

GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

August 2013

THE VIEW FROM THE MOUNTAIN



As I write this article, we are in our Vacation Bible School week. Our theme is “Tell it on the Mountain - Where Jesus Christ is Lord.” The children are learning about the One True God through five mountaintop Bible accounts where God meets His people with clear messages of His might and power. God’s message of salvation through Jesus our Savior is one to shout out and share from the mountaintops to the four corners of the world.

As the children hear God’s Word in the VBS stories, they learn once again who our almighty God is; how our sin separates us from Him; that Jesus is God’s own Son, our Savior and Lord who died and paid for our sin; and who rose again to give us eternal life. By the power of the Holy Spirit, this is the message we proclaim.

When we find ourselves in the valleys of depression, God wants to lead us to the mountaintops so that we can see our life in a clearer perspective. Our worship in God’s house is such an experience, for the church is a spiritual Mount Zion set in the midst of our world. Outside of church, we often experience such vantage points when special occasions occur – a promotion at work, recognition for services performed, the celebration of a birthday. And when we mark 25 or 50 years of married life, or observe other anniversaries, we are standing on mountaintops; we can see from where we have come, where we are now, and where we are going.

High points in life, however, are not the only times when we can have a good perspective. Unpleasant experiences – sickness, loss, a deep disappointment – can also give us a better view of life, if we rise from the “dumps” and let God show us His love. These are pauses that refresh, moments when we can say, “I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth” (Ps 121:1-2).

Yes, mountaintops can offer spectacular views of the world around us. They can be inspiration points in our lives. But Jesus Christ, the One True God, offers us exactly what we need: the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. It is that look to Jesus the Lamb of God, to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our salvation that makes all the difference. He who gave His life for us and rose again is the high point in our lives. “This is eternal life, that they know You the only true god, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent” (John 17:3). So, let us tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is Lord.

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08-31-2012

I'VE REALLY ENJOYED OUR TIME TOGETHER TODAY ... WANNA MAKE THIS A REGULAR WEEKLY THING?

Blessings,
Pastor Dan

Faith vs. Pride

One of the reflections I've been mulling during my July vacation is the relationship between faith and pride. From a Biblical perspective, we know faith is a good thing and pride is a bad thing... but it occurs to me, that what lies beneath each of these is much greater and more profound.

Take pride, for instance. In everyday parlance, we often sound like we both love and despise pride. We are offended by pompous windbags who elevate themselves over everyone else, and yet, at the same time, we think it is good and healthy to tell our kids to take pride in their accomplishments, and their specialness. I think part of the reason we're conflicted about pride, is that we love this sin when it suits us, but not when it suits others over us. At the center of pride we find-- surprise, surprise-- ourselves. Pride at its root focuses

us inward, with our eyes on ourselves and our ears only ready to hear that which flatters our own opinions. Pride hears and trusts and loves the self above all things, which from God's perspective, makes us blind and wretched and poor, despite our delusions of grandeur.

Faith, on the other hand, is by its nature, focused outward. Not only does it come to us as a gift from God, but it clings to promises and truth that reside outside ourselves, and outside our own powers. Faith believes the Word of another, rather than the words we whisper to ourselves. Faith hopes in that which is promised by God for Christ's sake, rather than hoping in the futile powers of our flesh or mind. Faith lives in the love and providence given by grace, while pride dies upon the altar of our works, dashed to pieces by the power of the Law.

It occurs to me, that so much of the common human struggle, is this tension between Faith and Pride. While pride seeks to hear and keep our own word and idolize ourselves, faith hears and keeps the Word of God, Who is Jesus Christ. Thus, St. Paul can say that we live by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, who is the life and love and hope of all who will hear and believe. Where we find pride in ourselves, we are called by the Word of the Lord to repent. And where we find faith given to us through the power of His Spirit working through His Word, we rejoice and give thanks for the grace and forgiveness and life we have received in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pastor Brad

Men's Breakfast / Bible Study August 24th

Please note the date change due to the annual 4US event on the 17th. Join us **Saturday, August 24th 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: "C'mon, You Call This a Fair Fight?" (Numbers 12,16-17). *Pastor Dan*



This year's 4US event, Rally Round 4 Ultra Sound

Takes place on Saturday, August 17th. There is also a concert and Luma Glow fun Run on the 16th. Once again,

Good Shepherd has a team for the event. If you would like to ride your bike (pedal or motorcycle), walk, run, or just hang out and have fun, go to the 4US website (4US.org) and join our team. All monies raised goes to help purchase ultra sound machines and training for crisis pregnancy centers. Good Shepherd will have a fund-raising bake sale on Sunday, August 4th.





-Preschool News

www.littlelambstacoma.com

Orientation for our 2013-2014 preschool year will be Tuesday, August 27, 6:30 – 7:15 pm. At this time incoming families will receive a handbook, meet the teacher and assistants, see the classrooms, and their child will have the chance to meet his / her new classmates. Preschool officially begins September 3rd or 4th for our two classes. We have openings in both classes for this coming year. Children need to be three years old by August 31, 2013 and potty trained. If you know of anyone interested in a Christ-centered

preschool, please give them our information as we would be happy to share our preschool with others.

Please continue to pray for our preschool, the staff, board, students, and families. Each and every person is special to God and we pray that each child would know how much God really does love and care for each person. Thank you.

Bonnie Jean Huset
Director / Teacher

Lunch Bunch Makes Plans

On August 6th THE LUNCH BUNCH will have a picnic at Point Defiance Park. Bring a dish to pass and your own beverage. Plates and tableware will be provided. Pastor Gerken has reserved a mini bus so transportation will be available from church. We plan to depart from church at 11:00 am so be there about 10 minutes before. If

you have signed the sheet in the narthex we will know you plan to join us and will not leave you stranded. The picnic area we will use is close to Ft. Nisqually. If you desire you can tour it. If not we will play some games so bring your favorite yard or table game.

For **September (3rd)** we are planning an outing to

NORTHWEST TREK. If you were in the group at the Zoo your entrance ticket is good for one admission when you purchase another. Watch bulletins and **GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS** for more detail about this outing.

Pastor Ken Boetcher

Sunday School Updates

Summer Sunday School will continue through August 11th and is going well. So far we have **approximately \$600 for the Lutheran Malaria Initiative.** Praise the Lord for His blessings! Thank you to all who have helped us reach and surpass our goal! If

you wish to donate you still may do so until August 11th!

News for the upcoming Sunday School year beginning in September...I will be contacting each Sunday School Teacher before the fall summer Sunday school session to find out exactly what they need for the upcoming

quarter. Call me if you need anything.

Rally Day is scheduled for **September 8th.**

Katie Reinitz
253-304-7893



**Mount Rainier Lutheran
High School
Booster Club Sponsors:**

Golf Tournament & Dinner/Auction

High Cedars Golf Club
Orting, WA

Saturday, September 21, 2013

12:30 shotgun start

6:00 pm Dinner/Auction

Entry: Early Registration (*before July 31st*) - \$75
Individual Player - \$90
4-Some (per player) - \$80
Guest for Dinner/Auction only - \$40

Includes: Green fees/cart
Player gift
Dinner/Auction

For reservation information contact:

Tony Burton at (253) 355-6907
or theauditor2@gmail.com

Registration Form on reverse side

*Proceeds from the tournament will benefit MRLH
co-curricular programs that are an invaluable part
of our students growth and education.*

Registration Deadline August 23, 2013





Women in Mission

Mark your Calendars:

- Tuesdays: 9:15 am – LWML Bible Study
10 am – Quilting
(No Bible Study or Quilting, September 3rd)
- Sunday, August 11 - Mites -

Women of Good Shepherd,

Where does the time go? August brings the one year anniversary of my husbands “going home to the Lord.” I have been blessed in more ways than I can count and lifted up when I grieve. All thanks to Jesus!

Ladies, are you going to the LWML WA-AK District Retreat? It is **not too late to register**... the **deadline is August 25th**. Remember to make your hotel reservation! Forms are in the Summer-Evergreen Echoes or contact me (475-2832). The retreat is **September 27-29**. We are part of the LWML Washington / Alaska District, Rainier Zone. Ingathering

at the retreat is for “Matthew’s Meals” at King of Glory. Each zone is asked to bring donations for this ministry. Rainier Zone (you and me) is to bring decaf coffee in one pound cans.

Do you have a heart for serving as an officer for Washington / Alaska District LWML? Next year at the District Convention, elections will be held for District President, Vice President of Servant Resources, Vice President of Human Care, Financial Secretary, Pastor Counselor – Eastside and Nominating Committee. Please let me know if you are interested!

Is there a need that might be funded by an LWML Mission Grant (Mites)? Let’s see if we can submit one or more proposals before October 21, 2013.

Don’t forget ***mites***, Bible studies, Quilting, and Soap, Toothbrushes and Toothpaste for the Seafarers’ Christmas Boxes and in all things

**Pray, Praise
and Give Thanks!**

Jane Oberg



Ladies Retreat News:

Save The Date! September 20-21, 2013

Ladies the 2013 Retreat is in the works. We are excited!!

We will be returning to Camp Burton for a good time for prayer, praise, and fellowship. There are overnight accommodations for 36. Come join us!