

# GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

September 2013

## Getting Into God's Word



Few parents today would be satisfied to give their children less than the best in education. They want their children to become good citizens, mature and cultured persons, socially and economically successful. Such aims are generally commendable, but it is even more important that adults keep on growing.

Adults run our government, manage our industries, operate our school system, and control our society.

Christian adults are a part of that society. As they get deeper insights into the word of God they can better translate their faith into everyday living. Experience has proved that a Bible study group is one of the most effective ways for helping us "Grow up into Christ in all things" (Eph. 4:15). Christian men and women need more than knowledge. They need Christian understanding, Christian attitudes, and the skills for Christian living. As we grow older we are to mature spiritually. We are to grow up to the statue of none less than Jesus Christ Himself (Eph. 4:11-16).

Of course we can retain our faith by hearing the Word and having daily devotions. But for a fuller understanding and practice of the Christian faith, study and discussion are necessary. Bible study can give you clearer doctrinal convictions, divine assurances, new spiritual power, and a richer and fuller life.

Join us this fall in one of our Adult Bible study classes.

Blessings,  
*Pastor Gerken*

## Back to School! (This means you, too...)

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Now that our younger folks are headed back to classes, it might be a good time to think about what education is, and what it's for, from a Christian perspective. Just why do we send our kids off to schools for all those years? It's certainly not just because it's a law up to a certain point, or that we want the schools to provide us tax-funded day care. There's a point to education, and you might be surprised to note, that it starts with God.

God has always come to His people through His Word. From the beginning of time to the present, and to the end of the age, the infinite and almighty God intends that His creatures might know Him and His will, through His Word—spoken to and through His Prophets and Apostles, recorded for us in Holy Scripture, and born in every place and time by His faithful people. It is God who tells Moses, to tell His people, to learn His Word, write it upon their doorposts and discuss it in the city streets, teach it to their children, and pass it along to the next generation. God is the beginning of education, because He is the font of wisdom and truth. This is why it is written in the Proverbs, that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Education, at its root, begins with knowing God through His Word.

All other forms of education, from reading-writing-and-'rithmetic, to the observational sciences, radiates out from the center of all truth and wisdom, who is God.

Oddly enough, this means that for the Christian, education is never complete. While we might think that middle school, high school, college or graduate school is a lot to chew on, imagine what it means to learn all that God has given you to learn of Himself. In other words, imagine never coming to the end, of learning what God has to teach you through His eternal and everlasting Word. While there's much to learn in observing nature and the laws of physics, all these will eventually come to an end... but the Word of the Lord endures forever. That's more than a lifetime of study on our parts—it's an eternity.

And just as we wouldn't send our children to learn math and physics from people who don't know what they are talking about, just who should you go to learn the Word of God from? I don't think anyone wants to learn how to build a bridge or a building or an airplane, from someone who doesn't understand the principles involved in doing so—such a pursuit could end in tragedy, where the false things you learn could hurt you and those around you. The same can be said of learning God's Word. All bridges eventually collapse, and all

airplanes eventually stop flying, but the soul of every human being ever born, will live forever with the consequences of how they received God's eternal Word. Given the eternal and cataclysmic consequences of error, wouldn't it be best to study God's Word with those who actually understand and believe it rightly?

So, here's my educational challenge for you: as our youth and young adults return to their studies this Fall, contemplate how you will continue your education, learning of God through His Word. Think about how you will encounter Jesus Christ, who is the Word made Flesh, as He comes to His people through His preached Word and Sacraments, delivering forgiveness, life, and salvation to those who repent and believe His Gospel. Consider the teachers you allow yourself to be trained by, and whether or not they are teaching you errors that can harm you and those around you. Remember that it is an honor beyond measure, that God has invited you to learn of Him, and given you the means to do so through His Word—such an honor should never be vandalized by the ravages of false teachers.

So... back to school, and back to His Word—for everyone! Amen.

*Pastor Brad*

### **Men's Breakfast / Bible Study September 21<sup>st</sup>**

Join us **Saturday, September 21<sup>st</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: "When God's Leader Lost His Cool" (Numbers 20). *Pastor Dan*



## -Preschool News

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

Our 2013-2014 year is looking to be a good one. Please pray for all of our students and their families as we begin a new year of ministry and learning.

Debbie Tanner will be the assistant for our Preschool 1 Class (Tuesday/Thursday) and Caron Long will be our Preschool 2 assistant (Monday/Wednesday/Friday). Bonnie Huset will be our director and teacher. Please pray for our teaching staff.

Our preschool board members are: Ruth Gerken, Chairperson, Diane Dean, Treasurer, Angela Doyle, Secretary, and Donna Gerzevske.

Please pray for our preschool board as they embark on another year of governing the preschool with God's guidance.

We are preparing our 2014 calendar fundraiser and are asking photographers to submit two photos each, with a Bible passage caption on or before September 22. The selection of photographs will take place in October and calendars will be available for purchase in November and December. If you have any questions please ask a staff or board member.

Thank you for all the prayers and dedication from the congregation towards preschool. We truly appreciate it.

*Bonnie Huset*  
Director / Teacher

## Lunch Bunch News

Do you know someone who is a member of the **LUNCH BUNCH**? If you say that you do you are wrong – we do not have membership in the **LUNCH BUNCH!** Anyone is welcome to join us for our monthly meetings. We meet on **THE FIRST TUESDAY OF EACHMONTH**, unless an outing makes us change that date. Our outings are usually during the summer months. The rest of the year we meet, starting about 11:45 with a devotion by Pastor Dan, followed by a shared lunch, and then some type of

program. Our outings have varied. We have gone for a visit to Watson's Nursery, gone on a paddle boat ride on Lake Union in Seattle, visited the Tacoma Zoo and Aquarium, and visited Northwest Trek, to mention a few. Those months we stay at church we have a speaker, or play games together.

If you are retired, out of work, have a day off – there is no age limit – you are welcome to join us for whatever we are doing on the **First Tuesday** of the month. What better way to become

acquainted with other members of Good Shepherd. So come and join us on **Tuesday, September 3** for our outing to *Northwest Trek*. Details are in the Sunday bulletins 2 weeks before the event. For our outings we ask you to sign a list posted in the Narthex because when we leave from church we do not want to leave someone behind who might be a tad late.

*Pastor Ken Boetcher*

**Please join us for  
Sunday School Rally Day  
Sunday September 8<sup>th</sup>**



# Women in Mission

## Mark your Calendars:

- Tuesdays: 9:15 am – LWML Bible Study  
10 am – Quilting  
(No Bible Study or Quilting, September 3<sup>rd</sup>)
- Sunday, September 9 - Mites -

Praise and thanks to God for all things!

All women of Good Shepherd are invited to attend our weekly Tuesday morning Bible Study and Quilting. We are currently going through the study, "Lutheranism 101." Please Join us! We offer friendship, fellowship, and fun! You are also invited to pop in anytime!

We look forward to the upcoming events:

- 1) LWML Sunday, October 6, 201. The theme is "You are My Witnesses"
- 2) Rainier Zone Fall Rally, Saturday, October 19 at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Puyallup. The theme is "Christ is the Light,"

- 3) "Prepare the Way" to be "filled with His will," the Washington – Alaska District Convention June 20-22, 2014 in Wenatchee.

Serving the Lord with Gladness

*Jane Oberg*



## Ladies Retreat News

Hello Ladies!

Wishing you could sneak away for a relaxing time in the mountains? We've got the perfect plan! **Cozy Mountain Lodge is a relaxing mountain lodge themed retreat** the women of our church are doing together. It includes worship, Bible study, and time for laughter as well as time for quiet reflection.

We will begin with our dinner on the evening of September 20<sup>th</sup> and will finish on the afternoon of September 21<sup>st</sup>. Our retreat will be held at Camp Burton on Vashon Island and the cost is only **\$95** per person! This covers three delicious meals, fun and refreshing activities, and comfortable lodging.

Take time to relax, to make new friends, to worship, and to draw closer to God. We hope you will join us at Cozy Mountain Lodge! Register soon! Deadline for registration is **September 1.**





## **GROW 2013 DINNER & AUCTION OCTOBER 5 - OKTOBERFEST!**

This year's Grow auction is fast approaching. Please give some prayerful thought to donate items for this year's auction and/or donate money which benefits our scholarship endowment fund.



Please put the Grow Dinner & Auction on your calendar and in your prayers.  
Great food and great fun. Your attendance and participation is important!



Here is a partial list of currently donated items:

- A basket full of Avon products.
- A salmon dinner prepared by our pastor and his lovely wife.
- A Day at the Farm – Donated by Gene & Debbie Tanner

Please contact Sue Tofflemire, Mike Burgardt, Kathy Brazell, Norm Gerken, or the church office if you would like to donate or help in any way.

### **There will be no Pot Blessing in September.**

Join us for a fellowship meal at noon on Fellowship Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>. The meal will also include a special program on Lutheran Hour Ministries.

### **Adult Information Class (AIC)**

begins soon 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.