

# GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

August 2012

## Sharing The Good News



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RUFF WAS A WHOLE DIFFERENT BREED OF  
GUIDE DOG

How can we be more like “Ruff” and lead people to Jesus, rather than away from Him? Part of the Great Commission (Matthew 28: 18-20, Acts 1:8) is that we tell others about Jesus and the salvation He offers thru His cross. The truth is, we have Good News to share.

Everyone needs Jesus in this life: for physical needs (Mt 6:11), for peace of mind (Mt 9:2), for security (Phil 4:19), and for happiness (Jn 16:24). Without His blessings, we couldn't live a single day.

Everyone needs Jesus in death (Heb 9:27, Rom 6:23). To die without Jesus is to die in our sins.

Everyone needs Jesus for the life to come (Jn 6:40, 11:25). He who is born once dies twice. He who is born twice dies once, and lives forever.

Everyone needs Jesus for He died to save all (1 Cor 15:3,4; Jn 3:17,18). Christ Jesus died to save you and lives to bless you.

Everyone needs Jesus (Mt 11:29). You have what everyone needs: faith in Jesus Christ as your Savior. Share your faith in Jesus with others so that they, too, can come to the knowledge of Jesus and be saved.

As we sing in the Hymn *Hark the Voice of Jesus Crying*:

If you cannot speak like angels,

If you cannot preach like Paul,

You can tell the love of Jesus,

You can say He died for all. (LSB 826:2)

Blessings,  
*Pastor Dan*

# Unpredictable Travels

As many of you know, I was traveling a bit with my family during the month of July. We had opportunity for a little vacation, and some time with family-- and one of our number was part of a larger number traveling to Canada for a mission trip. I'm sure we weren't alone in traveling this month, either. Summer is a great time to get out into the world, visit family and friends, and catch up on some good R&R.

While it's certainly true that we had a pretty solid hand in developing our itinerary, what is even more true, is that God used the details to His advantage. There were conversations that I never dreamed would occur, with folks who had no idea what the Gospel of Christ is. There were intersections with people that simply couldn't be planned, in which God made Himself known in grace and peace. Sometimes I look forward to travel, just for the unexpected things that I couldn't plan... even though, as most of you know, I like to plan EVERYTHING. Lord, have

mercy on me, a poor and miserable Logistician...

But during these travels and divinely arranged appointments that were well beyond my little mind to plan, it occurred to me that Jesus warned us that living in Him would be like this. He said that folks don't know how or where the wind blows-- and that the saints of God would be like that, since we're born of the Spirit of God (remember, the words for "spirit" and "wind" in the Scriptures are almost identical.) No one controls the Holy Spirit, but rather, as He enlivens us in Christ through Word and Sacrament, we find ourselves in some of the strangest places, and doing some very unexpected things, perhaps with people we never envisioned. While God has chosen to always come to mankind through His wonderful Word, that Word is alive and moving through His saints, no matter where they go or who they encounter.

God is unpredictable to us, and that's a good thing. We're far too sinful and small to understand

the vast designs of Almighty God. However, we do know to be true, everything that He's told us through His Word. We know that we are His, no matter where we go. We know that He is with us, in good and challenging times. We know that Christ is for us, throughout our lives, through the portal of death, and throughout eternity. We know that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus-- we belong to Him forever by grace, through faith.

So as you wake up each morning, and whisper your prayers for faith and repentance in the day to come, be at peace. The Spirit of the Living God will be with you this day, and every day, guarding and guiding each step homeward. And at the end of each day, as you whisper those same prayers before laying down to sleep, give thanks for all those things the Holy Spirit did through you that day, for the glory of God, and the care and salvation of souls in Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Pastor Brad*

## A Personal Letter From Pennsylvania

This month I am in northeastern Pennsylvania working with the 500 children that come here every summer to make Music and Musical Theater. At the end of this month we are celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Show that I have helped create at the Camp Starlight Playhouse. This milestone has induced much pondering on a variety of topics, all of which, interestingly, are worship related.

My summer began with directing *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat*. It is, as you might guess, the story of Joseph and his coat of many colors. The musical version tells the story of a young man who—through trust in his own abilities to interpret dreams, his belief in the promises afforded his people by God and his Faith in God—finds every dream fulfilled by being willing to think outside the box.

I am now preparing, for that 100<sup>th</sup> show, a production of *Fiddler on the Roof*. For those of you who do not know this iconic classic, (*rent*

*it!*) it tells the story of Tevye, a Jewish dairyman living in Czarist Russia on the eve of the Communist Revolution. Amidst the political turmoil of the outside world, he struggles to hold together the strands of the traditions that define his world as a Jew; one daughter arranges her own marriage, the next weds a travelling student and the third falls in love with a Gentile. Tevye's struggle is to balance (like a Fiddler on the Roof) between bending one way when necessary to the "Modern" but knowing that for many things, leaning the other way to "Tradition" is the only way to keep from falling off that precarious position up there on the roof.

Interestingly, we have our own mini-controversy in the Worship Life of Camp Starlight: Our Friday night services (*for the Jewish Campers celebrating the coming of the Sabbath*) have been changed to have more modern music. Who decided this change

should be? Older staff members and the Directors, with me objecting.

Who complained?

The children.

Hearing little children, ages seven to fourteen, complain that they miss the old songs, the old traditions, the way it "used to be" should give any sensitive adult a moment to pause and think.

*By the way, this month I commend to all the great magazine Modern Reformation. You can buy a paper subscription at MODERNREFORMATION.COM or subscribe to the on-line version. Every month there is at least one substantial article related to Worship and Music. This month there is a great article on this topic called "Singing the Lord's Song in Babylon." Good reading.*

Blessings!

*DVP (Denes Van Parvys)*



## "GIVE ME THE RECIPE" LADIES RETREAT

**"O Taste And See That The Lord Is Good." Psalm 34:8**

Coming **September 28-29, 2012** at Camp Burton Retreat Center on Vashon Island, "Give Me the Recipe" Ladies Retreat. Take a break before the holidays to delve into God's recipe (plan) for your life. Camp Burton offers a peaceful waterfront setting with walking trails and other recreational activities, tasty meals, and quality accommodations including a bathroom in each room. We have special speakers lined up to bless and challenge you. Cost is \$90 triple occupancy and sign-up sheets are now available.

## Men's Breakfast / Bible Study August 18<sup>th</sup>

Join us **Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup>** 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 Pyramid" (Exodus 5-10). *Pastor Dan*



## Preschool News

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

Wow – one month to go and our preschool year begins again. August 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm will be our orientation for our 2012-2013 school year. IF you or anyone you know is interested in attending preschool please come check out the preschool in person, call 253-473-4848, or visit our website at [www.littlelambstacoma.com](http://www.littlelambstacoma.com). Our preschool is for students who are potty trained and will be 3 on or before August 31<sup>st</sup>. We have a two-day and three-day program.

Please continue to pray for our preschool board, staff, and students as we prepare for our new school year.

Thank you,

*Bonnie Jean Huset*  
Preschool Director / Teacher

## Lunch Bunch News

On Thursday, August 9, twenty-one have reserved for an excursion on the Paddle Boat "Queen of Seattle". If you did not get the message and you are registered to go, be sure you are at church on that day and ready to leave at 9 am. With the Seattle traffic at that time of the morning we need to allow plenty of time. If you did "sign up" and are not able to make it, you need to find a replacement. There are no refunds. Also - please bring a "sack lunch" or be prepared to buy snacks on board the boat and provide your own beverage.

In the coming months we have a visit from some of the youth of Good Shepherd in September. They spent some time on a mission during the summer and will share with us what they experienced. We may

be having a visit from "Mrs. Martin Luther" in September or October and definitely a visit from Mrs. Wright in December.

Again - if you have not been at one of our monthly gatherings we invite you to consider coming one of these months. We meet the first Tuesday of each month, starting at 11:30 am with a devotion by Pastor Dan, a shared meal at noon, and some type of a program. During the summer we went on some outings, which were not always on our regular meeting date. But starting in September we are back on the schedule mentioned above. "You all come - you hear!"

*Pastor Ken Boetcher*



## **Women in Mission**

Please join us for our regular weekly activities in August!

**Weekly Bible Study** on Tuesdays at 9:15 am.

**Weekly Quilting** on Tuesdays at 10 am.

**Mites Collected** – August 12<sup>th</sup>

**Enjoy the rest of the Summer! Soon it will be Fall and LWML Sunday, the Fall Rally, as well as various meetings and opportunities to serve here at Good Shepherd and beyond.**

**Look for further information in upcoming newsletters and bulletins.**

**All ladies are invited to join us in any or all of our activities.**

**Remember, YOU are the LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League)**

*Jane*

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## **COME ONE COME ALL TO OUR NEW ANNUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL/ADULT BIBLE CLASS TEACHER RETREAT.**

**When:** Saturday August 25, 2012

**Time:** 8:45 am – 12:30 pm

**Place:** Good Shepherd Fellowship Hall

**What:** Teacher Training and Retreat

**What to bring:** A smile, enthusiasm, and two items that tell others about you.

**Lunch provided:** And OF COURSE there will be coffee, tea, and water.