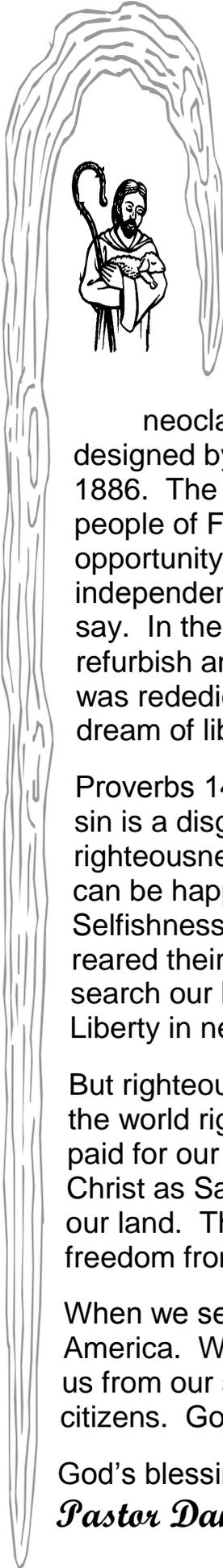


GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

July 2012

Decoration of Independence



The Statue of Liberty is a colossal neoclassical sculpture in New York Harbor designed by Frederic Bartholdi. It was dedicated in 1886. The statue, a gift to the United States from the people of France symbolizes freedom and liberty and opportunity. It has become a “decoration of independence” as Billy from *The Family Circus* might say. In the 1980s a grass-roots effort was made to refurbish and repair the decaying statue. As the statue was rededicated in 1986, it reaffirmed the American dream of liberty for all.

Proverbs 14:34 says, “Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.” It speaks of national righteousness and sin. Certainly God has blessed America and we have much we can be happy about. Nevertheless, America also reveals a record of sin. Selfishness, greed, prejudice, manipulation, corruption, and lovelessness have reared their heads in politics, business, labor, and even in the church. We need to search our hearts and confess our sins as American citizens. Like the Statue of Liberty in need of repairs, our values have been tarnished and our ideals corroded.

But righteousness is ultimately God’s doing, not ours. Despite our sin, He declared the world righteous, based on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, who fully paid for our sins. By His Spirit God makes us righteous through faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, and we are empowered to live righteously as citizens of our land. Thus, for us, the symbol (the decoration of our independence) of our freedom from sin, death, and Satan’s power is Christ’s cross.

When we see “Lady Liberty” we are reminded of the freedoms we enjoy here in America. When we see the cross of Christ, we are reminded of how God cleansed us from our sins and renewed us to live righteously for Him and for our fellow citizens. God bless America!

God’s blessings,
Pastor Dan

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil and Jeff Keane



“C’mon, Daddy! It’s time to put up the decorations of independence!”

from *JoyfulNoiseletter.com*
Reprinted with permission of Bil Keane

A Question About The Soul

Someone hit me with a fascinating question the other day, and I thought I would share it with you... along with my best attempt to chew on it. The question had to do with where a person's soul comes from, and the complicating factor of Original Sin. It's actually a very thorny question that has been brought up from antiquity (the likes of Plato, and other ancient Greeks and Romans tried their hands at the question,) and continues to confuse people into the present day. Let's start answering this question from what we know in Scripture.

First, we should look at how Scripture reveals the way God made us. Initially when we were created in the Garden, we read in Genesis that God formed us from the earth, and breathed into us the breath of life. That breath is what we generally refer to as the soul. For people, that soul is created in the image of God, together with our bodies, and that's a fundamental difference between us and the animals (who also have God's breath of life, but not the same divine image in the soul.)

And this makes sense, too. We know that we must have a beginning, and that God is the First Cause of all that is created (i.e., He's the Creator of every creature.) And, we know that if our soul is eternal (and thus, indivisible,) it has to come from God, since in our finite humanity, we aren't able to make infinite things (one of those principles that shows up in physics, where you can't give what you don't have... and

since each person only has one, indivisible soul, we don't have any extras to give away... new souls must be created by Him who has the ability to create such things.)

But after the Fall of man into sin and death, how do people get souls? Well, first off, we know that every human being that has descended from Adam and Eve, has inherited from them Original Sin, and a corrupted human nature. We know this because Scripture tells us so, and we can see it on every human face—even children—because everybody eventually dies as a consequence of sin. We know that every person who is born into the world, comes from parents, who not only are used by God to produce those children, but also give of themselves (physically of their very DNA, and spiritually, of their Original Sin,) to help create those new people. Like so much of what God does, He works through means to accomplish His designs—in this case, He uses parents to give birth to children.

But those parents don't have the ability to create immortal souls, nor to pass along to their children anything other than a distorted and fallen image of God. So, if the parents didn't create the soul that their children inherited, it must have come from the only One who can create an immortal soul: God Himself. Here we see that God creates the human soul, continuing to breath His life into every human being. Jesus tells us that He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life... and there

is no living person who comes into being, who does not receive from God their very soul.

However, does that mean that God is creating faulty souls, doomed to hell? No, God is not creating faulty souls every time He breaths life into a new child. However, that person who is born is not just a soul and a body stuck together by glue—the unity of the soul and the body forms one individual person. It is our person which is corrupted by Original Sin, not just our flesh or our soul—we as individual people, are under the curse of sin. What God breaths into us for good, is immediately corrupted by our own sinful flesh, and we become one living person under the curse. When we are conceived in sin, at the very moment God breathes His life-giving soul into us, our sinful corruption ensures we are corrupted in our whole person, body and soul. Of course, if God refrained from breathing a living soul into us at our conception, we would never live at all, and never have the hope of redemption in Christ. But thanks be to God, that He does not leave us to suffer in our corruption! He sends to us His grace and love through Jesus Christ, who in His own body and soul, makes payment for your sin and mine. Through our Baptism into Christ, we are washed of our sin, given a new birth from above by Water and Spirit, and both our body and our soul is sanctified in Jesus. By God's grace in creating us, we live even though sinful humanity should have no right to life at all—and by God's

grace in Jesus Christ, what He has begun in us through creation, He completes through redemption.

So, while we wait for the resurrection of the dead for our perfected and redeemed bodies to rise from their graves, our souls are already renewed and cleansed from the stain of sin by the Blood of the Lamb. When we die in this world, our sanctified soul ascends to Christ our Savior, even as our corrupted flesh is laid in the

tomb. When Christ comes again to judge the living and the dead, He will join our perfected soul to our newly perfected body, and once again we will be a whole and perfect person—body and soul resurrected in perfect unity, never to die again. As with so many things, if we stick to what Scripture reflects in questions such as these, we can avoid the pitfalls that philosophers and heretics have stumbled into over the centuries. We simply receive

the Biblical witness as the Church has always received it down through the centuries, and bear witness to the Truth. And ultimately, that Truth is revealed most clearly in the person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ, who as the Author of Life, is the source of our present life, and our eternal life as well. Praise be to Him forever—amen.

Pastor Brad

Worshipping With Intention, Part IV

As summer continues, many of us will find ourselves travelling, vacationing and, in general, taking advantage of the beauty of creation, especially in the great Pacific Northwest. I hope that you and your family will continue to value corporate worship as you work out your schedule. Look for congregations that you can worship with as you travel. Take the opportunity to find time for family worship when you find yourselves out in the “great outdoors” on the Lord’s Day.

These are all admonitions that you are sure to have heard many times before but allow me to add one extra part to your “summer assignment.”

Whether it is at Good Shepherd, at another congregation or in the blessing of family worship by side of some scenic lake, let us decide to worship with intention and reverence. Let us plan to embrace each moment of the Divine Service with the honor due the God whom we worship.

All too often, we approach Corporate Worship like an All-You-Can-Eat Buffet; we nibble at the parts we really like, make a pretense of tasting some and ignoring the rest. Even worse, we sometimes disrupt the function of the service for example, by socializing during prayer times or reading the bulletin instead of listening to the Sermon.

How much more joyous and blessed would our worship be if we approached the historic Liturgy of the Divine Service as the specially planned gourmet meal that it truly is. The Master Chef has carefully crafted a wonderful gift to us through providence, divine guidance and the wisdom of the great saints who have preceded us. If we came to Divine Service with that kind of expectation, we would cherish each and every morsel.

Finally, let us stop to consider WHY what is done is, in fact, done. Why do we always have Confession and Absolution at the beginning of each service? Why does the “Kyrie” follow

and leads to the “Gloria”? Why do we sing “Lamb of God” just after the Minister recites the Words of Jesus and before we partake of the Bread and Wine? (*All questions with answers worth discussing in the coming months.*)

If we start addressing WHY our services are structured the way they are, then we will start to understand the wisdom, in many cases, of preserving tradition and also recognize, in some cases, the reason for allowing some things to change.

I believe that if we really stopped to consider what is happening during a Worship Service, we would gain greater clarity about the “whys” and “wherefores” and begin to focus more on the “who.” And that ‘WHO’ is always HIM.

Blessings!

DVP (Denes Van Parys)

Men's Breakfast / Bible Study July 21st

Join us **Saturday, July 21st** 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: "The Beat Down by the Pyramids" (Exodus 5-10). *Pastor Dan*

Preschool News

www.littlelambstacoma.com



During the summer months it is time for inventory, cleaning, upgrades, improvements, etc. Our preschool is busy with activities related to these projects.

The courtyard glass windows will be replaced with tempered safety glass. Our preschool is now equipped to receive tuition payments and donations using credit cards and Pay Pal on our web site. We still have room for students for the 2012-2013 preschool year. Please look us up using our website

or call 473-4848 and come visit. Tours are available during the summer when scheduled in advance.

Thank you for your continued prayer support.

Serving our Savior,

Bonnie Jean Huset
Preschool Director / Teacher



Women in Mission

Please join us for our regular weekly activities in July!

Weekly Bible Study on Tuesdays at 9:15 am.

Weekly Quilting on Tuesdays at 10 am.

(Please note: there will be no Bible Study or Quilting on July 24th.)

Mites Collected – July 8th

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT AT VALLEY CAMP August 3rd – 5th

Plan now to attend this fun weekend. Saturday noon is highlighted by a pot blessing (hamburgers provided) for all. Watch the bulletin board in the narthex for a sign up sheet.

You may also call church office at 473-4848 to reserve your spot.

Lunch Bunch News

Some months ago a group met to rejuvenate our former **Prime Timers** that had operated for years at Good Shepherd. It was decided to establish something new - hence the name **LUNCH BUNCH** and the meeting date of the first Tuesday of each month. So far those two changes have been heeded and each month we have started with a devotion from Pastor Gerken, a shared meal at noon, and then some type of program.

Our program time has varied also from playing games, such as bingo, watching a video of a religious singing group, listening to a speaker, and in the summer months trying to go on outings away from our church property. There is no formal membership for participation in any of our activities. If you show up; you are a part of the LUNCH BUNCH for that day and any time you choose to be.

In June we had a guided tour of the Chase Gardens, just outside of Graham. It was very interesting to learn how one couple developed their acreage by using plants that are native to our state. After the tour we enjoyed box lunches prepared by Rosetta.

On Tuesday, July 10 we plan to have an outdoor picnic at a surprise location. If you want to join us, be at church by 11:00; bring a dish for a picnic to share, and some type of game that a number of us can play.

In August we will take an excursion on Lake Union in Seattle by means of the paddle boat "Queen of Seattle". Interested? Sign the sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex. Pay in advance \$22 to Elaine Davies. For this outing, each will take their own sack lunch which we will eat on the boat.

For our September meeting on Tuesday the 4th a group of our youth who will be on a mission trip this summer will come and share their experience with us.

For the rest of the year we do not have definite plans but we are open to any suggestions from you. Please come and share your ideas with us. Details for most of our meetings will appear in the Sunday bulletins right before the event.

Pastor Ken Boetcher

Holiday Faire Newsflash!

This year's Faire will be before Thanksgiving and will last for **2 Days!**

Mark your calendar for **November 16th** and **17th**. These new dates will allow you to shop the Faire before you hit the black Friday sales. Please continue your craft projects. We appreciate your donations and cannot do it without your help. – Craft Guild

VBS Needs Your Help

Our Vacation Bible School is hoping to transform the fellowship hall and a few classrooms into a desert oasis and caravan site. We are asking to borrow 5-6 easy ups or tents, large floor pillows or bean bag chairs, oriental style rugs, blankets, and beach towels. If you are willing to loan us these items please let us know and you may bring your items on July 15th 16th, and 17th, as we will begin set up on Wednesday July 18th. Thank you.



SIGN UP SOON! 4US is scheduled for **Saturday, July 28th**.

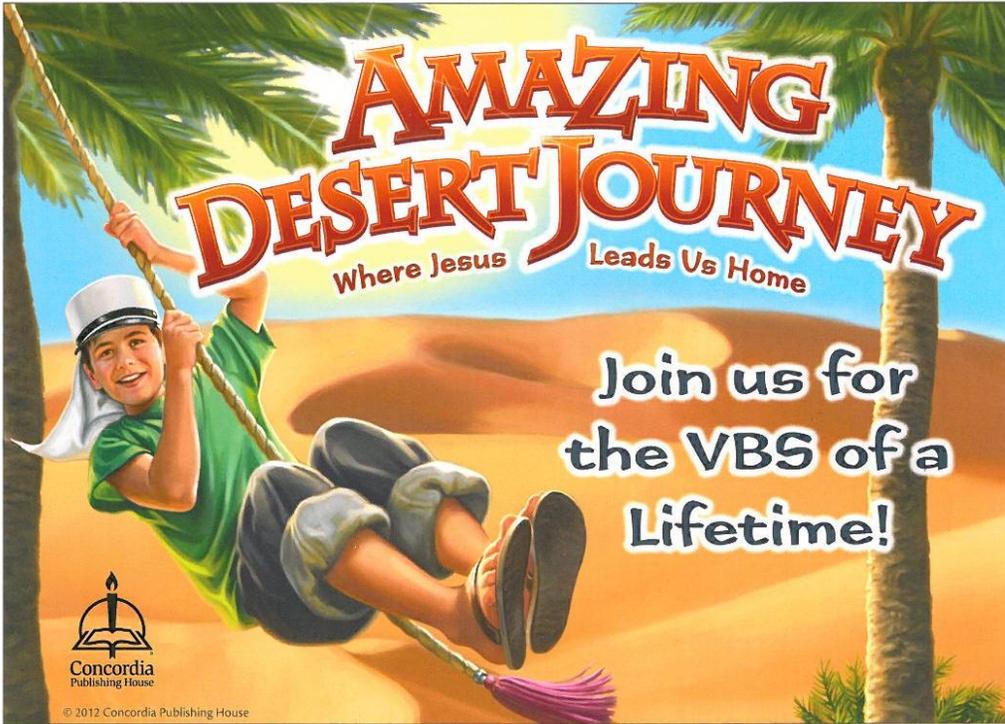
You may join the Good Shepherd Team, or sign up to donate. Funds raised help purchase ultra sound machines for pregnancy centers that provide free services to women in need.

RAINIERS NIGHT

Friday, July 13th at 7:05 pm.

Sign up today. Questions? Talk to Norm Gerken.





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

(Volunteers, donations, and supplies
are always appreciated and helpful!)

Vacation Bible School Registration

Child's name _____ One form per child, please.

Grade completed _____ Birthday _____ Age _____

Parents' names _____

Home address _____

Home phone _____ Alternate phone _____

Emergency contact person _____ Relationship to student _____

Home phone _____ Alternate phone _____

Food allergies Y N (List:) _____

Medical concerns Y N (Explain:) _____

Family doctor _____ Doctor's phone _____

Siblings attending VBS (names and ages) _____

Church affiliation _____ Church membership at _____

People who may pick up the child _____

Transportation needed? Y N Attendance 1 2 3 4 5

VBS leaders have permission to photograph/film the minor (s) designated above in any manner or form for any lawful purpose associated with this VBS program.

Parent's signature _____