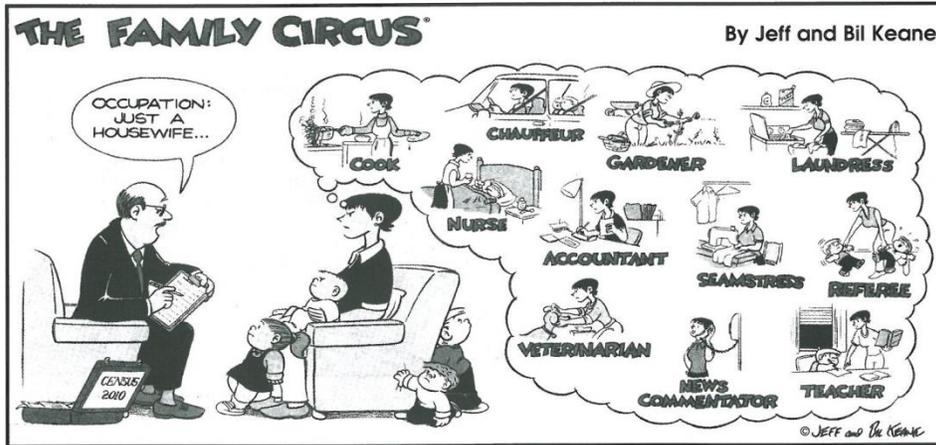


GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

May 2013

MOTHER'S DAY



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The Book of Proverbs says, "Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no spoil" (Prov. 31:10-11). This year my mother turns 90. She is an exceptional Christian woman, wife, and mother. So is my wife.

They both could be the one depicted in this month's cartoon. Both are far more valuable than rubies. With today's prices, you might even say that they are worth their weight in gasoline.

That's an opinion that was shared a few years ago (2007) by the Massachusetts firm, Salary.com. This company, which calculates what a person should be paid, has said that if mothers were reimbursed for their work they would earn around \$140,000. Sound like a lot? Not for a person who puts in a 92 hour week by being a housekeeper, day-care provider, teacher, cook, computer operator, launderer, janitor, domicile engineer, chauffeur, CEO, and psychologist (see cartoon). If you take all the jobs performed by a traditional mom, and paid her accordingly, she would bring in \$138,095 a year.

And she would be worth every penny.

This month, we give thanks to God for all Christian mothers. A Christian mom may not have given biological birth, but she still reflects the love she has been given by Jesus to the children of those who have. A Christian mother may never be featured in the pages of People magazine, but she knows that she is high on the list of Jesus' most beautiful people according to the ones entrusted to her care.

A Christian mother may not love more, but she loves longer, knowing that the Savior's story she shares speaks of eternity to generation yet unborn. A Christian mother knows she is a saved sinner entrusted with the upbringing of sinners who are smaller. She knows that the word "saved" makes all the difference in her conduct of that trust.

This is why on this Mother's Day, Christian children (of all ages) give thanks to the Lord for having let us meet Christian mothers and wives.

A Blessed Mother's Day to all of you.

Pastor Dan

-Psalm 148: Thoughts on Praise

Praise the Lord!

Have you ever stopped to think about what this phrase means? It falls so easily off the tongue, that one could speak it without ever thinking about what it actually means—like so many other things we say without thinking about them. Like, “Good morning,” or “How are you?” or “Bless you,” or any of dozens of others. If you ever want to test this phenomenon (and be forever branded a social weirdo,) try answering any of these phrases with something other than a standard response. You’ll find out that people don’t really think about what kind of “good” they are wishing you for the morning, that they really don’t care to hear “how” you are doing anything, and they have no idea what kind of “blessing” you require after a hearty sneeze.

Praise the Lord! So, what does this phrase mean? It’s sprinkled all over the Scriptures, and begins nearly every line of the 148th Psalm. Beyond Holy Scripture, Christians bandy this phrase around all the time, sometimes using it in ways that if you really thought about how it was used, you’d be really confused. So... just how do you “praise” the Lord? What is “praise?” Who should “praise” the Lord? When should we “praise” the Lord? Does saying the words, “*Praise the Lord!*” actually “praise” the Lord? Yep, I know... I just branded myself as that social weirdo for even asking the questions. I can hear someone saying even now, “Geeze—it’s just a Christian phrase! Stop analyzing it.” But of course, you know I can’t.

Praise the Lord! As this phrase is found in Psalm 148, it is a command... which means that from a Lutheran perspective, this is Divine Law. We are commanded to praise the Lord, because it is good, right, and salutary for all created beings to praise their Maker.

Furthermore, it is right for all creatures to praise the Creator for all His good and glorious works that ring throughout the universe. For everything that God does, and for everything that He permits to occur in His universe, we are commanded to praise Him. Getting nervous yet? It means that for everything that has ever happened in your life, for every painful and depressing and self-deflating thing you have ever encountered, you are commanded to praise the Lord. If your track record is as good as mine, I bet you fail pretty miserably to praise God, when disasters both small and great befall you. Failing to praise the Lord when we don’t feel like it, is a symptom of our cursed, twisted, and fallen nature—it is sin, and it is damnable. This is just one aspect of the Divine Law we fail to keep, failing to at all times in all places, give thanks and praise, worship and laud and honor to the Almighty and Ever-living God. Poor, miserable sinners we are, that our pain and selfishness stops our minds, and hearts, and mouths from giving God the praise He is due at all times, in all places, and in every situation.

Praise the Lord! The Law is painful, isn’t it? Harsher than we often think, when we throw it around so casually—and when we throw it at our neighbor, often without thinking. What hope is there in this phrase, this command? None at all. It does its work well, and points us to our twisted depravity. But from our bended knees, as we confess our sinfulness and failure to give God the praise He is due, another voice rings out to us, this time, from the Cross. Jesus Christ, who always praises His Father, even as He hung dying on the tree for the sins of the world, speaks a word to His people: I have fulfilled the Law—I have gloried the Name of God in Myself, and it shall be glorified and praised

forevermore! I have paid the price for your twisted and selfish pride, for your lack of just praise. And with My Blood, I absolve you of your sins, that you may live forever with Me—forgiven and free.

Praise the Lord! Ah, now the Gospel rings out in all its glory! Now the people of God hear these words as Gospel, for Christ is our praise where our own has failed—Christ is our Victor and our Savior, where we have fallen. What the Law could not accomplish by command because of our own sinful and fallen nature, the Gospel brings forth by faith working in love. The Christian knows that he has not and cannot praise God rightly of his own resources, but enlivened and empowered by the Holy Spirit, that same Christian sings out glory, laud, and honor to our Redeemer King—a fulfilling of the Law by the love of God in Christ Jesus, poured out into and through His people who live by grace through faith in Him. The Christian sings out praises of God in Christ Jesus our Savior, as faith in Him and His saving Gospel, causes the divine love of God to erupt from His justified and sanctified people. Here now, in the light of the Gospel, the whole Christian life is turned into one eternal song of praise and thanksgiving to God, who has done all things well. We are grafted into Christ, so that His death is our death, and His life is our life—and together with our Savior we sing forth the praise He is due. Alive in Christ, by His power and His victory over sin, death, and the devil, our sins forgiven and our whole person reconciled to God now and for eternity, Christ Jesus accomplishes in us what we could never do of ourselves:

Praise the Lord! Amen.

Pastor Brad



Preschool News

www.littlelambstacoma.com

Thank you to everyone who supported our annual plant sale. We really appreciate your support – especially prayers. The flowers will be available for pickup on Sunday, May 12th.

Donna Gerzevske has knitted a variety of fashion scarves that she has donated to the preschool. We will be selling these scarves for \$10 each on May 5th or 12th. The funds from these scarves will go toward window treatments to dress our new windows.

Hot Dogs and Happiness will be held **Sunday, May 19th at 6 pm** (following the Casual Chapel at 5 pm). Please join our preschool board and staff as we celebrate the end of another preschool year.

Hotdogs, buns, condiments, beverage, and dessert will be provided by the preschool. We are asking for church and preschool families to provide a side dish to share.

Our last day of preschool for this school year will be May 24th. We are taking registrations for the 2013-2014 school year now. The registration fee is \$65, unless you register before May 15th, then it is only \$55 as an early bird special. For more information please visit our website.

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

Bonnie Jean Huset
Director / Teacher

Lunch Bunch News

YOU ARE INVITED to THE **LUNCH BUNCH** outings for the next five months!

Please plan to join us **Tuesday, May 7th** – we will tour **CHASE GARDENS** in Orting. Cost is \$4 per person. Following the tour we will have lunch at a restaurant in Orting or Graham. Please reserve by Sunday, May 5th and pay \$4 to Bill Retzloff in advance. We have

reserved a small “minibus” for transportation. *Be at church promptly at 10 am on May 7th*.

June 4th we will have a private concert by the Marimba Band of Concordia Lutheran School. Following the concert we will share a salad luncheon. Watch the Sunday bulletins for more details.

July 2nd, we will tour the Tacoma Zoo and Aquarium.

August 6th, we will share a picnic at Point Defiance Park.

In **September** we are planning a tour of the Meeker Mansion in Puyallup. Please join us for any or all of these activities!

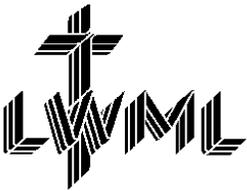
Pastor Ken Boetcher

A BRIEF NOTE ON FINANCES FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL

So far this year the Lord has blessed us. Things have been a little tight in the middle of the months, but we have been able to meet our spending guide each month. In the past, offerings have been smaller during the summer months. Summer is coming soon. Don't forget our obligations to the Lord during those times when we may be traveling and are away from home.

ASCENSION DAY SERVICE
Thursday, May 9th at 7 pm
Grace Lutheran Church
6202 South Tyler Street

You are invited to attend a joint Lutheran Ascension Day Service. Join with fellow Lutherans from Grace, Zion, and Prince of Peace to observe this festival. The preacher will be Rev. Jeffrey Ries from Zion Lutheran Church. The service will be followed by a time of fellowship and refreshments.



Women in Mission

Mark your Calendars:

Tuesdays, 9:15 am – LWML Bible Study

Tuesdays, 10 am – Quilting

Mites collected on Mothers' Day

May 28th – Seafarers Auxiliary with Potluck

June 27-30 – LWML Biennial Convention

Lutheran Women,

What do you know about TEOTWAWKI? Come Tuesday and find out!

A challenge for you...how about putting a \$% bill in the Mite Box for Mothers' Day? Notice the purple "5" on a \$5 dollar bill...purple is the LWML color!

See you at the Paul Maier Seminar on May 25th!

Serving the Lord with Gladness!

Jane Oberg

Sunday School News

Summer is quickly approaching. The plans for this year's summer curriculum is going to coincide with the Synod's Malaria Initiative. Weather permitting we are hoping to have Sunday School outside. Crafts, games, and skits from the Lutheran Malaria Initiative will be provided. The dates of Summer Sunday School are June 16 – August 11. The last two Sundays in August will be focused as family Sunday's. With one Sunday during July – the 21st, we will take time out to focus on the upcoming VBS week which is

July 22-26. The offering for the children will be geared toward helping the Malaria Initiative fund and 100% go to that. We will be providing clear, empty, pill bottles for the children to fill with pennies, quarters, nickels, and dimes. Once they are done filling one up they can come back for more. At the end of the summer we will have a party to celebrate our children's involvement with helping out the Malaria Initiative. Information on the Malaria Initiative can be found at: <http://www.lutheranmalaria.org>.

If you do not have access to these websites, information will be available on the back tables during the summer. Or you can contact me, Katie Reinitz, at 253-304-7893 or katlee23@yahoo.com. I will be doing the Sunday School this summer to give our wonderful Sunday School teachers the summer off. However, I will be calling and asking for volunteers to help out, youth and adults alike. More information will be coming in the next newsletter.

Katie Reinitz

Men's Breakfast / Bible Study May 18th

Join us **Saturday, May 18th** 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: "Sometimes one Goat is Just Not Enough" (Leviticus 19). *Pastor Dan*

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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