

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
Tacoma, Washington

GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

December 2011



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Christ the Savior is Born MERRY CHRISTMAS

Dan Gerken

Brad Varvil

David Schmidt

Denes Van Parys

Bonnie Jean Huset

Caron Long

Debbie Fanner

Valerie Rice

Don't Forget

(cartoon: page 5 Nov.-Dec. 2011 issue of "The Joyful Noiseletter")

Just a quick note about this month's cartoon. Bil Keane was the creator of "The Family Circus" cartoon strip. Keane died on November 8, at the age of 89. The strip first appeared in 1960 and still appears in 1,500 newspapers. Based on his own family experiences, the strip

features traditional family values. Characters in the strip include Daddy, Mommy and their children Billy, Dolly, Jeffy and P.J. Many of his cartoons had strong Christian messages. Bil's son, Jeff who worked with Bil for many years, continues to draw the strip. We thank God for Bil's gift

of humor and insight. (The official website of The Family Circus is www.familycircus.com.)

Blessings
Pastor Dan

Waiting with the Old Testament Church

Hurry up and wait. It seems as if our whole life is one of waiting. And yet, how do we wait? Advent is all about waiting: waiting to celebrate our Lord's birth on Christmas Day as well as waiting for His triumphant return on the Last Day. For our Advent evening series this year we will look at the theme of waiting. We will be "Waiting with the Old Testament Church" as we Wait with Prayer (Nov. 30), Wait with Comfort (Dec 7), and Wait with Joy (Dec 14). Join us each Wednesday evening at 7 pm for our Advent Evening Services.

Voters Meeting, Sunday, December 4th at noon!

Please plan to attend and participate in this important meeting! We will be voting on new officers and the Spending Guide for 2012.

Men's Breakfast / Bible Study December 17th

Join us **Saturday, December 17th 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: "Wrestling with a Stranger" (Genesis 32) *Pastor Dan*

Advent Preparation

When we begin Advent four weeks before Christmas, the Church marks the beginning of another year. Sure, while our culture tends to mark the New Year on January 1st, the Church's calendar is much older... and marked in a different way. If New Year's Eve parties on December 31st are marked by wild parties late into the evening, the start of the Church's new year is marked by quiet and humble repentance. In December, the Church begins again to remember what it is to wait upon the coming of our Savior. The promises of God are irrevocable, but they come according to God's timing... not ours. The Old Testament people of God were waiting for the coming of the Messiah since God promised a Savior to Adam and Eve after the Fall—a Son of Eve who would crush the power of that old serpent, the devil. For thousands of years, the people of God waited upon the promises of God, and in the proper time, Jesus came to His people, that He might save them from their sins, and give His life as a ransom for theirs. One of the things we meditate on this time of year, as we wait

with the Old Testament people of God for the coming of the Messiah, is what it means for God to truly be with us—not just as an idea, or as a spirit, but with us in every sense. The Savior we wait for, is coming in the flesh, Word and Spirit. He comes to us through a humble handmaiden, receiving His untainted flesh from the Blessed Virgin Mary, and so is fully, truly human—every bit the child of Eve that we are, except without our sin and evil. He also comes to us as the eternal Son of the Father, full of grace and truth, through Whom the world and the cosmos were made—and so, He is truly, fully divine, having brought our human nature into union with His divine nature, in the unity of His Person. He is the Word made flesh, who dwells among us; the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. And just as He most surely came to us through the Blessed Virgin, He also comes to us most surely in His Word and Sacraments—no more intimately, than when He gives to us His true Body and Blood in the Holy Eucharist.

We, who await and receive the Savior among us in faith, are also called into a real fellowship with the Risen Lord. He, who is the Word made flesh, also speaks life into us. We who were dead in trespasses and sins, find our true and eternal life in Him, who gave Himself into death for our trespasses, that by His stripes we would be healed. We are called by the power of His Word to live in Him by faith, so that we are not merely an association of likeminded philosophers, but rather the living people of God in whom the Love of Christ works by grace through faith. What we believe, teach, and confess, we also live out in our flesh and spirit, by the power of Christ—that He who was enfleshed and walked among us, may through us, continue to reach a lost and dying world. Behold, He is coming, and with Him is our life, our salvation, and our hope. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth! Amen.

Pastor Brad

It's Music in God's Ears

As we move into the Advent Season, one of the questions that I hear most often is “Why can’t we sing more Christmas songs?” As we go about our business in the world, shopping, listening to the radio, watching television, attending concerts, it is very likely that we will find ourselves inundated by music “of the season.” Christmas carols seem to sound from every speaker, iPod, and elevator “Muzak” generator on the planet.

Meanwhile, in our more Liturgically-minded churches, we make a conscious and intentional choice to delay those Hymns and Carols until the actual Season of Christmas actually arrives. Instead, we focus on Hymns that point to our longing and need for the Savior. We re-hear and re-sing the promises and prophecies of the Old Testament proclaiming the arrival of the Savior who came to give Himself as

sacrifice and redeemer for us all.

This echoes the focus of our Lectionary during this same season. The scripture readings for the Weeks of Advent are like a compressed version of the entire story of scripture. We hear the Law. We heard our need for Grace. We join the plaintive cries of the ancients as we plead for a Savior. Finally, we hear the glorious announcements of John the Baptist and the Angel visiting Mary that the time of the promised Messiah has indeed arrived.

Our song choices, until then, reflect that focus. That is why we omit the Gloria (Hymn of Praise) during Advent. You may have noticed that the Gloria is primarily a musical setting of the Announcement that the Angels sang for the Shepherds on the night of the Christ’s birth. As we meditate on our profound need for a

Savior during these special weeks of Advent, we postpone our joy, our celebration, and our Carols. Then, finally, with those Angels and Archangels, and Saints of all times, we figuratively explode with the repressed joy of the season!

One final word: Once the secular world is done using Christmas Carols as “mood music” for an entire month (often more!) they quickly return to whatever methods and music they use the rest of the year. As Christians we are blessed. Not only do we get to celebrate 12 (yes, this is TWELVE!) whole days of the Christmas season (and sing as many Carols as we can!) we get to celebrate the birth of our Savior for the whole year.

I’ll see you at Christmas. Hope you have a big appetite for Christmas Music then – we have a big menu planned.

Your Servant,

DVP (Denes Van Parys)



Please join us

Worship Services

Sundays
8 & 10:45 am

Education Hour

Sundays
9:15 am

Midweek

Advent Services

Wednesdays,
November 30th,
December 7th & 14th
7pm

(preceded by a supper at 6 pm)

Christmas Eve Services

Saturday
December 24th
Children's Service

7 pm
Carols & Candles Service
11 pm

Christmas

Day Services

Sunday
December 25th
8 am & 10:45 am

New Year's Eve Service

Saturday
December 31st
7 pm

Lunch Bunch News

So far **THE LUNCH BUNCH** at Good Shepherd has been attended by "the gray squad"... but we would welcome anyone who might be interested. We meet, usually, on the first Tuesday of each month. If we are meeting at church we start with a devotion, at 11:45, by Pastor Dan, eat a shared meal at noon, followed by a game time, a speaker, a special video and when the weather is more pleasant we have taken a few trips.

Please check the Bulletin for Sundays, November 27 or December 4 for our December meeting. We have made some slight changes in our schedule so we can attend the concert of Concordia School's choir at 2:00 pm. For the shared meal, ham is being prepared, so bring a dish to share accordingly. Those attending the December meeting will share in the cost of the ham. Also NOTE for a gift exchange, bring a wrapped gift (\$3 value)

In the future we are planning some speakers - in January we will have Dr. Tye Bratvold to share how a chiropractic treatment may help us for better health. We are trying to schedule a speaker about "scams" we might avoid. In May we are scheduled for a concert from the "Marimba Band" of Concordia Lutheran School.

Pastor Ken Boetcher
253-847-5925

Project Christmas 2011 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!



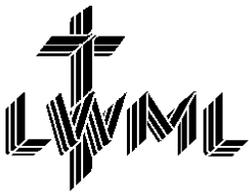
Preschool News

www.littlelambstacoma.com

Thank you to everyone who helped with our cookie exchange fundraiser! To all the people who baked cookies and sweets, the people who worked the sale, and to all the people who purchased cookies – it was a tremendous blessing – thank you! We raised just over \$350.00 with the sale. Thank you to Rosetta McKibbin for donating the quilt we auctioned and to Marsha Schorer who had the highest bid. The quilt brought in \$500 for our preschool and those funds will be added to our “safe windows” fund.

December in preschool brings us to Daniel and the Lion’s Den all the way to celebrating Jesus’ birthday. The children are excited about the Bible stories and eagerly sing the songs they learn for their families at home. Please continue to pray for our preschool student and their families that the love of Christ may be seen, welcomed, and shared at home in a wonderful way. Serving our Savior,

Bonnie Jean Huset
Preschool Director / Teacher



Women in Mission

Weekly Bible Study on Tuesdays at 9:15 am.

Weekly Quilting on Tuesdays at 10 am.

Mites collected on December 11th

Dear Sisters in Christ,

Join in celebration –

(TLH) Hymn 66, verses 1 & 5

Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes.

The Savior promised long;

Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne

And ev'ry voice a song.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,

Thy welcome shall proclaim

And heaven's eternal arches ring

With Thy beloved name.

Merry and Blessed Christmas!

Jane Oberg

475-2832



Brunch & Bible Study and Pink Shoe Club

The Women's Brunch & Bible Study and Girls' Pink Shoe Club will meet on Saturday, December 10th 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.

OPERATION THANKS-GIVING UPDATE ON THEIR ANNUAL THANKSGIVING DINNER

This was our 27th Year of providing a Thanks-Giving Dinner to those in need. Six turkeys were cooked, deboned, and shredded. Fifty pounds of potatoes were peeled, cooked and made into mashed, green beans, bacon, and onions, stuffing and pumpkin pie. ... people were served this year. One of Mike Stallard's customers donated 90 emergency kit blankets for our

friends. It is good to know that God provides not only for those that need food but for the gang that prepares it. Thank you to all who donated food or monies and who helped cook the meal. Blessings to all of you. If you would like to help we meet every Tuesday starting at 4 pm. For more information please contact the church office.

NOTES FROM DELIA

Dear Lovely Ladies of Good Shepherd♥,

Merry Christmas!

November was pretty stressful for my family and myself. Martha my sister has kidney problems and goes to dialysis three times a week. She was informed a kidney was available but at the last minute it ended up not being possible. My girlfriend had to go through surgery for a brain tumor, infections, and almost had to go through open-heart surgery. My health, my job, and my insecurities. The stressful part of it all is the not knowing. *Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.* Hebrews 11:1. Now was that part of your sermon pastor Gerken? Yes, I think it was. See I do listen. I may not know exactly what the future holds for my family and me but one thing I do know is that in this house God is our priority and our Rock. *And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek Him.* Hebrews 11:6 I want to earnestly seek Him and be rewarded. How about you? Let's please Him by being good stewards and speaking in a godly manner to each other. Father, help me to encourage others daily, as long as it is called "today," so that they may not be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. Hebrews 3:13
So with that I will let you know what we have planned for this month.

Women's Ministry Team- We have a team set up now so that we can better serve your interest in this ministry. Meet the members: LaVonne Borcharding, Michelle Boulè, Debbie Gustus and me, Delia Stallard. Bonnie Jean Huset and Ruth Gerken will support the team. If you would like to join us, or like to get involved. Please let any of us know.

Advent Dinner- Attention ALL ladies of Good Shepherd. You are invited to join us on **Wednesday December 14,** as we serve our members for our Advent Dinner. We are looking forward to getting together and cooking up a soup. If you are interested please let me know.

Women's Brunch & Bible Study- Saturday December 10th at 9am. Thank you Mrs. Elaine Davies for leading the bible study last month. I'm sorry, but it was very hard to concentrate with all those yummy cookies being passed around the room and me watching and well I think I have A.D.D. We missed you Bonnie ☺. See you all on the 10th. Bring a dish to share and enjoy the company of woman just like you that want to get to know Christ better. The study is from the Lutheran Women's Quarterly. Copies of the magazine are in the church narthex pick up your copy soon.

Girls Nite Out- Postponed till January 13th
If you have any questions, would like to get involved or get e-mails Facebook notifications.

Please feel free to contact me

Your Servant, my new phrase "I'm willing to be Heart Broken in Jesus name." I heard it on the radio 105.3 and I'm keeping it. ☺

Delia Stallard
deliagoodshp@yahoo.com
253-948-2066 cell (*I receive text*)



Holiday Faire
Good Shepherd
Lutheran Church
140 East 56th St., Tacoma

Saturday, Dec. 3
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
Visit our Nearly New Room.
Gently Used Section

**Lunch, Coffee, and Pie served all
day at a reasonable price.**

HOLIDAY FAIRE'S MINISTRY

For the past 13 years, the Holiday Faire has raised over \$33,000. That money has been dispersed to various missions and projects such as Lutheran World Relief, Crisis Pregnancy Center, Lamp USA, Good Shepherd Lutheran Home of the West, Family Renewal Shelter, and Care Net. Proceeds have also provided many items for our kitchen and office. We've given to Concordia Lutheran School, Mount Rainier Lutheran High, and our Good Shepherd's Little Lambs Preschool. Money has been used to help repair the church sewer system and the church furnace, as well as support many other projects around the church. The benches in the narthex were repaired with this fund. Money has also helped members with tuition and other assistance. The Lord has blessed this little ministry and you are invited to come to the Holiday Faire on Saturday, December 3rd from 9 am to 3 pm. Buy a little gift, eat a little lunch, help someone out.