

# GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

April 2016



It is with a lot of prayer that I have come to the decision to retire effective January 31, 2017. I will have served in the ministry for nearly 40 years. When my father, who was also a pastor, retired I gave him a coffee mug. On this mug were the words "Old Ministers Never Die – They Just Go Out To Pastor." These words also express my feelings. I will be retiring as Pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, where I have served for the past 20 years, but I will still be in some kind of ministry. Our congregational president, Mike Dunn, will in the next few weeks, be explaining the process of calling a new pastor to serve here at Good Shepherd.

May God continue to bless you,  
*Pastor Dan*

# The Open Door

By Michael J. Dunn  
Congregation President

(The following note was received anonymously by the church office. We will attempt to address the writer's concerns. The original language will be shown in **bold** and the response will be shown in *italics*.)

## Question for Church Council

**How or Who voted out the 5th Sunday, 1-service only? I as a member of Good Shepherd and some of us was never asked. Also, along with some 2-month songs that were really uplifting to God. It's His word in [the Holy] Book: Bible says, Sing to the Lord with praise and joy and shout to Him. I did not vote for the removal of these.**

*There is a misunderstanding regarding 5th Sunday services. The Board of Elders recommended going to two services on Sunday of January 2015, and this was confirmed by the Church Council the same month. We had worshippers coming on those Sunday's at 8:00 for service, which was not being held until 10:45. These people would not return for the later service. The new policy also allows our own congregation to worship at their accustomed times. So, in short, no services were dropped, but one service was added. It was not a matter subject to congregational vote.*

*As for the songs from some two-month period ago, we don't know to what you refer. Everyone has their own opinion on the spirit of the songs. Questions or requests should be addressed to the Music Director, Denes Van Parys, who provides the selections.*

**Now where are all the children? Where do they go when [they] become adults. Also, where are the children from Concordia and Mount Rainier High School. Why support those who don't grow in our church, but grow in [a] different church when they become adults?**

*It is the parents' responsibility to bring their children to church, and Good Shepherd has a requirement on good church attendance before any family can take advantage of the subsidy we provide for their children's education at Concordia or Mount Rainier (currently we have suspended our support to Mount Rainier due to finances). We do not subsidize those "who don't grow in our church." Some families have left the church because they could find a cheaper "deal" at another congregation. Very cheap indeed, involving practically no church attendance at all, and we are not lessened by their departure.*

*As for what happens when children become adults, they frequently move to a new location in order to find a job, further their education, marry and have a family, or for any other reason. Our times have changed, and it is rare for families to all live in the same neighborhood, generation after generation.*

## Why are we losing so many people?

*It is the old story of any group of people. Congregants are literally passing away, and we can do nothing about who the Lord decides to gather in His bosom. People move away for reasons they can't avoid (think of our own former Pastor Varvil). Their health may decline and their ability to attend physically may pass from them (which is why we have visitation provided by Pastor Schmidt). And, sad to say, they may have lukewarm faith and lapse from church attendance.*

*Losing people from the congregation is a natural process and should be no surprise. THE PROBLEM IS THAT WE HAVE NO ORGANIZED EFFORT TO REACH OUT AND BRING NEW FACES TO OUR WORSHIP.*

## Do You Know Who Your Elder Is?

Zone	Elder	Names
1	Norm Gerken (253-845-1521)	Alber – Gottgetieu
2	Joe Morton (253-473-5649)	Grochowicz - Popplewell
3	Wayne Boudreau (253-405-4904)	Preszler - Zmuda

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

### Financial Update

With the end of the first Quarter, our Church Finances seem to be ok. We are ahead of the Budget in giving. Thank you to *ALL!*

The Building Maintenance continues to be a concern. A large number of projects have been identified. The Chapel Annex is in need of a huge amount of repair and maintenance. The Chapel Annex is in need of a huge amount of repair and maintenance. The two main areas are painting and a roof for the Chapel area. The office and classroom roofs were completed two years ago. Your prayers and contributions are needed.

Thank you all for your support!



### Ladies Annual **SPRING TEA**

April 23, 2016

#### Woven Together in Christ

Our theme this year is “Woven Together in Christ” and features our quilters. If you are interested in hosting a table, we would love to have you! Contact Jane Oberg or Michelle Boule.

Tickets go on sale April 3<sup>rd</sup> for only **\$3**.

## Sharing Christ, Feeding Lambs



Happy Easter!

Our preschool students are celebrating and learning of Jesus' triumphant resurrection from the grave and how He truly is our Lord and Savior. In class we will also be focusing on the Great Commission and how we, today can assist Jesus.

Please look to the bulletin for prices and more information about our spring flower fundraiser. The funds raised from this will go towards updating electrical work. We appreciate your faithful support of the preschool.

Thank you to all involved who support the preschool through their Thrivent Choice Dollars. We appreciate you designating the preschool to receive funds with this Thrivent program.

Registration for the 2016-2017 preschool year is now underway. All registrants before May 20<sup>th</sup> receive a \$10 discount on the registration fee – from \$75 down to \$65. Please register early. Look for more information on our website or in the narthex.

Please remember our ongoing fundraiser with Amazon.com. Please make your Amazon purchases through our preschool website and Amazon will make a donation to us – just because you went through our website!

Thank you to everyone who supports the preschool mission by way of prayer, financial and time support, and encouragement. We sincerely appreciate it. Please keep the students and their families in your prayers.

Serving our Savior,  
*Bonnie Jean Huset*  
Director / Teacher

## Vision Builder's Luncheon

**April 28, 2016...** That's the date for this year's

### Vision Builder's Luncheon



for Concordia Lutheran School and Mount Rainier Lutheran High School. It will be held at a new location this year: The Greater Tacoma Convention and Trade Center. Lunch will be served at 11 am and the program will run from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm.

This is a free lunch where you can come and learn more about our schools. And yes, you will also have an opportunity to make a contribution.

Call the church office to reserve your place and our congregation's table.





## Women in Mission / Women's Ministry

- **Tuesdays:**  
Bible Study (9:15 am)  
Quilting (10 am)
- **Mites and Missions**—Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>
- **Seafarers Auxiliary**—April 26



### RAINIER ZONE LWML SPRING RALLY



Trinity Lutheran Church, Olympia -- April 9, 2016

**Galatians 5:5:** *But by faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the righteousness for which we hope.*

Bible Study Leader: **Pastor Ron Fandrck**  
Guest Speakers: **Elliot & Serena Derrick**

**Titus 2:13:** *While we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ*

Registration (including lunch) is **\$5** and begins at 9 am.  
Sign-up sheet is in the narthex. Questions? Talk to Jane Oberg.



## Vacation Bible School Summer 2016

Please prayerfully consider how you can help with this year's VBS. Our Theme this year is: Barnyard Roundup! More details to come.

## **The Lunch Bunch**

Our Senior Group – The Lunch Bunch  
**Thursday, April 14<sup>h</sup> at 11:45 am.**

After a pot-blessing meal, our guest will be Heather Songer from the Pierce County Prosecuting Attorney's Office. Her topic will be on **Elder Abuse** and how you can protect yourself from being a victim of scammers who are after your money. See below for further information and join us for an informative meeting.



### **Preventing and Responding to Physical and Financial Elder Abuse**

**Description:** Protecting our community's vulnerable adults is a top priority of the Pierce County Prosecutor's Office. This presentation will provide an overview of why the elderly population is commonly targeted by financial scammers, tips to lower the risk of becoming a victim, and remedies for those who have been victimized. Prosecuting criminals who victimize the elderly can be difficult because the cases are complex, and the witnesses and victims often have declining health and memory. To overcome these challenges, our Elder Abuse Unity has built a network of medical and financial experts to assist law enforcement. This collaborative approach helps us bring together the evidence we need to effectively prosecute these cases.

## **Men's Breakfast / Bible Study**

**Saturday, April 16<sup>th</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 "When It Just Keeps Getting Worse" (2 Samuel 11).

