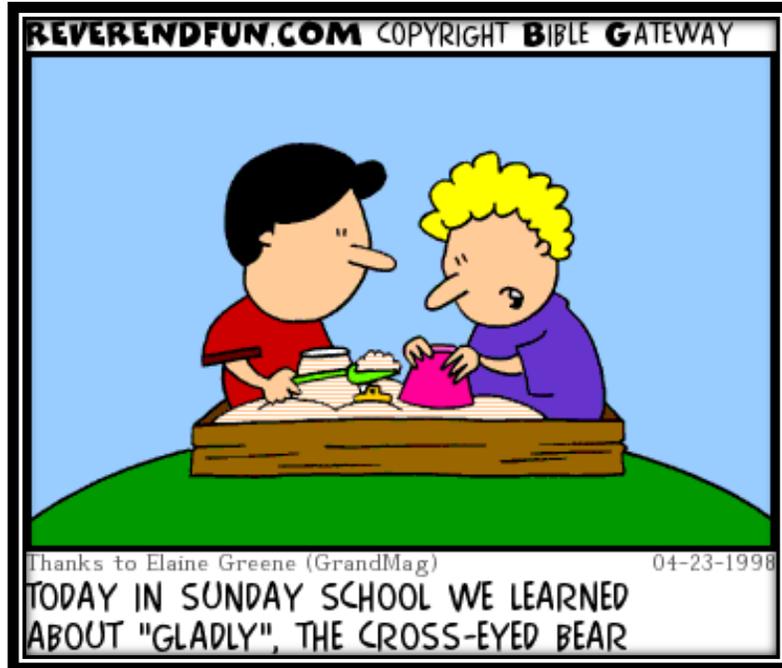


GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
140 East 56th Street, Tacoma, WA 98404 Ph: 253-473-4848
www.goodshepherdluth.com

GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

September 2016

Back to Sunday School



September 11 is Rally Day. Summer is quickly coming to an end. On, September 11, we will start up our fall Sunday School and Bible classes. One of the problems of today's world is Bible illiteracy. Many people do not know what the Bible says. They simply do not spend time in God's Word. Either that, or they are simply confused, as our two friends in the cartoon are. The Bible is God's Word of grace through faith in Jesus Christ. It's our guidebook for life as God's people. Jesus wants us to trust Him alone for salvation, to spend life in His presence, and to live as members of His community – serving one another and He served us. Join one of our classes and experience a life-changing encounter with Jesus. You'll be glad you did.

Blessings,
Pastor Dan

The Open Door

By Michael J. Dunn
Congregation President

Last month, I gave you a very sobering message of where we are with our Congregation. One might be justified in wondering how it is possible to remediate our situation. The first reaction is probably dismay, leading to despair. Let me tell you then, why I am not despairing.

First of all, I come from a background that makes me grateful to God for what lies before me. I went through a relationship of nearly 30 years that ended in total rejection and the meaninglessness of all that time together. I went through the wilderness of 40 years of atheism, before coming to Christ. I was knocked about in my career by indifferent management. I was stricken with heart failure, and had to contemplate my possible death while lying on a gurney, with my breathing getting shorter and shorter as my lungs were enveloped in edema. I had to endure open-heart surgery, where, in the words of Miracle Max from *The Princess Bride*, I was “mostly dead.”

Not inspiring to hope? But, as a result of 30-40 years of misspent life, I came to Christ. It took me a while to understand that the great gift that Christ gives us is the prospect of the future. That is: we do not need to repeat our path. Our path does not hold chains over us. I realized that though I had to go through pain with the surgery, He gave me a second life to live. Would He do that unless He expected me to live differently? He brought me to this church. Would He do that unless I were meant to be here? He crossed my path with my wife, Louise. Would he do that unless He meant me to have a full life? He presented me a challenge to duty, in running for the vacant and unwanted office of Congregation President. By this time, I had realized in retrospect that God had always been putting such tasks before me, which I had fulfilled. So, I intend to fulfill this one, with the grace of God.

What does this mean for us? My adage as an engineer is that one cannot solve a problem unless the problem is identified. It is a diagnosis. There is always a flutter of the heart once it is pronounced and heard, but then we come to what we must do. Here is the great secret in having a future: we must take steps away from the past. Maybe nothing will come immediately...but something will come eventually. Maybe we cannot get from A to Z...but we can get from A to C, and thence to D, and step-after-step we arrive at Z.

We must have faith in the future, *but we must take steps away from the past*. God will give us a bountiful harvest, but we must perform the work of the harvest.

Now, I am happy to report that these messages are having some effect. New faces are involved in the common business of the church, and individuals are approaching me to offer assistance. We are still in great need of participants in church offices, on Boards, Committees, and appointments. I regret to say that our shortages are causing some Constitutional obligations to slide. We are doing our best.

Finally, there is another secret: We talk much about fellowship, but sadly it is more talk than reality. Aside from personal friendships, we tend not to spend much time with each other. But when one is involved with a Board or a Committee, or on the Council, it is possible to develop new friendship, and more than friendship: teamwork. We become colleagues in Christ. We find pleasure in joining one another in the Lord's work.

Yes, we are all busy. I am still a recovering heart patient. I have a sleep disorder. I need to lose 50 pounds for the sake of my own health. I am currently employed at an assignment where my daily drive is 100 miles—I leave home at 7 AM and return at 7 PM. I am constantly worn out and neglect my wife too much, but she forgives and joins me. What else can I do? Can I rest in spirit if I turn my back on this church?

Join me. We are a team!

As always, I am available outside of services, in the Narthex, down in the Fellowship Hall, by telephone (home 253-838-5820), and by e-mail (michaeljdunn@msn.com). Every question deserves an answer.

Financial Update

Summer is over, our schedules will now get back to our normal routines. This means that worship once again becomes our weekly focus. Attendance will rise and also will our offerings. Praise be to God!

Yes, our finances dropped during summer. We had a small cushion and it held up. Just a reminder, \$8400 of that surplus on the narthex chart went to Mount Rainier Lutheran High School. This was in coordination with the school challenge we had earlier this year.

Repairs are being done as we can. Your contributions are important and we thank you for them. Praise God.

Looking Ahead...



Looking Ahead: Each year Good Shepherd puts on an event to “GROW” the Endowment Fund which helps support children in our congregation that attend Christian schools.

The Auction Committee is working very hard on the preparations for the GROW 2016 Dinner and Auction and we invite you to join us! We will share in a delicious Italian meal, take a walk through different Italian “cities” while perusing items for the silent auction, and enjoy bidding wars during the live auction as well. **GROW 2016** will be held in the **Fellowship Hall** here at Good Shepherd on **Saturday, October 15, 2016 at 5 pm.**

Tickets can be purchased after each service beginning September 18. Tickets are **\$15.00** each, which includes dinner and evening activities. For each ticket purchased, we will reserve one ticket for your added guest who is not a Good Shepherd member. See Michelle Boule and Angela Doyle for tickets or more information.

If you are interested in donating an item, putting together a basket for the auction, making a cash donation, or asking your place of business/employment for a donation contact Bonnie Huset or Betty Hennig for a donor form. We would like commitments for donations by October 1, 2016.

Thank you for helping us make this year’s GROW a stellar success and an evening to remember



Important Information for Thrivent Members

As a member of Thrivent, you have an opportunity to apply for a \$250 Community Impact Card that you can use to purchase project supplies and create promotional materials for a project in the church or community. Think about an unmet need in your community or church and how you could help. Apply to lead your volunteer team in a one-time fundraiser, service activity, or educational event that can be completed within 90 days. Once your project is approved, you’ll receive a Thrivent Action Kit. All Thrivent members are eligible to lead a Thrivent Action Team. However, the number of teams each member can lead per year depends on his or her membership type. Benefit members are eligible to lead one per calendar year. Projects applied for and used this year include the Preschool’s plant sale (to help purchase the plants) and for our Grow Auction (to help purchase the ingredients for the dinner and decorations).

Plus, with Thrivent Choice®, you can recommend where some of Thrivent Financial’s charitable outreach funds go. Since 2010, members have used this program to direct \$300 million to churches and nonprofits nationwide. You can direct your Choice Dollars to “Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Tacoma, WA,” “The Good Shepherd’s Little Lambs Preschool, Tacoma, WA,” “Concordia Lutheran School, Tacoma, WA,” or “Mount Rainier Lutheran High School, Tacoma, WA.”

For more information, or to apply, go to the Thrivent Website: www.thrivent.com



Women in Mission / Women's Ministry

- **Tuesdays:**

Bible Study (9:15 am)

Quilting (10 am)

- **Mites**—Sunday, September 11

Ladies of Good Shepherd,

The end of summer is near and fall is right around the corner. This is a good time to refocus on our goals, such as preparing the 150 Seafarer's Christmas boxes. If you have participated in year's past, you know that each box includes a knitted hat (prepared by one of our volunteer knitters...thank you all!), and 13 other items. These gift boxes are then distributed to seafarers that come into the Port of Tacoma. Your donations of knitted hats and contributions of money to purchase the items to complete are appreciated and needed. Thank you!

Please join us on Tuesday mornings for our weekly Bible Study (9:15 am) and Quilting (10 am). All are welcome!

Remember to save your change (or bills) for the Mite Box to help Mites to grow. For those of you who do not know the history of mites, "based on the Biblical account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1-4), the mite box is intended for regular contributions of "mites" - offerings above and beyond the support given to congregations and the LCMS. Mite Box contributions amount to millions of dollars that fund district and national **mission grants** and implement the LWML program."

Quote from www.lwml.org/mites.

Mark your calendar for first Sunday in October, which is LWML Sunday. This year the theme is "Come and See!" written by Dr. Leopoldo A. Sánchez M.

Pray, Praise and Give Thanks!

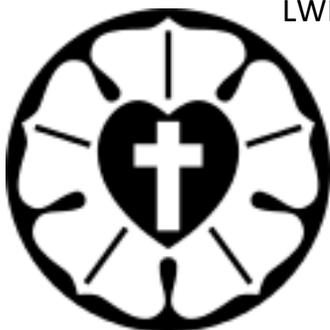
Jane Oberg

Men's Breakfast / Bible Study

Saturday, September 17th – 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 "Not the First Impression He Wanted to Make" (1 Kings 12).

"Being a Lutheran Woman means..."



LWML/Women in Mission serve the Lord and our community in many ways. Are you involved? One way to be involved is to come to the Women's Retreat. Join us for fun, fellowship, singing and studying the Word together in a beautiful setting on Vashon Island. Camp Burton welcomes us back to their retreat center again this year. Price has increased slightly (\$5 more than last year). Registration runs through 9/11/16. Come join your sisters in Christ for a fun get away. See Michelle Boule or Ruth Gerken for registration information.

Preschool News

www.littlelambstacoma.com

Sharing Christ, Feeding Lambs



Our twelfth year of preschool will begin this September. We give thanks and praise to God for all the blessings He has given to us. We are also truly grateful for the prayers and encouragement from our parishioners.

At this time we would like to acknowledge Angela Doyle as our new preschool board chairperson. Tammy Boudreau is taking on the position of secretary and Diane Dean will continue as our treasurer. We would also like to mention Vicky McGee and Anita Long as board members. We thank everyone for their commitment and time given to the preschool.

We still have openings at the preschool if you are anyone you know is interested in a spot. We welcome the opportunity to serve at our preschool.

Do you place orders with **Amazon.com**? If so, please consider going through our preschool website to get to Amazon.com, using the link at the bottom of our home page or by using the tab at the top with the scrolling news. By doing this, Amazon will donate a small percentage of the total you spend to our preschool, with no extra cost to you. Thank you!

We thank you for your continued prayer support for our preschool students, families, board members, and staff.

Serving our Savior,
Bonnie Jean Huset
Director / Teacher

Lutheran Confessions Reading & Study Group

Our Nisqually and Rainier Circuits (23 and 24) are beginning a reading, study, and discussion group for the Book of Concord. The group is for pastors, congregational members, and anyone interested in the foundational documents of the Lutheran Church. The first meeting will be on Thursday, September 15, at 7 pm in the Chapel Annex of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (concluding between 8 and 8:30 pm). At our first meeting we will discuss the contents of the Book of Concord, look at a reading schedule, and discuss the possibility of a rotating schedule for hosting the meetings. The plan is to meet every other Thursday evening. Light refreshments will be provided.

Care Net Baby Shower – Sept. 11 – Oct. 2

Items are needed for the Puyallup and Tacoma Care Net Pregnancy & Family Services of Puget Sound centers. Please see the bulletin or the bulletin board in the narthex for listed needs at the Puyallup and Tacoma Center. Thank you for your support.

Lunch Bunch Please join us **Thursday, September 8th** at **11:30 am** for our Pot Blessings Lunch. Bring a dish to share and join us for the fun!

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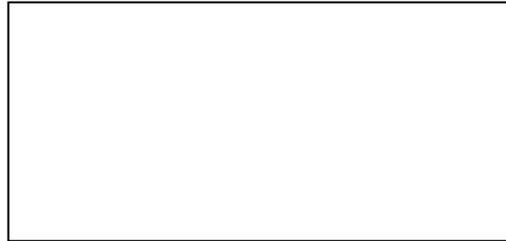
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Phone: 253-473-4848

Website: www.goodshepherdluth.com



Reaching the Lost for Christ



Sunday School Rally

Day

September 11, 2016

9:30 am – 10:30 am

Ages: 3 – 5th Grade

(we begin with opening
in the Annex Preschool Room)

Featuring stories, music, and crafts.

Learn about God's Love Through Jesus



**DON'T FORGET OUR YOUTH AND ADULT CLASSES
ALSO BEGIN ON SEPTEMBER 11TH!**