

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
Tacoma, Washington

GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

September 2011

Back to School

Every year, Walmart, Kmart, Target, and other retail giants gear up for a "Back to School" shopping marathon. Children pick their favorite color folders and decorated pencils as they get excited about returning back to school. But for students in many parts of our world, there is no retail store at which to shop, and even if there were, families could not afford school supplies.

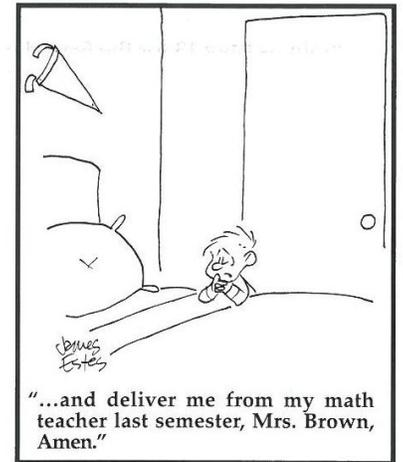
Our Lutheran Church Missouri Synod provides an experience better than any shopping spree. Lutheran Hour Ministries and its Global Care Packages provide much needed supplies to students and teachers. And more than that, they share the gift of God's love in Jesus Christ with them.

We here at Good Shepherd are also gearing up for "Back to School." We pray for God's blessings on our schools: our Little Lambs Preschool, Concordia Lutheran School, and Mount Rainier Lutheran High School, their teachers and staff, and all the students. We pray for God's blessings on them as we share the Good News about Jesus.

September 11th is Rally Day. That's the day we begin our fall Sunday School and Adult Bible class schedule; including Confirmation classes and the Adult Information Class. Let's make it a point to get into God's Word so that it gets into us. One of our hymns puts it this way: "God's Word is our great heritage / And shall be ours forever; / To spread its light from age to age / Shall be our chief endeavor. / Through life it guides our way, / In death it is our stay. / Lord, grant, while worlds endure, / We keep its teachings pure / Throughout all generations." Plan now to attend a Bible Study class.

Blessings,

Pastor Dan



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Light and Darkness

When you woke up this morning, was it already daylight? I rarely wake up to the sun, with my duties calling me out of bed well ahead of any potential rooster crow. But as the evening turns into morning, we have a daily reminder built into creation itself, that darkness cannot withstand light. Sure, the evening will come as the light is hidden on the far side of the earth, but in the presence of light, darkness flees. It's almost as if the echoing words of God in creation still call forth every morning, "Let there be light," and it is so.

10 years ago this month, darkness clouded the skies over New York, the Pentagon, and a Pennsylvania field. Smoke rose into the canopy above, and for a terrifying moment, the sun seemed hidden. Together with those who suffered and served in the shadow of that darkness, our nation looked on, aghast at the works of darkness. Many lives were snuffed out in an instant, and others extinguished slowly. Then was the hour of darkness, and the workers of evil had done what they intended to do—they left their dark stain in the sky above, and earth beneath. Evil seemed to revel in its victory over the sun, as scattered screams and gasps boiled up through the wallowing fumes.

And then, there was light. Heroism and valor brought forth stories of sacrifice and selflessness. In the midst of the gloom, inspired by love and faith and duty, firefighters dashed into the flames; police cared for victims; soldiers saved their countrymen; chaplains tended the wounded and dying; citizens rose to serve their neighbors, meeting their urgent needs. After gasping in horror, the nation knelt in prayer, then rose in service, many reflecting the divine light of their Savior into the heart of a present and terrible darkness.

And as the Savior has done from time immemorial, He pierced the darkness, and the darkness could not comprehend it. The darkness could not overcome it. The darkness could not even endure in His presence. The darkness of sin and death, of pain and suffering and evil, has no place reserved for it, when the divine light of Jesus Christ appears. There is no darkness that can abide that Light—no corner into which it can flee, nor resistance it can mount. Like the sun rising in morning glory, the Son of God rises upon the darkness of evil, dispelling its gloom with His own Sacrifice, His own selflessness, His own Salvation won for all mankind. The Light of the Eternal Son scatters the darkness of our fear, our sin, our horror, leaving instead faith, hope, and love.

As we remember this anniversary of a day of darkness in our land, let us all the more remember the power of that Light which penetrated and dispelled that darkness. May we forever be reminded that no darkness born of man or demon, can abide the Light born of the Father. His Light remains with us in His Word, feeds and nourishes us through His Sacraments, and is reflected through His blessed and redeemed people, into a world which needs His Light and Salvation. When the darkness rises, see the Son shine forth through His people—for the gates of hell cannot withstand the power of His Light, reflected through the sons of Light who are the Church. If the darkness dare stain our skies and lands again, let it be forewarned: The Blessed Trinity is present in His Holy Church, and the sons of the Kingdom shall not go quietly into any dark night, but rather in the power of Jesus Christ, shall stand and dispel all evil in His Holy Name. For we have not been given a spirit of fear, but of grace and power and faith, born of the Holy Spirit and sent forth in the authority of the Son, to declare that the Kingdom of God is at hand in the person and work of Jesus Christ. Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Amen.

Pastor Brad

It's Music in God's Ears

One of the immeasurably rich blessings that our LORD has given to us in scripture is what many commentators refer to as "God's Hymnal;" namely, the Book of Psalms.

This collection of poetry and hymns (The name "Psalms" means "songs," and is taken from Septuagint, the early Greek translation of the Old Testament) is filled with many beautiful texts penned by many different authors for many different occasions. Authors include Moses, Solomon, David, Asaph, and Ethan the Ezrahite along with several Psalms that are not attributed to an author.

Many of the Psalms reference specific historic events from the time of Moses to the trials and failures of David's life to the sorrows of the Captivity of the Jews in Babylon.

What is remarkable about the Psalms is the incredible breadth of both human and divine experience that they contain. They include praise and lamentation. They include songs of thanksgiving and songs of hope and faith. There are also Psalms that prophecy the coming of Jesus as our Messiah and Psalms that foreshadow the

"Wisdom" literature of the Proverbs in counseling the pursuit of goodness over evil.

Given that the Psalms were, *literally*, the Hymnal of the Temple and the Synagogue, it is instructive to note the balance that they achieve in theology, emotion and focus and compare that balance with the Hymns and Songs we choose to use in our worship today.

Individually and collectively, the Psalms never announce that "We will Praise God!" without actually doing so. The Psalms never praise God without proclaiming the "why." The Psalms never offer lamentation without offering faith and hope and the Psalms never focus solely on the singer without turning everything back around to God, the original author of our faith and our salvation.

Given this astounding wealth, it is a shame that we do not read this Book (*at 150 chapters, 2461 verses, and 43,743 words, the longest by far in the Bible*) more often. Many of our churches have fallen into the habit of only occasionally using the little snippets of Psalms for Introits or cherry-picking the three "happy verses" of a Psalm for a Praise Song. We have

forgotten that the Lectionary for Readings every Sunday actually includes not just THREE but FOUR texts: An Old Testament Reading, a New Testament Reading, a Gospel Reading and (*drum roll please...*) a Psalm appointed for the day.

Over the coming weeks and months we at Good Shepherd will be endeavoring to incorporate the Psalms more widely into our worship. This will be in the form of responsive readings, Cantor-led chanting, hymn settings and Choral Anthems. I hope that you will find this a blessing and that you will happily sing:

I give you thanks, O LORD,
with my whole heart;
before the gods
I sing your praise;
I bow down toward
your holy temple
and give thanks to your name
for your steadfast love and
your faithfulness,
for you have exalted
above all things
your name and your word.
Psalms 138:1-2

Your Servant,
DVP (Denes Van Parys)

President's Corner

The only item I have to cover this month is in regards to the photo directory. Unfortunately the poor economy (and some health issues) have severed our link to photography equipment to be able to do the directory in house. So, at the moment, the photo directory is on hold, and we are

investigating further options. If we can get things back on schedule quickly with another route, we will let you know as soon as possible.

Julian Doyle

TOUR OF ITALY

Endowment Fund Dinner & Auction

Good Shepherd Lutheran

140 East 56th Street

253-473-4848

Saturday, September 24

5-7 pm

Cost: \$15.00

Silent Auction

Oral Auction

Italian Dinner

Call:

253-473-4848

**to make your
reservation!**

Come help us **GROW** the Endowment Fund for our
Children's Christian Education. Interest from the fund is
used for scholarships to assist qualifying members of
Good Shepherd who are endeavoring to have their
children in Christian schools. Your support helps grow
the fund to enable more assistance to be given.

Men's Breakfast / Bible Study September 17th

Join us **Saturday, September 17th** at 7 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: "Jacob's Ladder." *Pastor Dan*

Lunch Bunch News

Many congregations have a group that includes the **RETIREES/SENIORS**. At Good Shepherd this group is known as **THE LUNCH BUNCH**. We meet; on the first Tuesday each month beginning at 11:30 with a short devotion by Pastor Dan. Then we share a meal at noon and follow with a variety of activities in the Fellowship Hall. The activities differ. Sometimes we play "bingo" or other games, share hobbies and

collections, have a speaker, or watch a video of a Christian singing group. So far this year we have also gone on some outings - tours of the Tacoma waterfront, Concordia School, Watson Nursery, and Wilcox Family Farms.

At our meeting on **Tuesday, September 6**, we will be asking for more input and decisions of activities for the months that remain in 2011.

If you haven't yet attended a meeting of **THE LUNCH BUNCH**, we encourage you to give us a try. The devotions are stimulating; the food is superb; and the fellowship is unequalled.

WON'T YOU JOIN US ON SEPTEMBER 6TH? We are hoping you will!

Pastor Ken Boetcher
253-847-5925



Preschool News

www.littlelambstacoma.com

God is good and we praise Him for all our blessings! Our preschool has undergone a few improvements this summer, thanks to Robbie Frunz, Paul Boule, Diane Smith,

Ruth Gerken, Caron Long, and Mike Dobiash. We have a total of thirteen (and counting) students registered at our school. The Northwest District will be assisting us with our accreditation process and Caron Long and Debbie Tanner will both continue as our assistants this year.

Our first days of preschool will be Tuesday, September 6th and Wednesday, September 7th.

Looking ahead...our Sunday Sundaes for the congregational and preschool families will be Sunday, October 2nd at 4 pm.

We are truly blessed and thank you for your prayer support, financial donations, and gifts of time and talent. All of these items are important to us and help us to be the best preschool we can be with God's guidance for the sake of His dear children and Little Lambs.

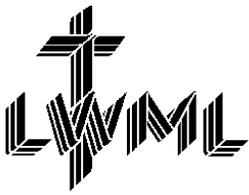
Serving our Savior,
Bonnie Jean Huset
Preschool Director / Teacher

Brunch & Bible Study and Pink Shoe Club

The Women's Brunch & Bible Study and Girls' Pink Shoe Club will meet on Saturday, September 10th at 9:30 am with a shared breakfast followed by a

Bible Study for the ladies and activities with Miss Sue for the girls. We will end promptly at 11:30 am. If you need babysitting, please call the

office at 473-4848 in advance. All ladies "young" through "old" are welcome to attend.



Women in Mission

Weekly Bible Study on Tuesdays at 9:15 am.
(No Bible Study September 6th)

Weekly Quilting on Tuesdays at 10 am.

Seafarers' Auxiliary Tuesday, September 27 at 12 noon.

Mites collected on September 11th.

To ALL Women of Good Shepherd:
Please look forward to LWML Sunday, October 2nd.
The service was written by Dr. Ken Klaus, Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour, is "Being with Jesus – Living on the Edge." YOU are the LWML – Lutheran women one and all.

Serving the Lord with gladness!

Jane Oberg
475-2832

Dear Lovely Ladies,

Welcome back to me! Summer is over and looking forward to spending some time with all you lovely ladies.

Looking ahead:

September

- Visit with our homebound (September 5th)
 - Women's Morning Breakfast & Bible Study (Saturday, September 10th)
 - Girls Night Out (Olive Garden-Sept. 16th, 6 pm)
 - New Sunday Morning Bible Study (Sunday 9 am Starting Sept. 25th)
- "Bad Girls of The Bible" by Liz Curtis Higgs

October

- Women's Morning Breakfast & Bible Study (Saturday, October 12th)
- Visit with one of our homebound
- Girls Night Out (Dinner)

It's been a long time since we last spoke. Let's just say summer is going to be my disappearing act. It seems vacation, kids, family and all that stuff tends to pile up. So here I am, ready to start our gathering once again. Many of you ladies have

mentioned wanting to have some activities where we can come together. A women's retreat is being planned very soon. A one-night sleep over in someone's house will work out. Whose House? That is the Question. I am looking for someone who would be interested in lending us her home. New Bible Study is starting September 25th, God willing. Please let me know if you are interested in this study so that I can get some books ordered; "Bad Girls of the Bible" by Liz Curtis Higgs. We all ready have a women's breakfast & Bible Study on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 9 am, led by Ruth Gerken and Bonnie Jean Huset.

Homebound Visits: If this is something that would interest you, you are welcome to join me. I would like to visit our homebound. I have wanted to do this, but haven't found the time. I will let you know when this will happen. Keep in mind it will be sometime in September.

"Girls Night Out" I would love to meet once a month outside of Good Shepherd just to hang out and chat. Going out to dinner to an inexpensive restaurant our first time would work. At our first

meeting, we can make plans to meet at our homes, rotating and having it like a potluck. A Friday evening will work best for my schedule since I work out of the house and still have to come home and take care of business. Well, let's keep us in prayer and ask that this group of wonderful women bond and keep all negative thoughts, comments and bitterness out of this circle.

My love for wanting to be around you and the young girls of our congregation is still alive; I want to be a woman of God. I ask for patience, something that I don't have, but learning to accept. Let's keep encouraging one another so that we all can have a beautiful time together.

Maybe in the future when my responsibility of mom, wife, sister, and aunt becomes less hectic, I will commit more time to Good Shepherd. For now let's start with a women's gathering. Please pray that I may find peace in my life these days, as I feel that at times I really wish I had more time to spend with God, loving His people by sharing my talents (I still don't know what they are).

Your Servant,
Delia Stallard