

GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

April 2017

New Beginnings, Second Chances

Have you ever noticed how many supposed "new beginnings" are on the calendar during the winter? First comes Advent signifying, among other things, the beginning of the Liturgical Church Year. In short order Christmas follows and thus begins our focus on the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ, until we commemorate his ascension to Heaven. Along the way there is the secular New Year (*how ARE those resolutions going for everyone?*) and some of us are standing by the window at this very moment, looking up at the sun, pining for the first day of spring (*planting Almanacs in hand*), the most visible new beginning found in nature. Finally, we are now running to Easter and Pentecost. Easter: The new beginning for all of humanity and Pentecost: the birthday of the Church on earth.

How wonderful it is that, as baptized Christians, we have yet one more "New Beginning." A recent Gospel Reading reminded us that we are made new at the moment of faith. St. Paul reminds us that we are new creatures when baptized into Christ. The "New Beginning" your humble writer is thinking of, however, is even greater. Every time we hear the Pastor announce our forgiveness of sins during Divine Service, our slate is wiped clean. It is our do-over. It is our spiritual mulligan (*although this is no license for sin, as St. Paul again reminds us!*). In fact, every day for the Christian can be a fresh start if we confess our sins to him and beg His forgiveness.

Let us embrace this wonderful gift. Let us forge forward as individuals, as Christians, and as a Congregation. Whatever mistakes, misjudgments, and sins of the past, TODAY can be our "New Beginning." Yesterday was the PAST and tomorrow is the FUTURE. Today is a gift—that is why it is called the PRESENT.

Picture it. South Dakota. 1941. Harvey, a young boy begs his father for his first chance to drive the tractor during spring planting. His father relents to the request and offers instruction: Look to the horizon, keep your eye on the goal, and whatever else, do not look back.

On the tractor all is going well. Harvey drives half way across the field and he can't resist any more. He turns his head and sees a glorious sight: The most perfect straight row he could ever imagine! He drives on but wants to turn and admire his handiwork again. It's beautiful, except for a slight bend (*how did THAT happen?!*) He corrects for the bend and forges onward. This begins a pattern and he finally reaches the far end of the field. Harvey's father calmly meets him at the tractor and looks at the row sown by his young son. It starts well but half-way through begins to turn and waver. "You looked back, didn't you?"

Smiles and blessing!

Denes Van Parys

President's Corner

In last month's newsletter, I updated everyone with the progress of the call committee. This is a further update.

The Call Committee has met with Pastor Dave Reinke. He is in charge of the Intentional Interim program. We were informed of this program and what it entails. The Intentional Interim Program is designed for a vacancy of between 6 months to a year. It answers questions such as:

1. Who are we? (from the past)
2. What are we good at? (What we currently do)
3. Where shall we go? (What the future holds for us)

These questions and the answers help us with the Pastor selection.

The Call Committee feels the Intentional Interim Program will be best for our congregation. This will give us a Pastor for a longer period than a Vacancy Pastor. Our congregation will know we have a Pastor Sunday after Sunday and can move forward with the call process. The Intentional Interim Pastor will **NOT** be considered as a candidate for our call. He will be here to help us during this transition period. The enclosed sheet lists the differences between a Vacancy Pastor and an Intentional Interim Pastor. It is a comparison so you can see why we chose the interim path verses the vacancy path. I ask you to be patient with us. This is not an overnight process. It could take a while.

Now, let me shift gears and bring up a matter that affects all of us. "**FINANCES**" As of the middle of March, our congregational giving has been way under what our budget needs are. As of March 19th, we are \$12,800 behind in our giving. Let me extrapolate for a moment. If we are over \$12,000 behind after 2 ½ months, after a year we would be over \$61,000 behind. Our congregation would not be able to continue with a loss that high. In order to keep our doors open, have a full time staff and support the programs we currently have, our giving needs to improve dramatically.

Last year we had 78 envelopes that were distributed to the congregation that gave nothing to support the church. There were 10 envelopes that gave over a third of the Church Budget. I'm not suggesting we all have the means of those 10, but we all have some means to support the church. Were you one of the 78, or one of the others? We need to examine our giving and respond accordingly. I will keep you updated on our finances in the future.

Thank you all and God Bless you!

As always, your church leaders are available for you when you need us. You may contact any of us anytime.

Joe Morton,
President

Do You Know Who Your Elder Is?

Zone	Elder	Names
1	Norm Gerken (253-845-1521)	Alber – Classen
2	Joe Morton (253-473-5649)	Cunningham – Jaech
3	Wayne Boudreau (253-405-4904)	Jindra – Merkel, L.
4	Julian Doyle (253-584-7244)	Merkel, R. – Scott
5	Tony Huset (253-753-3764)	See - Zmuda

Season of Lent Continues

Again this year, Grace and Good Shepherd have joined together on Wednesday evenings for our Lenten mid-week services, beginning with a soup supper before worship. Soup is served at 6:00 p.m. and our worship starts at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome!

This year, the year in which we celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, we are using Luther's Small Catechism as framework for our Biblical reflections on "The Art of Living by Faith." Our theme focuses on justification by faith that was and is the joyful message of the Reformation. No better text brings this message home for us than does Luther's Small Catechism that, in the sixteenth century, earned the well-deserved title, "The Layman's Bible." Our mid-week services continue through April 14th with the following themes:

April 5	The Battle Cry of Faith (Intro and Conclusion to Lord's Prayer)
April 13	Maundy Thursday (Lord's Supper)
April 14	Good Friday (second question on baptism)

Financial Update

Below is a weekly breakdown of our congregation's giving through March 19th.

January 1	\$4287.50	February 5	\$5774.00	March 5	\$6566.58
January 8	\$4878.00	February 12	\$3943.05	March 12	\$4711.80
January 15	\$5856.00	February 19	\$4438.00	March 19	\$3950.00
January 22	\$3294.00	February 26	\$2607.00		
January 29	\$3412.00				

Our weekly budget need is **\$5543.09** To date our total giving has totaled \$53717.88 with a need of \$66517.08 This leaves a deficit of \$12799.15.

In the coming months, the Church Council will have to consider which programs to suspend due to low finances. We may even have to shorten hours and ask our church staff to take a cut in salary. No one wants this and we pray that day will not come.

As a member, it is our responsibility to keep the church financially strong so the Gospel of Jesus Christ can be proclaimed. Are you doing your part?

Praise be to God for His good gifts.

Lunch Bunch

will meet Thursday, April 13th
for a shared pot blessing lunch. Please join us!

Join Me For Lunch



DARE TO READ

The Book of Concord
The Lutheran Confessions

Reading and Studying The Lutheran Confessions



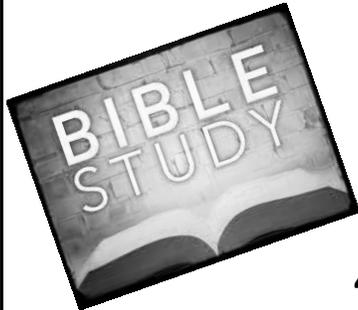
Our Nisqually Circuit (and the adjacent Rainier Circuit) continues the study group aimed at reading and exploring the Lutheran Confessions as contained in the Book of Concord. We are meeting on the first and third Thursday of each month (6th and 20th for April). We meet in the chapel in the annex of Good Shepherd from 7-8:30 pm. We will read sections of the Confessions and talk about them.



Sunday Sermons are now being audio recorded

and are available for you to listen, share, and enjoy again anytime on our website
@ www.goodshepherdluth.com

Men's Ministry Schedule for April



April 1 – 8 am
COFFEE AND BIBLE STUDY
"Three Strikes, You're Out" (2 Kings 17)

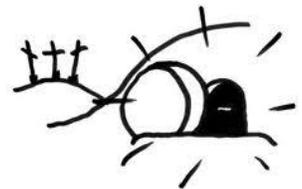
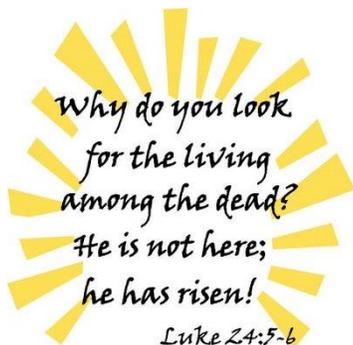
April 15 – 8 am
BREAKFAST AND BIBLE STUDY
"Okay, He Was Not Quite Perfect" (2 Kings 18)

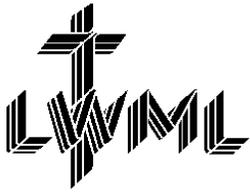


Easter Sunday Services

April 16
No Sunrise Service

WORSHIP SERVICES at 8 AM & 10:45 AM
Easter Breakfast at 9:15 am





Women in Mission / Women's Ministry

Tuesdays:

Bible Study (9:15 am)

Quilting (10 am)

Mites—Sunday, April 9

Seafarers Auxiliary - Tuesday, April 25

April Greetings Ladies!

Have you considered:

- **Tuesday morning Bible Study** and/or **Quilting**
- **The Rainier Zone Spring Rally** – April 22nd at King of Glory Lutheran in Gig Harbor. Theme: **“More Precious Than...”** (1 Peter 1:18-19a)
- Celebrating 75 years of LWML at the Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico in June
- **Good Shepherd Ladies Tea** in early May
- **Washington Alaska District Retreat and Good Shepherd Ladies Retreat** Sept. 29-Oct. 1

There are lots of opportunities to share the special joy of Jesus with sisters in Christ.

Jane Oberg

Preschool News

www.littlelambstacoma.com

Sharing Christ, Feeding Lambs



Enrollment continues for next school year. We offer classes for three and four year olds with competitive pricing. Please go online at www.littlelambstacoma.com, call the church office at 253-473-4848, or see Bonnie Huset directly for more information on our nationally accredited preschool!

Spring is in the air! Which means our annual plant fundraiser is here. This year again, we will be offering calabrochio, wave petunias, and geraniums. We will be taking orders for flowers on April 23, 30, and May 7 following both services. Delivery of plants will be May 11 with church pick-up on Mothers' Day, May 14. The proceeds from this fundraiser will help purchase the remaining items needed for our outdoor emergency preparedness kits.

Thank you to everyone who has graciously donated items or money already for our emergency supplies. We truly appreciate it.

Our Bible stories for the month of April include Holy Week, Easter, and the big catch of fish. Our caterpillars have been ordered and we will watch their growth into butterflies during April – hopefully coinciding with Easter.

As always, thank you for your continued prayer support for our preschool students, staff, board, and families. We are blessed by your prayers.

Serving our Savior,
Bonnie Jean Huset
Director / Teacher



Annual Vision Builders Breakfast **April 12th at 7 am – 9 am (free)**



Hundreds of supporters from around the local community gather at this special fundraising event to learn about our schools, hear life-shaping testimonies from students, and pledge their support for our ongoing ministries. The Vision Builders Breakfast is the schools' largest fundraiser to support our operating budgets. Operating expenses include classroom learning materials, programs, and tuition assistance for families. We ask for your prayer support as we continue to share values and shape lives in the schools and throughout the community. If you wish to attend contact Kortney Scroger at kortney.scroger@cls-mrlhs.org or (253-475-9513)ext. 111 or the church office (253-473-4848).

DR. PAUL MAIER SEMINAR: "MARTIN LUTHER AND THE REFORMATION"

Saturday, May 20, 2017....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! Call the church office @ 253-473-4848
or sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex.