

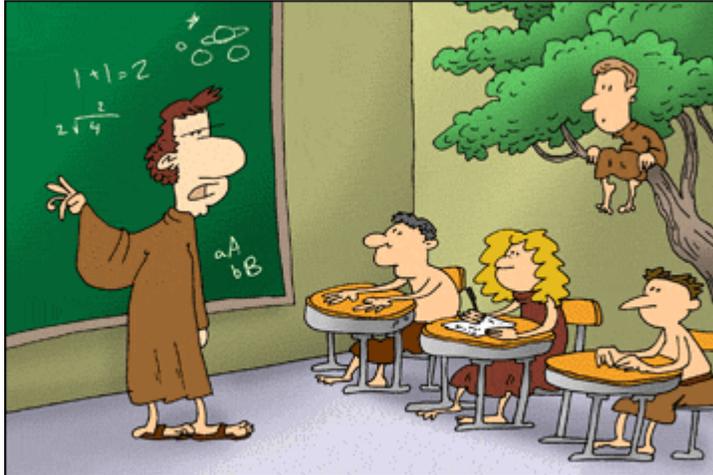
# GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

September 2014

## Back to School



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(See Luke 19:1-10)

11-28-2011

### YOUNG ZACCHAEUS IN SCHOOL

Soon were our loss effected. ...” Every Christian needs, therefore, ongoing nourishment in Christ Himself: “But for us fight the Valiant One, Whom God Himself elected....”

Moreover, as Christians, we long of the “pure spiritual milk” (1 Pet. 2:2) so that we might grow in faith and life with God. As members of the Body of Christ, we need to hear and speak the Word about Christ to one another. The goal is maturity: that we may “attain to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God ... so that we are no longer children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the cunning of men, by their craftiness in deceitful wiles. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the Head, into Christ...” (Eph 4:11-16).

In the words of our Synod in Convention: “Christian education, understood as the communication of God’s edifying Word, is essential to the life of the church and is the primary process and fundamental activity of the church in mission and the basic means for church renewal.”

September 7<sup>th</sup> is Rally Day at Good Shepherd. Plan now to enroll in, and faithfully attend, a Sunday School or Bible class.

Blessings, *Pastor Dan*

# Revisiting the Augsburg Confession:

## Article IX, X XI, XII, and XIII On the Sacraments

Few things confuse Christians more than the Scriptural doctrine of the Sacraments, probably because there are few Christian doctrines to which man adds more of his own words and confusion. Whether it is our Roman friends who add far too much philosophy and scholasticism to the doctrine of the Sacraments, or some of our Reformation friends who leave too much of the Biblical doctrine of the Sacraments on the editing room floor, people—and theologians especially—have done much to cloud these simple and comforting gifts Christ left to His Church. In Articles 9-12, the authors of the Augsburg Confession do a marvelous job of stating the simple truths of the Sacraments, without leaving any Scriptural doctrine untended.

Fundamentally, the confusion can begin with the word itself. The term Sacrament is not really a Biblical word. It's taken from a Latin root that means Mystery—and in a Christian context, a Divine Mystery. Early in the Church's history and writings, three central Divine Mysteries were observed as having been given by Christ to the Church for forgiveness, life, and salvation: Holy Baptism, Holy Supper or Eucharist, and Holy Absolution. Established by Jesus Himself and given as Means of Grace to His People, these Mysteries were held in the highest esteem by Christians who walked in the Apostles' footsteps. Certainly there are other Divine Mysteries noted in Scripture and the history of the Church, such as Marriage, Confirmation, Anointing of the Sick, Ordination, and even prayer; but these first three were chief among them all, because they alone gave the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

Beginning with Holy Baptism, the Augustana confesses (Article 9):

*Of Baptism they teach that it is necessary to salvation, and that through Baptism is offered the grace of God, and that children are to be baptized who, being offered to God through Baptism are received into God's grace. They condemn the Anabaptists, who reject the baptism of children, and say that children are saved without Baptism.*

Of the Holy Supper, they continue (Article 10):

*Of the Supper of the Lord they teach that the Body and Blood of Christ are truly present, and are distributed to those who eat the Supper of the Lord; and they reject those that teach otherwise.*

And of Holy Absolution, they proclaim (Articles 11 and 12):

*Of Confession they teach that Private Absolution ought to be retained in the churches, although in confession an enumeration of all sins is not necessary.*

*For it is impossible according to the Psalm: Who can understand his errors? Ps. 19, 12.*

*Of Repentance they teach that for those who have fallen after Baptism there is remission of sins whenever they are converted, and that the Church ought to impart absolution to those thus returning to repentance. Now, repentance consists properly of these two parts: One is contrition, that is, terrors smiting the conscience through the knowledge of sin; the other is faith, which is born of the Gospel, or of absolution, and believes that for Christ's sake, sins are forgiven, comforts the conscience, and delivers it from terrors. Then good works are bound to follow, which are the fruits of repentance.*

And lastly, of the use of the Sacraments, they confess (Article 13):

*Of the Use of the Sacraments they teach that the Sacraments were ordained, not only to be marks of profession among men, but rather to be signs and testimonies of the will of God toward us, instituted to awaken and confirm faith in those who use them. Wherefore we must so use the Sacraments that faith be added to believe the promises which are offered and set forth through the Sacraments.*

Notice how simple the Biblical doctrine actually is. Holy Baptism is given to all, because all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God—even babies, who suffer under the curse of death from Original Sin, just like adults do. The Holy Supper is the very Body and Blood of Christ, given and shed for the forgiveness of sins, to the Baptized people of God who come forward in faith and repentance. Holy Absolution is retained, so that all may come to their pastor, confess their sins, and receive the Word of Christ Himself: You are forgiven.

In each of the Sacraments, or Divine Mysteries, there is grace given, simple and free. No works of man bring the Sacraments forth—no human being ever conducts a Baptism, brings forth the Eucharist, or forgives the sins of the repentant. Christ does all these things. It is Christ who Baptizes you, through the faulty hands of your pastor. It is Christ who feeds you in His Supper, by the weak distribution of your pastor. It is Christ who Absolves you when you confess your sins in faith and repentance, through the filthy lips of your pastor. By Christ, and His Holy Word alone, comes the grace He won for you on His Cross—and by Christ alone do His servants become stewards of these Mysteries of God. The Church is not free to adjust, update, or attempt to make “relevant” the gifts Jesus gives, anymore than the Church is free to alter Christ’s Word. The Church simply receives the free gifts of Christ’s grace and mercy and forgiveness, humbly as beggars, and in faith does not question or belittle the Word by which Jesus gives His gift.

As we begin the end of our Summer season, I encourage you to look once again upon the Divine Mysteries of the Sacraments, and see in them the simple yet unimaginable wonder of His grace, coming to you through His Word. He has given these gifts to you, that you might be healed, and live forever in Him, forgiven and free. Come to the font. Come to the altar. Come to the Lord Jesus, who says to all His people living by grace through faith in Him: You are forgiven. Amen.

*Pastor Brad*

## **Congratulations to Dr. Myra Baughman**



During the graduations ceremony of Mount Rainier Lutheran High School, on June 7, 2014, she was awarded at *Pro Deo et Schola Award* (Latin “For God and School”). This award recognizes those who have given selflessly of themselves in a way that brings both honor to Mount Rainier Lutheran High and glory to our Lord.

Myra was selected for this honor because of her role as School Board President during Mount Rainier’s difficult days of transition. Myra was one of the original members of Mount Rainier Lutheran High’s board. She brought insight and experience as an educator for over 40 years, serving as a Professor of Education at Pacific Lutheran University. She continues to serve here at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

Congratulations to Myra!

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

AIC will begin September 14<sup>th</sup> 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.

# Music in God's Ears

As your humble servant writes this, he is still in the Pocono Hills (they call them Mountains here, but who are they kidding?) finishing a summer with 571 children doing Musical Theatre at Camp Starlight. Nevertheless, I am excited to return to Tacoma and begin another year of service to the LORD as we make music together for His praise.

As I have been making plans and selecting music for the coming year, I have been re-reading and pondering much of what Dr. Martin Luther wrote about the proper role of music in worship. The seminal principles of music for Lutheran worship established by Martin Luther, the manner in which these were practiced during the Reformation and in succeeding generations—all proclaim the Gospel. We shall discuss these principles over the next several months. We can learn much on this topic from Martin Luther and from the work of Lutheran cantors active during the first three centuries of Lutheranism. As Luther said, “God has preached the Gospel through music too.”

Martin Luther taught that music should serve Worship and Theology. The current trend in other denominations (and in some

Missouri Synod congregations as well) right now is to choose music based on its ability to serve evangelism. For many, evangelism has usurped theology and has become the litmus test for all thinking and action in the church. Thus, worship and its music have to be overtly evangelistic to be considered authentic, rather than being understood as the outcome of faith and theology and therefore bearing an inherent and genuine evangelistic thrust.

We shall explore this topic in coming months and I invite your feedback.

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## **Psalms: The Bible's Hymnal**

Since we began re-introducing the Psalm into the Liturgies of Good Shepherd, many of you have commented to me about how much you appreciated having the fullness of the Lectionary included. I am glad that this change met with such universal approval. The Book of Psalms is the largest section of the Bible and contains Hymns of Praise, Penitential Prayers as well as much Prophecy and illumination about the work of Jesus Christ. It would be a shame to omit such a large and rich section of the Bible.

The Psalms were always meant to be sung. The Lutheran tradition has included a few different ways to do so:

1. *A Unique Melody for Each Psalm: This was helpful for memorizing Psalms and was common in Monasteries and in churches where the choir sang the Psalm for the congregation.*
2. *The Psalm Tone: This is the method we have been using for the years since the Psalm came back to Good Shepherd.*
3. *The Psalm Tone with an Antiphon (Refrain).*
4. *Cantor singing the Psalm with Antiphon sung by the Congregation.*
5. *A Versification of the Psalm text sung to a Hymn Tune.*

In the next few months we will be exploring a variety of Psalm settings. They are all taken from new resources that have received the Synod's approval and I am excited to share them with you. Please let me know what you think. Let us dialogue!

*DVP  
(Denes Van Parys)*

## **Men's Breakfast / Bible Study** **Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup> – 8 am**

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 “Don't Worry We'll Get Around To It” (Joshua 13:1-13)



*Pastor Dan*

# Words and The Word:

## How to Begin (again)...

So, the Library has lost a lot of weight. That's a good thing. But, if a 300lb blimp is not healthy, neither is a 90lb weakling. Having taken off the excess weight, it's time to build some muscle. That means bulking up on what the Writer to the Hebrews calls "solid food" (Heb. 5:11-14). Deliberately rebuilding by adding useful, carefully selected, doctrinally sound, catechetical material. And (here's the spin...) we are providing you an opportunity to help us out!

There are two paths we could take to rebuilding, both of which feature strong qualities with drawbacks.

The first is for "us" (Good Shepherd's library and pastoral staff) to curate a list of desired titles, and purchase them directly. This would enable the Pastoral Office—with the aid of the "office" of "librarian"—to be accountable to their God-given responsibility to serve as "gateway" to the spiritual nourishment of the flock; to be able to assure you pure doctrine and a healthy diet. The largest drawback is that such an approach would rely exclusively on the purchasing power of an already prepared budget and would thus necessarily be limited by budget constraints.

The second option opens up the library to donations from "the public" (that would be you). This would eliminate any restrictions of budget and free the collection to grow according to your own generosity. On the downside, such an approach bypasses the gatekeeper responsibilities of both the Pastoral Office and the "librarian's" "office". The responsibility of a librarian (in this respect similar to the

responsibilities of a pastor) is to select on behalf of their "flock"/patrons a collection of titles that will be beneficial to said patrons according to the specific, stated purpose of that particular collection. In our case this means working with the Pastoral Office to assure for you still, unpolluted waters and green, weed-free pastureland... (cf 23rd Psalm)

My proposal—and offer to you—is a third path which I believe combines the best of these two approaches while guarding against the shortcomings of both. Instead of trying to carve a library out of an already limited budget, or leaving you to guess at what might best serve the collection, Good Shepherd library and pastoral staff will curate a "donation" list of desired titles, and offer you the opportunity to purchase and donate said titles to the library! (How's that for spin!) Spin aside, I think this approach will best enable us to restock the shelves of our "pantry" with mature, solid food for the benefit of the flock both now and for the generations to come.

Where, then, to begin? For starters, I will offer two proven, secure, thistle-free paddocks for your grazing.

First, Concordia Publishing House offers what it calls "The Essential Lutheran Library." You can both find listed and purchase these titles at their website (cph.org). All of these titles should be added to our library (...all of these titles should be added to your library), and range in price from \$12.99 to \$54.99—or the set for \$269.92. (Keep in mind, when buying for a circulating collection,

a hard-cover edition with a sewn binding is always best (longest lasting).)

The second resource is Issues, Etc. (issuesetc.org). Issues, Etc. is a confessional Lutheran radio talk-show that produces 10 hours of new content each week, and is well worth listening to every minute. (Online, go to their "Listen on Demand" link and listen live or go into their "Archives" section.) They also feature a "Book of the Month", which has ranged from Arch Books (a classic Lutheran children's series) to the Book of Concord. This month the featured book is The Lutheran Bible Companion (a two-volume set) currently available for \$49.99. By browsing Issues, Etc.'s "Book of the Month" list, you can be confident that any title you select has already been vetted by a reliable confessional Lutheran resource, and will be a great addition to any Library.

\*\*\*Please\*\*\*—Please!—please contact me and let me know what you intend to donate before purchasing any title for the Library! This way I can keep track of who is buying—or has bought—what, and we can avoid unnecessary duplication of titles and waste of your monies.

Yikes! That was much. But necessary for a solid first step. Thank you for all your assistance. I will strive to serve you to the best of my ability.

solī Deo gloria,  
*Joel J. Wippich*  
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# -Preschool News

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

## Sharing Christ, Feeding Lambs

Welcome to another joy filled and exciting year for Little Lambs Preschool! Please join us in welcoming our new teaching assistant,

Tammy Boudreau and our new Assistant Director, Angela Doyle. Both of these names should be familiar as they have been members of our congregation for years. Tammy is new to our preschool and we look forward to all she has to offer our preschool family.

Angela is returning to employment status after a break of five years. She is coming back to a new position and we look forward to her leadership skills in our preschool family.

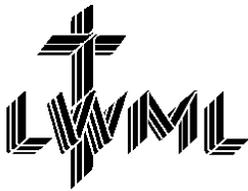
Caron Long is returning in her 6<sup>th</sup> year as our teaching assistant for our Preschool 2 class. Bonnie Huset continues as our Director / Teacher as our preschool enters its tenth year. We sincerely ask for your prayers and thank you for your generous support

in many ways as we continue to move forward serving Christ at Little Lambs Preschool and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

Our preschool does have space available for students in both our classes. If you are interested or know someone who might be, please contact us. We welcome all inquiries and visitors.

**Mark the Date:** Our **Sunday Sundays** will be **Sunday, October, 4 at 4 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us for ice cream as we get to know our preschool families.

Thank You,  
*Bonnie Huset*  
Director / Teacher



## Women in Mission / Women's Ministry

- **Tuesdays:**  
Bible Study (9:15 am) Quilting (10 am)
- **Mites & Missions Offering**  
September 14<sup>th</sup>
- **Seafarers' Auxiliary** – September 23<sup>rd</sup>  
12 noon with a potluck meal.
- **Retreat** – September 26-27<sup>th</sup>
- **LWML Sunday** – October 5<sup>th</sup>

All Good Shepherd Ladies – Mark your calendars:

1. Retreat September 26-27 at Camp Burton on Vashon Island. Theme: Martha and Mary
2. Mites – all go for Mission Grants (not one penny to us).
3. Knitters – how many caps will you have by November 10<sup>th</sup>? (We need 150 total).
4. Tuesday Bible Study and / or Quilting. (Stop by – you are always welcome)
5. October 5<sup>th</sup> is LWML Sunday – this is YOU Lutheran Women.

Serving the Lord with Gladness,  
*Jane Oberg*

*REMEMBER always Pray, Praise, and Give Thanks!*



# COMING SOON! 2014 GROW AUCTION