

GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

August 2014

Sharing the Good News



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Dolly is right. Our faith is to be active outside the doors of our church. That's where the people are. We are called to go out and share the Good News about Jesus. Jesus did not wait for the lost to seek Him. He did not hang out a shingle on a carpenter's shop that read "JESUS,

the Savior. You are welcome." He went out of His way and crossed hills and mountains, rivers and lakes to find the sinner. He tells us to "Love one another as I have loved you."

The Gospels tell us about twenty-one interviews which Jesus had with individuals. The cross brought Him near a criminal. He reached out and took Him to Paradise. He spoke to fishermen, a woman at a well, to the sick and maimed, and many others. He reached out to them with God's love and grace and forgiveness. We can reach out to the neighbor next door, the person who works beside us, the shopper at the supermarket.

What do we say? Just tell them about Jesus. We are all sinners. We are dead in our sins. We all need Jesus. He died for us to take away our sins. He gives us life. That's what we preach in our Church and teach in our Sunday School. Invite them to Church with you.

Remember, the mission field begins as you step outside the doors of our Church. And you are the missionary. You are the one God is counting on to share the Good News about Jesus with the world.

May God bless you as you share the Good News.

Blessings, *Pastor Dan*

Revisiting the Augsburg Confession:

Article VII and VIII: Of the Church (What the Church is)

Few subjects can rile people up as quickly, as trying to define what the Church of Jesus Christ actually is. Most people have some vague notions about what it is, and are fairly certain that their congregation is at least part of the Church... but when pressed, they aren't really sure. To make matters worse, there are cults and sects out there who say that only they are the "true church," creating confusion and concern between those who think they are "in" or "out." For this month, we will revisit what the theologians of Augsburg found in the Scriptures on this subject.

First, it's worth noting what the word "church" actually means. It comes from the Greek term that sounds roughly like "ecclesia," and means a group called out and called together. In this sense, the word "church" actually means "gathering." So far, so good—that doesn't sound too controversial.

What gets tricky, is when we try to define just what kind of "gathering" we're talking about. There are lots of gatherings out in the world; lots of clubs, associations, groups, and so forth. There are gatherings of Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, and even gatherings of Atheists. So what we really need to determine, is what Christ's gathering is. To do that, we have to consult His Holy Scriptures.

Jesus through His Apostles calls the Church many things: His Bride, His brothers/sisters, His joint heirs, His Body, His disciples who hear His Word and keep it, etc. He says that His Church will endure forever, and that the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it. He says that He will remain with His Church until the end of the age. He says that He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and that He will send the Holy Spirit to guide His Church into all Truth (i.e., into Him and His Word.) He leaves His Church with gifts of many kinds, including the great virtues of Faith, Hope, and Love. He seals His Church with Holy Baptism, forgives sins by the use of the Keys in Holy Absolution, and feeds His people on His very Body and Blood in the Holy Supper. By the power of His Holy Spirit working through His Word and Sacraments, He calls, gathers, and enlightens the whole Christian Church on earth to live and remain in the grace of His Everlasting Gospel. Because there is

only one Jesus, there is also only one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all—there is only one Church.

When we boil that down, we come up with what the Reformers declared in Article VII:

*The Church is the congregation of saints,
in which the Gospel is rightly taught,
and the Sacraments are rightly administered.*

This one holy Church that will continue forever, is the one that gathers around Jesus' Word and Sacraments just as He gave them, receiving the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation that He pours out to His people through them. Human traditions, rites, and ceremonies are not necessarily the same from one place to another, but the Word of the Lord is central. Even if evil men infiltrate the Church, it cannot be destroyed or made of no effect, because where the Lord's Word and Sacraments are, there He is, giving grace by faith in His Holy Gospel. So even while the people of Christ's Church struggle to hear His Word and keep it, they recognize that the Word of the Lord is not made less than it is, even when evil or ignorant men attempt to corrupt it from the inside.

So we have both encouragement, and a warning, regarding the Church of Christ. We can be encouraged that we are actually of His Holy Church, whenever we are gathered together by faith around Jesus in His Word and Sacraments. We know that our buildings, our liturgies, our decorations, and our traditions are not fundamental to what makes the Church of Christ, but rather it is the community of faith gathered around Jesus. This is a great comfort to anyone who wonders whether their gathering is "legitimate"—for if Jesus is there in His Word and Sacraments, gathering you to Him, then you are of His One, Holy, Catholic (Universal/Christian) Church that shall endure forever.

But in this is also a warning. Wherever the Word of the Lord is rejected, there Jesus is rejected, also. There is no confidence of being in Jesus' gathering, if we are gathered around something other than His Word and Sacraments. It might be a really nice place, with really nice people—but without Jesus, it isn't His Holy Church. For the person who finds himself in a gathering that rejects Jesus' Word or Sacraments, he

should be convicted to seek out where Jesus is, and be gathered together there with His people.

So in the end we know that the Church is not something people establish, build, or maintain. It doesn't belong to the Pope or any Synod, or any individual, or any group of people. The Church of Jesus is established by Jesus, built by Jesus, and maintained forever by Jesus. Jesus is the chief cornerstone upon which He builds us into His Church as living stones. Jesus is the Head of His Body the Church. Jesus is the Vine into which He grafts His people as branches. Jesus is the Alpha and the

Omega, the beginning and the end, most especially of His Holy Church. Jesus didn't need us to establish His Church, and He doesn't need us to maintain it—for by grace we have been saved through faith, gathered together in Him apart from our works, that no one may boast. What a gift of grace Christ's Holy Church is to us, and to the whole world! Thanks be to our Savior Jesus Christ, Lord of the Church, now and forever. Amen.

Pastor Brad

Men's Breakfast / Bible Study **Saturday, August 23RD – 8 am**

Please note the change of date for this month!

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 "We're All in This Together (Joshua 7) *Pastor Dan*



4US Bake Sales

On **Sunday August 3 and 10** we will have a Bake Sale to raise money to support the 4US event on August 16th. The event raises money to purchase ultrasound machines and training for Crisis Pregnancy Centers in Washington and beyond.

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

Adult Information Class (AIC)

Will begin in September and will meet during Bible class time on Sunday mornings. This class is to inform adults of the teachings of the Christian Faith and the Lutheran denomination. It prepares adults for church membership, as well as, serves as a review for existing members. Call the office to enroll now.

Special Mission Project Update

As you know, we are supporting two seminary students for our special mission project for this year. The monies raised are not included in our regular budget. These are special funds just for this annual project. Here is an update on our two students.

Micah Schmidt. Micah graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO, on May 23. He received a call to serve as pastor at Living Branch Lutheran Church in North Branch, Minnesota. On July 5, he and Elizabeth Dippel were married at Resurrection Lutheran Church, Spring, TX. Micah was ordained at Zion Lutheran Church, Tacoma, WA on July 20. His father, the Rev. David Schmidt served as pastor at Zion for many years until his retirement. Micah and Elizabeth will be moving to North Branch to be installed at Living Branch and begin his ministry. Photos of Micah and Elizabeth's wedding can be seen on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Jonathan Durkopp. Jonathan completed his second year of seminary training at Concordia Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN. He was called to serve his year of vicarage (internship) at Peace Lutheran Church in Prairie Grove, Arkansas. Jonathan writes in a letter: "As always we are extremely grateful for your support. Your prayers are needed and greatly appreciated especially now as we begin to get into the swing of things for the next year. I pray all is going well at the church and that this letter finds you well. Again, your support has been invaluable these past years and want to extend a heartfelt thanks for being there with us as we journey through this new and exciting part of our lives. God bless!!" The full letter is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Keep both these young men and their families in your prayers.

-Preschool News

www.littlelambstacoma.com

Sharing Christ, Feeding Lambs



Preschool Cleaning Days Coming Soon! Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, August 11-13th. We will be cleaning the

preschool rooms and washing toys and furniture. We will clean from 9 am to noon each day, hopefully before it is really hot. All volunteers are welcome for whatever amount of time you are willing to donate! We appreciate any amount of help!

Orientation. Our preschool orientation night this year will be **Tuesday, August 26th from 6:30 – 7:15 pm.** This is for all registered students and their families and for potential students and families. Please spread the word about our preschool.

Prayers. Please continue to pray for the preschool board, staff, accreditation team, and especially the incoming students and families. Your prayer support is greatly appreciated.

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

Serving our Savior,
Bonnie Huset
Director / Teacher



Story time at VBS 2014

We were able to share the love of Jesus with

Total Registered:
49

Average Attendance:
37

LUNCH BUNCH AUGUST PICNIC



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

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

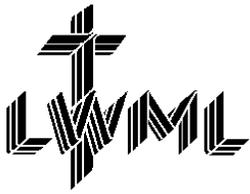
Furnished: Chicken - Drink – Table Service

PLEASE BRING A SALAD OR DESSERT

Indicate on sign up sheet and reserve by
Sunday, August 3rd on sheet in Narthex area.

ALL ARE WELCOME!





Women in Mission / Women's Ministry

- **Tuesdays:**
Bible Study (9:15 am) **Quilting** (10 am)
- **Mites & Missions Offering**
 August 10th
- **Seafarers' Auxiliary** – August 26th at 12 noon with a potluck meal.
- **LADIES RETREAT** –
September 26-27, Camp Burton

Late Summer Greetings to all women of Good Shepherd,

June 20-22 I was in Wenatchee for the Washington / Alaska District LWML Convention. The wonderful preaching, teaching, sharing and praising the Lord together filled my spirit. YOU could have been there too! Consider attending next year.

The Rev. Dr. Victor Belton, author of this year's LWML Sunday (October 5, 2015) was preacher for the opening communion service and keynote speaker. His message was clear that the "Time is Now for Fragrant Sacrifices and Offerings."

You probably know that my mother, Louise Walston, passed away on June 25th. The Lord gives me peace and strength to do what I must. Thanks for all the cards, prayers, and words of encouragement.

Ladies, did you know we had a movie night on July 11th? We enjoyed "Saving Mr. Banks," and time together. We hope to see you next time we do something like this.

Serving the Lord with Gladness,
Jane Oberg



...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.

There are Five Sundays in August.

That means only one service on August 31st (at 10:45 am) Sunday School and Bible Class begin at 9:30. At noon we will have a fellowship meal plus a brief Informational / Voters Meeting. Plan to attend!