

# GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

June 2012

## Father's Day

A little girl was walking with her father through the downtown streets of the city to which they had recently moved. They turned corner after corner, taking in one new sight of the unfamiliar city after another.

After some time the little girl looked up and asked: "Daddy, are you lost?" Instead of answering her directly, he tightened his grip on her little hand and, smiling warmly, asked: "Why, are you lost?" "Oh, no!" she said brightly, "I'm with you, Daddy! How could I be lost?"

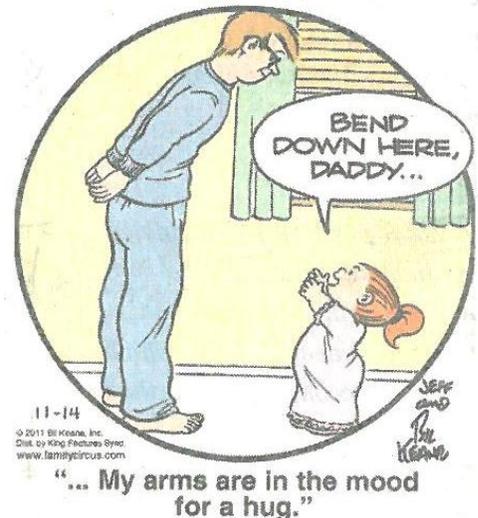
We are dealing here with a parable. How can you and I be "lost" as long as we know that our loving Lord is with us -- and that we are walking hand in hand with Him? One of our Savior's last words to us was: "I am with you always." The timeless Christ was speaking, the great "I AM" of John 8:58, with whom there is no present, past, or future. It is He who assures us: I am with you always -- today, tomorrow, and forever.

With our hand in His, we can walk courageously through each today and all of our tomorrows.

Have a blessed Father's Day

*Pastor Dan*

### THE FAMILY CIRCUS



## President's Corner

Welcome to summer, or near summer, since we here in the Pacific Northwest don't generally dry out until July. Summers around here are a great time of year. Perhaps, since we don't get as much sun as other parts we marvel a bit more at days we do get.

I would like to encourage everyone to stay committed to your tithing during the summer months. Well, you should stay committed all year long. But I make special note of it now because it is easy to put it off or forget about it during times of vacation. As a result, this time of year can apply some undue pressure to the budget.

I would like to remind everyone about the Paul Maier Seminar June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Not only would I like to highly encourage you to come, but I would like you to invite some of your friends. I'm sure there are those of you out there who have some friends with whom you like to have long in depth theology discussions. This is a real chance to get some great fuel for those discussions and to enjoy one of the greats of our time.

During one of our council meetings we had some discussion around wanting to put together a committee with the specific task of welcoming people to the church. This is something we have done before,

but as things change it got left behind. There were various ideas thrown around as to what this would mean and could entail. But the short of it is, it would be a group of people to help new or newer people feel welcomed and to help them get situated with a Bible study class and an understanding of what worship services are available. If this is something you have an interest in, have the ability to contribute to, and/or have ideas to share please contact one of the pastors, Tony Huset or myself.

May God watch over you and your family during, always.

*Julian Doyle*

## Committing Our Labors Unto God

Among the various transitions we find ourselves in during this time of the year, is the one between Easter and Pentecost. As we read through the Acts of the Apostles, we find that after Jesus' Ascension, the Disciples are waiting on the Lord's promise of the Holy Spirit... a power they wouldn't come to understand until it fell upon them. As they waited, they lived together in the unity born of Christ's Word and Sacraments, in love for each other and with a common hope in the Risen Christ. Not long after, Jesus' promise fulfilled, a great power descends upon them. This

power from the Holy Spirit gives them gifts of healing, speaking in foreign tongues, and even raising the dead—but most importantly, it gives them power to be witnesses to Christ's saving work in a dark and dangerous world. The power given to them is manifested in many ways, but the goal of that power was to speak truth in the darkness of their time, so that many might hear the Gospel, believe, and live in Jesus forever. The greatest miracle that the Holy Spirit did through the Apostles was nothing other than raising dead sinners unto eternal life,

by grace through faith in the Son of God. This power of the Almighty Holy Spirit, continues to move through the Church today, wherever we find the Word of God preached in its purity, and the Holy Sacraments administered according to Christ's command. Where the Holy Spirit moves through the means of grace, people are raised from the deadness of their sin and unbelief, and given new life by faith in Jesus' vicarious atonement for them. It is a power awesome to behold, and a mystery before which we tremble—that God should give such gifts and

power to be administered by poor, wretched sinners, such as ourselves. But such is the wisdom of God, that He makes His strength perfect in weakness.

But there is another side to this awesome power, given to the Church, and we must grapple with it as we enter into this season of Pentecost. Not all who hear, will believe—not all who come face to face with Jesus through His means of grace, will repent and believe the Gospel. God allows His greatness to be mocked and scorned by the sinful world, and His grace to be trampled under the feet of wicked men. In God's great love for the whole world, there is not a single soul for which He has not suffered and died, and yet we know that some people will respond to His love with spite and hatred. God's love at work in the world is a sacrificial love which suffers itself to be scorned and wounded, so that by all means, some might be saved. Such is the immensity of our God's mercy and love for us. And for we who are grafted into our Risen Christ, our suffering and rejection will reflect that which is given to our Lord. Sometimes, even the best of our efforts to love our neighbor, will be rebuffed and spat upon, leaving us wounded and

bruised, perhaps even martyred. Part of carrying our cross in the world, is to bear witness to Christ and His love for mankind, even when mankind refuses to listen—even when they harden their own hearts, plug their own ears, and refuse to be healed by our God who seeks them out. How are we to respond, when we are spitefully used, abused, and mistreated? Our answer is found in the Cross of Christ. When He was ridiculed and scorned, He prayed for those who were in the very act of murdering Him. Upon His resurrection, He brings peace and blessing to those who abandoned Him in His darkest hour. To a world which condemned Him, He brought the everlasting Gospel of Salvation. And to we who are grafted into Him by grace through faith, He gives the power of His Holy Spirit, to endure all things for the love of each soul that the Blood of Christ has been poured out to redeem.

In Christ, we commend to our Lord, all the works of our hands, hearts, and minds. It is He who has done all, suffered all, and won all for us—and not only for us, but for the whole world. In Him we work, not by compulsion of the Law, but by the impelling of the Holy Spirit and the divine Love which has

been poured into us. Our works are not our own, and neither is our suffering, nor our joy. All that we have and are and shall be, is hidden in Christ Jesus our Lord, who is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end of all things. To Him we commend our labors of love, and to Him we send up our groaning and tears, just as we also send up to Him our thanksgiving and rejoicing.

As we enter into the heat of Summer, and the work of the Kingdom of God weighs heavily upon us in the noontime heat, may we always remember the Living Lord who has suffered all for us, and keeps us together with Him for eternity. When viewed from heaven's eternal perspective, this short time of our labors comes and goes like the streak of a meteor across the sky—suddenly here, and then in only a few short decades, it is over.

Nevertheless, we are His, and He is ours; our salvation and our hope and our blessedness are guarded in Jesus forever. Let the world do its worst, and the devil make his schemes. We belong to Christ, and our work is committed unto Him. Blessed be the Triune God, now and forevermore. Amen.

*Pastor Brad*

## **Men's Breakfast / Bible Study June 16<sup>th</sup>**

Join us **Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>** 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: "Deliverer in Training" (Exodus 2). *Pastor Dan*

# A Song For All Generations

*Careful readers of this space will notice this is a repeat of a previous column. I felt it was worth repeating, considering some discussions that are taking place and will likely continue in my absence.*

We live in a culture that is increasingly fragmented. Real and imagined fault-lines run fissure-like across the landscape of our world: Black vs. White, Red vs. Blue, Science vs. Faith, and America vs. almost everyone else.

One division that is both more prevalent and more easily ignored is also the most natural: Young vs. Old. We don't even like the sound of it. It conjures up an image of a boxing ring:

*"And in this corner – a grandmother of three, well-seasoned by a life of struggle, weighing in at 136 pounds and wearing the rose-print shorts..."* well, you get the idea.

Market researchers love these divisions because they make it easier to sell things. Make a product that appeals to one audience and you can count on them to buy it again and again. This is particularly true in the area of the Arts: music, movies, television and books. There is a certain amount of logic to this, of course, since there ARE differences across ages. We make toys that are safe for one

age group that should be kept out of the hands of another. We have books that are simple enough for children that would bore an adult. It makes perfect sense.

Two places, however, where this kind of division makes very little sense are in our families and in our corporate worship.

Unfortunately, marketing in search of greater profits can lead away from products that appeal to a broad spectrum of people. We have fewer and fewer experiences designed for generations to enjoy together. And whereas our culture was historically shaped by the Church and the Family, now the Church and the Family are being transformed by the Culture—often in ways that weaken them and their messages of support, love and Grace.

If we fall prey to "niche" marketing in church, we weaken the fabric that binds us across generations. If we choose music and worship styles to appeal to a particular demographic group, we risk alienating—and excluding from true worship—every other demographic group.

Furthermore, to stay "current" with this kind of marketing, our music would have to be radically different every week, according to the fickle trends of

human desire. Congregations that try become lost in a ceaseless whirlwind of new material that never feels "comfortable" and "traditional." Is it any wonder that so many people have stopped singing all together and just observe like spectators?

To combat this division, we all need to be open and adventurous. Some generations need to see that there is life beyond page 5/15 in the Red Book. My generation needs to recognize that what we once embraced as "contemporary" is now seen as dated and hackneyed by younger people. On the other hand, we need to teach our young people that there is value in the older material through loving and careful teaching.

There really IS one worship and musical language that we can all share. What is difficult—*really* difficult—is that this language *will* and *must* slowly change over time. It is terribly hard work, but God demands such worship of us and, if we fail, we will lose a vital life-source for the Church.

Blessings!

*DVP (Denes Van Parys)*

# Seminar by DR. PAUL MAIER:

ARCHAEOLOGY and the BIBLE

Digs Provide Powerful Support for the Old and New Testaments



Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>  
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).



## Preschool News

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

We had a great preschool year with 19 wonderful children learning about Jesus as their Lord and Savior as well as mixing colors, cutting paper, butterflies, weather, farm animals...

Thank you for your prayer support for our preschool, the students and their families. You have been a

blessing to these families and our preschool. We ask for continued prayer support during these summer months. Thank you!

Serving our Savior,

*Bonnie Jean Huset*  
Preschool Director / Teacher



Preschool 1 2011-2012



Preschool 2 2011-2012



## Women in Mission

Weekly Bible Study on Tuesdays at 9:15 am.

Weekly Quilting on Tuesdays at 10 am.

Mites Collected - June 10<sup>th</sup>

Convention in Olympia – June 22-24

God's abundant blessings to all! We continue Bible Study and Quilting in the summer (9:15 Bible Study, 10 am Quilting). You are always welcome.

Did you notice the quilts when they were hanging in the sanctuary? We sent 25 completed quilts to Lutheran World Relief May 5<sup>th</sup>. Where do they go?

Look at the large poster on the Fellowship hall bulletin board and see.

Please pray for our Washington / Alaska District LWML Convention at the Red Lion in Olympia June 22-24. Officers will be elected. Mission Grants (Mites) voted on and wonderful Worship, Bible Studies, and Speakers sharing the "Good News."

Volunteers needed for wedding receptions and memorial receptions. Please consider helping.

Serving the Lord with Gladness

*Jane Oberg*

## Hello Dear Ladies of Good Shepherd,

I just wanted to drop a line to thank all of you who attended the Women's Tea. Each and every one of you added to the merriment. I wanted to especially thank Debbie Gustas, Ruth Gerken, Delia Stallard, and Michelle Boulè for all their hard work and commitment to making this tea a wonderful event. And to also thank Jeanie Singler, our wonderful speaker, and Bethany Bowlby, our musician. I hope next year even more of you will be able to attend. If you have any suggestions for the tea or ways we could improve the tea, you may call me or any one

of the Women's Ministry group or drop a note in our box in the narthex.

Our next big event is the fall retreat. We already have a venue. It is a beautiful setting on Vashon Island with views of the sound. We have already been working on this event and hope you all will prayerfully consider attending. More details coming soon!

Your sister in Christ,

*LaVonne Borcharding*

## Brunch & Bible Study and Pink Shoe Club

Enjoy your summer! We will resume our second Saturdays on September 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am.!

## Lunch Bunch News

With the beginning of summer we are planning for outings during the next 3 months. They are -

**Tuesday, June 5th** - a visit to CHASE GARDEN near Graham. \$10 will cover our guided tour, plus a box lunch. Meet at church by **9:30 am**. Please sign up by Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> in the narthex and pre-pay Pastor Ken Boetcher or Elaine Davies.

**Tuesday, July 10** - (NOTE change of date) A picnic at Wapato Park (at church if it rains.) Bring a dish suitable for a picnic - also bring a favorite game to play. Meet at church at 10:30 am promptly.

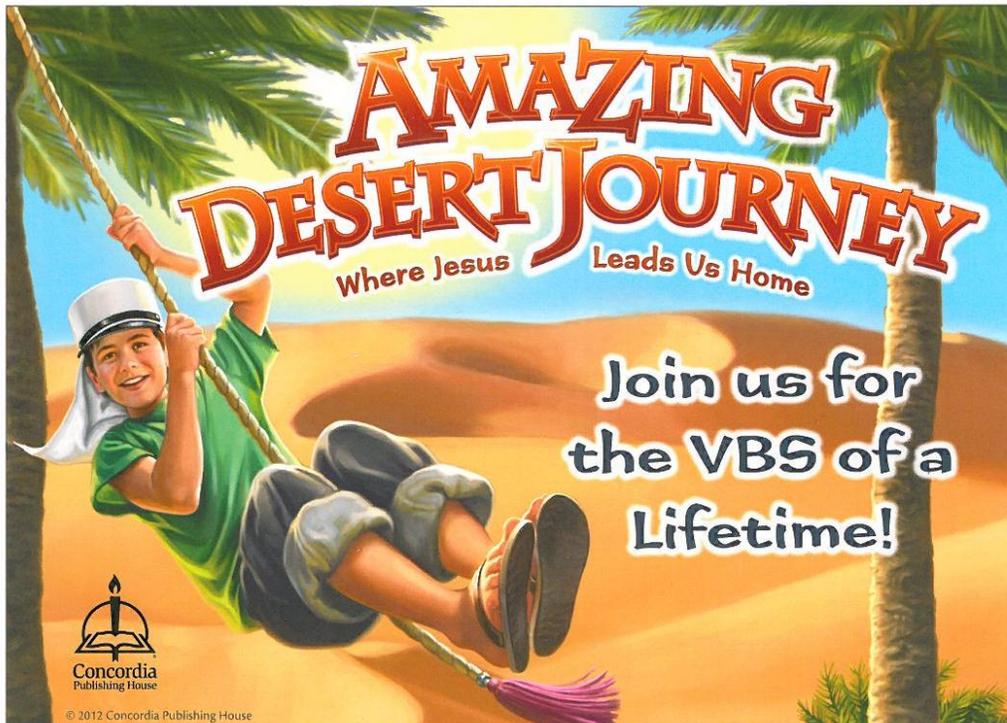
**Thursday, August 9** - (Note change of date) - an excursion on Lake Union in Seattle on the paddle boat, "QUEEN OF SEATTLE" - Sign up today so reservations can be made. Time for excursion is 11:00 am.

As these dates draw near more details and costs will be in Sunday bulletins and monthly Good Shepherd News. But we need you to sign up so we know how many are interested. Transportation is being arranged for each outing.

*Pastor Ken Boetcher*

## VBS News

We will be having Vacation Bible School **July 23-27** from **9 am – 12 noon**. We are still in need of volunteers – feel free to speak up! Our theme this year is **Amazing Desert Journey**, VBS is for 3 year old children up through and completed 5<sup>th</sup> grade.



**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**  
**July 23-27 from 9 am - 12 noon**  
**Sign up soon!**