

GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

July 2015

Independence Day



We who live in the United States enjoy many freedoms. We celebrate and remember them on July 4th, Independence Day. We Americans enjoy those freedoms only because of the actions of others. The independence we enjoy today is dependent on the selfless actions of those who fought for freedom in times past and in world conflicts today.

Until Jesus returns on the Last Day, sin, death, and Satan still exert control over us. But because we believe in and depend on Jesus' death and resurrection for our salvation, we are free from the

condemnation we deserve because of our sins. Jesus willingly gave His life to pay the price we owed God for our disobedience. Jesus' powerful and complete sacrifice for the sins of the world means we can be certain God's removal of our sins knows no bounds. As the psalmist says, "As far as the east is from the west, so far does [God] removed our transgressions from us" (103:12).

Daily, the Holy Spirit works in us to clean any sins from our hearts and to free us from them. Freed from the burdens our sins cause us, we are enabled to love and serve the Lord, knowing that through faith in Jesus, we are God's children forever.

Blessings,
Pastor Dan

A Fond Farewell

Now that July is upon us, I suppose the time has finally come for our paths to part. As most of you know, it has been our profound pleasure and honor to serve the people of Good Shepherd as your associate pastor for the last five years. Our family has been blessed to walk with you through various ups and downs, sharing each other's hopes, fears, joys, tears... and more than a few very good beers.

When we first came into the orbit of Good Shepherd, our family had just moved to the area from St. Louis. We were looking for a solid, traditional Lutheran congregation to attend while I was studying at Faith Seminary in Tacoma. In the midst of all the craziness of our move and resettling, you were there to offer us the safe harbor of Christ's Word and Sacraments, extending to us your love and friendship. Some of those wonderful and welcoming faces have either moved on to other parts of the world, or gone on to be with the Lord, but many of them still remain. We give thanks to God for all of you, and the grace and compassion He gave us through you.

Wrapping up three years of seminary was certainly a challenge while continuing my secular work, but our family became deeply embedded in the life of the congregation, as well as our associated schools. Both of our daughters graduated from Concordia Lutheran School, and both moved on to Mount Rainier Lutheran High School. Melissa served the families of Concordia in many ways, teaching and assisting at nearly all grade levels. We even had wonderful opportunities to mingle with the families of Little Lambs Pre-school, especially when Hot Dogs & Happiness or ice cream socials were involved. And throughout my colloquy process to join the ministerial roster of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, Good Shepherd gave us solid counsel and encouragement—and even blessed us with a call to serve.

We've spent over nine years in the Puget Sound (not counting a short stop in Puyallup from 2001-2003) and have enjoyed our time here as much or more than we have enjoyed anywhere the Lord has taken us. We have been blessed by your friendship, your camaraderie, and your challenges to grow in the Lord. There is not a single face we will not miss between Good Shepherd and our mission schools, nor is there anyone for whom we will not give thanks to God for bringing us into such sweet fellowship.

Many of you know that it was not our design to move, but the life of a bi-vocational pastor is a strange and unpredictable one. We move now to St. Louis because it is our vocational duty to do so, as my wife and I seek to care for our family through the opportunity and providence God has provided to us. And we press forward by faith into whatever adventure our Lord Jesus Christ has given to us in His grace, knowing that He holds us all in His almighty and loving hands. While it will be sad to say goodbye, we know that for the entire household of faith—for co-laborers and neighbors, family and friends, any goodbye is only the briefest of separations in Christ our Lord. For we all live by the same grace, secured in the same faith, united through the same Savior who holds all our eternities securely in Himself. For our lives are hidden together in Christ, into the singular mystery of His One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church, washed in the same blessed waters, enlivened by the same Spirit working through the same eternal Word, fed by the same holy food, and destined for the same never ending joys of the New Creation.

And so, until we meet again, in this world or the next: may the Lord God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless and keep you in His marvelous grace, now and forevermore. Amen.

Your humble servants in Christ our Lord,
Pastor Brad, Melissa, Jessica, and Hannah
Varvil

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, July 18 – 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 "Where's the Punchline?" (Ruth 4:16-17)



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT AT VALLEY CAMP

July 31 - August 2

Plan now to attend this fun weekend. Sign up on the sheet in the narthex, or call church office at 473-4848 to reserve your spot. If you can't stay the weekend, come for Saturday fellowship and noon lunch.



FINANCIAL UPDATE



As we approach the end of June, the congregation financial picture continues to be in trouble. Our giving is more than \$14,000 behind. Paying our salaries and other bills continue to be a struggle. Your prayerful consideration is deeply appreciated.



As summer continues, please make the church part of your summer budget. While on vacation, weekly tithes can be mailed to the office.

As big thank you to all who have included the church in their summer plans.

Preschool News

www.littlelambstacoma.com

Sharing Christ, Feeding Lambs



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 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 preschool website has been updated and changed a bit. Please look at our website: www.littlelambstacoma.com to see the changes to our Amazon link – no cost to you – fundraiser and our “Make a Donation” page. Just by looking at our website you will keep the preschool web page near the top for general Tacoma preschool searches and we appreciate that. Thank you!

Bonnie Huset
Director / Teacher



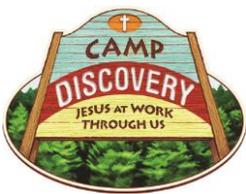
Lutheran Hour Ministries is sponsoring a Regional Outreach, September 25-26 at St. Luke's, Federal Way.

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!



Vacation Bible School has been scheduled for **July 27 – 31**. This year's theme is "Camp Discovery – Jesus at Work Through Us." We have a wonderful opportunity to share Jesus' love with all children. For some this may be

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.

YES!

I would like to volunteer to help during VBS 20154

Name _____

Phone _____

I am interested in helping in the following area:

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



Women in Mission / Women's Ministry

- **Tuesdays:**
Bible Study (9:15 am) **Quilting** (10 am)
- **Mites and Missions** –Sunday, July 12th

To *all* women of Good Shepherd:

Summer greetings! Bible study and Quilting continues through the summer on Tuesdays *except* July 28th during VBS. All are welcome!

What are *you* doing September 18-19? Good Shepherd Ladies are again “retreating” at Camp Burton. How about you!

Do you enjoy Leavenworth? If so, how about joining the Washington-Alaska District Retreat September 25-27 at the Best Western Plus Icicle Inn in Leavenworth. “Come Into His Presence” Psalm 95:2 is the theme. A study of our “Liturgy” by Pastors Timothy Winter Stein and Kurt Onken. Information is in the narthex.

Company is coming! Good Shepherd is hosting the Rainier Zone LWML Fall Rally Saturday, October 24th. Please say yes when asked to help make this a success.

Next year, June 17-19 Washington-Alaska District Convention will be at the Holiday Inn in Everett, Washington with the theme, “God’s Gifts for God’s Glory.” You are all welcome to attend.

Serving the Lord,
Jane Oberg

Lunch Bunch



For July, watch your bulletin for details. We are planning for our annual picnic.
