

# GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

June 2015

## Father's Day Thoughts



June 21 is Father's Day. The Bible has some words to say to fathers. Ephesians 6:4 is one of those: "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."

The term "father" is perhaps an overwhelming one. When we think of God as the perfect Father that He is, we know that we can never measure up. We could never be as patient, loving, and compassionate as our God is.

Yet, He has called us and blessed us to be fathers. God the Father's domain is great, ours is rather small. Yet, to some people, we are very important. We are our children's father. We are their spiritual mentors.

Someone once said: "Man is never so tall as when he kneels before God – never so great as when he humbles himself before God. And the man who kneels before God can stand up to anything."

May God give all fathers the wisdom, strength, and insight to be a good father. May they model God the Father in all their doings. May God give them patience. May they learn to forgive and they have been forgiven, for God's forgiveness washes away all sins. May they teach their children in God's love. And may they love their wives.

May God bless all fathers with His grace and mercy.

Blessings,  
*Pastor Gerken*

# Revisiting the Augsburg Confession:

## Articles 25 & 26: Of Confession, and Distinction of Meats

In Article 25, a firm defense of Confession and Absolution is given, as well as the declaration that: "Confession in the churches is not abolished among us. The body of the Lord is not usually given to those who have not been examined and absolved."

The Confession and Absolution referred to above is not the general or corporate confession most of us are familiar with at the opening of the liturgy, but a private event between a parishioner and their pastor. While the sacrament is still efficacious in general confession because of the Word of Christ, it's not the original intent of the Reformers. It is a joint duty of both pastors and laity to help bring this good and salutary practice back into familiarity among the churches of the Augsburg Confession. But even though it is not used as much now as it has been in centuries past, it is still available and used by those whose consciences are vexed by sin. If you call your pastor and ask for it, he will be delighted to serve you in this.

It is also worth noting that the Reformers saw the errors of Rome in this sacrament, and returned it again to a comfort for suffering Christians. Gone were the endless inquiries into the sinner's past, and gone was the horrible notion that forgotten or overlooked sins would not be forgiven. The people were free to come to their pastors, confess the sins that weighed upon their conscience, and hear the Absolution of God spoken from His lips-- a proclamation of grace from Jesus' Office of the Keys to which the forgiven sinner could cling by faith. This comfort was given as freely as Jesus poured out His blood for mankind. While the repentant sinner was expected to earnestly strive to amend their sinful life and make peace or restitution with those they had harmed, forgiveness was never tied to the amended life. Since Jesus gave forgiveness freely to His Church, the pastors of Jesus Church should give His forgiveness just as freely to others. In this way, Jesus remains central to the sacrament of Confession, and the Absolution remains a beautiful and free gift of grace.

Unfortunately, the idea of working to merit grace and the forgiveness of sins was so deeply rooted in Roman rituals, that Confession wasn't the only place it had to be addressed. In Article 26, the Reformers tackle this error as it played out in other forms of piety among the people.

When certain (in fact, a multitude of) traditions, rites, and fasting were put before the people as both a way to earn grace and to avoid hell, the people became terrified. Such a horrible system sent people into despair, as they realized it was impossible to keep them all while living out the lives and vocations God had given them. Maybe the monks could spend every waking hour in particular prayers, services, fasting, and so forth, but the average mother and father were too busy trying to raise and support their families. In order to reign in this abuse of traditions, the Reformers set again before the people's eyes the free gift of salvation by grace through faith in Christ alone.

Once the people understood that forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation came by grace through faith, their terror about working to earn merit or avoid hell quickly vanished. With that proper foundation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, traditions could be enjoyed for the good of the people, for good order, and for personal discipline. Fasting, self denial, rites and ceremonies become healthy ways to subdue our sinful flesh and prepare it for works of righteousness in our various vocations... never to be a blasphemous substitute to the merits and work of Christ. What the Reformers declare upon the witness of Holy Scripture is the centrality of the Gospel for everything in the life of the church and the life of the individual Christian. We would be wise to hear them and confess the same in our age. 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, June 20 – 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 Tribe that Nearly Went Extinct" (Judges 19-20)



## Summer Adult Bible Class

This summer's combined adult Bible class, taught by Pastor Gerken, will be in two parts. Part 1 will be a video Bible study on "The Week that Changed the World: A Historian Looks at Easter." The presenter on the video is Dr. Paul Maier. This theme was also the focus of his recent seminar.

Part 2 will be a study entitled: "The Tabernacle: God's Picture of Salvation." The tabernacle which God commanded the Israelites to build is filled with wonderful imagery that points to God's salvation in Jesus Christ.

We will begin on June 7<sup>th</sup>. Come and Join us!

## FINANCIAL UPDATE



At the end of April our checking account balance and giving did not allow us to pay our payroll and end of quarter obligations. These included medical and pension along with L & I. We had to borrow from savings to make up the difference.



Our shortage comes a little sooner than it usually has. Summer is not yet here and we are already facing the summer lean times. Planning to include the church in your summer schedule is important. Make Good Shepherd a regular payment so we can continue to pay our staff and our regular monthly bills.

Your prayerful consideration is important and does benefit our congregation. Thank you.

# –Preschool News

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

## *Sharing Christ, Feeding Lambs*



Our school year is completed, and we finished with 11 students. During the year we were home to 17 different children. Thanks be to God! Your prayers are continually welcome for all these children and their families, and for the many families we hope to serve next year.

Registration for the 2015-2016 school year continues. If you know of anyone looking for a preschool for next year, please direct them to our website or the church office at 253-473-4848 for more information or to schedule a tour.

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](http://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.

The accreditation site visit on May 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> went very well. The accreditation site team will be recommending us for the National Lutheran Schools Accreditation! The next step is to present our paperwork to the district office in Portland, Oregon, and from there it will be sent to the national office in St. Louis, Missouri. We should have our official notice of accreditation arriving by August 1, 2015. We sincerely appreciate all of your support and prayers. Please continue to pray for the growth and success of our preschool.

*Bonnie Huset*  
Director / Teacher

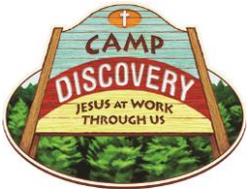


## **Lutheran Hour Ministries is sponsoring a Regional Outreach, September 25-26 at St. Luke's, Federal Way.**

No doubt you have heard the terms “Millennial” and “GenX” in recent news regarding the decline of the church. Are you wondering just who they are, and why they are disinterested in the church? The ROC will answer how you, the church, can teach these

generations to be discerning, influential followers of Christ. The registration is **\$125** for adults and **\$75** for youth (Age 14-18). But see Pastor Gerken (or the Church office) to see how you can get a 20% discount.

# VBS – Calling all Volunteers!



have a wonderful opportunity to share Jesus' love with all children. For some this may be

Vacation Bible School has been scheduled for **July 27 – 31**. This year's theme is "Camp Discovery – Jesus at Work Through Us." We

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 10<sup>th</sup>
- **Seafarers' Aux.** – Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>

Hello Sisters in Christ! We missed you at the Spring Rally at St. Luke's so please **mark your calendar for October 24<sup>th</sup>** as *we* will be hosting the **Fall Rally**.

Tuesday Bible Study and Quilting continues year round—give us a try.

Recently quilters completed 20 quilts for Lutheran World Relief, 15 for Little Lambs Preschool and 1 for Mount Rainier High School (for their auction) for a total of 36!

Has anyone seen the "C" clams from the quilters work area? Several are missing.

Missing also are Your Mites (note: Purple \$5 bills work as well as coins).

Retreats – yes...plural! Good Shepherd Ladies' Retreat September 18-19 at Camp Burton and Washington/Alaska District Retreat September 25-27 at Icicle Inn in Leavenworth. You are invited to attend *both* of these—what works for your life!

Serving the Lord,  
*Jane Oberg*

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## Lunch Bunch

For June, watch your bulletin for details. We are planning a field trip to the Historic Puyallup Fish Hatchery, followed by a picnic lunch. The date and time are still being worked on.

So, do watch your bulletin for more information.

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