

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
140 East 56th Street, Tacoma, WA 98404 Ph: 253-473-4848
www.goodshepherdluth.com

GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

December 2015

KING SIZE BED



**The very first king-size bed.
Thank God for the Baby who slept there.**

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Dan Gerken Pastor David Schmidt Denes Van Parys Bonnie Huset
Angela Doyle Caron Long Melika Mindemann
Debbie Fanner Valerie Rice

DO YOU KNOW WHO YOUR ELDER IS?

Zones are arranged alphabetically. Following is a list of Elders and their Zones.

Zone	Elder	Names
1	Mike Dunn (253-838-5820)	Alber – Eckert
2	Joel Wippich (253-754-1054)	Ellwein – Lawrence
3	Joe Morton (253-473-5649)	Long – Schertzer
4	Wayne Boudreau (253-405-4904)	Schmidt, M. - Zmuda

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

ANNUAL VOTERS MEETING DECEMBER 6TH

Mark this date on your calendar and plan to attend our Annual Voters Meeting following the Worship Services on Sunday, December 6th at 12 pm. We will be voting on the 2016 Spending Guide, Open Board Positions, and our Mission Project.

Advent Midweek Evening Services:

Stir up the Power

The Church Year begins in Advent by telling the story of our Lord's earthly ministry. As we prepare to celebrate His first coming at Christmas in the Means of Grace, we also look to the final resurrection when He will come again on the Last Day. The historic Collects, or prayers, for each week in Advent have been called the "Stir Up" prayers. We ask the Lord to stir up His power to save us and then to stir up our hearts to make ready the way for the Lord. In our midweek meditations, we will consider the power of hope, the power of preparation, and the power of love. Join us Wednesday evenings at 7 pm.

December 2nd: Stir up the Power of Hope – Romans 15:12-13
December 9th: Stir up the Power of Preparation – Matthew 3:1-12
December 16th: Stir up the Power of Love – 1 John 4:15-21

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services

Our Christmas schedule includes two services on Christmas Eve, December 24th.

Family Christmas Eve Service - 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service: Stir up the Power of Joy – Luke 2:1-20 - 11:00 p.m.

Christmas Day: Stir up the Power of Promises Kept – Matthew 1:18-25 – 10 am

New Year's Eve Service

To close out the year 2015, and to look ahead to 2016, we have a **New Year's Eve Service with Holy Communion – 7 pm**

FINANCIAL UPDATE

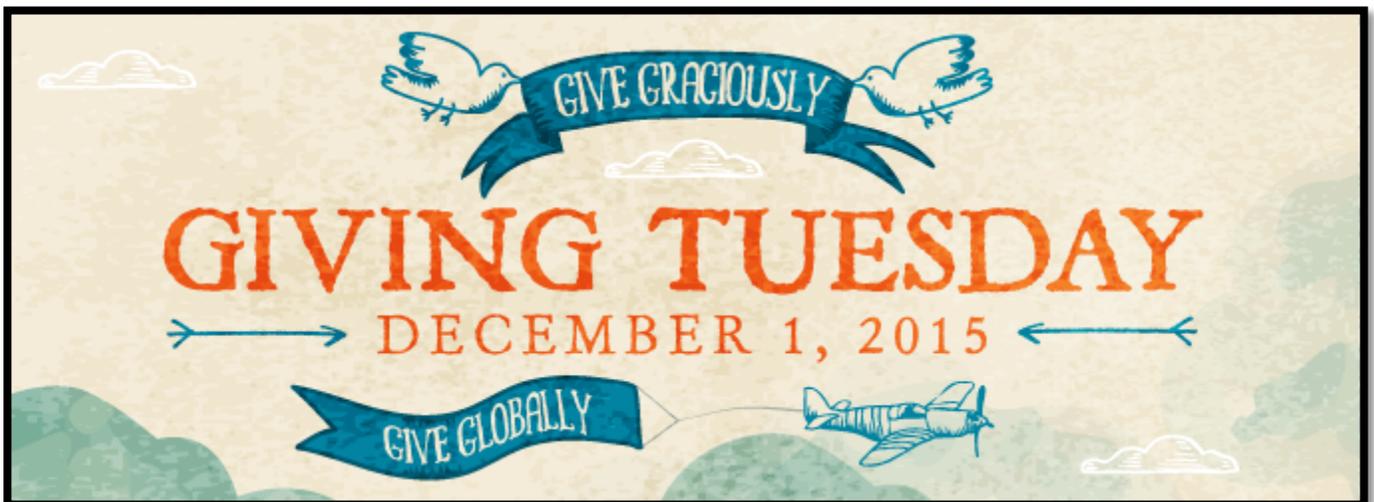


As we get closer to the end of the year, our financial struggles continue to grow. Our overall budget deficit continues, now increasing to over **\$35,000**. Your continued prayers are still needed as we try to work through this crisis.



The financial team is currently working on next year's budget. Due to the current deficit, there will be a number of cuts for the 2016 Budget. While it will be hard to accept, these cuts have become necessary so our financial problems don't grow to an unmanageable level.

Your prayers are needed for all working on the budget process, and all leaders of the church. Thank you.



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is joining Giving Tuesday and asking people around the world to make a difference through charitable giving on a single day, December 1st. Consider giving a gift to LCMS' Global Mission Fund, or to our local congregation, or to our preschool. Such gifts would help us to carry out our mission as God's people. Consider making Good Shepherd a part of your estate planning.

Men's Breakfast / Bible Study Saturday, December 19th – 8 am

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 "The Perfect Opportunity" (1 Samuel 24).



Sharing Christ, Feeding Lambs



Thank you for your continued prayer support for our Little Lambs Preschool! It is truly appreciated!

Thank you to everyone who helped with our 2016 calendar fundraiser; whether being a photographer or purchasing calendars. Remember, if you would still like a calendar, they are available for **\$10** each. Please contact Valerie in the Church Office to place orders.

It is Christmas gift shopping season. If you like to shop online and use Amazon.com, please consider going to the preschool's website at

www.littlelambstacoma.com and use the Amazon link from there to do your shopping. Amazon will directly donate to our preschool a percentage of your purchase. Thank you.

This month in preschool we are preparing our children for the birth of Christ. We pray you and your family would have a blessed Christmas and daily proclaim Christ, our risen Lord and Savior.

Serving our Savior,
Bonnie Huset
Director / Teacher



Project Christmas 2015 Is Here!

We once again have the opportunity to share with those in need. We will be “adopting” children and adults this year. Names and gift suggestions are available either through the church office or following worship services in the Narthex. Any money collected will be used to help prepare the 40 plus food baskets we give away to the needy for Christmas. Thank you for your help!



ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF



This year's chili cook off is scheduled for **Sunday, January 31st**, following second service.

If you would like to enter your unique chili, please contact Norm Gerken or Kathy Popplewell. Ten entries will be accepted so let us know if you soon of your desire to participate.

Further Questions? Call Kathy Popplewell at 253-283-5995





Women in Mission / Women's Ministry

- **Tuesdays:**
Bible Study (9:15 am) **Quilting** (10 am)
- **Mites and Missions**—Sunday, Dec. 13

December Greetings to all Sisters in Christ!

2015 has been another busy year – Bible Study, Quilting, Spring and Fall Rallies. Good Shepherd Ladies Retreat, Washington-Alaska Retreat and much more.

Thanks for all the help with Memorial Receptions and the Rainier Zone Fall Rally. YOU are appreciated!

Don't forget we will be packing 150 Seafarers Christmas Boxes Saturday, December 5th, beginning at 10:30 am in the Social Hall. See you there!

Let's you and me make 2016 a year of Serving the Lord with Gladness!

Merry Christmas
Jane Oberg

Sisters Quilting In Christ



- 39 Quilts were sent to Lutheran World Relief.
- 15 Quilts were made for Little Lambs Preschool emergency kit.
- 2 Quilts were sold and money went to Lutheran World Relief.
- 1 Quilt was donated to Mount Rainer Lutheran High School Auction.
- 1 Quilt was donated to Good Shepherd's Holiday Faire.
- 1 Quilt was given to an ill member of Good Shepherd.
- ...for a total of **60** quilts made (\$260 was sent to Lutheran World Relief for Shipping. We plan to keep on quilting in 2016...all are welcome to join us!—
Sisters Quilting in Christ



The Lunch Bunch

Our Senior Group – The Lunch Bunch will meet for a **Pot Blessing** on **Thursday, December 10th at 11:45 am.**

Bring a hot dish, salad, or dessert to share.



This will be our annual gift exchange. Bring a wrapped gift with a \$5.00 value to exchange. Plus, we will have a special performance from Concordia Lutheran School's Marimbas.. Please join us!