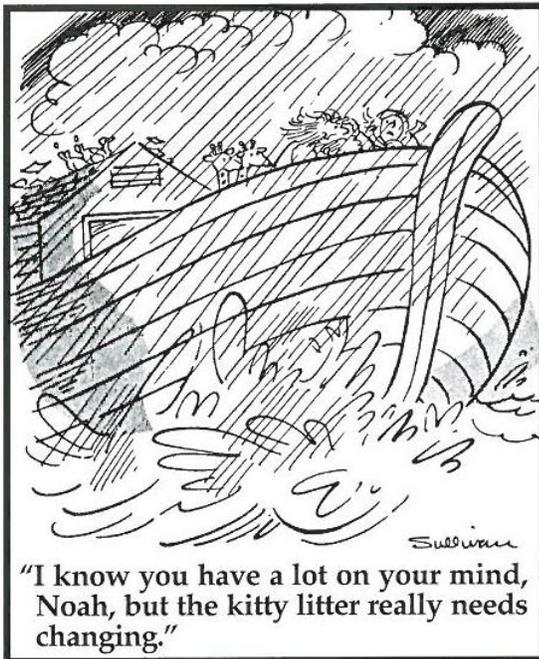


# GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

July 2014

## Lessons From Noah's Ark

Here's everything you needed to know, as learned from Noah's Ark (borrowed from The Joyful Noiseletter):



from JoyfulNoiseletter.com  
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- Don't miss the boat.
- Remember that we are all on the same boat.
- Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.
- Stay fit. When you're 60 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.
- Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
- Build your future on high ground.
- For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
- When you're stressed, float awhile.
- Remember, the ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.
- No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow ending.

All fun aside, join us the summer for a special Bible study on "Noah: the Man, the Ark, the Flood. Join us as we examine the biblical account of Noah's flood and search for evidence of the biblical deluge in the records of ancient civilizations, on the earth's surface, and in the fossil record. In Noah and the flood we see Law and Gospel. We see God's judgment for sin and His rescue from sin by grace. See what it means for Judgment Day. We will meet each Sunday during the Bible Class time (9:30 am) in the Fellowship Hall.

Blessings,  
*Pastor Dan*

# Revisiting the Augsburg Confession:

## Article VI: Of the New Obedience (Good Works)

Few things can get a good theological conversation roiling, like a discussion of Good Works. Just what are Christians obligated to do? What are they capable of doing? What impact does a Christian's works have on their life in this world, and their life in the next? The Reformation era was not the only time in Church history where this was hotly debated, but in that time, our Lutheran forefathers set down some of the best arguments in our Augsburg Confession (and the Apology.) This month, we'll review the role of Good Works in the life of the Christian.

Two phrases that seem to stymie folks in this debate show up in Article VI, in bold below:

Also they teach that this faith is bound to bring forth good fruits, and that it is necessary to do good works commanded by God, because of God's will, but that we should not rely on those works to merit justification before God. For remission of sins and justification is apprehended by faith, as also the voice of Christ attests: When ye shall have done all these things, say: We are unprofitable servants. Luke 17, 10. The same is also taught by the Fathers. For Ambrose says: It is ordained of God that he who believes in Christ is saved, freely receiving remission of sins, without works, by faith alone.

How can it be, that it is necessary for the Christian to do good works, and yet that the Christian cannot trust or rely on good works before God? The answer comes in a

proper distinction of Law and Gospel. The Law is always necessary for the Christian, because it shows us what is good and what is evil—from the Ten Commandments given on Mount Sinai, to the Great Commandments given by Christ. Because we are sinners in our fallen nature, we see the Law as both holy, and deadly. We know what we ought to do, say, think, and avoid, but we often find ourselves doing, saying, thinking, and avoiding all the wrong things. Just as the Law commands us to love God with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind, we find our hearts divided, our soul dried up, our strength weakened, and our minds clouded. It is still the eternal command of God, necessary for all people, to love Him—but we simply aren't capable of divine love, in our broken state. The Law declares to us what is holy, good, and righteous, and we are still obliged to keep it... even as that same Law declares to us the consequences of our failure, which is death.

But this is where the Gospel comes in. While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. He becomes the satisfaction for our sins—our Justification before God—so that the curse of the Law no longer applies to us. Living by His grace, through faith in Him, we receive His holiness in exchange for our sin, which is what theologians call the Vicarious Atonement: Jesus dead on a Cross, and we alive in Him. We can't earn what Jesus earned for us, but we can receive His free gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation on His terms, which is a living, trusting, faith in Him.

This faith, alive in Jesus by His grace, works itself out in doing, saying, thinking, and avoiding what the Law of Love commands. To be sure, we are still broken sinners by nature, but now by grace through faith, we also have a new nature made in Jesus' image by the power of the Holy Spirit. This new nature now fights against the old nature, as Jesus works good through us that we could never accomplish on our own. This living faith of the Christian therefore must bring forth good works, because that's what Jesus does through His disciples. We being the branches and He being the Vine, we cannot help but bring forth good fruit, anymore than the branch of an apple tree can resist the fruit produced through it by the tree.

In this way, the Christian could never depend on his good works to save him. He knows that he couldn't keep the Law on his own, and that he only lives by grace through faith in Jesus. But he is also aware that while he is in this flesh, in this world of sin and evil, his new nature will continually be at war with his old nature, as the New Adam works to drown the Old Adam. Can the Christian resist Jesus by rejecting faith and embracing his old sinful nature? Sure he can... and often does, which is why Christians still sin, and always need repentance. But the Christian, by the power of the Holy Spirit, can also yield himself by faith to Jesus in his new nature, and bring forth the works of Jesus toward God and neighbor. This faith working in love is what we often refer to as Sanctification, as Jesus continues to conform us to His image by His Spirit working

through His Word. As He causes us to become more like Him, our works reflect His works, and our fallen human nature becomes more like His glorious human nature.

And so we say rightly, that good works are necessary for the Christian, because living faith in Jesus always works itself out in the loving works of Jesus. When the Christian finds himself enmeshed

in sin, having yielded to his sinful nature, he is called back to faith and repentance, that he may hear Jesus' Gospel applied to him again and again: that he is forgiven by the grace earned through Jesus' Cross. So the Christian never stands upon his works, but upon grace alone, through faith alone, in Jesus Christ alone. Only Jesus saves, because only His Works

satisfy our sins before the Father. And as we live in Jesus by grace through faith, He will work His works through us, conforming us ever more to His image. This is the New Obedience of the Christian, the life and love brought forth by the life and love of Jesus poured out for us. Amen.

*Pastor Brad*



## **CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!**

**Jessica Varvil**

**from Mount Rainier Lutheran High School**

**Plans to attend St. Martin's University in Lacey, Washington**

**Micah Schmidt**

**from Concordia Seminary – Saint Louis, Missouri**

**Was called to serve as Pastor at Living Branch Lutheran Church,  
North Branch, Minnesota**

**Men's Breakfast / Bible Study**

**Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup> – 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 "God's on the War Path!" (Joshua 2-6) *Pastor Dan*



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

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# -Preschool News

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

## Sharing Christ, Feeding Lambs

Thank you to everyone who has supported the preschool through prayers, volunteer hours, donations for use in the classroom, and monetary gifts. We would also like to thank Thrivent and the Thrivent Choice Dollars program for this financial support via the Thrivent members who listed the preschool to receive those donations. Our gratitude also goes out to the Thrivent Members who listed the preschool as the financial recipient. Everyone who supports the preschool in any way plays an important role in our ministry. We thank God for your support and pray that He would continue to bless you and your Little Lambs Preschool

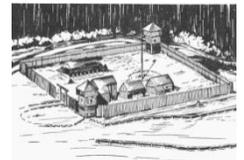
Registrations are accepted anytime with a fee of \$70.00. Our preschool year will resume in September on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> for each class. If you know of anyone interested, please contact Bonnie Huset at 253-473-4848 or [bonnie@goodshepherdluth.com](mailto:bonnie@goodshepherdluth.com). Tours of our preschool will gladly be given during the summer.

Serving our Savior,  
*Bonnie Huset*  
Director / Teacher

## LUNCH BUNCH JULY EVENT



For **July**, we will meet **July 8<sup>th</sup>** and leave the church at **11 am** in car pools for a **Pot Blessing Picnic** at **Point Defiance**. Following the picnic we plan to tour the **Fort Nisqually Living History Museum**.  
The entry fee is **\$6.00** for seniors.



## LUNCH BUNCH AUGUST PICNIC



**Tuesday, August 12<sup>th</sup>** (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday) At Boetcher's in Graham at **11:30 am**

Meet at church at **10:30 am** to pool rides.

**Furnished:** Chicken - Drink – Table Service

PLEASE BRING A SALAD OR DESSERT

Indicate on sign up sheet and reserve by **Sunday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>** on sheet in Narthex area.

ALL ARE WELCOME!





## Women in Mission / Women's Ministry

Ladies, Sisters in Christ,

Summer is here...are you here? Tuesdays are Bible Study and Quilting mornings, except for VBS week. Mark your calendars for **July 11<sup>th</sup>** for Ladies Movie Night.

Knitters, how are you coming to meet our goal of 150 hats for the Seafarers' Christmas Boxes? Five more months till we pack those boxes!

The Summer Quarterly has an intriguing cover picture of a sweet faced dog. Tell me what you think of the articles.

- **LADIES RETREAT –**  
**September 26-27, Camp Burton**

Serving the Lord with Gladness,  
*Jane Oberg*



### **Ladies! A Special Invitation**

**Ladies and Teens of Good Shepherd: "Girls" night at the movies!**

**Friday, July 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm, we will watch, SAVING MR BANKS**

Bring snacks if you want. Wear comfy clothes and if you would like, bring your pillow or lounge chair.

**See you there!**



**...It is summertime!!**

You know what that means, ladies, the retreat is just around the corner! Sign-up will start soon, payment arrangements can be made, financial aid is available on a limited basis. As part of the retreat this year, we will be doing some projects. We need donations of fleece material to make some baby blankets. Monetary donations can also be made to purchase the material. We are gearing up for an awesome retreat at Camp Burton Retreat Center! Look for more information coming soon.



# 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.*

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**YES!**

**I would like to volunteer to help during VBS 2014**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**I am interested in helping in the following area:**

\_\_\_\_\_

*Please return to an usher, the church office, or Debbie Tanner.*