

GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

October 2017

An Important Message from Pastor Toby

When Jesus affirmed Peter, Jesus was drawing him into a deeper relationship with the Triune God. Matthew 16:17-18 says *“And Jesus answered him, Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”*

Jesus gives Peter the name “Little Rock” (Petras). Then at the end of His sermon on the Mount in the Parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders, Jesus refers to Himself as the **PETRA** ... meaning the “Big Rock.” In other words, Peter is the Little Rock (one that you can throw) and Jesus is the Gigantic Rock (like a boulder jutting out of the ground that cannot be moved).

Peter is becoming a partner with God. Like the relationship that Jesus has with the Father, so now Jesus is calling Peter into a relationship with Himself. Peter’s confession of who Jesus is brings with it the “keys” to the Kingdom. Peter (The Church) is given authority and power as the little rock. But then look what

happens just moments later in Matthew 16:23 – *But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”*

Sometimes Jesus draws the Church (His disciples) into a closer relationship with Himself and at the same time He challenges behaviors that are wrong or unhealthy. Sometimes Jesus would draw His disciples into a closer relationship with Him assuring them (us) of His love but other times He gave them (us) opportunity to accept the **responsibilities** of Discipleship. Matthew 16:24-25 is an example of Jesus challenging us to the responsibilities **we have** to Discipleship. *Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. (Matthew 16:24-25).*

Discipleship is about invitation and challenge. Jesus invites us to follow Him. But He also challenges us as Disciples to **deny** oneself, pick up His cross, and lose his/her life.

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But who wants to be a loser? Good Shepherd is being challenged today! All of us have chinks. One can be a “Little Rock” and accept the challenge to follow or one can choose to be thrown aside into the cozy or apathetic culture of where many in the Church are these days.

But Jesus, our “Big Rock” wants to empower us by forgiving us, loving us, and inviting us into a grace-filled intimate relationship with Himself. Oh the joy of knowing Jesus who is the Rock on which the invisible Church with all its “Little Rocks” is being built upon!

Behold the new has come and the old is no more! Please join me in praying for Good Shepherd and rising to the challenge of denial.

“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.”
Matthew 11:28-30 (MSG)

Pastor Toby

SOLA: Sermon Series – What Matters Most

One of America’s most popular game shows is Family Feud. In it, contestants try to guess what answers people have given to surveys the show has conducted, with sometimes hilarious results. The surveys offer windows into what is at the top of the minds of the people they have surveyed. As Christians, there are some things that should be at the top of our minds. In this series, we look at the things that matter most to our faith and should therefore be not only at the top of our minds, but deep in our hearts.

Beginning with the first Sunday in October I will preach on each of the great “SOLA’S” beginning with Sola Christus, and followed by Sola Gratia, Sola Fide, Sola Scriptura, and finally on Reformation Sunday: Sola Deo Gloria. Remember we will only have one service on Reformation Sunday at 10 am so we can be prepared to drive to the multi-church Reformation service in Seattle. This year marks the 500th year of the reformation. There will be no Adult Bible Classes or Sunday School on Reformation Sunday

Pastor Toby

Apologetic Classes Have Begun

We meet every Thursday at 1:30 pm in room C-2. All are welcome!

The Interim Process

I wanted to give you an update on the Interim Process. The Elders and I have been calling on inactive members now and will be finished by the time you receive this. I want to emphasize that if I did not meet with you and you want to meet with me, please call me at 702-534-6210.

Several names have been taken off the membership roster and placed on the "friends of Good Shepherd" list. If and when any of these on the friendship list want to start attending Good Shepherd again they will immediately be put back on the membership roster.

The next major step of the Interim Process are Cottage Meetings. Would you be willing to host a Cottage Meeting? The dates you can choose from are:

- 1) **October 10-14** (day or night)
- 2) **October 25-28** (day or night)
- 3) **November 21-22, 28-30** (day or night)

There will be 3 separate meetings so you can host as many as you want! Once we have the hosts in place we will then have sign-up sheets for people to choose from. I am hoping that **NO MORE** than **10 people** come to any one Cottage Meeting.

The purpose of these Cottage Meetings will be to discuss the future of Good Shepherd as well as what I have learned from the more than 70 visits I have made thus far.

It is extremely important that every baptized member of Good Shepherd attend **EACH** of these 3 cottage meetings.

ENDOWMENT FUND DINNER AND AUCTION

This year's Grow Auction will be **October 7th** and will be set in the **POLYNESIAN ISLANDS!** Come have a luau of a time and raise money for the Endowment Fund. Tickets remain **\$15** and include dinner. See Michelle Boule in the Narthex after service to purchase tickets and reserve your spot.

GET YOUR TICKETS SOON!



President's Corner

As we are getting older, I want to ask a question...when we become unable to do the things we have done in the past, who is going to fill our shoes?

This is a question asked this past month by Charles Schmidt, National Commander of the American Legion. He is concerned about the programs the Legion supports. I, on the other hand, am concerned about our own Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. We have a number of programs and other areas that need to be filled. These range from Operation Thanks-Giving, Sunday School, Ushers, ...the list goes on. As we get older and are unable to volunteer for these programs and areas, the need does not diminish. It grows each and every day.

The need for volunteers is not unique to the American Legion or Good Shepherd. It is a problem throughout society. Volunteers are needed and needed badly. As positions go unfilled, these programs will cease to exist. It was close this year with Vacation Bible School and continues to be close for the annual Endowment Fund Dinner and

Auction (GROW), Sunday School, and help with Operation Thanks-Giving. We have already seen the Craft Guild cease to exist when there was no one to continue its legacy.

Let's ask another question...which programs are next to go? What areas do we support as a congregation and what areas do we not support? I can't answer these questions. They can only be answered by you the congregation. We currently have about 66 areas for service in the congregation. So, what areas are you going to support? Your service is needed. Without you, these programs will not exist. VFW Commander Keith Harman, put it very well, "This is about service – not self." Let's show the community where our heart is. Volunteer today. Your church and the community need you.

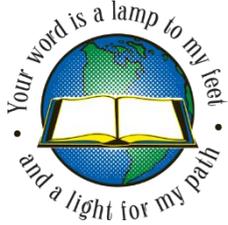
Praise God, He is with us all. With Him we can do all things.

Praise God!

Joe Morton
President

Do You Know Who Your Elder Is?

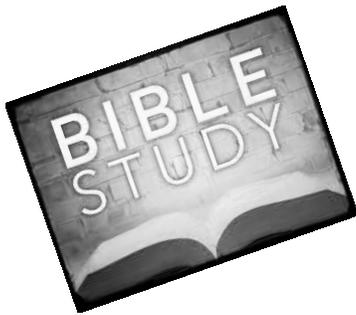
Zone	Elder	Names
1	Norm Gerken (253-845-1521)	Alber – Classen
2	Joe Morton (253-473-5649)	Cunningham – Jaech
3	Wayne Boudreau (253-405-4904)	Jindra – Merkel, L.
4	Julian Doyle (253-584-7244)	Merkel, R. – Scott
5	Tony Huset (253-753-3764)	See - Zmuda



Sunday Sermons are now being audio recorded

and are available for you to listen, share, and enjoy again anytime on our website @ www.goodshepherdluth.com

Men's Ministry Schedule for October



October 7th – 8 am
COFFEE AND BIBLE STUDY
“The Mad Prophet” (Ezekiel 34 and 37)

October 21st – 8 am
BREAKFAST AND BIBLE STUDY
“Changing Your Focus

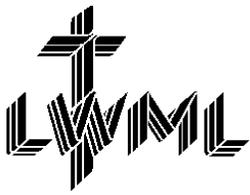


Financial Update

School has started and we have not seen an increase in attendance or offerings. Our deficit continues to grow. Your support is vital to keep our doors open to serve those in need.

The most important message we hear each week is that of the Good News of Jesus Christ. How much longer we can supply that message is in doubt.

Are you doing your part? See you in church Sunday!



Women in Mission / Women's Ministry

Tuesdays:

Bible Study (9:15 am)

Quilting (10 am)

Mites—Sunday, October 8

LWML Sunday – October 8

Zone Rally – October 14

Seafarers Auxiliary – October 24, noon

LWML Women in Mission – Fall Greetings!

LWML Sunday is October 8th and we will collect Mites that Sunday also. Don't forget!

Look for information about the Fall Rally October 14th at Prince of Peace, Lakewood. Rallies give us the opportunity to meet with sisters in Christ around our area. Please join in!

Serving the Lord with Gladness

Jane Oberg

Lunch Bunch News

Our October meeting will be in conjunction with St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Graham. WE have been invited to share lunch at 11:30 am and stay for a program about Luther and Katie. The program will be put on by Pastor Dan and Ruth. This will be **October 9th**. Sign-up sheet is in the narthex for those attending. We need to let the people at St. Paul's Lutheran know how many will be attending. Transportation is on your own.



SUNDAY SUNDAES

Preschool and Congregational Families

Sunday, October 8th at 3 pm in the **Fellowship Hall**.

Please join us for some fun with fellowship!



Our programs are off to a good start and we are blessed with 19 children. Please pray for these young ones and their families. We still have the capacity to add more students to our classes. If you or someone you know is looking, please direct them toward our preschool.

For all the **photographers** out there who would like to submit photos for our 2018 calendar please submit them by **October 15th**. Each person may submit up to **3** photographs in the landscaped (not portrait) format of "The Beauty of God's World" (without people in photos.) Each photo should have a Bible verse selected to go with it and all submissions should be sent to Valerie at valerie@goodshepherdluth.com. If you have questions please contact the church office. Sales of the 2018 calendar will begin in November.

Sunday Sundaes will be held **Sunday, October 8th** beginning at **3 pm**. Please come to this relaxed and informal hour of eating ice cream and/or visiting with friendly people. We invite all our preschool families as well as all our congregational families to join us in the Fellowship Hall. The preschool provided everything – ice cream and toppings. Please join us Sunday, the 8th at 3 pm!

Our preschool staff this year is Bonnie Jean Huset as Director and Teacher of the Preschool 1 and 2 classes. Caron Long works as the teacher assistant with Bonnie. Kelly Johnson is our Tuesday Toddler teacher and her assistants are the parents of the toddler class. (We thank Tammy Boudreau for donating extra time). Please pray for our staff.

This year's Preschool Board members are:
Angela Doyle – Chairperson
Diane Dean – Treasurer
Tammy Boudreau – Secretary

General board members are: Jean Morton, Vicky McGee, Anita Long, and Richard Vasel, with Joe Morton as our Church Council Advisor.

Our Mission statement:
"SHARING CHRIST, FEEDING LAMBS"
This is what we want to be our main focus for the children we serve. Jesus' little lambs at our preschool are very precious to our Lord and Savior. Thank you for your part in sharing Christ with these Little Lambs.

No Cost to You Preschool Donation when you Shop AMAZON.COM by first going through our website and clicking the Amazon link and then on to your shopping. Our web address is: www.littlelambstacoma.com.

Thank you for your continued prayer support and all the blessings God gives to us through you!

Serving our Savior,
Bonnie Jean Huset
Director / Teacher