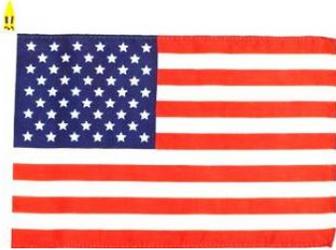


GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

July 2011

“As American As...”



Years ago, there was an advertisement that went something like, “As American as baseball, hot dogs, apple pie, and Chevrolet.” On the 4th of July, the most American of all holidays, it’s only natural to talk about this country.

But someone pointed out to me recently that we have a problem. Did you know that the hot dog eating champion for many years running was a Japanese fellow by the name of Takeru Kobayashi? And baseball? More and more players and coming from Latin America and Japan. As far as Chevrolet, Toyota has sold more cars in the United States than General Motors. The only thing left on our list of American favorites is apple pie.

This leads me to ask, “If these truly American things have been bumped to the side, is there anything in which we can believe? Is there anyone in whom we can place our trust? Is there anybody who can always be counted on?” Scripture provides the answer. God says, “I am the Lord, I change not.” (Malachi 3:6).

While I rejoice in my country, and give thanks to God for the many blessings it offers, I thank the Lord most of all for the Savior whose forgiveness, love, and grace can be counted on forever. Even if the mountains crumble and apple pie is no longer palatable, the Lord will be with me. This is why I will trust in Him as my best friend and truest support.

Blessings,
Pastor Dan



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What's a Synod good for, Anyway?

As we step into the season of Pentecost, there are several aspects of living the faith that come to mind. Christ, knowing what would happen to His disciples after His departure, prayed very pointedly to the Father that His people should be one, just as He and the Father are One. Nearly 2000 years after Jesus prayed that prayer, we look out on a divided Christianity, and often wonder to ourselves, just how are we supposed to walk together in our own day? What does it mean for us to be One?

While many solutions to these questions have been offered over the course of Christian history, I'd like to point us back to the Scriptures for their answers. First off, we should be confident that what Jesus prays for, He receives. He and the Father are One, so there is nothing in the will of Christ which deviates from the will of the Father... when Jesus prays that His followers would all be One, you better believe that they will be. And what marks a disciple of Christ? Well, Jesus points that one out, too: they are those who love Him, and remain in His Word. And so, we see that the Church which is formed by the power of His Word, is united

in His Word... in the Word made Flesh, who dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. The Apostles and Prophets bore witness to the Word of God Incarnate, and we have communion with them all as we remain in His Word. As it was in the beginning, so it is now, and ever shall be—the Word of God binds everything together.

Here we see a principle at work in the people of God, binding us together in Christ. We are called not to walk alone according to our own desires and understandings, but rather to walk together in the Word of Christ. In His Word we find new life, faith, repentance, forgiveness, and salvation. While that salvation comes to each one of us individually through Word and Sacrament, we are saved together into one people, one Church, which the gates of hell shall never prevail against. As St. Paul says, there is but one Lord, one faith, one baptism—one God and Father of all who live by grace through faith in Christ.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, when she functions at her best, points all her members back to these important truths. A synod is a gathering, where those who come together, commit to

walking together, with a shared confession and piety. We are not just solo Christians, or even solo parishes, but rather we are a gathering of believers, held together by the Word of Christ, and our common witness to that Word in the Lutheran Confessions. We walk together in faith, hope, and love, in so far as we are humanly able, preserving the bonds of peace.

But when human sin creates division between the followers of Christ, we are reminded that Christ is more powerful, even than our sin. His cross demonstrates that He is triumphant over sin, death, and the devil... even that which we think divides us today. Those who remain in the Word of Christ, remain united in Him who gives His people life—and we must remember, that while branches may wrangle with each other vainly, they are all supported by the Vine, which gives faith, life, and salvation. May we so remain in the Word of Christ, that we see the unity for which He prayed, among all the baptized faithful of every time and place. Amen.

Pastor Brad

“GROW 2011” Will Soon Be Here! Our Annual Endowment Fund Dinner & Auction, is scheduled for September 24th. Now is the time to begin planning what your group will contribute by way of gift baskets, items, or services for the auction. We look forward to another opportunity to “grow” the Good Shepherd Endowment Fund that assists families who have their children in Christian schools. The interest from the endowment fund is used for scholarships.

President's Corner

Greetings to you and your family. I hope your summer thus far has been enjoyable and memorable.

I would like to remind you all that Valley Camp is coming up the first weekend in August. If you have not had the opportunity to attend in previous years or have not received any information on this camping trip, please check it out. This is a nice camping area that is difficult to get reservations for, due to its popularity among organizations. Good Shepherd has been fortunate to have a standing reservation for years now. The facility offers places for

camping trailers, a nice grassy area for tents, a community lodge (that we use for meals as well), and small cabins (you will need to ask to find out what it takes to reserve one of these).

There are other exciting activities going on during the summer, so make sure you are staying in touch (Rainier games, Youth Group activities, church picnic, etc.).

We have now done the Fellowship Sunday for a year. As promised, I would be happy to hear any thoughts you have on what you like or don't like about it, or if you have ideas on how to improve it. Also, if you have other ideas on themes we

could use, please share those as well.

I have another question for all of you. What sort of spiritual questions do you have? When your brain wonders off during church because the pastor triggered some sort of thought provoking idea, what things do you contemplate? What would you ask Jesus if he was standing in front of you and promised to answer any question?

God bless the rest of your summer and I look forward to seeing all of you.

Julian Doyle

Summer Sunday School and Bible Class News

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED for Pre-K through 4th Grade. A sign-up sheet is on the narthex bulletin board. Sign up soon!

SUMMER ADULT BIBLE CLASSES:

- **"GRAND CANYON AND THE GENESIS FLOOD," July 3rd**. A slide presentation by Tom & Marilyn Reese showing that the Grand Canyon is strong evidence for the Genesis Flood and not millions of years.
- **"THE BIBLE ON TRIAL" Beginning July 10th**. Set in a courtroom, The Bible on Trial: Beyond a Reasonable Doubt, examines the contributions of Biblical analysis ancient historical voices, archeology, and the testimony of first-century followers of Jesus Christ in its quest to determine the reliability and accuracy of the Bible message.

Men's Breakfast / Bible Study July 16th

Join us **Saturday, July 16th** at **7 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: "The Cave of Machpela (Genesis 23)." *Pastor Dan*

It's Music in God's Ears

As the energy of an awakening spring yields to the relaxation of a simmering summer, many of us are planning for vacations, family time and trips to the beach. Others are celebrating graduations and making plans for an exciting new period of their lives. I invite you to join me in planning for some new opportunities right here at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church—opportunities that will benefit the way we live, the way we study the Word, and the way we worship.

For some time now, our Youth have been meeting on Wednesday evenings for Fellowship and Study. Your Board of Education is now making plans for September of next year to offer additional Bible Studies and Discussion Groups for all ages on Wednesday evenings. This will be a wonderful opportunity for all of us to dig deeper into the Word of God. Furthermore, this will allow us to fellowship

across the generations of our church family, drawing us ever closer to God and to each other. Stay tuned as details for this new opportunity are worked out!

So why announce this in a column usually dedicated to Music and Worship topics? To accommodate these new study groups, we will be moving our Shepherd's Choir rehearsals from Wednesday to Thursday nights. This will create a "Music Night" at Good Shepherd: Shepherd's Bells rehearsal followed almost immediately by the Shepherd's Choir.

With this new layout of the schedule I would like to issue an invitation to all our youth (7th through 12th grade) to join either of these groups. I also encourage everyone to consider joining Bells or Choir. Previous experience is welcome but not required. We are happy to teach you everything you need to

know! If you have ever wanted to join either group or have just wanted to see what we do at our rehearsals, the Fall would be the perfect time to do so.

Finally, in the Fall we are hoping to create a new group for youth who are interested in offering their musical skills in worship. The form of this group would depend entirely on the number of young people involved and their particular interests. If you play an instrument or sing and would be interested in serving in this new group, please contact me!

Please let me know what you think about these new opportunities and if you are interested in participating in any of them: you can send an e-mail to me through the church website:
www.goodshepherdluth.com.

Blessings!
DVP (Denes Van Parys)



JOIN THE RHYTHM OF LIFE

Join Our Good Shepherd Team.

Go To: WWW.4US.ORG

Date of Event: July 30, 2011

Fort Steilacoom Park

If you cannot participate on July 30th, you may sign up to support the Good Shepherd Team. Sign up sheet is posted in the narthex on the bulletin board.

Women's Brunch & Bible Study / Pink Shoe

We will have our Summer Break in July and August, resuming in September. Have a wonderful summer!

Lunch Bunch News

FYI LUNCH BUNCH - Our July meeting will be an outing to The Wilcox Family Farms in McKenna.



First of all, please note: **A CHANGE OF DATE** - instead of July 5th we will go on **TUESDAY, JULY 12TH**. Besides a tour of their chicken/egg operation there is an old school house on the property, plus two museums. The tour will be from 10:00 until about 12:00 noon. Pastor Dan has reserved a bus from Concordia School for us - so be at church to leave shortly after 9:00 A. M. that day. Depending on the interest, we will arrange for ""sack lunches" or go to a local restaurant.

Cost for this tour will be **\$6.00 per person, plus \$3.00 (\$9.00 total)** for the sack lunch, We are hoping for at least 25, plus, to cover the cost of the tour. We do have a reserve fund from our tour of the Tacoma Water front that might cover the rental of the bus. **PLEASE WATCH SUNDAY BULLETINS FOR ANY FURTHER DETAILS. PLEASE "SIGN UP" SOON ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN NARTHEX.**

Pastor Ken Boetcher
253-847-5925



Women in Mission

No Bible Study or Quilting on Tuesday, July 5th.

Weekly Bible Study on Tuesdays at 9:15 am.

Weekly Quilting on Tuesdays at 10 am.

A monthly Bible Study on the second Saturday at 9:30 am.

Mites collected on July 10th

Have you noticed the smaller Mite Box? No less is needed for mites...we just needed room for a box to collect items for the Seafarers' Christmas boxes!

We need:

Please help us with:

- Unscented Bars of DOVE Soap
- Chap Stick
- Soft Adult Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste

Please help us fulfill our goal of 150 boxes (packing will be before Thanksgiving).

Mark your calendars:

- September 30-October 2, District Retreat in Post Falls, Idaho. Theme: "Going Places with our Savior," John 14:5-6.
- October 15th – Fall Rally at King of Glory, Purdy

Remember Mites are Washington – Alaska District and National LWML (2009-2011 National Goal of \$1,825 Million). Little amounts add up!

Upcoming: More information on "52 Weeks of Giving Thanks and Doing Without...Sharing our Blessings with Others"

Serving the Lord with gladness!

Jane Oberg
475-2832





Preschool News

www.littlelambstacoma.com

Our preschool is enjoying our summer vacation and gearing up for our school year beginning this fall. We are currently accepting students to join our classes. If you or someone you know is interested in our preschool please call 253-473-4848 or visit our website at www.littlelambstacoma.com. Visiting our preschool is also an option. Please call first as our summer hour' schedule varies day to day.

Please continue to pray for our preschool, students, their families, our staff, and school board. We truly appreciate your prayer support as we continue to strive and grow as a spiritual ministry for our congregation and community. Thank you!

Bonnie Jean Huset
Preschool Director / Teacher

Congratulations Graduates!

Eric Durkopp	Rogers High School	Plans to attend Central Washington University, Ellensburg with a goal of a Bachelor of Arts degree in Video Productions
Michael Durkopp	Rogers, High School	Plans to attend Pierce Technical College, Puyallup, WA, with a goal of an Associate's degree in Computer Networking Engineering
Christopher Flint	Lincoln High School	Joined the Army, will be attending Basic Training at Ft. Benning, Georgia (leaves June 28 th), with a goal of Medical Technician.
Steven Rich	Lincoln High School	<i>No information available at press time.</i>
Andrew Suarez	Lincoln High School	Attending Bates Technical College, with a goal of a Culinary Arts degree