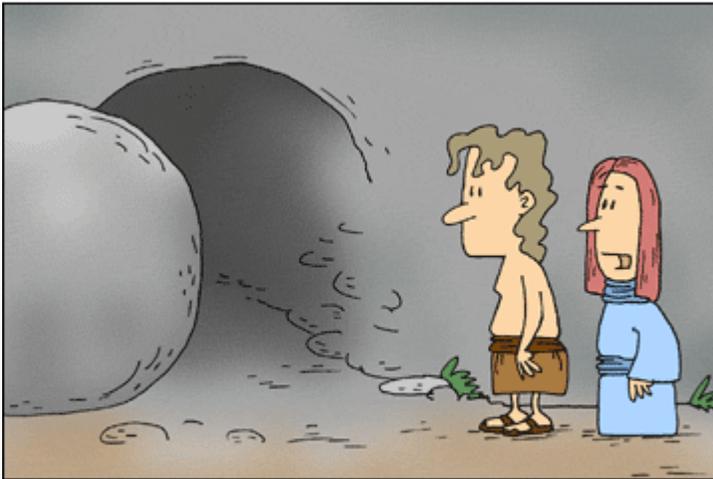


GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

April 2015

Easter Certainty

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Thanks to Pam Winn (See John 20:1-18) 04-12-2004

NOTHING IS CERTAIN EXCEPT WHAT AND TAXES?!?

It's April. Taxes are due by the 15th. That old phrase is correct. Taxes are certain. Taxes are as old as time. We read a lot about taxes in the Bible. We also remember that one of Jesus' disciples, Matthew, was a tax collector. Yes, as long as we live in this world, taxes are a sure thing.

As so is death. Ever since Adam and Eve fell into sin, the entire human race is subject to death. God warned: "The day you eat of it [the tree of knowledge of good and evil], you will surely die." They ate. They sinned. And they died. We all will die, for Paul wrote: "For all have sinned," and "The wages of sin is death."

Yes, nothing is certain except death and taxes. Or is it? The reason why Jesus Christ suffered and died on Calvary's cross was to pay the penalty for humanity's sin; a penalty that we deserved by our rebellion against God and His will. When God raised Jesus up from the dead, He showed that He has the power over sin and death. Jesus is victorious. And He gives us the victory.

This April 5th also marks the Resurrection of our Lord, Easter Day. We celebrate that fact that death does not have the final word for the believer in Christ. For those who believe in Jesus will not perish, but have eternal life. "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom 6:23).

Because of Jesus' victory, we shall not die, but we shall live and proclaim the wonderful deeds of the Lord (Ps 118:17). That is the certainty of Easter.

Rejoice, Christ is Risen!

Pastor Gerken

Revisiting the Augsburg Confession:

Articles 22: Abuses of the Eucharist and Marriage Corrected

While the Reformers thought they would have general consensus on the articles previously written concerning the fundamental faith of the Christian Church (doctrines of Creation, Sin, Justification, etc.,) the section which begins with Article 22 seeks to correct issues of practice or discipline in the Church. Specifically, Articles 22 and 23 have to do with fixing abuses that had crept in regarding the Lord's Supper, and the marriage of priests or pastors.

In both cases, the Reformers set the tone of settling these disputes on the model of Scripture. For the Lord's Supper, they thought it right to consult what the Lord had established... which seems only natural for theologians rooted in the Word of Scripture. The error they addressed, was that during the celebration of the Lord's Supper, only the priests partook of the consecrated Bread and Wine, with only the Bread distributed to the laity. While the Roman party came up with all kinds of excuses for why they did this, the clear testimony of the early Church Fathers, and the continuing witness of the Eastern Orthodox churches was clearly against them. Though the whole Eastern Church had the continuous practice of distributing both the Bread and Wine to everyone, as was the united witness of the first 1000 years of the undivided Church, the Reformers went back to an even earlier foundation: How did Jesus establish the Supper? Clearly in the Gospels, Jesus gives the command to eat and to drink His Body and Blood for the forgiveness of sins. And, since there was no disagreement on this point for 1000 years after Jesus gave His Supper to His Church, the Reformers were

on the most solid ground to re-establish the Supper according to Jesus' institution. The normative method for Lutherans to receive the Supper, therefore, has been to distribute the full Sacrament to all who are ready to receive it, leaving the Roman medieval innovation of separation to the dustbin of history.

When it came to the marriage of pastors, the same method was used. While Rome had a medieval innovation of forbidding pastors to marry, the testimony of the early Church and the unbroken practice of the Eastern churches, was a clear witness against them. But at root, Rome was ignoring a fundamental Biblical witness to marriage that was established by God. Marriage, being fundamental to human society, was established in the Garden of Eden by God Himself; Jesus spoke of it highly; several of the Apostles were married themselves, and wrote highly of the estate of marriage. Based upon the Biblical witness, and in harmony with the early church and her Eastern decedents, Lutherans abandoned the Roman prohibitions of marriage for the clergy. It was a slam-dunk case of traditions run amok, clouding the clear Word of God.

In both cases, it should be remembered, that Scripture establishes the practice of the Church, and not vice versa. The Church is created by the Word of God in the power of the Holy Spirit, to bear witness to Christ... never the other way around. And when it comes to the practice of the Lord's Supper, or the marriage of pastors, the Church is always safest when it remains firmly rooted in Holy Scripture. Amen

Pastor Brad

Men's Breakfast / Bible Study Saturday, April 18th – 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 "The Mercenary Levite" (Judges 17-18).



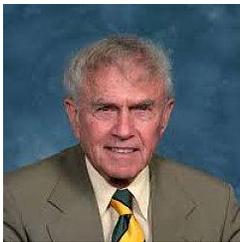
DO YOU KNOW WHO YOUR ELDER IS?

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

Zone	Elder	Names
1	Mike Dunn (253-838-5820)	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.

Endowment Fund Scholarship Applications are available in the church office. Deadline to return the completed form is April 1st. The interest from the Endowment Fund is used to help members of Good Shepherd in their endeavor to have their children attend Christian schools.

Use of Improvement Fund: Church Council has approved the following for the use of the Improvement Fund: This fund will be used for the fixing and upkeep of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, it’s physical plant and surrounding property. Formerly known as the Maintenance Fund or the Roof Fund, the new name shall be known as the Improvement Fund. This fund will cover: all material needed for upkeep, all labor costs (if any), tools needed to do the upkeep. The Maintenance Fund will be funded by donations (excluding the General Fund). This fund will be a designated offering.



-Preschool News

www.littlelambstacoma.com

Sharing Christ, Feeding Lambs

Our Annual Plant Sale is coming later in April with delivery of flowers Mother's Day Weekend. Please watch the bulletin for order forms with more details. The fundraiser will help pay for new bathroom fixtures in the annex bathrooms. Thank you for your support with the fundraiser.

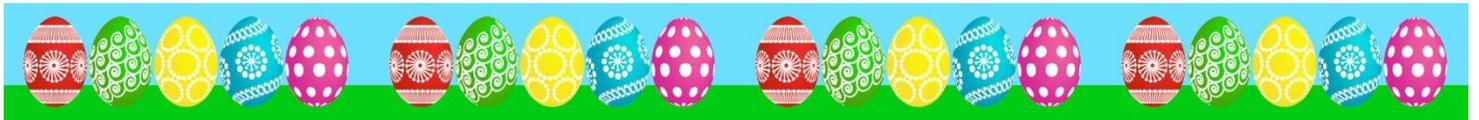
Please pray for our preschool accreditation team, board, and staff as we are getting closer to scheduling a site visit with accreditors. We are still in the process of finalizing some items. One of our big items is our emergency kit. Please look at the poster in the narthex for items that we still need. If you are able to help with any of these items we would appreciate it. Thank you to our church's quilting group who donated enough blankets for every child and adult in

the preschool. We appreciate all the hours and talent donated to our preschool.

Registration for the 2015-2016 school year is underway. If you know anyone interested in our preschool please direct them to our website or schedule a visit our classrooms. We would be happy to give tours of our preschool.

Please remember to pray for our preschool students, families, board, and staff members. We sincerely appreciate your prayer support.

Bonnie Huset
Director / Teacher



EASTER CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, APRIL 4TH

beginning at 1:30 PM

our church will sponsor an

EASTER CRAFT AND EGG HUNT CELEBRATION.

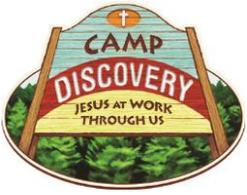
This will be geared for children 3 years old up to 5th grade.

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

Please bring your children and join us for some fun.



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.

12th Annual Vision Builders Luncheon, April 30th

The 12th Annual Vision Builders Luncheon is set for **Thursday, April 30th** at the Landmark Convention Center in Tacoma. Lunch will be served at 11 am and the program will run from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm. This year's theme is "Growing Relationships that Last a Lifetime." This free lunch is intended for you to learn more about the mission and vision of our

schools: Concordia Lutheran School and Mount Rainier Lutheran High School. You will hear from students and parents concerning the effect these schools have had on their lives. And yes, you will be given an opportunity to consider making a gift in support of our schools. Good Shepherd will have a couple of tables at the event. Sign up now to attend..



Women in Mission / Women's Ministry

- **Tuesdays:**
 - **Bible Study** (9:15 am) **Quilting** (10 am)
- **Mites and Missions** – Sunday, April 12th
- **Ladies Tea** – Saturday, April 18th
- **Rainier Zone Rally**-Saturday, April 25th
- **Seafarers' Aux.** – Tuesday, April 28th
- **LWR Shipping** – May 1-2

April, spring flowers, more Sun and more sun. "Amazing Grace" is the theme of our annual ladies tea scheduled for April 18th. Reserve that date and plan to attend! The following Saturday, April 25th is the Rainier Zone Spring Rally at St. Luke's in Federal Way with the theme, "Showers of Blessing." Plan to attend!

Do you use your Mite Box? The big Mite Box is in the narthex and waiting for your mites. Together they are MIGHTY!

What are you doing June 25-28? Consider joining with several thousand Christian sisters at the LWML convention in Des Moines, Iowa. Theme: Bountiful-Sow-Nourish-Reap. Information in the Winter Quarterly or visit www.lwml.org/events-2015-des-moines.

Remember, you are always invited to Tuesday morning Bible Study, Tea, Quilting for World Relief, the Ladies TEA, Spring Rally, and all other activities and events for women! You are US! Together we can share, pray, grow, and practice walking with Jesus.

Serving the Lord with Gladness

Jane Oberg



Women's Spring Tea Coming Soon!

April 18th - 2 pm

AMAZING GRACE

Ladies, the time for our annual tea has arrived! It will be held **April 18**. Our theme this year is *Amazing Grace*. We will be looking at the words of the hymn as well as acknowledging our very own Altar Guild. We are hoping to see all our wonderful ladies here! If you are interested in hosting a table, contact Michelle Boule or Ruth Gerken. Tickets go on sale March 29th and remain \$3

Lunch Bunch

April 9th beginning at 11:45 am for a pot blessing meal. Bring a dish to share.



Open Gym



Our church has use of Concordia's gymnasium on Sunday afternoons from 2 – 4 pm. You are welcome to come join us as we have use of the gym through the month of April. Thank you!



FINANCIAL UPDATE



As of this writing, our giving is in line with our budget. We are still behind on our payments to Concordia Lutheran School and Mount Rainier Lutheran High School. We have currently paid \$10,000 to Concordia and \$4,000 to Mount Rainier. The Improvement fund giving has fallen off recently. There are a couple major projects for the future that need to be funded. The major one is sealing and restriping the parking lot. Thank you to everyone for your prayers and support to this point.

We can't do it without you!

