

# GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

May 2014

## Mother's Day



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Jeff and Bil Keane



"Hi, Grandma! I'm calling 'cause I thought you might like to smile."

from [JoyfulNoiseletter.com](http://JoyfulNoiseletter.com)  
Reprinted with permission of Jeff and Bil Keane

At two o'clock in the morning a little child is awakened by the discomfort of a high temperature and pleads: "Mommy, please hold me!" How comforting such a hold is. The child is still ill, but wrapped in Mother's arms, healing, rest, and sleep come more easily.

All of us find ourselves at times in a night of pain and suffering, which leaves us feeling crushed and overwhelmed. Then we reach for the precious Word of our Lord and receive its assurances, then comes the realization that we may join David in exclaiming: "Your right hand sustains me; You stoop down to make me great" (Ps 18:35).

Each time the Holy Spirit revives our faith, we realize that we are being held, sustained by the mighty hand of our God. Each time, through Word and Sacrament, we are impressed with the glorious truth of the forgiveness of our sins for the sake of Jesus Christ. We know that our Lord is stooping down to make us great. We have good reason for pleading with our Lord: "Please hold me!" As we are held in the forgiving arms of our Lord, we are encouraged to hold others by giving them the great word of forgiveness.

We give thanks this month for our mothers and all the times they held us in their loving arms. But most of all, we thank God for holding us in His loving arms.

Blessings,  
*Pastor Dan*

# Revisiting the Augsburg Confession:

## Article 4, Of Justification

The Doctrine of Justification was identified by the Lutheran Reformers, and rightly so, as the doctrine upon which the Church of Jesus Christ stands or falls. Since the Church is composed of all those whom Christ has gathered to Himself and saved through His Vicarious Atonement upon the Cross, it would make sense that understanding how Jesus saves His people, would be fundamental to the Church itself. This short article reads like this:

Also they teach that men cannot be justified before God by their own strength, merits, or works, but are freely justified for Christ's sake, through faith, when they believe that they are received into favor, and that their sins are forgiven for Christ's sake, who, by His death, has made satisfaction for our sins. This faith God imputes for righteousness in His sight. Rom. 3 and 4.

While this shouldn't sound too controversial, being rooted in the Scriptures as it is, presenting St. Paul's doctrine of justification was enough to set the whole western Church on edge. Unfortunately, during the Middle Ages, many people (including many clergy) began to think of salvation and justification as something that people must merit... in essence, something they must earn. This translated into a whole slew of abuses at the time of the

Reformation, from the sale of indulgences, strange concepts of Purgatory, a whole penitential system of works to atone for sins, a twisting of the monastic communities, and more. Getting the idea of Justification by Grace through Faith in Christ alone wrong, meant that the people of the Church were always trying to find ways to be at peace with God apart from Jesus, and constantly cooking up new works, piety, and traditions in order to satisfy God for their sins.

As you can imagine, that's an ugly place to be. Who would want to wrestle with a system, that made you and your works responsible for your salvation? Even if Jesus and His merits were the majority of your theology, any trust you put in yourself would eventually lead you to despair. Once you fully realize how holy God is, and the perfection He demands, there's no penance or price you can pay to satisfy Him for the sins you commit every day... except, perhaps, an eternity in hell. Hypocrisy, despair, and fear reigned in the Church everywhere people thought they had to appease a holy God with their own corrupted and insufficient works.

The answer of the Reformers, was to get back to the simple doctrine of Scripture. Jesus did not leave His people in fear, despair, or hypocrisy. Rather, Jesus gave them peace. Through His Cross

and Passion, the Father's justice for sin was satisfied in total, leaving no room for human works in that equation. Jesus' Blood was spilled for you and for me, and there isn't anything in us that's worth even one drop of His most precious Blood. And so, the forgiveness of sins is by the grace earned by Jesus on the Cross—who then Himself sets the terms by which that grace is given to us. And what does Jesus say about the way to receive His grace? Whoever believes and is baptized shall be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. That's it.

And this is exactly why St. Paul, in his letter to the Romans referenced in the Article above, and in his other letters, too, declares ferociously that salvation is by grace through faith in Christ alone—not of our own works, lest anyone may boast. If our salvation depends on us at all, it is most certainly lost. If, however, it is all by grace, received by faith, then it is as sure as the work Jesus accomplished on His Cross. This is where the Reformers make their most important stand, together with Jesus and St. Paul... and this is where Lutherans make their stand in our generation, as well. Don't let anyone deceive you or take away your peace in the completed work of Jesus—He's already done all the work, so that you might believe and live, forgiven and free. Amen.

*Pastor Brad*

## Men's Breakfast / Bible Study

### Saturday, May 17<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 "I Don't Think I Heard You Right" (Deuteronomy 28:45-57) *Pastor Dan*

## Pierce County Prayer Breakfast

### Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6:50 am

We still have a few tickets to the Pierce County Prayer Breakfast, Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 6:50 am. This year's speaker is Roy S. Moor, Chief Justice, Alabama Supreme Court. Cost is \$30 per person. We have had a table at this event for many years.

---

## DR. PAUL MAIER SEMINAR - "DEFENDING THE FAITH"

Saturday, May 31, 2014....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.



 **Thrivent Financial for Lutherans\***  
*Let's thrive!*

---

## Work Day Thank You

A great big THANK YOU to all that helped on work day on April 12<sup>th</sup>. I'm going to try to name everyone, so please forgive me if I forgot someone.

Thank you to:

Dan, Ruth, Paul, Matthew, Tony, Bonnie Jean, Frank, Jacob, LaVonne, Jeanie, Jane, Myron, Lil, Sue Angela, Kathy, Caron, Jackson, Rory, Gary, Anita, Allen, Mike A., Mike D., Jen, Matt, Jean, and Joe.

Your efforts were all very much appreciated! Watch for another work day around the end of summer.

Thank you,  
Joe Morton

# Church Information Meeting March 30, 2014

This is a brief synopsis of the Information Meeting held March 20, 2014.

1. A copy of the 2013 and 2014 Budget showed the budgeted amount and actual expenditures for the year for each line item. The 2014 Budget showed budgeted amounts and what the actual expenditures were to date, (March 30, 2014).
2. The roof was discussed. Roofs done were the sanctuary, the classrooms and apartment / office of the annex, the west walkway, the garage. Also new gutters for the garage and narthex, along with gutter extensions on the Sanctuary and new gutters for the west walkway. Total cost: \$16,160.
3. The elevator was discussed. After the breakdown, a repair was made to realign and fix the door. Cost: \$6,000.
4. The church parking lot lighting was discussed. Lights, ballasts for the parking lot along with the fix for the reader board lighting will be approximately \$1500. A reseal and striping is also needed, there is no time table or cost as yet for this.
5. Gutter guards were mentioned for the garage and annex to prevent debris from clogging the gutters. Cost will be approximately \$200.
6. New lighting was also mentioned the current T-11 florescent lights are no longer available as well as the ballasts for those lights. Replacement for those lights will be on an "as needed (cost) basis." We will start with the office and then prioritize the need from then on.
7. Lawn care was discussed. We have a bid for the church lawn and an interest from other parties. After all bids are received, the council will make its decision.
8. A new Blood Pressure cuff has been donated to the church. It is kept with the First Aid Kit and other Blood Pressure cuffs in the narthex storage closet.
9. A statement about Communion is now posted in the bulletin. These statements are based on the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod doctrine and belief. This was done at the urging of the Board of Elders.

Submitted by  
*Joe Morton*

---

**REMEMBER.** We are still accepting donations for building repair and maintenance.  
Thank you for helping us keep the buildings in good repair!

---



## -Preschool News

[www.littlelambstacoma.com](http://www.littlelambstacoma.com)

Thank you to all who have supported the preschool in many ways this year. We sincerely appreciate your prayers, kindnesses, and encouragement. Everyone is invited to join us on **Sunday , May 18<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm** (following the chapel service) in the fellowship hall for our **Hotdogs & Happiness** dinner celebration. The preschool will provide the hot dogs, buns, condiments, beverages, and dessert. Please bring yourselves and your friendly smile (side dishes are also accepted) and join us for dinner with our preschool families.

Registration is underway for our 2014-2015 preschool year. The registration fee is currently at its early bird special rate of \$60. After the 1<sup>st</sup> of June the fee goes to its full amount of \$70. Forms for registration can be found in the narthex, church, and preschool offices

and also on line at [www.littlelambstacoma.com](http://www.littlelambstacoma.com). If you have any questions or would like a tour, please contact Bonnie at 253-473-4848 or [bonnie@goodshepherdluth.com](mailto:bonnie@goodshepherdluth.com) for more information.

Our preschool will be hosting an Open House on Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> from 2-3 pm and later that evening from 6:30-7:30 pm. Information about our preschool, registration forms, and tours will be available for interested families. Please let your family, friends, and neighbors know about our preschool and invite them to visit our preschool.

Serving our Savior,  
*Bonnie Huset*  
Director / Teacher



## Little Lambs Preschool Invites You To Hotdogs & Happiness

May 18<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm,  
following our 5 pm Chapel

### Preschool Changes for Next Year

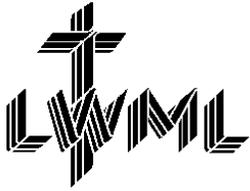
Our preschool is making a few changes for next year. Bonnie will still be our director and lead teacher on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. However, a new teacher will be needed for our Tuesday / Thursday morning class. Caron Long will remain as our assistant for M / W / F and Heather Oechsner will be leaving our preschool as the T / TH assistant. So, we also will be looking for a teaching assistant. Our board humbly seeks your prayers and God's direction in getting the right people for these positions. Please pray for our current and future staff. Thank you. If you are interested in one of these positions please contact Bonnie (contact information listed above) by **May 16**.

---

# Lunch Bunch

Join us on **May 6<sup>th</sup>** at **11:30 am** for our Pot Blessing. Please join us and bring a friend!

---



## Women in Mission / Women's Ministry

Greetings Sisters in Christ!

“Filled With His Will,” the theme of the 2014 Washington – Alaska District Convention, asks me *if I am* filled with His will! How about You? Joining with several hundred Lutheran sisters is a real joy. Try it! Pre-registration deadline is May 15<sup>th</sup>. After, the cost will be \$10 more.

Nine of us enjoyed, rejoiced, worshipped, and learned at the Rainier Zone LWML Spring Rally, April 5<sup>th</sup> at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Graham. Wonderful Bible Study by Pastor Reis from Zion, Tacoma, and a very moving presentation from “Teen Challenge Pacific Northwest,” Graham Women’s Center. An interview with Noah, food, fun, and ending with a Worship Service with Communion. What a Blessed Day!

May 2 or 3 our quilts will once again head to Seattle and onward for Lutheran World Relief to distribute (see large poster and map downstairs to see where quilts and other donations went in 2013.)

Thanks to ALL who made Holy Week so special – Altar Guild, Pastors, Choir, Denes Van Parys, and most of all, Jesus Christ!

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **SEAFARERS AUXILIARY**  
May 27<sup>th</sup> at noon.
- **DISTRICT CONVENTION**  
June 20-22, Wenatchee
- **LADIES RETREAT –**  
September 26-27, Camp Burton

Serving the Lord with Gladness, *Jane Oberg*

---

**POT BLESSING** Please join us for our monthly Pot Blessing at noon on Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup>!  
Please bring a hot dish, salad, or dessert to share.

---