

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

# GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

December 2016



12-25  
© 2012 Bill Keane, Inc.  
Dist. by King Features Synd.  
www.familycircus.com

BILL  
and  
JEFF  
KEANE

**"MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!"**

*Pastor Dan Gerken    Pastor David Schmidt    Denes Van Parys    Bonnie Huset*

*Melika Mindemann*

*Caron Long*

*Tammy Boudreau*

*Debbie Tanner*

*Valerie Rice*

*Jerry Baker*

# The Open Door

By Michael J. Dunn  
Congregation President

## THE CALL PROCESS:

### PRESENTATION OF THE SELF-STUDY

On November 6th, following second service, the Call Committee presented the congregational Self-Study report to approximately 50 members of our Congregation. This is the report that was mentioned in the November newsletter and sent by mail to all the Congregation members. The purpose of the congregational meeting was (first) to briefly present the essentials of the Self-Study and answer questions, and (second) to begin taking nominations for candidate pastors.

Nearly all the members of the Call Committee were present. We were also happy to have in attendance Pastor John Schmidt, who is our circuit pastor for the LCMS Northwest District.

A few corrections were requested:—

1. At pages 9 and 10 of the Self-Study, it was pointed out that it would not strictly be true that Good Shepherd “has” a school for anything other than Preschool, so the other age categories should not have been checked in the affirmative.
2. At page 12 of the Self-Study, it was pointed out that the youth participation should really be less than 100%, because the high school youth had not been counted among the “eligible.” This needs to be updated with complete numbers.

A corrected Self-Study will be available to the Congregation upon request from the Church office, either as an electronic copy by e-mail or a printed copy. Please make arrangements with Valerie Rice. (Considering the scope of the correction and the expense of a full mailing, we hope this is adequate service.)

We next took up nominations for pastor candidates. Two names were taken:—

1. Bradley Varvil, our own former Assistant Pastor

2. Douglas Taylor, the Associate Pastor of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church (LCMS)  
3410 6th Ave., Tacoma, WA 98406  
(www.zion-tacoma.org).

A letter from Brad Varvil was read to those present, summarizing his situation since being moved to St. Louis by Boeing, and concluding with:

“Today, should any traditional, conservative, confessional congregation consider calling me to serve them, I would consider that call with great humility and gravity before Christ. If it were determined that it is the Lord’s call through His Church, I would then consider what was necessary from a humanly bureaucratic perspective to fulfill His will. In the case of Good Shepherd, that would likely entail a process of re-application through the Northwest District and the Synod’s colloquy process. If it were the will of Christ and His people to call me to serve at Good Shepherd, I am prepared to do whatever is necessary to follow our Lord and care for His people, whatever that may be.

“God’s blessings be upon you all, and know that you all remain in my fervent prayers.”

A suggestion was made to seek out a recent seminary graduate, in order to economize on salary. We reminded the audience that the call nominations must be for individuals, not for a broad category.

This is by no means the end of nominations. If you think you have someone else that would be a better fit for Good Shepherd, please bring that to my attention, or to any other members of the Call Committee (the Committee consists of representatives from all of the church Boards, and all of the Elders).

---

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

End of the year is near. Just a month away. Our giving has fallen below the budgeted amount. Yes, the doors are open and the lights are still on, but we are having to scrimp to pay salaries and our other monthly obligations.

We have given Thanks for the gifts God has given us. Now, as we get ready and celebrate our Lord's birth, let's show how much He means to us with our offerings.

God is good. God is great. Praise be to God for all He gives us!

**Lunch Bunch** Please join us **Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>** at **11:30 am** for our Pot Blessings Lunch. Bring a dish to share and join us for the fun! This meeting also includes our annual Christmas Gift Exchange. Please bring a wrapped gift (not white elephant) to exchange.



### Men's Breakfast / Bible Study

**Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> – 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 "You're Going Where?" (1 Kings 19).

## ANNUAL VOTERS MEETING

**DECEMBER 4<sup>th</sup>, at 12 PM**

We will be voting for officers, the 2017 Budget, and Mission Projects for 2017. Please plan to attend!

### 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**.

# 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 (1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> for December). 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 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation which is only 13 months away.

## CLS and MRLHS Winter Fine Arts Evening- December 13<sup>th</sup> at Lagerquist Concert Hall



**868 Wheeler ST S, Tacoma, WA 98444**

For the first time, the MRLHS Winter Fine Arts Evening will be hosted as a joint event with Concordia Lutheran Schools. CLS students will join in both the performances and art display. **Art Viewing** begins at **5:30 pm**. **Concert** begins at **6:30 pm**.

## ADVENT EVENING SERVICES



Our theme for this year's Advent Evening services is "**From Heaven Above.**" As the 500th anniversary of the Reformation approaches, this beloved hymn by Martin Luther provides the theme for the From Heaven Above Advent series for Wednesday evening worship, which focuses on the divine gifts that come down to us through the birth of Jesus. Each week in the series, sermons "unwrap" one of the precious treasures delivered to us in the holy Child wrapped in swaddling clothes.

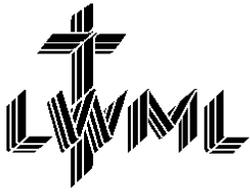
**Week 1:** The Gift of Hope (Matthew 12:15-21): The people of Israel waited in hope for the promised Messiah. We now wait in hope for his return on the Last Day.

**Week 2:** The Gift of Love (John 3:13-17): The steadfast love of God is revealed in the gift of his Son. As the redeemed people of God we share his love with others.

**Week 3:** The Gift of Peace (John 14:25-27): In Christ Jesus we have peace with God. We now share that good news of peace with the world.

**Week 4:** The Gift of Life (John 1:1-5): Through faith in Jesus we have forgiveness and life, a life of love and service now in his name and eternal life in his presence.

Advent evening services begin at 7:00 pm. They are preceded at 6:00 pm by our traditional soup suppers. Joining us in our worship will be the members of Grace Lutheran Church.



# Women in Mission / Women's Ministry

Tuesdays:  
Bible Study (9:15 am)  
Quilting (10 am)

Packing Seafarers' Boxes – Saturday,  
December 3  
Mites–Sunday, December 11

---

Merry Christmas!

2016 is drawing to a close so we look forward to 2017. Our God provides for us daily His comfort and joy.



“Glory to God in highest heav’n,  
Who unto us His Son has giv’n!  
While angels sing with pious mirth  
A glad new year to all the earth.”

Blessings to all!  
*Jane Oberg*

Thank you, dear Lord, for **Lutheran Hour Ministries – Olympic Peninsula** and the important work that is done there. We pray that the \$6,500 mite gift from LWM Washington-Alaska District will help with the purchase of books and Christian materials needed for tribal events and for transportation, food, and lodging required for continuing education for the Benzlers and their mission work. Amen.

---

## Preschool News

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

### ***Sharing Christ, Feeding Lambs***



**A heartfelt thank you** to everyone who contributed and / or purchased cookies. Our cookie fund-raiser for our preschool scholarship program brought in \$185.00.

**Thank you** to everyone who has purchased a 2017 calendar for the emergency shed and supplies for our emergency shed and supplies to be housed in the playground. We also thank Thrivent for their Helping Hands Donation to assist with this fundraiser. So far we have raised \$360.00. You may still order a 2017 calendar for \$10 each by contacting the church office at 253-473-4848.

**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 ongoing campaign in association with AMAZON.com. Please help us by making your Christmas and everyday purchases by visiting us at [222.littlelambstacoma.com](http://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



## Project Christmas 2016 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!



**northwest** **REFORMATION** **500**

SAVE THE DATE  
**Sunday**  
**Oct 29, 2017**  
Overlake Christian Church  
Redmond, WA

*more info & get involved:*  
**nwreformation500.com**  
presented by Lutheran Ministry Services Northwest | [lmsnw.org](http://lmsnw.org)