

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Tacoma, Washington

# GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

December 2010



CHRISTMAS IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS, THE SAVIOUR OF MANKIND

## Christ the Savior is Born **MERRY CHRISTMAS**

*Dan Gerken*

*Brad Varvil*

*Laura Wasson*

*Bonnie Jean Huset*

*Caron Long*

*Debbie Tanner*

*Valerie Rice*

# A Time to Ponder

Often it is the case, when this season rolls around, that people become overwhelmed with all the crushing details of family, food, and festivities, or perhaps they become very somber as they remember Christmas seasons past when they were happier and surrounded by people that are not near now. As we enter this December, we've already had one big storm that crippled the Puget Sound from north to south, and the weather folks are glad to report, that our winter patterns should bring us many more. So, with weather and work and maybe a little depression on our list of things to fret about, why not add a whole bunch of church stuff, too? In the few remaining hours that we have after trying to live out our vocations as father and mother, son and daughter, brother and sister, worker and student, friend and neighbor... let's pile on the stress of holiday dinners, various obligatory parties, bad weather, treacherous driving, school exams (made tougher by school closures due to that bad weather and treacherous driving,) sports events, freezing pipes, furnaces that we hope hold on for another year, and oh yeah... a bunch more church stuff! Ah, 'tis the season!

Now, before you decide to steal a car and run for Mexico, I want you to take a moment to set all that stuff aside. I know it's hard, but try anyway. Look away, just for a moment, and clear some space in your mind. As the dust begins to clear, what remains? Eventually, beyond the family and friends, and every commitment that clogs your calendar for every waking moment of your days, there is One who remains. Dinners will come and go—as will parties, exams, ice storms, home repairs, car problems, and church programs. When the constant sound of screeching from the world's

priorities finally settles into the background, the One who remains is all that matters. He's the One who came for you when you were lost in all the junk of daily life. He's the One who nourishes you, when the world sucks the life right out of you. He's the One who promises never to leave you, even when you can't hear or see Him through the stressful cacophony of your calendar. He's the One who loves you beyond all time and space, calling you deeper into Himself for eternity. And when you're finally no longer strong enough to rise and meet your next appointment, He's the One who rises to meet you, and by grace through faith draw you into life everlasting, beyond the rancor of this world.

So, *what I'm not saying*, is to abandon all your duties this Advent and Christmas season. We've all got a lot to do, and our neighbors really need us to live up to our commitments. But rather than seeing Christ's Church as just another load of straw on the camel's back, I encourage you to see it for what Jesus intended it to be—the place and means by which He gives Himself to you. Sure, there's plenty you could do besides spending time pondering the Lover and Redeemer of your soul, but at the end of the day, He's the only One who sought you out, preserves you, and promises to keep you forever, regardless of all the junk of life. Take time each day to ponder Him, and to thank Him for all His goodness unto you. Allow time to be drawn deeper into Him by Word and Sacrament, so He may be your strength, not only in this hectic season, but always and forever. Amen.

*Pastor Brad*

## Men's Breakfast / Bible Study December 18<sup>th</sup>

Join us **Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup>** at **7 am** for a delicious breakfast, wonderful fellowship, and in-depth Bible Study. Our Bible Study theme is "Explaining All The Scary Stuff in Revelation" This month we get our next look at the "scary stuff." Join us. *Pastor Dan*

## President's Corner

During this last month of the year, I'd like to encourage you to take some time to reflect. When you think back on this year, what stands out in your mind? It is said that hind sight is 20/20. So, what do you see?

There were three major areas I talked about all year; our relationship with Christ, our involvement as Christians, and our activities with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Did the year make an impact in

your life? More importantly, do you see God at work in your life?

As we celebrate the birth of Christ this month, take note of your blessings during the year. Think on your growing relationship with Christ. Get excited about your growing congregation and about your life as a Christian.

*Julian Doyle*

**ANNUAL VOTERS MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>. We will be electing officers and voting for the 2011 budget. Please plan to attend this important meeting.**

## Holiday Faire-December 4th

### WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Your donations of hand-crafted items and baked goods are much appreciated. We need "all hands on deck" to help with setting up and cleaning up after the sale. The monies brought in for the Holiday Faire are used to help needs here at Good Shepherd as well as other ministries. We can't do it without you! Thanks for your help! Questions? Contact Doris Ard (253-537-9212).

**Schedule Change for December 19<sup>th</sup>** The Bible Classes and Sunday School will meet at 8 am and the Sunday School Christmas Service will begin at 10 am.

**Project Christmas 2010 is here!** We have the opportunity to share with those in need. Names and gift suggestions are now available. There are a few left. Choose your adoptee soon!



### REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR AND VISIT OUR HOMEBOUND

Helen Barkubein, Esther Bundy, Becky Caruso, Dorothy Kapphahn, Maralyn McDonald, Ethel Peterson, Helene Stegmann, Lydia Valentine, Connie Winther, Harriet Zmuda

# Music Ministry News

## HOW LOVELY ON THE MOUNTAINS ARE THE FEET OF HIM WHO BRINGS GOOD NEWS

As the Advent Season comes again, I am reminded of these words from Isaiah 52:7 that I used to sing in a song, "Our God Reigns". One of the songs Good Shepherd's Choir is singing for Advent is also from the same book, Isaiah 12:2-6. These words are also full of hope of our salvation.

*"Surely, it is God who saves me;  
I will trust in him and not be afraid.*

*For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,  
and he will be my Savior.*

*Cry aloud, in habitants of Zion,  
ring out your joy,*

*For the great one in the midst of you  
is the Holy One of Israel."*

You are invited to join us for Advent Services the first three Wednesday nights in December at 7:00. We will be singing the Holden Evening Prayer. Choir members and their families may join us downstairs in the front pews by the piano during the service.

**For those who just love to sing our beloved Christmas Carols, feel free to join us upstairs for the 11:00 Christmas Eve Service. You are welcome to sing with the Choir and Bells as we usher in our Christmas Celebration.**

"For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come. By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to his name."  
Hebrews 13:14

*Laura Wasson*  
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**PRAISE TEAM - Mondays 7pm**  
**SHEPHERDS CHOIR — Wednesdays 7pm**  
**BELL CHOIR — Thursdays 6pm**



## Women in Mission

**Rejoice, rejoice, this happy morn,  
A Savior unto us is born,  
The Christ, the Lord of Glory,  
His lowly birth in Bethlehem  
The angels from on high proclaim  
And sing redemption's story.  
My soul, extol God's great favor,  
Bless Him ever for salvation,  
Give Him praise and adoration.**

TLH 79

Merry Christmas!

*Jane Oberg*

## Women's Brunch & Bible Study / Pink Shoe

Our monthly Bible Study will meet again on the second Saturday of the month from 9:30-11:45 am in the fellowship hall. Please join us **December 11<sup>th</sup>** for a shared brunch and fellowship followed by our Bible Study. **The Pink Shoe Club** is for girls from

kindergarten – 6<sup>th</sup> grade. We all come together for brunch and then Miss Sue (Sue Tofflemire) takes the girls for an activity while the adults study God's Word. All are welcome! Please join us! Babysitting is provided with advance notice at 473-4848.



## Preschool News

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

Thank you so much for your prayer support and donations toward our candle fundraiser. It was humbling to see how much we raised compared to how many candles were sold. The totals aren't all figured but preliminary accounting indicates we netted over \$300.00 to help with the costs of upgrading the electrical work in the basement (Preschool / Sunday School rooms) of the annex building. Praise God!

During December the Tacoma fire safety education officers will visit our preschool and visit with our students. We are tying in fire safety week with the

Bible story of the fiery furnace. From there we will begin our Christmas in coming weeks with the angels and shepherds. Our last two days of December will be birthday parties for Jesus as we celebrate His miraculous birth and what it means to us!

May God bless you and your family this Christmas season that you may see the joy of Christ every day!

*Bonnie Jean Huset*

Preschool Director / Teacher

## Lunch Bunch News

On Tuesday, **DECEMBER 7<sup>th</sup>** we will meet for our Christmas party. Devotion will be at 11:30, shared lunch at noon, sing-a-long of Christmas Carols and a visit from MRS. WRIGHT. For this meeting bring a dish to share plus a wrapped gift (no more than \$3 in value) for the exchange. See you there.

On Tuesday, January 4th we will be guests at Concordia School. They will furnish lunch for us,

so we do not need to bring anything. For this outing to Concordia you **MUST** sign up by Sunday, December 12th. Sign-up sheet is on bulletin board in Narthex.

For the future? Perhaps a video with pop corn? And a sharing of hobbies/ collections another month. Got any other ideas? Let us know.

*Pastor Boetcher*



## **Please join us**

### **Worship Services**

Sundays  
8 & 10:45 am

### **Education Hour**

Sundays  
9:15 am

### **Midweek Advent Services**

Wednesdays,  
December  
1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup>  
7 pm  
Advent Supper  
6 pm

**Children's  
Service**  
Sunday  
December 19<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 am

### **Christmas Eve Services**

Friday  
December 24<sup>th</sup>  
7 pm & 11 pm

**Christmas  
Day Service**  
Saturday  
December 25<sup>th</sup>  
10 am

### **New Year's Eve Service**

Friday  
December 31<sup>st</sup>  
7 pm