

an activity while the adults study God's Word. All are welcome! Please join us! Babysitting is provided with advance notice at 473-4848.



Preschool News

www.littlelambstacoma.com

We are now accepting in house and open registrations for the 2011-2012 school year. Please visit our website (listed above), look in the narthex, or check at the church or preschool office for registration information.

Thank you to all who came to our "Tea and Talk" social event in March. Building relationships with families / each other is very important. It offers us an opportunity to share our caring Christ with others. Spring Flower Sales are coming! We will be taking orders for geraniums, impatiens, and petunias on April 17, 24, and May 1 for delivery of flowers on

Mother's Day, May 8th. Please watch the bulletins or contact the office for more information.

Please continue to pray for our preschool and especially our students and their families. Thank you!

Bonnie Jean Huset
Preschool Director / Teacher

Lunch Bunch News

A couple years ago **THE PRIME TIMERS** was reorganized. The result was **THE LUNCH BUNCH** which now meets on the first Tuesday of each month. We start at 11:30 am with a devotion by Pastor Dan, followed by a meal to which each one contributes a dish. In the past we have then played bingo, or some other

games, watched a video, toured the Tacoma waterfront, had a presentation at our Concordia School, had a picnic, or shared a hobby / collection. In the future we anticipate visiting the Wilcox Farm in McKenna, touring a flower garden or a Nursery. The time we spend together provides the opportunity to become better

acquainted with other friends and members of our church – do things and go places we would not do alone. For our meeting in April we are going to play bingo – bring a dish to share for the meal and a wrapped “White Elephant” for the game.

Pastor Ken Boetcher
253-847-5925

VISION BUILDERS BREAKFAST



for
Concordia Lutheran School
And
Mount Rainier Lutheran High
Thursday, April 28th at 7:30 a.m.
Landmark Convention Center



This free breakfast is designed for people to come and learn more about our schools. It is also a fundraiser and there will be opportunity to consider making a contribution. Please sign up soon if you are interested in attending.

Holy Week Schedule

Thursday, April 21st - Maundy Thursday Service (7 pm)

Friday, April 22nd - Good Friday Service (7 pm)

Sunday, April 24th – Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service: (6:30 am)

Easter Breakfast: (7 am & 9 am)

Family Education Hour: (9:15 am)

Worship Services: (8 and 10:45 am)