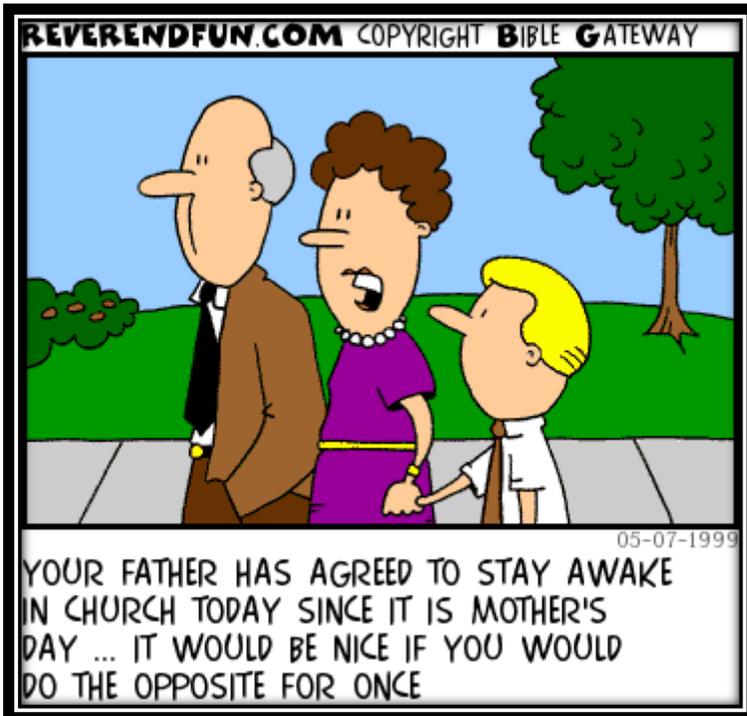


GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

May 2015

Real Love



It was Mother's Day. "I love you, Mother," said Susie. And she gave her mother a kiss and ran out to play. She didn't bother to pick up her toys as her mother had asked her.

"I love you, Mom," said Andy as he gave her a kiss. Then he went over to his friend's house and forgot all about straightening up his room and cutting the lawn.

"I love you, Mom," said Tommy. Then he helped his mom with the dishes and laughed and talked with her as they picked up the toys and

books. When his litter sister cried, Tommy played with her until his mom could feed her.

Which of the three children do you think love their mother the most? Yes, it was the one who helped the most. It's easy to say, "I love you," but what we do shows how much we really love.

And that's how it is with loving Jesus. Do you know what He said about loving Him? Jesus said, "If anyone loves Me, he will obey My teaching." Those who love Jesus gladly do what He has said they are to do. Real love is shown by doing, not by talking.

And that is what Jesus did for us. His love for us wasn't only in words. He acted. He suffered and died for us so that our sins would be forgiven. He rose again to give us eternal life. May God's Spirit empower us to love and obey our loving God.

Blessings,
Pastor Gerken

Revisiting the Augsburg Confession:

Articles 24: Of the Mass

It has become uncommon to hear Lutherans use the word “Mass” for what we more generally now call the “worship service” or Divine Service, but it’s worth remembering that this usage is part of our Confessions. It was the common term used in the western church to describe how Christians worshipped the Triune God, and received His good gifts of grace. Here’s how the Reformers open the conversation regarding how Lutherans retain the Mass:

Falsely are our churches accused of abolishing the Mass; for the Mass is retained among us, and celebrated with the highest reverence... The people are accustomed to partake of the Sacrament together, if any be fit for it, and this also increases the reverence and devotion of public worship. For none are admitted except they be first examined. The people are also advised concerning the dignity and use of the Sacrament, how great consolation it brings anxious consciences, that they may learn to believe God, and to expect and ask of Him all that is good... It does not, therefore, appear that the Mass is more devoutly celebrated among our adversaries than among us.

Those adversaries mentioned at the end of the first paragraph, were the Romans. Not only did Lutherans present themselves as celebrating the Mass more devoutly and with higher reverence than the Romans, but they did so by removing a number of abuses in the Mass which had crept in over the centuries. The Mass was translated, and hymns added, to the vernacular language so that the people could understand it—and even more, that they might be taught through it. The common rites and ceremonies were retained very intentionally, so that confusion would not erupt among the people, or scandal be caused in the wider church. As for how often it was celebrated, the Reformers continue:

Now, forasmuch as the Mass is such a giving of the Sacrament, we hold one communion every holy-day, and, if any desire the Sacrament, also on other days, when it is given to such as ask for it. And this custom is not new in the Church; for the Fathers before Gregory make no mention of any private Mass, but of the common Mass they speak very much. Chrysostom says that the priest stands daily at the altar, inviting some to the Communion and keeping back others... Forasmuch, therefore, as the Mass with us has the example of the Church, taken from the Scripture and

the Fathers, we are confident that it cannot be disapproved, especially since public ceremonies, for the most part like those hither to in use, are retained; only the number of Masses differs, which, because of very great and manifest abuses doubtless might be profitably reduced.

So, if the Lutheran Reformers kept the liturgy of the Mass, celebrated it every holy day (Sundays, and festival days, and any day upon which it was requested) and kept it with greater reverence and devotion than the Romans of their day, what changed? At root between the Roman and Lutheran understanding of the Mass was what it was instituted for, which drove the way it was implemented in their respective territories.

First off, the Reformers kept the Doctrine of Justification central to everything in the church, including the Mass. Since Jesus saves His people by grace through faith in Him alone, the Mass had to be understood and ordered to that primary objective. The Means of Grace (Word and Sacrament) were the central focus of the Mass for Lutherans, because Jesus delivers His salvation—and the saving faith which receives it—through those Means.

Unfortunately, the Romans had drifted into an error that sought to earn grace through works. They misunderstood the Mass as a human work (either the work of the worshipper, or the work of the priest... or both) which could earn for the participants grace from God, who could then in turn live more holy lives. Because of that misunderstanding, people began to think that the more times they went to Mass, the more grace they could get... and maybe that a special Mass said for just one person could be more efficacious, than if it were a Mass for a whole bunch of people (as if the Mass could be diluted by multiple people attending.) This resulted in all kinds of aberrations, such as buying and selling Masses, especially by wealthy people who could buy Masses for their families alone. Some took the error even further, by thinking that their works in the Mass added to the work of Christ on the Cross, where Jesus only died for their Original Sin, and the Mass had to be offered to forgive all the other sins people commit.

Given the mess of errors that the Romans had attached to the historic Mass, it’s no wonder that many Reformation Christians stopped using the term altogether. However, it is a term common to our Confessions and to the broader church, and as such

something we should be able to use comfortably. It ties us into the history of Christian worship, and keeps us from innovating or making up worship in a way that mimics the fixations of contemporary culture. Since the Church is far more than a reflection of any particular contemporary culture, our embrace of the historic Mass helps remind every Christian that they are part of a long history which transcends their moment in time or space. We are the One Church in which the Prophets and Apostles teach, the Church Fathers and Doctors confess, the saints and martyrs both lived and died, and the Triune God is reconciled to all mankind through Jesus Christ. Far from a matter of adiaphora or indifference, historic Christian worship is a tie between Christians across the world, and a statement of our catholicity within the One,

Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. The Mass was developed from Hebrew patterns of worship in the Old Testament, from the worship life of the early Christians under the influence of the Apostles, carried through the centuries in both the east and the west, confessed by the Reformers, and printed in our hymnals today. As Lutherans, the Mass is part of our inheritance within the broader Christian Church, and a gift we would be wise to remember... and to pass along to our children. Whether we call it the Mass or the Divine Service, historic Christians worship is a part of our Confessional identity specifically as Lutherans, and as catholic Christians in general. Amen.

Pastor Brad

DO YOU KNOW WHO YOUR ELDER IS?

Zones are arranged alphabetically. Following is a list of Elders and their Zones.

Zone	Elder	Names
1	Mike Dunn (253-838-5820)	Alber – Burgardt
2	Joel Wippich (253-754-1054)	Burnside – Huntsman
3	Gary Tarver (253-831-5567)	Huset – Morton
4	Joe Morton (253-473-5649)	Munoz – Skar
5	Wayne Boudreau (253-405-4904)	Smith - Zmuda

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

Men's Breakfast / Bible Study Saturday, May 16 – 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 "Self-Serving Superman (Samson)" (Judges 13-16)

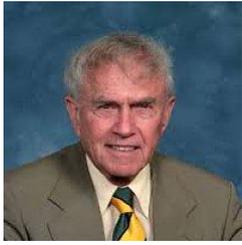


Little Lambs Preschool Invites You To

 **Hotdogs & Happiness** 

May 10th at 6 pm, following our 5 pm Chapel

DR. PAUL MAIER SEMINAR:



“THE WEEK THAT CHANGED THE WORLD”

Saturday, May 2, 2015....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.



Spaghetti Supper

Friday May 22

6-7 pm



Proceeds go to 4US team



-Preschool News

www.littlelambstacoma.com

Sharing Christ, Feeding Lambs



This month, our students will be learning all about farm animals, and each class will be visiting Tanner Farm to experience several animals up close! We will hear about Saul’s journey, and how God turns him into Paul. At the end of the year, the students will hear the story of Timothy and learn to share the good news of Jesus with others.

Everyone is invited to join us on **Sunday , May 10th** 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 join us for dinner with our preschool families.

Registration for the 2015-2016 school year continues. Through June 1, 2015, we are offering a \$10 discount off of the registration fee. If you know anyone who would be interested in preschool for next year, please direct them to our website or the office at 253-473-4848 for more information.

Just a reminder: our fundraising campaign in association with amazon.com, is an ongoing project. If you are planning to make a purchase at amazon.com,

please support us by first visiting www.littlelambstacoma.com and clicking on the “support us shop amazon” button! A portion of your purchase will be donated back to our preschool at no additional cost to you.

Thank you for your generous support through donations to our Emergency Supply Kit, and also for your plant purchases for our Spring Fundraiser. WE would also like to thank you for selecting our preschool as the recipient of your Thrivent Choice Dollars. Your prayers are always greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Registration for the 2015-2016 school year is underway. If you know anyone interested in our preschool please direct them to our website or schedule a visit our classrooms. We would be happy to give tours of our preschool.

Please remember to pray for our preschool students, families, board, and staff members. We sincerely appreciate your prayer support.

Bonnie Huset
Director / Teacher

MEMORIAL GUIDELINES:

The following are the guidelines for disposition of Memorial Funds.

- When funds are received as a memorial in the name of a special person, they are given to the church for disposition.
- Should funds be given for a specific purpose, those funds will be used specifically for the purpose and upkeep of that specific purpose.
- When funds are received and there is no specific purpose designated, those funds will be used at the discretion of the church.
- Memorial funds will not be used for bills from the general budget.

DESIGNATED FUNDS:

Designated funds are for a specific purpose. Each fund will be used only for that purpose.

- When funds are received, they will be processed as follows:
 1. Counted
 2. Deposited in the bank in a special savings account used for designated funds.
 3. Added to a spread sheet by name and given a number for the account.
- When the funds are paid out, they will be transferred from the special savings account to the checking account, then paid by check to the designee after the transfer.
- Funds may be paid at specified intervals such as monthly or yearly or as otherwise specified in accordance with the designated purpose.
- Designated funds will not be used for bills from the general budget.

REIMBURSEMENT GUIDELINES

When a receipt has been turned into the office for reimbursement, the following procedure will follow:

1. Turn receipt into office. The office will initial to confirm purchase.
 2. At the next Church Council meeting, each receipt will be reviewed and either the President or Vice President will initial the receipt.
 3. The receipt will returned to the office so the bookkeeper can pay the reimbursement.
- Should a faster payment be needed, the purchasing party should make appropriate arrangements with the office.



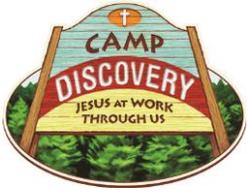
The Feast of the Ascension

A combined service with fellow Lutherans
here at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Thursday, May 14th at 7 pm

Reception follows

VBS – Calling all Volunteers!



Vacation Bible School has been scheduled for **July 27 – 31**. This year's theme is "Camp Discovery – Jesus at Work Through Us." We have a wonderful opportunity to share Jesus' love with all children. For some this may be

their first time hearing about Jesus, for others the opportunity to learn more. Please prayerfully consider how God can use you to enrich the lives of His children. If you would like to volunteer, donate items or money, or get more information please contact Debbie Tanner, Bonnie Jean Huset, or the church office.



Women in Mission / Women's Ministry

- **Tuesdays:**
Bible Study (9:15 am) **Quilting** (10 am)
- **LWR Shipping** – May 1-2
- **Mites and Missions** – Sunday, May 10th
- **Seafarers' Aux.** – Tuesday, May 26th

May Notes to All Ladies of Good Shepherd: Happy Mother's Day! Thanks to all who helped or donated food for recent memorial receptions. This is Good Shepherd showing caring hospitality.

A Few Questions:

- Have you remembered Mites?
- Have you read about Jan Struck in the Spring LWML Quarterly?
- Did you know that Edie Norris, from King of Glory, is on the slate for Vice President of Organizational Resources? (Convention June 25-28, 2015 in Des Moines, Iowa).

"Come into His Presence," LWML District Retreat is September 25-27 in Leavenworth, WA. All are welcome!

Serving the Lord with Gladness
Jane Oberg

Lunch Bunch

May 14 beginning at **11:45 am** for a pot blessing meal. Bring a dish to share.



FINANCIAL UPDATE

Our giving for the general budget is currently on track. As of this writing, we are almost current with what's needed to date. However we are significantly behind in our obligation to Concordia Lutheran School and Mt. Rainier Lutheran High School. The graph in the narthex shows where we are currently. With the summer months (vacations) ahead of us, keeping the church in your financial planning is still important. Plan ahead for summer and keep your church in your prayers.

Thank you!

