

GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

June 2014

Father Knows Best



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Thanks to John Michael Sullivan

09-12-2005

LOOK AT ALL THESE LAMPS ... WHAT, DO
YOU THINK OLIVE OIL GROWS ON TREES?

“Father Knows Best” was a popular television show that ran from 1954 to 1960. (It was a radio program before that.) It featured the Anderson family, a middle class family in the Midwest. The family consisted of father Jim, mother Margaret, and their three children; Betty “Princess”, James “Bud”, and Kathy “Kitten.” The show has been characterized as the truly idealized family, the sort that viewers could relate to and emulate. Father Jim was a man who would do a paper route in the rain for his sick son, Bud. He was a man who'd always choose to see Kathy in a school program rather than attend an important Chamber of Commerce dinner. His family came first, but it

was a delicate balancing act. It seemed that no matter what trouble the children got into, father would always offer sage advice.

In The Lord’s Prayer, we are invited to address our God as “Father.” When we say, “Our Father, who art in heaven,” Martin Luther reminds us that with these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.

However, in our sinful world, many people do not think much of their father. So, how is God different? It’s true that some children are abused by their fathers. Some fathers completely abandon their parental responsibilities. So, at times, “father” may not seem like a very good word for God.

God is not like a neglectful father. In fact, He is everything abusive parents are not. God, our Father is kind and loving. He cares about us, forgives us, encourages us. He would never hurt us. He is our Friend, Counselor, and confidant. He loves us without limits. God is Father in the absolute best sense of the word. And, of course, He does know what is best for us.

Have a blessed Father’s Day.

Pastor Dan

Revisiting the Augsburg Confession:

Article V, XIII, and XIV: Of the Ministry, the Use of the Sacraments, and the Ecclesiastical Order

When we talk about ministry and order in the Church, it's not uncommon for people to get their hackles up. After all, how many awful examples of church leadership can we call to mind, even in our own generation... let alone, across the last several thousand years of God's people? History is littered with accounts of great sin and treachery by the leaders of God's people, to the extent that it was lamented in the early church (and ascribed to St. John Chrysostom,) that the road to hell is lined with the skulls of unfaithful priests and bishops.

But of course, focusing on all the sins of the clergy can cause us to forget that it is God who established the pastoral office, and that it is He who decided to use sinful men to accomplish His will... just as He decided to build His Church with the living stones of the Priesthood of All Believers, though every one of them is a sinner, too. While the sins of the clergy are many and worthy of reproach, they do not destroy what God has ordained—just as the sins of the people, awful though they

be, cannot destroy the One Holy Church. Pastors live by grace through faith and repentance, just like every other Christian. And God's promises remain, even in their weakness.

It is in this light, that the Reformers declare:

That we may obtain this faith, the Ministry of Teaching the Gospel and administering the Sacraments was instituted. For through the Word and Sacraments, as through instruments, the Holy Ghost is given, who works faith; where and when it pleases God, in them that hear the Gospel... They condemn the Anabaptists and others who think that the Holy Ghost comes to men without the external Word, through their own preparations and works. (Article V)

Of the Use of the Sacraments they teach that the Sacraments were ordained, not only to be marks of profession among men, but rather to be signs and testimonies of the will of God toward us, instituted to awaken and confirm faith in those who use them. Wherefore we must so use the Sacraments that faith be added to believe the promises which are offered and set forth through the Sacraments... (Article XII)

Of Ecclesiastical Order they teach that no one should publicly

teach in the Church or administer the Sacraments unless he be regularly called. (Article XIV)

The Reformers knew that Christ established the pastoral office for the preaching and teaching of the Gospel, and the administration of the life-giving Sacraments. They also knew that while pastors are often falling to sin, the promise of what God gives through their ministry cannot be thwarted by their personal failures. They knew that the people should not give up on the promises of God, by either avoiding their pastors, or seizing their pastor's duties upon themselves—both being acts of unbelief and disorder. We would be wise to remember the great witness of Luther and the Reformers, who guide us to remain within the Word and promises of Christ, neither elevating human beings beyond their status as sinner/saints, nor abusing or undermining the Office to which Christ may call them. In this way, we properly maintain the general priesthood of all Christians, and the Office of the Holy Ministry which Christ causes to arise from it, since every Christian is united to Christ by one Baptism, and lives by One Faith, in their One Risen Lord. Amen.

Pastor Brad

You are invited

You are invited to celebrate with The Lutheran Church of St. Paul, Graham, as they install their new Pastor, Rev. Matthew Warmbier, Sunday June 22nd, at 3 pm. A reception will follow.

Music before Worship: Prelude or Quaalude?

On Sundays we arrive in the Foyer, meet a few friends and enter the Sanctuary. What happens next? What is the purpose of this time before Worship? And what is that music for?

For many of us, this time is spent greeting friends, chatting for a brief time and then hastily finding our seats when Pastor greets the congregation. There is certainly nothing wrong (and everything right!) with greeting our friends on Sunday and there is certainly an aspect of fellowship to our coming together, but is that the best use of this time?

It is important to remember that we come to church to worship God. Obvious, yes, but an important starting point: everything in our coming together on Sunday should prepare us for entering the presence of God through Word and Sacrament. Therefore—

Prepare for worship so that we may more effectively do so.

Putting other cares aside, we dedicate ourselves to worship, focusing on praising God, joining in the liturgy, singing with our fellow believers. Then we can sing and pray without distraction. We recite the Lord's Prayer without our thoughts drifting to worldly concerns.

Prepare for worship so that we may receive greater blessings in doing so. Then we may hear more clearly the proclamation of God's Word in Scripture and Sermon. We become more "tuned-in" to the moving of the Holy Spirit and are more likely to fully experience our audience with God.

So how should we prepare? Some ideas:

1. Greet friends and visitors in the Narthex. Then enter the Sanctuary with the intention to focus on God.
2. Use the prelude music to wash away other cares and place yourself firmly in the mind of worship.

3. While you make that transition, look at the bulletin and see what the theme of the day is. How do the music, hymns and scripture for the day emphasize it? Take a peek at the scripture ahead of time using your pew Bible.
4. Use this time to pray. Inside the front cover of our hymnals are several prayer-aides designed just for this purpose.
5. Take advantage of the music prepared by the Choir, Bells and other musicians to supplement your worship. These pieces are carefully chosen to support the theme of the day and offer opportunities for prayer and preparation as we draw nearer to the presence of God in Word and Sacrament.

May God Bless us as we worship and may He find our worship acceptable in His sight!

DVP

Men's Breakfast / Bible Study Saturday, June 21st – 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 "The End of an Era" (Deuteronomy 34) *Pastor Dan*



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

words and The Word: An Intentional Development

The Library is shrinking! Where are all the books going?

Over the years, Good Shepherd Library has been growing mainly by accretion. Somebody clears out a library, books get put in a box, the box gets donated to the church, and the books—some good, some bad, some indifferent—are added to the shelves.

Though donations are vital to the growth of any library (more on that in a future column), the *reliance* on such an unintentional collection development results in a doctrinal, theological, and spiritual hodgepodge—everything ends up on the same shelf, side-by-side, whether it is orthodox, heretical, or

indifferent. And if everything is *presented* on the same level, everything—orthodox, heretical, and indifferent—is (reasonably) assumed to be of equal validity and veracity by the average church member. And why not? If this is being made available to me by my church, isn't it safe to assume that this is what we "believe, teach and confess"?

Both our immediate and our long-term goals are to have a library that answers "yes" to that question. And immediately, that is going to mean a serious amount of weeding. Will some of these books return? Yes, some will. Some just need a closer critique to determine their usefulness. But most will not. Not that every volume that does not

return to the shelves is rank heresy (though some are). Many are simply not useful or clear. And after pulling 3 or 4 useless books off a library shelf, you're probably just going to give up and walk away. Wisely. "No wheat here. Only chaff. Move along."

So, what will Good Shepherd Library look like once we have cleared away the chaff? The goal is a clear, confessional, catechetical collection that will help all of us better understand what we as Confessional Lutherans *do* "believe, teach and confess." More on this positive future of our library—and how you can help—next month!

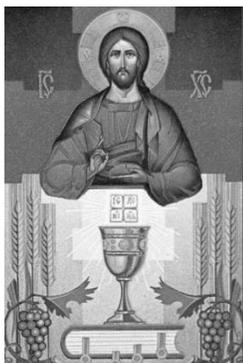
*solī Deo gloria,
Joel J. Wippich*

"NOAH: THE MAN, THE ARK, THE FLOOD."

A man in his 500s with no power tools and only ancient technology builds a large ocean-going ship able to hold two of every land animal. The flood covers the entire planet, topping the highest mountain by 20 feet, yet somehow this extra water all disappears. To many people the Bible's account of Noah's flood

(Genesis 6-9) sounds over the top – almost mythical. Is it plausible? In this video study we go to the Creation Museum in Petersburg, Kentucky, to interview scientists and theologians who discuss the Bible's account of Noah, that ark, and the flood. We also search for evidence of the biblical deluge in

the records of ancient civilizations, on the earth's surface, and in the fossil record. In this study, you'll encounter a man of faith who believed – and obeyed – even when doing so seemed foolish. Join us this summer for this series.



Good Shepherd Summer Study & Prayer Retreat The Medicine of Immortality Word and Sacrament in the life of the Christian

Saturday, June 28th at Valley Camp
Contact Pastor Brad for reservations



-Preschool News

www.littlelambstacoma.com

Praise and honor to our Heavenly King for such a wonderful year! We give thanks to God for all 23 students we had this year. We now go forward and ask God to bless us with many students for the 2014-2015 school year.

Tours of our preschool will gladly be given during the summer.

Thank you for all the prayer support you give to the preschool board, staff, students, and their families. We sincerely appreciate it and humbly ask for your continued prayer support.

Registrations are accepted anytime with a fee of \$70.00. Our preschool year will resume in September on the 2nd and 3rd for each class. If you know of anyone interested, please contact Bonnie Huset at 253-473-4848 or bonnie@goodshepherdluth.com.

Serving our Savior,
Bonnie Huset
Director / Teacher

Lunch Bunch

We are trying to arrange a date for a trip to the Tanner Farm for a visit with the animals and a picnic. Watch the bulletin for a date and more information.



Women in Mission / Women's Ministry

Summer Greetings!

Tuesday Bible Study and Quilters continues all summer. Drop in and see us!

Knitters Alert! We need a total of caps/hats for Seafarers Christmas boxes. They need to be completed before Thanksgiving so we can pack and wrap all 150 boxes.

Our ladies Tuesday Bible Study is currently studying Lutheranism 101. It is giving us fresh insight to our Lutheran beliefs. When did you last look at what Lutherans believe?

Children are welcome to come Tuesdays with an adult (teenagers...surprise us and bring yourself – we will welcome you!). Alaska District LWML Convention will be in Wenatchee June 20-22 for all to do His will as we are “Filled with His Will.”

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **DISTRICT CONVENTION**
June 20-22, Wenatchee
- **LADIES RETREAT –**
September 26-27, Camp Burton

Serving the Lord with Gladness,
Jane Oberg



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 21 – 25, 2014

9 AM – 12 PM

Call to register: 253-473-4848



*If you would like to volunteer
(teacher, craft, music, snacks,
floater, registration, etc.) please
contact the church office
253-473-4848.*