

GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

May 2012



Mother's Day

Sunday May 9th is Mother's Day, a holiday created in the United States in 1910 to celebrate the mothers in our lives. I was surprised to read that the founder of Mother's Day in the US, Anna Jarvis, began to oppose the holiday about nine years after its inception. She cited the over-commercialization of the holiday. In her mind, the greeting card industry that grew up around Mother's Day was a cheap excuse for a personalized note or letter. Today, there's a multi-billion dollar market built upon the simple notion of letting your mother know that you love her through flowers, cards, and gifts.

Of course, the Bible makes it clear that we are to honor our mothers (and fathers) every day. God has given responsibility for our well-being in the home to parents. Parents serve God and their children in five vital areas of life: physical, intellectual, emotional, social, and spiritual.

By God's design, parents are called to attend to the physical needs of their children: nutritional, clothing, shelter, medical and dental care, recreation, and fitness;

train their children's minds, send them to school, help with homework, offer instruction and guidance in solving problems;

provide support and encouragement as their children grow and mature, helping them to find their joy, encouragement, and sense of self in Jesus;

model "social graces" and positive civic behavior for their children, to encourage them to get along with people, to be responsible and active in community affairs;

to bring up their children in the "training and instruction of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4), to share the Good News and love of Jesus, to teach them to pray, to worship, to walk in God's ways.

We honor the people whom God has placed over us by obeying, loving, and serving them. This is not just a one day thing. It happens throughout all of life. The best families are those where parents and children know, love, respect, and care for each other.

May God bless our Mothers as we honor them today and always.

Pastor Dan



"WOWWW! Say a prayer that we can stay up here forever, Mom!"

Why Do You Marvel? A Meditation on Acts 2

That sense of marveling is common when we encounter things we don't expect, and sometimes when we see things we can't believe. Like the last painting you saw with ridiculously beautiful colors, or the gymnast you saw do things with her body that you didn't think possible. I recall sitting with family recently, as we watched some of the best ice skaters in the world do their routines—and I marveled that someone could launch themselves in the air with such grace, and land with the fluidity of an artist's brush stroke. Remarkable things often make us marvel, because we can hardly believe what we have seen or heard. While we may not want to believe it at the moment, whether it's the portrait of a great artist, or the grace of a dancer, or the speed and strength of an athlete, our marveling is often a reflection of ourselves.

When I see a power lifter throw ridiculous amounts of weight over his head, I am incredulous, because I know I can't do that... and because I can't do that, I assume others can't do it, either. When an artist paints a lovely landscape, I marvel, because I know I can't do that, either... and it seems incredible that someone else can. I marvel, because my eyes are normally on myself, worshipping myself, and esteeming myself as an idol. And when my eyes get torn away from myself, the ridiculousness of my idolatry is obvious—why in the world would I ever think that I, in my sinful weakness, should be a

measure of anything? Why would I be surprised to find things in God's creation far more sublime than I? Only because I have forgotten the magnificence and glory of God, who truly is the measure of all things.

In the reading from Acts, Peter and John encounter a beggar, lame from birth. His lot in life was to be placed at the entrance of the Temple, and beg for money so that he might eat that day. Lots of people knew him—they passed him often on their way to the Temple. Peter paused as he went through that gate, and looked at him. Noticing that the beggar was not paying much attention, he called to him, and insisted that the beggar pause and look at him. In that moment, Peter used the power given Him by Christ through the Holy Spirit, to heal him. It was an astonishing moment, and the people who had passed by this beggar all the years of his miserable life, now saw him leaping and dancing and praising God for his restoration. I bet you and I would marvel, too, and for the same reason—with our eyes firmly on ourselves, we know we don't have power to do such things, and our delusions of self idolatry are stripped bare. Something greater than ourselves is at work before our eyes.

And that's what Peter and John have to explain to the marveling people. First they ask why they are marveling in the first place—a rhetorical question, designed to shake them out of themselves, and to

get them to pay attention to the real actor at work in their midst. Next, they correct the crowd's mistaken assumption, that somehow either of them has this power within themselves—Peter and John do not present themselves as new idols to the people, as if to take the place of their self idolatry. Rather, Peter guides them to Jesus, who is the One at work in the Apostles—Peter never points to himself, or glorifies himself, but only and always sets forth Christ. Instead of giving the people another worthless idol, he directs their eyes to the Crucified and Risen Christ, who is God Almighty—the One for Whom nothing is difficult, nothing out of reach.

While the healing of the lame man was certainly a great work of God in the presence of the people, such healing of the flesh is small potatoes in the sight of God. The sinful flesh we all dwell in is destined for the grave, and whether He heals us of today's infirmity or not, we're still doing to die. The real work He wants to show us, is how He conquered death and the grave, and cures that evil poison which courses through our veins. He wants to show us His own Beloved Son, who took on our flesh, and in our place suffered the curse of sin for all people, of all time, and all places. Through His death and resurrection, He has turned the tables on the evil one, cast down Satan our accuser out of heaven, and reconciled us to our Holy God. Jesus has done the real work that God wants us to see and believe, because He knows that as we look at

ourselves, we can only despair in the face of death. On our own, of our own power, we cannot escape the grave, nor the hell which lies beyond it. But through Jesus and His magnificent sacrifice, we have peace with God, and the Kingdom of Heaven awaits us beyond that same grave. By faith in the Son of God, the grave is no longer a portal to hell, but simply a passage from death to life, together with Jesus forever. Death and the grave have lost their sting—they are no longer to be feared. Jesus has defeated them, just as He defeated the evil one.

Does Jesus work wonders among the people, even today? Indeed! In every age of the Church, we have seen miraculous works of God. Through the power of prayer, the sick have been healed, and those on death's door restored to life. Through the annals of Church History, the stories of the saints (which are only the tip of the iceberg,) and the experiences of Christians everywhere, we know that our God is alive, and works wonders of all sorts and kinds. But the great wonder that He is always guiding us toward, is His work of forgiveness, eternal

life, and salvation, accomplished through Jesus Christ. That resurrection of dead sinners by grace through faith in the Son of God, is the greatest work we could be witness to—our God, triumphant over death and hell, saving us forever.

And why should we marvel? We know our Lord Jesus Christ to be alive, and at work amongst His people. He is alive, and thus we live, forevermore in Him. Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed—Alleluia!!

Pastor Brad

Seminar by DR. PAUL MAIER:

ARCHAEOLOGY and the BIBLE

Digs Provide Powerful Support for the Old and New Testaments



Saturday, June 2nd
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).

PIERCE COUNTY PRAYER BREAKFAST is May 4th at the **Tacoma Dome Exhibition Hall**. The speaker is **Jon Kitna**. Jon, a local sports icon born and raised in Tacoma, attended Lincoln High School where he honed his skills to become a world renowned quarterback at the professional level. He was originally signed by the Seahawks and played for coach Holmgren and most recently played very successfully for the Dallas Cowboys. The cost is **\$30 per plate**. Talk to Pastor Gerken to purchase your ticket.

Worshiping with Intention, Part III

We humans have an incredible knack for not only getting things wrong, but getting them completely backwards and upside down.

The promised Messiah was finally sent to us in the person of Jesus Christ and many missed it because they wanted Christ the Victorious King of the World, not Christ the Humble Sacrifice.

Many of the heresies that challenged the early church involved other topsy-turvy approaches to the gospel: many felt that *they* had to *do* something for salvation. Not content to simply accept the gift of faith, many Christians believed that they had to perform certain “works” and “rites” and contribute enough to the right building funds, purchasing “indulgences” to escape punishment after death. Luther’s Reformation was founded precisely to combat this upside-down view.

Ironically, while we often insist on “doing” when God would just have us believe, when we *are* called to “do” we often find reasons not to. Unfortunately, this sometimes applies to our corporate worship:

How often do we leave a worship service and feel a sense of dissatisfaction? The sermon was not to our liking, we didn’t care for the Hymn choices, we didn’t like what the choir sang, someone standing close to us sang too loud or out of tune, *etc.* All too often, our first response is to blame the Pastor, the Choir Director, or that flat baritone in the next pew. Perhaps we should turn that around as well: what we “get out of worship” is more dependent on what *we* bring to it.

We need to remember that we worship for God’s glory and benefit first and foremost. We come to Worship God, not entertain ourselves. We come to hear God’s word, not critique the speaking of one man. We come to raise our voices in

praise as God’s people, not to hush the enthusiasm of that baritone in the second row. We come to partake of the sacraments and thereby receive God’s grace.

As participants in Worship, we are *all* servants of God—not just the Readers, Preachers, Pastors, Players, Projectionists, Singers, Teachers, and Ushers—and called to serve the most high with our praise. So raise your voices with courage and conviction. Pray with enthusiasm. Concentrate on the message of the sermon. You are not the audience—God is! You are one of the performers!

The next time you come to worship, remember that we all have a job to do! Let us do it together and worship God in spirit and in truth. Maybe we will all leave with greater blessings and grow together in the strength of our faith.

Blessings!

DVP (Denes Van Parys)

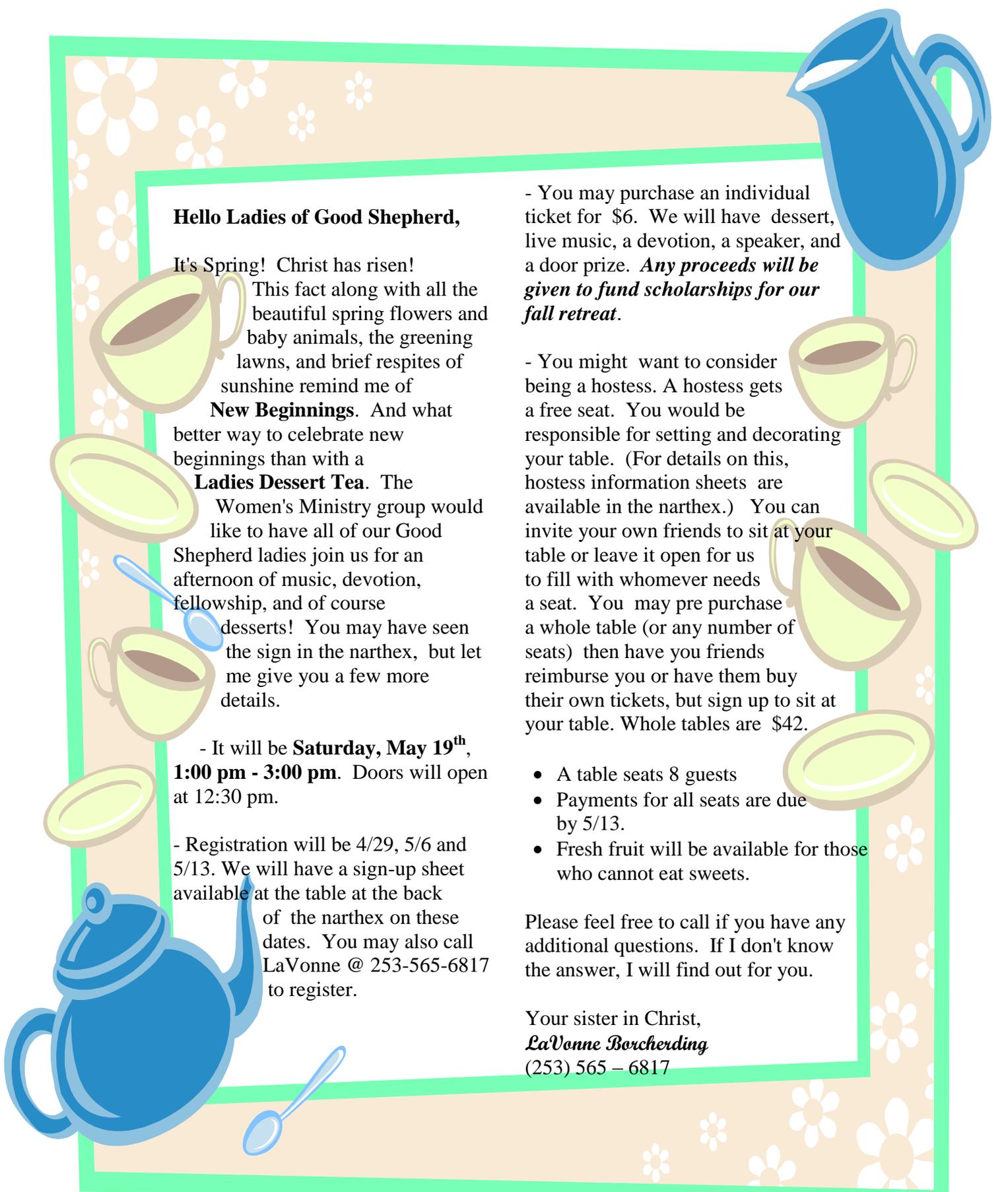
WANTED—YOUNG WISE AND OLD WISE ALIKE...

to teach Summer Sunday School.

BENEFITS: Only have to teach one Sunday all Summer! (unless you want more! ☺)

QUALIFICATIONS: Arms to hug with.

REWARDS: Smiles and laughter from our Lambs! If you would like to teach Summer Sunday School please contact the Summer Sunday School coordinator: Katie Reinitz-VanVolkenburg at 253-304-7893 or katlee23@yahoo.com.



Hello Ladies of Good Shepherd,

It's Spring! Christ has risen!

This fact along with all the beautiful spring flowers and baby animals, the greening lawns, and brief respites of sunshine remind me of

New Beginnings. And what better way to celebrate new beginnings than with a

Ladies Dessert Tea. The Women's Ministry group would like to have all of our Good Shepherd ladies join us for an afternoon of music, devotion, fellowship, and of course

desserts! You may have seen the sign in the narthex, but let me give you a few more details.

- It will be **Saturday, May 19th, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm.** Doors will open at 12:30 pm.

- Registration will be 4/29, 5/6 and 5/13. We will have a sign-up sheet available at the table at the back of the narthex on these dates. You may also call LaVonne @ 253-565-6817 to register.

- You may purchase an individual ticket for \$6. We will have dessert, live music, a devotion, a speaker, and a door prize. ***Any proceeds will be given to fund scholarships for our fall retreat.***

- You might want to consider being a hostess. A hostess gets a free seat. You would be responsible for setting and decorating your table. (For details on this, hostess information sheets are available in the narthex.) You can invite your own friends to sit at your table or leave it open for us to fill with whomever needs a seat. You may pre purchase a whole table (or any number of seats) then have your friends reimburse you or have them buy their own tickets, but sign up to sit at your table. Whole tables are \$42.

- A table seats 8 guests
- Payments for all seats are due by 5/13.
- Fresh fruit will be available for those who cannot eat sweets.

Please feel free to call if you have any additional questions. If I don't know the answer, I will find out for you.

Your sister in Christ,
LaVonne Borcharding
(253) 565 - 6817



Preschool News

www.littlelambstacoma.com

Thank you to all who supported our preschool through the purchase of flowers and to those who donated funds without placing an order. Our students, staff, and board really appreciate your generosity. We thank everyone for the prayer support given and sincerely ask for your continued support through prayers.

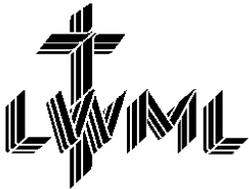
Hotdogs and Happiness is scheduled for **Sunday, May 20th** at **6 pm** following the 5 pm chapel. Please join our preschool families in our year end celebration. Hotdogs and dessert will be provided

along with condiments. Please bring a side dish to share.

Our last days of preschool for this school year will be May 24th & 25th. We ask God to bless those children moving on to other schools as well as bless those coming to our preschool for another year in the fall. We thank God for a tremendous year and give Him our praise.

To God be the Glory,

Bonnie Jean Huset
Preschool Director / Teacher



Women in Mission

Weekly Bible Study on Tuesdays at 9:15 am.

Weekly Quilting on Tuesdays at 10 am.

Mites Collected - May 13th

Convention Deadline – May 15th

Seafarers Auxiliary – May 22nd

Lutheran Women...register **NOW** for the Washington/Alaska District Convention June 22-24 at the Red Lion in Olympia. You will worship, pray, learn, share, study, and sing with joy together with Lutheran women from all over Washington and Alaska. **Girls**...there are special events just for teens. **Young women 35 & under**...the convention has something special for you, too. There are more details in the narthex. Don't miss Nancy Cross-Bible Study Leader, Phyllis Wallace – Keynote and Interest Session Leader, and Lynn Cooper – Certified Performance and Family Coach. They are

just part of this wonderful convention **SEE YOU THERE!!**

Please take time to look at the new poster downstairs about LWR distribution in 2011. Our quilts are part of this. We need someone to **PLEASE VOLUNTEER** to take boxed quilts to Seattle May 4th or 5th. If you wish to purchase a quilt at \$40 minimum, all monies go to Lutheran World Relief.

Don't forget MITES FOR MISSIONS!

Serving the Lord with Gladness

Jane Oberg

PS: We would like some volunteers to help with the May 12th wedding reception. Interested? Talk to me (Jane). Thank you!

Men's Breakfast / Bible Study May 19th

Join us **Saturday, May 19th** 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 our topic is: "Planting Israel's Deliverer in Pharaoh's House" (Exodus 1, 2). *Pastor Dan*

Brunch & Bible Study and Pink Shoe Club

The Women's Brunch & Bible Study and Girls' Pink Shoe Club will meet on **Saturday, May 12th** at **9:30 am** with a shared breakfast followed by a Bible Study for the ladies and activities with

Miss Sue for the girls. We will end promptly at 11:30 am. If you need babysitting, please call the office at 473-4848 in advance. All ladies "young" through "old" are welcome to attend.

Lunch Bunch News

DO YOU enjoy being with other people who share the same faith, ideals, and interests you do? **THE LUNCH BUNCH** just might be a group for you! We meet the first Tuesday of each month – except during the summer months when we try to go on outings. Starting about 11:30, Pastor Dan has a very appropriate devotion for us. Then we enjoy a shared meal, followed by a speaker, a game, video, or some type of entertainment. For our outings we have had a tour of the Tacoma water front, Wilcox Farms, Watson Nursery. We are in the process of

planning outings for this summer - perhaps a tour on a paddle wheel of Lake Union in Seattle, the OHOP Farm Museum. These are some of the ideas that have been suggested. Perhaps you have some other ideas? Come and share them. Our next gathering is **TUESDAY, May 1**. We will have a concert by the Marimba Band of Concordia. See bulletin April 22nd and 29th sure would love to have you join us.

Pastor Ken Boetcher

A decorative border of hotdogs surrounds the central text. The hotdogs are arranged in a rectangular frame, with one hotdog at each corner and a row of hotdogs along each side.

**Little Lambs Preschool
Cordially Invites You To
Hotdogs & Happiness**

May 20th at 6 pm

Everyone is invited to attend the 5:00 pm chapel and then join us for a hotdog dinner at 6:00 pm. The preschool will provide hotdogs, buns, condiments and a dessert; plus we will provide plates, napkins, plastic utensils, cups and something to drink! *Please bring a side dish to share.* We will be celebrating our preschool year! Please join us!