

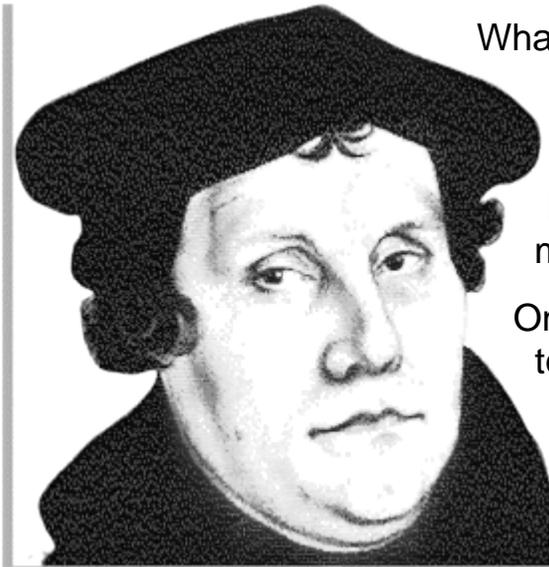
GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
Tacoma, Washington

GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

October 2011

“What Does This Mean?”

What a good and wonderful Lutheran question. We all learned to ask the question in confirmation classes. And we learned to answer it with quotes from Scripture or Martin Luther. So, what does Reformation mean?



On Reformation Day we celebrate the gift of God to the church through His servant Martin Luther. On October 31, 1517, Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. Luther's purpose was to debate the issue of indulgences. Luther was protesting against

the abuse of papal authority as well as denying the supposed merits of gaining forgiveness thru the purchase of these indulgences. Luther insisted that the Scripture proclaimed that forgiveness was thru the merits of Jesus Christ alone. The word of God received in faith and revealed as the Holy Gospel was the true path to salvation. It was the beginning of the protestant Reformation.

This heritage has been passed down to us. We have God's Word. No matter how pressing the problems, or how bitter the suffering, we can go back to the Bible for light and consolation as Luther did. And like Luther, no matter how unworthy we feel, we know that God loves us and accepts us in Christ.

This is part of Luther's legacy for us today. Even though we have our problems today, but have the Scriptures to give us light, and we have salvation in Christ Jesus to give us the nearness of God.

Happy Reformation Day.

Blessings,

Pastor Dan



What Really Binds Us Together?

The idea of community is a tough one in our day. While many people are more connected to the information super-highway than ever before, it's also been observed that many folks feel more disconnected than ever before. Recent studies have shown that while tools like Facebook, email, blogs, Twitter, and so forth give the impression of being connected to many people, the reality is that in order to be "connected" with those 400+ "friends" you have on Facebook, you have to sit alone with your computer to interact with your keyboard. There's a sense in which people trade physical connection, for virtual connection—real community, for virtual community. As a result, it's really no wonder so many people feel disconnected and alone.

At the end of September and the end of October, we have a couple old church festivals that help remind us just what really keeps us connected. September 29th is celebrated as the feast of St. Michael and All Angels; October 31st is celebrated as All Hallows Eve and Reformation Day; November 1st is All Saints Day. It might not seem obvious on first read how these point to our common connectedness, but if you scratch the surface, I think you'll be pleasantly surprised.

Why do you think the Holy Angels of God defend you and protect you? It's not because you're just a really groovy person. Rather, it is because you have been reconciled to God the Father in Christ Jesus. Jesus took you from being a child of wrath and an enemy of God, to being a forgiven and blessed child of God, saved by grace through faith. The Holy Angels are your defenders and guardians, because you belong to the same Triune God that they do—you and the Holy Angels are in real community, because of what Christ has done to make you an heir of the Kingdom of God.

What is it that unites you to the great Reformers of nearly 500 years ago, or to any of the great saints that have come before us over the last several thousand years? That same Jesus who saved them, saves you, too. In Christ, who reconciled the world to Himself through His Cross, you and the saints are One Body. There is no such thing as multiple churches... there's only One, Holy, Catholic (Christian), and Apostolic Church, just like we confess in the Creed. Why? Because as St. Paul tells us, there's only one Jesus... and there's only one Holy Baptism that unites us all into Him. Jesus is who unites us all together across time and space,

so that His One Holy Church will endure forever, always connected through Him.

As has been the case in every generation down to our own, Jesus is who binds us together. Whether we communicate with email and text messages, or face to face at picnics and BBQ's, we who have been washed in the Blood of the Lamb, are really made one. We have a real community, which finds its most beautiful expression in the celebration of Word and Sacrament, where Christ our life and salvation comes to us in the Eucharistic Supper. Jesus, our Lord and our Savior, who unites us to great saints and unnamed martyrs throughout the history of the world, also binds us together with our brothers and sisters here, and in this place. We are one, because He is One. And because He has made us one with Him, we need never feel alone. As you prepare to receive Holy Communion the next time, think for a moment about the blessing Christ is giving you, that through and in Him, He unites you to a family beyond number... like the sands of the sea shore... all crying out "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" Amen.

Pastor Brad

It's Music in God's Ears

“What shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.”
I Corinthians 14:26

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our ‘God is a consuming fire.’”
Hebrews 12:28

The more I read the Bible and study what God has to say about worship, the more I am convicted that worship is not an option to be selected or discarded at our whim. It is fairly obvious to me that we were created to glorify Him and, if we read the Book of the Revelation, we see that our eternity will be filled with the constant worship and praise of our God.

The Bible is filled with admonitions to worship and praise Him in this lifetime, as well. The Psalms constantly call us to worship. Worship was important enough to God that

he gave detailed instructions to the Israelites on the annual cycle of celebrations as well as describing what were to be the proper and acceptable practices in the Tabernacle and, later, the Temple. Over the coming months, we will also be looking at some of the many stories that illustrate not only how highly God craves our worship, but also the high standards that he expects us to hold it to. Why is all of this so important? The commandments show us that we must worship God, only God, and in the way which He requires. Anything less is unsatisfactory and may even be rejected, as in the story of Cain and Abel. The Psalms call us to worship and praise, telling us that we are not only invited to worship, but commanded to do so.

The Bible shows that the Lord takes His worship very seriously. It shows us very specifically that our worship must reflect both God's great saving work in Christ and his holy zeal for the purity of worship. Only such worship will be acceptable to him. It is not that God is closed-minded but that we remain close-eared.

We have heard what God requires of us. It is up to us to give to Him, as He has given to us. As He has delivered us, we should deliver our worship in as true and pure a fashion as we can and as close to His prescription as is humanly possible.

Robert Godfrey wrote in *Pleasing God in Our Worship*:
“This priority needs to be reaffirmed especially today. Too often today when people speak of acceptable worship they mean worship that is acceptable to themselves or perhaps acceptable especially to the un-churched. While worship must communicate clearly to the gathered congregation, the Bible insists that worship must above all be acceptable to God. And we must always remember that we can only know what is acceptable to God by a careful study of his Word.”
It is this sort of study that we will be undertaking as we begin the New Year. I hope that you are as excited about it as I am.

Your Servant,
DVP (Denes Van Parys)

Men's Breakfast / Bible Study October 15th Join

us **Saturday, October 15th** 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: “The Cheater Gets Cheated” (Genesis 29:30) *Pastor Dan*

President's Corner

I hope a happy and wonderful summer was had by all.

My news article this month is all business. We have successfully made alternate arrangements to get a new photo directory completed. During November 3rd, 4th, and 5th we will have a professional photographer taking pictures. Please start considering now which day/time you would like to make your family available. We will provide additional announcements when we are ready to start the sign-up process.

Also, you have the opportunity to purchase pictures if that is something you are interested in doing. I noticed they have a selection of different Christmas cards that can include your family photo. They said they should have no problems turning around the processing of these orders so that you will be able to have these sent out before Christmas.

I have received word that there has been some expressed interest in our financial situation. I'm

proud to say that we continue to pay every one of our bills on time. While this past summer was tight and we are now moving into the time of year where some of our expenses increase, we continue to make every effort to wisely use all our resources.

For those of you who enjoy the number crunching details, I would like to encourage you to plan to attend our voters meeting in December where you will get a chance to see the full budget and expenditures. This leads right into my next topic.

Please spend some time over the next month considering running for an office or offering to be an appointed member to one of the boards. This is an excellent opportunity to get involved with the church body. Prayerfully consider what areas you have some expertise and ideas to add, then let one of the officers know, leave a note in my or Tony Huset's box, or let the church office know.

Julian Doyle

Lunch Bunch News

Are you old enough to be a part of **THE LUNCH BUNCH**?

There is no age restriction, nor any requirement to participate in our program - you just have to want to be a part of a group that involves mostly older members and friends and that you enjoy visiting and being in fellowship with others.

Our programs include a brief devotion, a shared lunch, followed by playing games together, sharing hobbies and collections, visiting a variety of

businesses, and have special speakers. So far we have not had a speaker - but we are trying to plan for some in the remaining months of this year and the first part of next.

The speakers we have in mind would share with us how to avoid scams that come into our life through the mail, internet, and people we meet on the street, or come knocking at our door. We will also include someone who will give us hints about handling our finances, so

that we avoid some foolish mistakes, and others who will give us clues about staying in good health as our bodies age.

We are hoping to have one of these speakers scheduled for our October meeting on the 4th. Be watching your Sunday bulletins on September 25 and October 2 for details about this meeting. Would love to see you there.

Pastor Ken Boetcher
253-847-5925

A Member Answers Pastor Gerken's Challenge

I'm going to start my story by telling you how this all got started. Back on July 22, 2011 I got badly injured at my work. It was so bad that I was unable to walk by myself and do basic duties. Laying on my back a lot got me to thinking. Poor me; why me; I'm never going to be the same... blah blah blah. You know where I am going with this. One Sunday morning Pastor Gerken challenged us to give back with our talents and gifts. One recommendation was to go see members who can no longer worship at our church due to illnesses. Homebound he called it. Well here is my story. Thank you Pastor for your encouragement and challenge.

On September 8 I visited with Mrs. Maralyn McDonald and her lovely and welcoming daughter Margie Gilbee. After Margie greeted me at the front door, she escorted me into a red painted kitchen. Her home was built in the 1920's and it had so much character. There she was, a fragile lady, about 80 years of age, sitting in a wheel chair enjoying her Ensure. I asked how she was and how she was feeling. She said fine, which made me wonder; how was she really feeling, sitting there not being able to move, falling often and I am sure hurting from her past knee surgeries. I wanted to know more... what was she like, who was Mrs. McDonald, and how has she made a difference in life?

As we got more comfortable with our conversation, Marilyn told me she was born in Tacoma in 1929, attended the surrounding elementary schools, and graduated from Lincoln High School. She attended Bethlehem Lutheran Church for years. She started working right after high school at a service club in Fort Lewis, were she met her dear husband, Charles (*Chuck*) McDonald. He was a service man. They married in 1953 and moved to Denver Colorado were she gave birth to two girls, Margie and Bonnie. They attended St. John's Lutheran Church for more than 30yrs.

Maralyn taught VBS and children's Sunday Bible class at this church. I asked her what was her favorite age group of kids to work with. She smiled and said all of them. Margie mentioned some memories that she had when her mom taught. She was telling the children the Bible story of Jesus when He turned water into wine. She put one hand with a glass of water behind her back and exchanged it with a glass filled with red cool aide. She remembers the children being surprised and thrilled. She still owns some books that she used to teach with. One of Margie's favorite teaching materials is a record that she still owns, "Bull Frogs & Butterflies." She also remembered her mom decorating a cake box with the children right before Christmas, and had them wait patiently till Christmas when she would bring in a home baked cake for Jesus' birthday.

The McDonald family moved back to Tacoma, Washington in 1989 when Maralyn's father passed away. Good Shepherd became their home church. Maralyn was not very active at Good Shepherd, but remembers a lot of the oldies but goodies gang. She rekindled an old high school friendship with Mrs. Werner and was inspired by her loving and caring heart. She had foster children living in her home. Maralyn fell in love with a particular child by the name of David. Long story short, the McDonalds grew from a family of four to a family of five. Marilyn explained to me that she knew this kid was a gift from God. On Pentecost Sunday, when Pastor Banken was preaching, David told his mom that he wanted to be a pastor. David now lives in Brewster, Minnesota where he is a minister at Trinity Lutheran Church. Margie said jokingly, "we tease him and tell him 'He is the Special one all right'" and cracks a smile. Maralyn still lives in the same home that once was her parents. A lot of history, memories, and lots of good times. She showed me around the home

with such excitement and pride and stated that, "They don't make them like they used too."

Saying good bye and promising to visit soon, I left with such a joy in my heart! Not knowing if I made a difference in their lives but knowing they did make a difference in mine. I guess Pastor was right. Giving some of our time to those who really need company will not only benefit them, but us as well. Well he didn't say those exact words but here is what I learned: God will not forsake you. 1 Chronicles 28:20: *David also said to Solomon his son, "Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the Lord is finished.* This woman, Mrs. Maralyn McDonald, an ordinary lady with an ordinary life, finds it in her heart to devote her life as a godly woman, and be an example to all of us. To raise children the godly way, by devoting herself to teaching not only her own children, but also other people's children. Adopting a child out of pure love. Trusting in God. Isaiah 26:4: *Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord, is the rock eternal.* Wow, so much more to share but not enough room to fit. One thing for sure is that both Maralyn and Margie enjoy receiving the Good Shepherd monthly newsletter to stay connected. They also appreciate visits from our Pastors.

Well until my next journey, who will be my "next victim" and who will come with me?

A special thanks to the McDonald Family. Thank you for inviting me in, and allowing me to share my story with our congregation. I know that God has a special hand on you! Blessings, to you and to your lovely family.

Delia Stallard

A Member of Good Shepherd



Preschool News

www.littlelambstacoma.com

Please join our preschool families on October 2nd at 4 pm in the Fellowship Hall for our Sunday Sundaes! Everyone is invited to attend! Help us welcome our preschool families into our church and preschool.

Thank you for your continued support of our preschool. We now have seventeen students with which we are sharing Christ's love.

Our fall-fundraiser will be a bit different this year. 1) We will be auctioning off a "rescue quilt" finished by Rosetta McKibbin and 2) selling containers of homemade cookies (for Christmas) on November 13th. We are asking for donations of cookies (home

baked) to sell. People will then be allowed to choose the cookies they want for their own container and we will place them in the container – which may be placed into your freezer for the Christmas season!

In October our students will be learning about forgiveness and Joseph forgiving his brothers, the birth of Moses, and the 10 Commandments.

Please continue to pray for our students and their families. Thank you!

Serving our Savior,
Bonnie Jean Huset
Preschool Director / Teacher

SUNDAY SUNDAES

**Preschool
and Congregational Families**



You are invited!

**Sunday, October 2nd at 4 pm
in the Fellowship Hall.**

Please join us for some fun with fellowship!

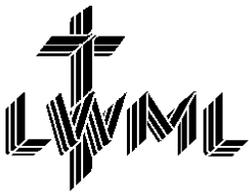
Following the social, the preschool and congregational families are invited to stay for our 5 pm chapel led by Pastor Brad Varvil.

Brunch & Bible Study and Pink Shoe Club

The Women's Brunch & Bible Study and Girls' Pink Shoe Club will meet on Saturday, October 8th 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.

Weekly Quilting on Tuesdays at 10 am.

LWML Sunday, October 2nd

Fall Rally Saturday, October 15th, 9 am

Quilt Dedication, Sunday, October 16th

Quilts Shipped October 21 or 22

Seafarers' Auxiliary Tuesday, October 25th, 12 pm

Mites collected on October 9th

Women of Good Shepherd:

Celebrate **LWML Sunday, October 2nd**. What joy to join Lutheran Woman everywhere in praising and serving our Lord!

Plan to attend the **Rainier Zone Fall Rally**, Saturday, October 15 at King of Glory. There will be an ingathering / baby shower for Care Net. What could be more enjoyable than joining with other Lutheran women for worship, fellowship, friends, and sharing? See you There

Serving the Lord with gladness! *Jane Oberg*
475-2832

PS: Don't forget items for Seafarers' Christmas Boxes – Toothbrushes (adult-soft), Toothpaste, Small Skin Lotion, Small Shampoo, Wrapped Soap, and Chapstick. Thanks!

Dear Lovely Ladies of Good Shepherd,

Wow, its October and I didn't even feel September go by. Thank you all who participated in the activities we had in September. It has been a joy having some quality time getting to know you individually. Let's start with updates.

A Visit With Our Homebound- Recently, I responded to Pastor Gerken's challenge he gave to us and began visiting some of our homebound members and those that have recently been ill. With their permission I will tell you how they are doing. Check out the article in this newsletter to read about my first visit. You are invited to join me on the visits anytime.

Women's Bunch & Bible Study- which meets every second Saturday of the month. It was outstanding and many homemade delicious dishes were brought in. One of my favorites was the corn bread, thank you Mrs. Rosetta McKibbin. The Bible study came from The Lutheran Woman's

Quarterly. I have to admit I was skeptical. I wasn't expecting a study from the LWML to be, well how can I put it...updated and relating to today's world. I was shocked to see what have I been missing! I enjoyed it! Pick up a magazine today - I dare you. No! I challenge you and you must tell me what you think. "Heaven: A Five-Star Review" was the study we covered in September. Mark your calendars ***October 10th at 9:30 am*** for the next one. The next study is titled, "God's Mirror." This study is led by Bonnie Jean Huset and Ruth Gerken. Remember Pink Shoe Club for girls also meets at the same time. Please contact Sue Tofflemire if your girls are planning to attend.

Ladies Sunday Morning Bible Study- It looks like this study "Bad Girls of the Bible" by Liz Curtiz Higgs was not a hit. Don't worry we will come up with something soon.

Girls Nite Out - Fun is not the word to use for this night out. We had a blast; We met at the Olive

Garden, Tacoma our waitress was a wonderful joy and we made a new friend Amanda. Thank you to all the lovely ladies that joined us and those that couldn't we missed you. **Next Gathering** will be at **my CASA, on October 21, 6pm-9pm**. Bring your favorite dish to share that starts with the letter **D**. We decided to have a small devotional and sharing. Oh we shared a lot all right... pasta... oh all the pasta we ate! ☺

Coming soon!

Good Shepherd's Women's Retreat "Women of Today"

We will be having a one day Women's Retreat **Saturday October 29th** We will carpool and leave the Good Shepherd parking lot at 7:15 am to catch the 8 am ferry from Steilacoom and travel to Anderson Island and meet at Myra Baughman's cabin. Following our full day of sharing together at our retreat, we will leave the island on the 8 pm ferry. Please sign up today on the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

Your Servant,
Delia Stallard



L'WML Rainier Zone Fall Rally
October 15, 2011

God's Grace in the Storms of Life

Speaker - Diane Armour
Care Net of Gig Harbor

Ingathering = Baby Shower for Care Net



King of Glory Lutheran Church
6411 - 154th St NW
Gig Harbor, Washington

Come enjoy a time of worship,
fellowship, friends and sharing.

Morning refreshments
and
lunch will be provided.

Registration 9:00 a.m.
\$5.00 fee

**Do you know what your
Social Security benefits are?**

Sign up today!

Many of us find the Social Security statements we receive each year hard to decipher. What's even harder to figure out is the role your Social Security benefits will play in your overall retirement planning.

Find out how to read and understand your statement and what it could mean to your financial future. Join us for a 30-minute workshop:

Your Social Security Statement
Understanding your retirement benefits
and opportunities

The workshop is designed to help pre-retirees:

- Learn the basics of Social Security.
- Review and understand their statement and estimated benefits.
- Determine the best way to optimize those benefits.

Cost: Free!

Offered by: Kevin Gleim LUTCF, FICF and Mount Rainier Chapter of Thrivent Financial

When: October 5, 2011 at 7:00pm

Where: Church social hall

Register: Call Ruth Gerken at 770-9115 or Kevin Gleim at 840-4414 by September 30, 2011

"Your Social Security Statement" is intended only to educate you about financial decisions. It is broad in scope and does not consider your individual personal financial situation, which is unique. The information and advice may not be appropriate in all cases. No products will be offered for sale.

For additional important disclosure information, please visit Thrivent.com/disclosures.

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Thrivent.com

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Good Shepherd Lutheran Women's One Day Retreat

God's Woman Today



Saturday, October 29th

Anderson Island

Cost: \$20

Leaving Good Shepherd's Parking Lot at 7:15 am.

Returning on 8 am ferry from Anderson Island

Bring:

**Bible, Note Pad, Walking Shoes, Raincoat, Towel,
Sack Lunch, and a Snack to Share.**

Dinner will be provided

Sign up on the bulletin board soon!

Questions: Delia Stallard – 253-948-2066