

GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

April 2020



How are you doing with the limitations brought about by the COVID-19 stay at home restrictions? For the home-bound it may not be much different from your normal routine. For parents with school age children it may be testing the full range of your parental skills. For those working from home, it may be like taking on a new job. For those whose work cannot be done from home, it may feel like a forced idleness. For us all it is a new and strange reality, the implications of which are sinking in so slowly.

One gets a feeling in watching the nightly news that we are watching a bad movie. We see cities looking like ghost towns, airports and coliseums normally crowded nearly abandoned, restaurants and factories standing idle, freeways empty. There is a sense that even our powerful institutions which we thought would continue on uninterrupted, are also in jeopardy.

But I write not to repeat what you already know, but to remind you of the resource that you have in your faith and to encourage you to put it into practice. We can do that in a number of ways.

We can remind ourselves that as we scan newspapers and intently watch the news for vital information we should be doing something of the same from the sources of God's news. I am impressed as I make homebound visits on our elderly how many of them reference their daily devotion and Bible reading. They have questions to ask, or words of inspiration to share which came directly from those devotions. We can learn from these stay-at-home elders who have practiced a rhythm of the day which includes time with the Lord.

These elders would on occasion also reference some current event, trying to put it into a context of God's workings. The possible meanings they drew were never easy to arrive at, and always fluid. Is God teaching us a lesson through these events and what might that lesson be? Do we see something of God's glory, or power in these events? It wasn't that they arrived at a clear picture of what God is doing, but the fact that they were trying to see it, and wanted to talk about it was the point. In that they resembled many of the prophets.

But where to start? An answer to that question is for me found in the lectionary, that cycle of Biblical readings which gives us three readings and a Psalm for every Sunday in a three-year cycle. So for instance, this week I've been working on John 11 the story of the raising of Lazarus, the Gospel for March 29, Lent 5. This story presents us with some puzzling behavior of Jesus, in that upon hearing that Lazarus is ill, he doesn't get around the making the trip for two days. Time enough that when he arrives Lazarus has been in the tomb four days. There are several possible meanings which the people in the story might draw from this. One is that he doesn't really love Lazarus as the sisters supposed. Two is that to protect the disciples and Martha from the grief of Lazarus' death he refers to it as simply sleeping or that he will be raised on the last day. This doesn't seem to soften the hard reality of his death. But Jesus is always aware of and seeking to participate in the workings of God. This is the meaning of his behavior and if we stay with the story, both in our reading and believing, we too will see that glory.

Another response of faith is to follow what our Lord has directed us to do. At the tomb Jesus tells some there to open it up. Martha objects saying there will be a bad odor, but I think also she doesn't want to revisit the horrible evidence which has made her so sad. But in opening the tomb they are not revisiting the death, but letting Lazarus come out and unwrapping him. Is there meaning for us in that?

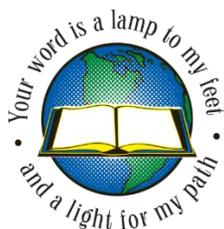
Yes our homes may at times seem like a tomb, as the walls close in reminding us of our loss of freedom to move about and do as we please. We mourn our loss of social networks and the way they brightened our day. We feel cut off, forced to turn inward to ourselves. But such is not entirely the case, for as you know we have means of staying in touch with people, by telephone, by letter, by computer. We can still go out and see and talk with people, as long as we observe the social distance. Can we attach Jesus' meaning to this situation and see that God is still working and caring for us? Who knows what new appreciation, new insights into the meaning of our friendships might develop because of this.

Pastor Eilers

2019-2020 Church Year Calendar—Series A

April 5 – April 26

Season	Date	Festival	First Reading	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
HOLY WEEK	Apr. 5	Palm Sunday, <i>Sunday of the Pas- sion</i>	Is. 50:4–9a	Psalm 118:19– 29 or 31:9–16	Phil. 2:5–11	John 12:12–19 (Palm Sunday Procession) and Matt. 26:1—27:66 or Matt.27:11–66 or John 12:20–43
	Apr. 9	Holy (Maundy) Thursday	Ex. 24:3–11 or Exodus 12:1–14	Psalm 116:12– 19	Heb. 9:11–22 or 1 Cor. 11:23–32	Matt. 26:17–30 or John 13:1–17, 31b–35
	Apr. 10	Good Friday	Is. 52:13—53:12	Psalm 22 or Psalm 31	Heb. 4:14–16; 5:7–9	John 18:1—19:42 or John 19:17–30
EASTER	Apr. 12	The Resurrection of Our Lord – <i>Easter Sunrise</i>	Ex. 14:10—15:1	Psalm 118:15– 29 or The Song of Moses and Israel	1 Cor. 15:1–11	John 20:1–18
	Apr. 12	The Resurrection of Our Lord – <i>Easter Day</i>	Acts 10:34–43 or Jer. 31:1–6	Psalm 16	Col. 3:1–4	Matt. 28:1–10
	Apr. 19	Second S. of Easter	Acts 5:29–42	Psalm 148	1 Peter 1:3–9	John 20:19–31
	Apr. 26	Third S. of Easter	Acts 2:14a, 36–41	Psalm 116:1–14	1 Peter 1:17–25	Luke 24:13–35



Sunday Sermon Recordings

are available for you to listen, share, and enjoy on our website @

www.goodshepherdluth.com

Do You Know Who Your Elder Is?

Zone	Elder	Names
1	Norm Gerken (253-845-1521)	Alber – Classen
2	Joe Morton (253-473-5649)	Cunningham – Jaech
3	Wayne Boudreau (253-405-4904)	Jindra – McMichael
4	Julian Doyle (253-584-7244)	Michelotti – Scott
5	Tony Huset (253-753-3764)	See - Zmuda

THE LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES RADIO PROGRAM AND RESOURCES:

The recordings of radio broadcasts are available on their website www.lhm.org.



Lutheran Hour Ministries offers Daily Devotions, Video Based Bible Studies, Media Programs, and other opportunities to serve, through their website.

President's Corner

It's now been a couple weeks since we have all been together. Sunday mornings aren't the same, although Jean and I are still having church (via the recordings). We miss everyone and the fellowship we have with all. It's strange but important to be home when in our minds we should be at church.

A few things have happened since we last met. First, since we stopped our conversation with Patrick Moore, the Church Council gave the go ahead to re-contact Joel Schuldheisz. We contacted the Northwest LCMS District to see if this would be appropriate and they said yes. I've had a face to face with him and he's still interested in our position. He asked to drop his salary a bit and add vacation and education. The rest of the package will remain the same. Nothing is finalized until we bring it to the voters for confirmation. We will do that once we get back together and meeting for church.

Second, the Church Council has approved a constitution change providing the voters approve. This has to do with signatory rights for the church bank accounts. We currently allow only the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer those rights. Since we do not have an Assistant Treasurer, that only leaves the Treasure to sign on the bank accounts. The change would allow the Vice-

President to be a signer on the accounts, since he is head of the Finance Committee. This only will happen with voter approval.

Third, now that we have a "shelter in place" order from the Governor, we will cancel the workday for April 4th and reschedule it for a later date. We'll still try to get some stuff done but it won't be during a work day. This is for the safety of everyone concerned. It also seems pretty certain that Easter Service will be cancelled. We have allowed our church secretary to use her discretion as to times she will be in the office during this time. You may still call the church office number (253-473-4848) anytime, as that will be forwarded to her personal phone during times when she isn't in the office. Mail will be checked daily, etc.

We will keep you posted on any other happenings. Please remember to send your offerings to the office. We still need to pay our workers and keep the bills up to date. Your response to this request is greatly appreciated. While I'm not able to see all of you personally, you are in my prayers to stay safe and healthy.

Serving Him,

Joe Morton, President

**DR. PAUL MAIER SEMINAR - CANCELLED
WE HOPE TO RESCHEDULE AT A LATER DATE.**



Women in Mission / Women's Ministry

Dear Ladies of Good Shepherd,

April 2020 will be a month of uncertain schedules for planned events. So, be sure to check in with the church office or Jane Oberg to confirm a scheduled event.

Tentatively there is a Spring Rally and Meeting scheduled for Saturday, April 25th at Beautiful Savior in Milton. But, be sure to confirm if this event is still on schedule.

Several months later will be the Washington / Alaska District Convention September 25 – 27, 2020 in Grand Mound, Washington. The theme is: "Walk in the Light" (1 John 1:7)

Remember Mites! Help fill the mission goals!

Pray, Praise, and Give Thanks!

Jane



Preschool News www.littlelambstacoma.com

Sharing Christ, Feeding Lambs



We have many things to be thankful for during this COVID-19 shut down. First and foremost – God is with us! Let us give praise to our Heavenly Father for His many blessings. Let us reflect upon His mercies that are new every morning. Praise be to God.

Our preschool students, through technology, are receiving the weekly Bible stories and some craft projects at home. We are communicating with emails, videos, and a few texts. During this time we hope to send our students encouragement and hope.

All of us are grateful for the shared prayers. We are truly in this together at this time. Please know that we are praying for you too.

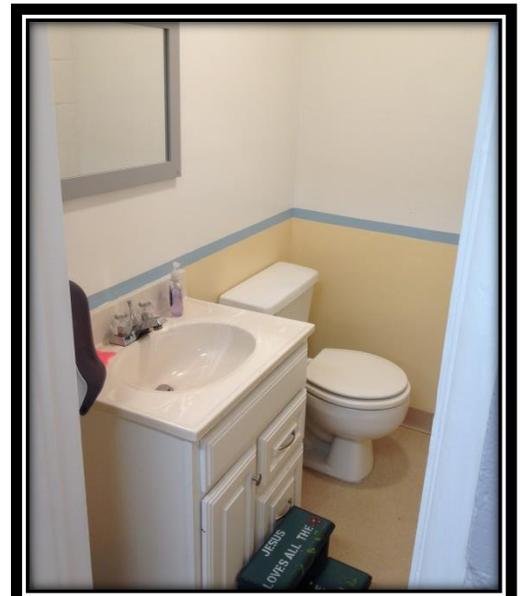
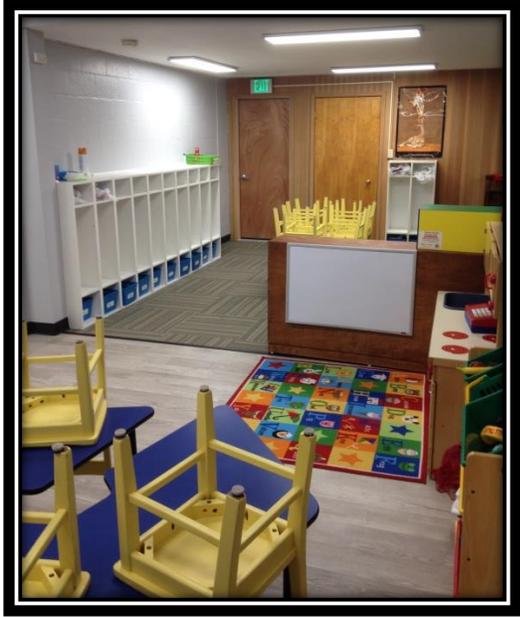
We aren't sure how this will affect the end of our preschool year. Like others, we will trust in the Lord and wait to see how this unfolds. Thank you all for your gracious support.

Serving our Savior,

Bonnie Huset

Director / Teacher

UPDATES ON OUR JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN ROOM!



***OUR CALENDAR WILL BE PUBLISHED AT A LATER
DATE SINCE ALL EVENTS ARE CANCELLED UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE.***