

GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

April 2013

THE JOY OF EASTER



We are living in the afterglow of Easter. On Easter we went with the women to Jesus' tomb. They discovered that the tomb was empty. Now an empty tomb does not prove the resurrection. There are other possible explanations why the body of Jesus was not found in the grave. Enemies of the Christian faith have long used these other explanations in an effort to discount the truth of the resurrection. If the women who came to the tomb had, however, found the dead body of Jesus, this would certainly be proof that He was not alive. But they found the grave empty and wondered. They needed an explanation.

Jesus provided the explanation. He showed Himself alive: to Mary at the tomb, to the disciples that evening, to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, to Thomas, to Peter, to a group of five hundred at one time. The truth is, Jesus is alive. He has risen from the dead. And because He lives, we shall live also.

It has been said that all the tombs of various religious leaders throughout history are all occupied; except one. We serve and follow a risen Savior. Ascended into heaven, yet present among us, He is ruler of heaven and earth. He lives in our hearts. He is present among us in Word and Sacrament. And one day He will return visibly to take us home to live with Him forever in heaven.

As the hearts of the disciples were filled with great joy in knowing Jesus was alive, they also knew that Jesus was God's servant who had come to rescue the world from sin and death. They were prepared to give their lives as His witnesses.

As followers of the risen Lord Jesus Christ, we too, proclaim Him to be the Savior of the world. Yes, we believe that Jesus is the Son of God, and that by believing in Him we have eternal life in His name.

Live in the joy of Easter: Christ is risen!

Blessings,
Pastor Dan

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Thanks to John Nunn & Mikel (See John 20:1-18)

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Patterns for Easter People

Ah, April is here! The cool of winter is now drifting far behind us, and we can see through the Spring showers toward the warmth of Summer not far ahead. I don't know about you, but I'm ready—ready for some sunshine, some warmer temperatures, and a chance to play around outside without either freezing or getting soaked. I am so ready...!

Together with being ready for sun and warmth, I'm ready for Easter! Ready to put Lent in the rearview mirror, and revel in the glories of the Risen Christ. Ready to put that purple stole back on the rack, and grab the brighter colors that show forth the resurrection life we inherit from our Savior, who has trampled sin, death, and the devil for us. Boy, am I ready—ready for Scripture readings that focus more on the triumph of Christ, and less about the price of my sin that nailed Him to His Cross. I'm ready to break my Lenten fast, and eat like a 20 year old college student with a free pass to an endless chow-line. I am so ready...!

One of the things I know I need to watch, and I bet you do as well, is that living in a pattern of feasts and fasts—of a church year that

ebbs and flows through the Scriptures between Easter and Christmas and back again—is that we live one day at a time. No one gets to spend all their time in the joys of Easter, just as no one has to spend all their time living in the sufferings of Lent. We live today, both as sinners in need of repentance, and as saints who live gloriously in the righteousness of Christ. When the focus of the season is repentance, we remember that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is forgiveness and life and hope. When we focus on the sweetness of the Gospel, we remember the gravity of the Law that drove our Savior to take our place on the Cross. In the rhythm of the Christian's daily life, all the seasons of the Church Year show up—from the waiting of Advent, to the wonders of Christmas; from the marvels of Epiphany to the sacrifices of Lent; from the triumph of Easter, to the daily battles of Pentecost. The Christian lives each of these seasons every day, even as throughout the year each one has its particular focus.

So, how does the Christian make sense of this rhythm, without becoming out of balance with any particular season?

My commendation to you, is to pray the Catechism every day. I know, you thought you graduated Confirmation... but since Dr. Luther could never find the end of its usefulness, I'll bet you won't, either. It begins with the Law of the Ten Commandments, calling all to repentance. It continues with the Gospel of the Creed, calling all to faith in the Savior. It guides to the life of Prayer which emerges from grace and faith, as our Lord has given it to us. It calls us to remember the Means of Grace that empower us to bring forth fruits of love and service from the living faith we have received in Christ. Here the rhythm of the Church Year finds its harmony in the life of the individual Christian, as we live by grace through faith in Christ alone. Here faith and repentance find their source and their completion in Christ, and here the Christian finds rest. May your Easter, and all your days, find rest in the Risen Lord. Amen.

Pastor Brad

Men's Breakfast / Bible Study April 20th

Join us **Saturday, April 20th** 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: "How did that god slip through?" (Exodus 32). *Pastor Dan*

Music before Worship: Prelude or Quaalude?

A few fans of this column have asked again that I re-run this oldie-but-goodie. The topics covered deserve being visited again, especially in light of our last Topic: the Effect on our Worship of the knowledge that Christ is truly present on the Altar.

On Sundays we arrive in the Foyer, meet a few friends and enter the Sanctuary. What happens next? What is the purpose of this time before Worship? And what is that music for?

For many of us, this time is spent greeting friends, chatting for a brief time and then hastily finding our seats when Pastor greets the congregation. There is certainly nothing wrong (and everything right!) with greeting our friends on Sunday and there is certainly an aspect of fellowship to our coming together, but is that the best use of this time?

It is important to remember that we come to church to worship God.

Obvious, yes, but an important starting point: everything in our coming together on Sunday should prepare us for entering the presence of God through Word and Sacrament. Therefore—

Prepare for worship so that we may more effectively do so! Putting other cares aside, we dedicate ourselves to worship, focusing on praising God, joining in the liturgy, singing with our fellow believers. Then we can sing and pray without distraction. We recite the Lord's Prayer without our thoughts drifting to worldly concerns.

Prepare for worship so that we may receive greater blessings in doing so! Then we may hear more clearly the proclamation of God's Word in Scripture and Sermon. We become more "tuned-in" to the moving of the Holy Spirit and are more likely to fully experience our audience with God.

So how should we prepare? Some ideas:

1. Greet friends and visitors in the Narthex. Then enter the Sanctuary with the intention to focus on God.
2. Use the prelude music to wash away other cares and place yourself firmly in the mind of worship.
3. While you make that transition, look at the bulletin and see what the theme of the day is. How do the music, hymns and scripture for the day emphasize it? Take a peak at the scripture ahead of time using your pew bible.
4. Use this time to pray. Inside the front cover of our hymnals are several prayer-aides designed just for this purpose.

May God Bless us as we worship and may He find our worship acceptable in His sight!

DVP



Preschool News

Our preschool will be on Spring Break the week of April 1-5 and our office will be closed. When we resume school on April 8th, our students will hear of Jesus' love for Thomas and for all of us. They will also learn about Jesus' ascension, Pentecost, and Phillip and the Ethiopian. How wonderful it is to share the Bible stories with young children and to impress on them our calling by sharing the Good News with others.

The Preschool will be selling spring bedding plants as a fundraiser during April and the first week of May. **Calibrachoa** and **Petunias** are **\$3.25** each

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and **Geraniums** will be sold for **\$4.25**. Flowers will be ready for delivery May 9-12, in time for Mother's Day. During this time we will also be selling **Fashion Scarves** for **\$10 each**. Scarves are handmade and donated to the preschool. The proceeds from both the flower sale and fashion scarves will go toward accreditation costs.

Thank you for your continued prayer support for all our preschool families, staff, and board.

Bonnie Jean Huset
Director / Teacher

Lunch Bunch News

THE LUNCH BUNCH was chosen as the name for the group who are continuing THE PRIME TIMERS. This group is designed for fellowship, not only for members of Good Shepherd congregation, but for anyone who wishes to attend, although the attendance is primarily our members. It is not strictly a "retiree" group either. If you are free on the first Tuesday of each month because you are retired, or off work we invite you to join us. We start about 11:30 with a brief devotion by Pastor Gerken, followed by a shared meal. We then have a variety of programs that will be entertaining or informational.

Last month we asked for a sharing of a hobby or a collection. Those who shared with us were Pastor Dan Gerken, Lois Hanby, Al Himmelman, Arlis Kipfer, Myron Schmidt, and Good Shepherd Quilters. Lil Schmidt shared with us about them and showed some of their handiwork. We thank those who participated.

In the immediate future we are planning a video in April, possibly a visit to Chase Gardens in Orting, followed by lunch at a restaurant in May, and the Marimba Band from Concordia in June. For more details as the weeks pass watch the monthly newsletter, and the Sunday bulletins for the 2 Sundays prior to our meeting. We would love to have you join us!

Pastor Ken Boetcher



Women in Mission

Mark your Calendars:

- April 14th – Mites Collected
- Tuesdays, 9:15 am – LWML Bible Study
- Tuesdays, 10 am – Quilting
- April 20 – LWML Rainier Zone Spring Rally
- April 23 – Seafarers Auxiliary
- April 30 – Packing of Quilts
- May 3 or 4 – LWR Quilt Shipping
- June 27-30 – LWML Biennial Convention

Busy, blessed Ladies of Good Shepherd,

Mark your calendars NOW for the Washington-Alaska LWML Retreat September 27-19 at the Wesley Inn in Gig harbor, Washington. Come Learn what the Bible teaches about Angels! Three pastors will be our speakers and leaders.

ALL Good Shepherd Ladies, remember MITES! Little bits add up to great numbers. Yours are important.

Saturday, April 20 will see you at Zion (3410 6th Ave.) for the Rainier Zone Spring Rally. Sharing, Worshipping, Growing together as Sisters in Christ. Theme: "Jesus is the Way" (John 14:6. Please sign up soon on the bulletin boards.

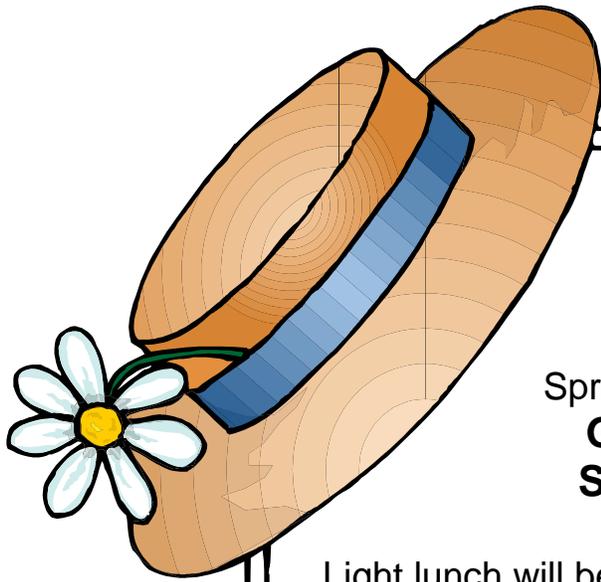
Lutheran World Relief has set a goal of 500,000 quilts this year. Last year, 2012, 412,710 went to 20 countries from Angola to Yemen. Can't help us make quilts on Tuesdays? How about donating money for LWR? Contributions help with supplies and the cost of shipping the quilts.

Christmas Boxes will be filled again in early November, so start thinking how you can help. Items needed are: soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc. The list will be posted later. Tacoma Seafarers put 1,600 Christmas boxes on ships last year and could have used more. Just think of sending a bit of Jesus' love so easily to another country. Port of Tacoma is blessed with the many people from so many countries and we, you and I, can share God's love for them with Christmas Boxes.

Serving the Lord with Gladness!

Jane Oberg

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



LADIES! IT'S TIME TO GRAB YOUR HAT!

Spring Tea tickets are now available.

Glad-hatters' Tea
Saturday, April 27
1-3 pm

Light lunch will be served and we will have a Fashion Show of Hats!! Come join in all the fun! Tickets for sale in the Narthex before and after service.

**Wear a hat that says
What you like or what you do,
It doesn't matter as long as it's you.
Just let your personality shine through.**

Along with our tea, food and fellowship, we are having a hat fashion show and competition. We invite you to enter and show off your hat. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate. In fact, we cannot do this without you!

The three categories for prizes are:

Creative – Hobby, Cooking, Inventive, etc.

Nature – Plants, Flowers, Animals, etc.

Vintage/Classic – Never goes out of style

To help us introduce your hat, please write a brief (no more than 3 sentences) summary that describes your hat and/or how it relates to you. This is all about fun, fun, fun so don't miss out!

COMING MAY 25th - DR. PAUL MAIER: A BIRDS EYE VIEW OF EARLY CHURCH HISTORY



GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

Saturday, May 25th

9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Reserve your spot soon!

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

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

Sign up in the narthex or contact the church office (253-473-4848).

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VISION BUILDERS LUNCH

Would you like to know more about Concordia Lutheran School and Mount Rainier Lutheran High School? Would you like to hear stories of how these schools impact the lives of students and families? Then join us at 11 am on Thursday, April 25th for a **Vision Builders Lunch** at the Landmark Convention Center in Tacoma. The lunch is free, but you will have an opportunity to give. Contact the Church Office to reserve your spot.

Sharing about Concordia Lutheran Schools

- As Christ directs, “Go into all the world...” At CLS, ministry isn’t just taught, but caught! Many of our students, past and present, take the opportunity to participate in mission work throughout the world especially during the summer months. They make connections that last a lifetime by becoming involved in outreach from teaching Vacation Bible School to running soccer camps. During this last quarter, all chapel offerings go to help them in their efforts as they strive to bring the Good News of Jesus to help make a difference in the lives of others.
- Learning comes alive! Students are encouraged to express their knowledge of our world through various means. Be prepared! Walking down hallways you see arctic and dessert habitats displayed with student art and stories, assorted art projects with mediums from pen and ink to mosaic tiles, and intricate diagrams of the circulatory system. Our emphasis with “Hands on Learning” demonstrates we value learning as a unique educational journey.
- “What you have done for the least of these, you have done unto me.”- Jesus
During the first week in March, CLS joined forces with Phoenix Housing Network to provide ten people a place to sleep and receive warm meals. Faculty, staff, and families volunteered to bring in meals and sleep on site with the people. We praise our wonderful God for the opportunity to connect with the community and reach out to them in their time of need.
- Please contact Sheila Larsen at sheila@cls-mrlh.org or visit our website at www.concordiatacoma.com for information regarding school tours and enrollment for next year.
- Looking for daycare? We still have openings for part-time and full-time childcare in our new Early Learning Childcare Center. The ELCC is a state licensed program open to the public within the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The daycare operates throughout the summer. Call 253-284-2595 with questions or email lauricekitchen@concordiatacoma.com.

Mount Rainier Lutheran High School Hawk News

- The MRLH student body recently attended the Powell-Heller Holocaust Conference at Pacific Lutheran University, where a Holocaust survivor talked about his experiences. Before attending, students made connections between the religious, historical, and scientific aspects of the Holocaust. MRLH is committed to presenting school-wide field trips each semester that connect a number of disciplines providing a unique educational journey.
- Two seniors are in the process of planning a craft fair as their senior project, with proceeds from booth sales to support the Art department at MRLH. These young ladies have been actively making crafts of their own to sell at their booth to support the cause, displaying traits of service and leadership among their peers.
- Mount Rainier’s small group ministry, Puddle Groups, have been looking at the courageous leadership of David, contrasted with that of Saul, over the past month as we continue to explore our year long theme of Forward in Faith. Puddle Groups are just one of the many ways we emphasize each student’s eternal spiritual well-being.
- Looking for a faith-based high school educational experience? Mount Rainier has openings for students in grades 9-12. To find out more about the program at MRLH, contact Sheila Larsen, Director of Admissions, at 253-284-4433 or sheila@cls-mrlh.org. You can find us on Facebook at Mount Rainier Lutheran High.
- The Hawks are on the move! For more information about our exciting move to the campus of PLU for the 2013-14 school year, follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Hawksonthemove!