

GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

September 2012

Back to School

What's black and white and not read enough? It's a well-known book. In fact, it's the most popular book ever written. Almost every Lutheran owns one. Although almost every Lutheran owns one, less than half take the time to read it.

Have you figured it out yet? It's the Bible. And as Martin Luther wrote nearly 500 years ago, until people read it for themselves they will never truly understand God's love and plan for them.

September means back to school. Why not consider joining one of our Bible classes as we begin our fall education program (Rally Day is September 9). Let's face it. We do not study the Bible while watching a TV show or playing golf or pursuing a hobby, nor by merely listening to a sermon once a week. We actually study the Bible when we get into a study group and open the Scriptures to a certain place; when we are stimulated by others in the class; when the teacher leads us into the text – with questions – “What does it say?” “What does it mean?” “What does it mean to you?”

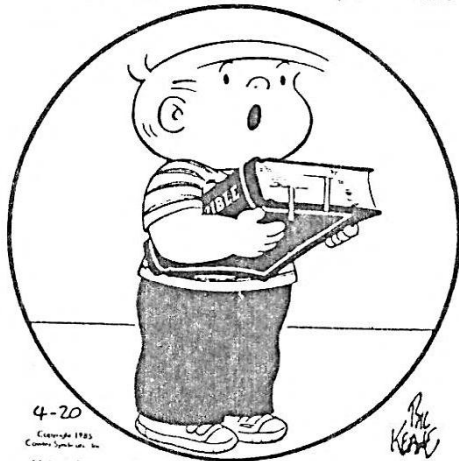
Bible study can give you clearer doctrinal convictions, divine assurances, new spiritual power, and a richer, fuller life.

Blessings,

Pastor Dan

THE FAMILY CIRCUS.

By Bil Keane



4-20
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“Did God write the Bible with a word processor, a typewriter, or just a feather and ink?”

A Meditation on Psalm 14:

“The fool has said in his heart, there is no God.”

I would imagine that much of what the world thinks these days is shocking to those who hear it—heck, it shocks me regularly. Things that wouldn't be whispered in public 50 years ago are now screamed out from every media venue, and things once only done under the cover of darkness, are now common in the midday sun. The world is changing, and our cultural perspectives or values are changing right along with it.

But then again, the world is always changing... in the same old ways it always has. One generation will tolerate one kind of evil, and another generation will tolerate something else. 50 years ago, living together before marriage was a horrible taboo, but pumping poisonous chemicals into the local river was barely blinked at. Today, sex any time and any place between almost any persons is generally accepted, while endangering a peculiar toad will stop a major highway building program. The world is always bouncing around in its opinions regarding what is right and what is wrong, what is good and what is evil. That's because the world is running on human wisdom, which in the long run, is pretty dumb. The new atheistic movements of our day are quick to condemn anyone who believes

in God, or in the Word He has given to us in the Bible, particularly if we desire to have a public voice or opinion—but they are also very concerned that their own rights to free speech and protection are guarded as holy virtues.

My dear friends, do not be surprised, when the fools around us say in their hearts, that there is no God... or when they discard His Word, and look for something else to entertain themselves with. God said it would be so, because He knows what is in mankind—He knows the depth of our sin, the blindness of our eyes, and the hardness of our hearts. He's been dealing with us ever since the beginning when He created us, watched us fall into sin and death, and then worked out our salvation through Christ Jesus His only Son. God knows what is in man, and since He loves us so greatly, He did not abandon us to the foolishness we create around us, every day.

For you and I were once dead in our trespasses and sins, but now we live by grace through faith in the Son of God. Rather than marveling at the blindness and foolishness of the world, we should have compassion on them, and pray for them. Remember, that if it were not for the Word of God working on our

hearts to create faith, we would be just as blind and just as foolish, casting away God and His Word, and trading it for the foul bowl of soup our human hearts concoct on their own. Living by grace through faith, that same Word which enlivened us, can enliven the whole world. And what a beautiful blessing it is, that God has ordained to have His Word brought out into the darkness of the world, through the saints He has called into His marvelous light!

You are a city on a hill, a light on a lampstand—you are those through whom the Living Lord of Glory shines, that all might be drawn to salvation in Jesus Christ. His Word has washed you, enlivened you, called you to daily faith and daily repentance, Justified you, Sanctified you, and will guard you for eternity. This is the Light which shines in the darkness, which no darkness can overcome. May the Light of Christ so shine through you, that the world may see Jesus in you—that they may hear His Word of redemption, so that they may repent, believe, and live. To God be the glory, in this age, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Pastor Brad

Men's Breakfast / Bible Study September 15th

Join us **Saturday, September 15th** 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: “_____” (_____). *Pastor Dan*

President's Corner

Summer is just about over and Fall is on its way. The good news for us, here in the Pacific Northwest, is our weather is usually still relatively warm through September (I do stress the "relatively"). I hope everyone got an opportunity to enjoy some summer vacation.

I have mentioned a couple times this year about getting some painting done on the church. We have acquired some bids and we will be moving forward

with some painting. The current focus is the Southside of the church. However, if there are those that are able to donate additional funds to this endeavor, we have a fairly decent opportunity to get the entire church painted. We are in need of an additional \$8000 (at the time of writing this).

During our most recent council meeting the idea came up to change one of the Fellowship Sundays this year. We

generally do those on the 5th Sundays. However, this year, one of those falls in December. Since end of December is already a fairly busy time of year, we discussed moving that Fellowship Sunday to the 4th Sunday in October. If you have any thoughts on that please share with one of the members of the council or the pastors.

Julian Doyle

Tradition and Ritual

As the Music Program here at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church starts up for another season, I thought it wise to let you know what the "Theme" will be in our music and our discussions about worship. Our "Theme," *of course*, is and always will be Jesus Christ and His redeeming sacrifice for our Sin. That being said, you will also be hearing a lot about Tradition and Ritual in our newsletter columns and the columns written for *The Shofar*, the weekly Newsletter published for participants in the music program.

People generally have positive or negative reactions to Tradition and Ritual, especially when we speak of matters related to worship. The wiser reaction might be to recognize that Tradition can both be positive AND negative: positive when adherence to Tradition brings wisdom and structure and negative when slavish adherence sustains bad practices.

Allow me to share two short stories that illustrate the two sides of this very valuable coin:

Little Rebecca surprised her mother one day by taking interest in her mother's cooking.

Rebecca asked, "Why do you cut the end off of the Roast before you put it in the pot, Mommy?"

Rebecca's mother Sarah didn't have an answer. She only knew that she had learned the technique from *her* mother. After some discussion, Rebecca and Sarah were on the phone to Grandmother to get to the bottom of the mystery. Soon they learned the answer from the woman who had invented this unusual technique:

"Why, dear! It was the depression! We could only afford one very small pot. I cut the end off so that it would fit!"

Blindly following Tradition had led them to an un-necessary practice. Interestingly, Rebecca and Sarah decided to keep cutting the end off of the Roast in honor of Grandmother – using it as an opportunity to tell the story throughout their generations.

And another story from the other angle:

Bob wanted to jump on the House-Flipping wagon and make some extra money. He shortly found a house, bought it and started to renovate it. Noting the trend for larger rooms and big open spaces, he started gutting the house and taking out many of the walls that divided the living space.

Unfortunately, Bob was neither engineer nor architect and didn't realize that the walls he removed were structural. They had a very important purpose: not only to define the various rooms but also to hold up the building! He learned this lesson the hard way, arriving to work, only to find a pile of rubble where his house project had once stood.

What do these stories have to do with Music and Worship? *Stay tuned!*

If you are interested in receiving the aforementioned *The Shofar* and the columns that I write for the Musicians, please e-mail me via the Church Web-site and I will put you on our subscriber list.

Blessings! *DVP*



Preschool News

www.littlelambstacoma.com

Our preschool year begins on Tuesday, September 4th for our 3 year old class and Wednesday, September 5th for our 3 ½ year old class. Space is still available in both classes and it is not too late to register for this year! We are looking forward to our new school year with a “project construct” approach to our curriculum. We hope this helps our students stretch their minds even more.

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, September 23rd for our Sunday Sundaes. We will begin at 4 pm in the fellowship hall. The preschool will provide the ice cream and toppings for you to enjoy a sundae while enjoying time together with our preschool

families. Please join us for this 3rd Annual Event. Remember, the Casual Chapel follows at 5 pm.

Please pray for our students, families, staff, and board members as we begin another year of ministry, “Sharing Christ, Feeding Lambs.”

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

Thank you,

Bonnie Jean Huset
Director / Teacher



SUNDAY SUNDAES

for

PRESCHOOL AND CONGREGATIONAL FAMILIES.

Sunday, September 23rd at 4 pm
in the **Fellowship Hall.**

Please join us for some fun with fellowship!

Following the social, the preschool and congregational families are invited to stay for our 5 pm chapel led by Pastor Brad Varvil.

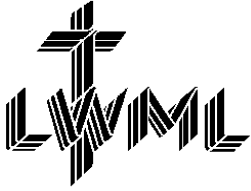


Lunch Bunch News

With the coming of Fall we will be back at church for our monthly meetings. Meetings are mostly on the first Tuesday of each month. On September 4 we will hear a report and sharing of experiences from some of the youth of Good Shepherd. We were told they went on a mission into Canada. On October 2 we are scheduled for a visit from Katrina von Bora (aka Katie Luther). We have heard this is really good. Our meeting for November is open - perhaps

bingo? or a DVD/ or a game time? Come and give us a suggestion of what you would like for us to do. In December we are scheduled again for a visit from Mrs. Wright with a Christmas emphasis. We would really enjoy having you join us. **MARK YOUR CALENDAR** for the next 4 months.

Pastor Ken Boetcher



Women in Mission

Please join us for our activities in September!

Weekly Bible Study on Tuesdays at 9:15 am.

Mites Collected – September 9th

Weekly Quilting on Tuesdays at 10 am.

Quilters Luncheon – September 10th

Dear Sisters in Christ,

Are you Salted for Service? This is the theme for LWML Sunday, **October 7th** Worship Service authored by Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, President of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Join in prayer and worship and maybe consider your service.

What are you doing Thursday, June 27th through Sunday, June 30, 2013? How about attending the LWML Convention, “Quenched by the Water” in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania? Quenched by Christ’s redeeming grace, I am empowered by the Holy Spirit to be a well spring of the Father’s love.

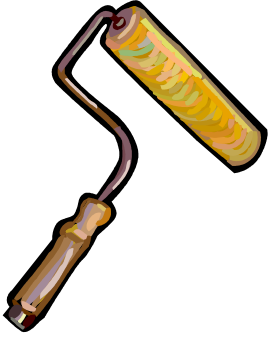
Lastly, you are encouraged to attend our weekly Tuesday Bible Study and fellowship time! We miss you!

Serving the Lord
With Gladness,
Jane Oberg

"GIVE ME THE RECIPE" LADIES RETREAT

“O Taste And See That The Lord Is Good.” Psalm 34:8

Ladies, Picture yourself walking along a quiet trail, a soft autumn breeze blowing, talking with a good friend...sitting with a small group of friends discussing your favorite recipes... Talking, laughing, reading, listening, walking, praising, all this and more are yours for the taking at this year's Ladies Retreat at Camp Burton on Vashon Island. We will be staying in the new Retreat Center at Camp Burton, so our accommodations are exclusively for our group. The rooms are very nice with three beds(no bunks!), and a bathroom in each room. Right next door is a beautiful meeting room with a refreshments area and a connected room for visiting, games, quiet time, etc. The retreat is scheduled for Friday evening and all day Saturday, September 28 & 29, 2012. Besides the wonderful accommodations, Camp Burton is providing coffee for us the whole time, as well as three scrumptious meals in their nearby dining hall on Saturday. Cost is \$90 triple occupancy and registration is now available.



THE EXTERIOR OF THE CHURCH NEEDS PAINTING!



We need your help!
Cost for painting the entire building is approximately \$10,000.
Any donations to this project would be most appreciated.
Mark your check or envelope: "*Church Painting.*" Thank you!



ADULT INFORMATION CLASS (AIC)

will begin **September 16, 2012**. We will meet during Bible class time on **Sunday mornings (9:30)** in **C-2**. 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 (253-473-4848) to enroll now.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS RETREAT HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 22ND!

If you are a Sunday School or Bible Class Teacher,
please mark your calendars and plan to attend the retreat on
September 22nd from **8:30 am – 12:30 pm** (lunch provided) See you there!
