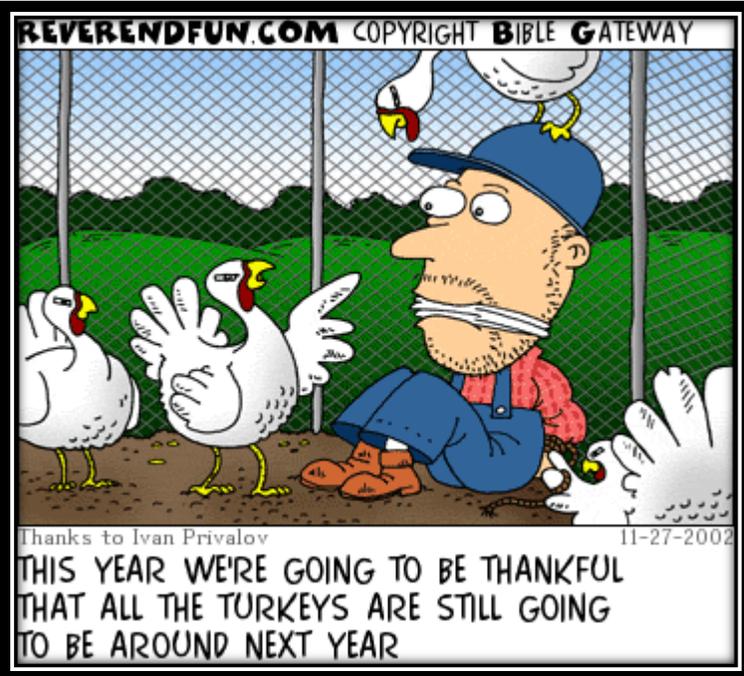


GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

November 2016

Thanksgiving Blessings



This year what are you thankful for? Sometimes we spend a lot of time complaining about all the things that go wrong in our lives, whether it's an illness, death, financial downturn, or whatever. It seems a lot harder for us to think about all the blessings God has poured into our lives.

This is where I think Martin Luther provides a wonderful reminder for us.

In his explanation to the First Article of the Creed, he states: "I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members. My reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, [spouse] and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit of worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true."

To this we add our "amen!" We truly are blessed. We truly have a lot to be thankful for; on Thanksgiving Day and every day of the year.

Thanksgiving blessings to you,
Pastor Dan

The Open Door

By Michael J. Dunn
Congregation President

THE CALL PROCESS

The Call Committee has completed a "Self-Study" recommended by the LCMS Northwest District, which endeavors to outline the setting of our Congregation and the priority of our needs. Each of you will receive a copy in a separate mailing. It is rather lengthy and undoubtedly some of the material will be passed over as detail. But please read with attention, because most of the material bears directly on what kind of Congregation we are and what kind of Pastor we need. Because we are so diminished, it will also cause us to reflect on what kind of Congregation we need to become.

This will be mailed out, and it will also be presented at a Congregational Meeting on 6 November. This is not a Voters Meeting; no elections or business will be conducted. But it will be an opportunity to ask questions—and to submit names for candidate Pastors. If you wish to mention such names aloud, or afterward, or anonymously, that is your right. I pray that you will attend, for if you do not, who will?

GOD IS NOW HERE

In 2007 there was a very short-lived TV series titled "*Miracles*." In the opening episode, a doubting believer is saved from death in an automobile accident by inexplicable means. As he wonders at his fate, he looks out through the windshield covered in rain, and a scrawled message appears in the runnels of water: "GODISNOWHERE." It deeply affects him, because it was definitely a message, but did it say: "God is **nowhere**" or "God is **now here**"? The question propels the continuing episodes.

I was fascinated by this program, because I had recently been born again into Christ, from a long life of atheism. The first formulation is precisely atheism. The second formulation is precisely Christianity.

This came to mind because we are weekly admonished to leave the Sanctuary with the

understanding that outdoors is the Mission Field. It seems to me that, willing or not, we regard the world outside the physical shelter of the church to be devoid of God. It may seem that way if we ponder the prevailing attitudes in our culture and politics. It seems an uphill struggle. Our Sanctuary seems truly a sanctuary.

But, as a reformed atheist, I declare this is not so. It is truly the case that God is "now here," present at our elbow, present in everything we can see: land, sea, sky, stars, and his other children. After all, within the Sanctuary, we are physically protected by a work of man, but outside, we are in His creation. It is our birthright. It is our inheritance. It is ours, just as He is our God and we are His people.

The next time you venture outside, wherever you are, pay attention to the beauty of the trees and flowers, pay attention to the magnificent grandeur of the clouds (and try to imagine how anyone might paint their portrait), pay attention to the colors of the sky at morning and sunset, pay attention to the beauty and innocence of animals...and their God-given propensity for unconditional love. I reflect on this fact: God banished Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden...but not the animals. To my way of thinking, there is nothing that teaches humility so much as the instinctive love of an animal. It is a reminder of Eden. And I fully agree with the saying of St. Francis of Assisi:

"If you have men who will exclude any of God's creatures from the shelter of compassion and pity, you will have men who will deal likewise with their fellow men."

In other words, God is not simply up in Heaven somewhere, observing us with telescopes. He walks at our side and listens to us with patience and enduring love, even when we do not walk with Him or talk with Him. This should be an everlasting comfort and a source of hope.

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.

Do You Know Who Your Elder Is?

Zone	Elder	Names
1	Norm Gerken (253-845-1521)	Alber – Gottgetieu
2	Joe Morton (253-473-5649)	Grochowicz - Popplewell
3	Wayne Boudreau (253-405-4904)	Preszler - Zmuda

Members can contact any elder for any reason at any time.

Financial Update

Fall has officially arrived. Our small surplus is gone and now we struggle to meet our monthly obligations. The monthly bills continue to mount up since the temperatures are falling and days are shorter.

The chart in the narthex shows a surplus, but we need to remember that surplus was specifically designated to Mount Rainier Lutheran High School.

Your offerings continue to keep our doors open. Your response and prayerful consideration are welcomed and encouraged. Glory to God on high, for His goodness and the blessings we all receive. Let's return some of those blessings to the church.

Praise be to God!

Lunch Bunch Please join us **Thursday, November 10th at 11:30 am** for our Pot Blessings Lunch. Bring a dish to share and join us for the fun!



Men's Breakfast / Bible Study

Saturday, November 12th – 8 am

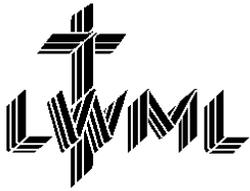
Please note date change

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 "Let's Get Ready to RUMBLE" (1 Kings 18).

PLEASE NOTE SPECIAL SERVICE TIMES

FOR CHRISTMAS DAY AND NEW YEAR'S DAY

Just a reminder. On Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day, there will be only one service – at 10:00 am. This service will be followed by a special Christmas celebration with refreshments. Also we will have only one service on Sunday, January 1, also at 10:00 am.



Women in Mission / Women's Ministry

Tuesdays:

Bible Study (9:15 am)

Quilting (10 am)

Mites—Sunday, November 13

Seafarers Auxiliary, Tuesday, November 22

Thanksgiving greetings!

Many thanks to Larry and Rory Joinette for traveling to Elma on October 10th and getting us a supply of FREE batting for our quilt projects! *We still need someone to volunteer to take quilts to Seattle November 4 or 5.*

Seafarers Christmas boxes will be packed on Saturday, December 3rd. Funds are also needed to help provide the 13 other items for each box. Would you be willing to donate money to help with these items? Mark your donation, "Seafarers Christmas Boxes."

2017 offers you several opportunities as a Good Shepherd Lady. First, the Rainier Zone LWML Rally in April at King of Glory in Purdy. Second, the Biennial Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico on June 22-25. And finally

LWML WA-AK District Retreat September 29 – October 1 at the Best Western in Gig Harbor. Please take advantage of these opportunities for joining together in "Christ Above All!"

All praise and thanks to the Lord!

Jane Oberg

Dear Lord, we thank and praise You for those You give the desire to study and train for work in Your kingdom. We ask that the \$19,000 mite gift from the LWML Washington-Alaska District to the **Aid to Washington –Alaska District Scholarship Fund** will assist those students and workers as they become equipped to serve Your people, and we pray for Your protection and care of them, granting them the will of Your will. Amen.

Thank You to All Who Support Missions

At our recent Puget Sound Pastors' Conference in Leavenworth we heard a presentation from Rev. Joshua Gale. He, along with his wife, Amanda, serves as our Synod's missionary and church planter in Lima, Peru. In this role he plants new churches and mission centers in the Lima area. He forms and develops groups of believers into mature, self-sustaining and self-replicating congregations thru Word and Sacrament ministry. Much of his work is done among the children and the indigenous people who live in the poorer sections of Lima. Of the several slides shown of his work, one pictured piles of quilts, health kits and school kits ready to be distributed. These items are much needed, and greatly appreciated. One quilt/blanket given to a girl was the only blanket she had ever owned. The Gales express their thanks for all the prayer support that comes to them from our Synod, and also for all the ladies who make quilts and gather school and health kits for the needy in Peru and all over the world. So, thank you ladies and all of you who help support the missions of our congregation, district, and synod.

Sharing Christ, Feeding Lambs



There are a few events going on in November related to the preschool.

- 1) **2017 Calendar Sales** officially begin Sunday, November 6th. The calendars cost \$10 each and the money raised will go for our outdoor emergency shed and supplies.
- 2) **Cookie Sale** – On Sunday, November 13th, we will have our annual Cookie Sale. \$5 will fill a box of cookies. We are asking for cookie donations to be delivered by 10 am on Saturday, November 12th. The funds raised for this event will go to our scholarship program.
- 3) **Monday, November 14th** from 6:30-7:30 pm we will host a seminar on the importance of fine and gross motor skills. Mrs. Julie Klenz, the 1st Grade teacher from Concordia, will be our featured speaker. If you would like to come and need childcare for this event please let a preschool employee or board member know by Wednesday, November 9th. Thank you.

Christmas Shopping – No Cost to You Preschool Donation When You Shop AMAZON.COM

Do you like to do your Christmas shopping online? If you do, we would like you to consider going through our website to AMAZON.com. Our preschool has a continuing fundraiser through our website that is an on-going campaign in association with AMAZON.com. Please help us by making your Christmas and everyday purchases by visiting us at 222.littlelambstacoma.com and clicking on the “Support US Shop AMAZON” button! By using the Little Lambs Preschool website AMAZON will donate directly to our preschool a small percentage of what you spend without it costing you any more money.

Thank you for your continued prayer support. Your prayers are heard by God and felt by us! Thank you!

Serving our Savior,
Bonnie Jean Huset
Director / Teacher

Reading and Studying the Lutheran Confessions



Our Nisqually Circuit (and the adjacent Rainier Circuit) has begun a study group aimed at reading and exploring the Lutheran Confessions as contained in the Book of Concord. We are meeting on the first and third Thursday of each month (3rd and 17th for November). We meet in the chapel in the annex of Good Shepherd from 7-8:30 pm. We will read sections of the Confessions and talk about them. What an excellent way to prepare for the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation which is only 13 months away.



HOLIDAY FAIRE

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
140 East 56th Street, Tacoma**

**Saturday, November 19th
9 am – 3 pm**

**Come join us for a wonderful
selection of craft items...
Just in time for Christmas shopping!**

- **Wide variety of craft items**
- **Children's Shopping Corner**
- **Gently Used Section**
- **Lunch, Coffee, and Pie served all day at a reasonable price.**