



The Good Shepherd News

2073 Garden Street — Titusville, Florida 32796 [321-267-4323]

Rev. Bruce Alberts, Pastor

Anne Dobbins, Early Learning Center Director

Website: titusvillelutherans.org

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e-mail: office@titusvillelutherans.org

A Word from the Pastor

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

National Lutheran Schools Week is this month from the 22nd to the 28th. We are blessed to be a part of a church body that has 1,173 early childhood centers (such as ours), 804 elementary schools, 91 high schools, eight universities and two seminaries. What a tremendous blessing!



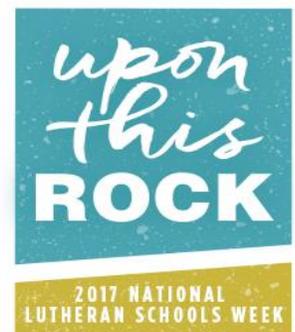
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has been gifted with a rich educational heritage. Initially, we opened schools so we could teach the Gospel in German, the only language many of our people felt comfortable enough with to share their faith with. Today, we speak English. Yet we still have the mechanisms in place to teach a lot of youth about our Savior.

And not just our youth! Our schools are an outreach, or ministry, to the community. I can personally testify about how this works. Many of my classmates at St. John Lutheran would have never darkened the door of a church or heard the Gospel had it not been for highly skilled Lutheran teachers who not only taught with academic excellence, but made certain the Gospel was being proclaimed in their class rooms!

Let's build on that heritage. Let's think education. It's the one thing German Lutherans are good at in this country. Let's support and grow our school. God will provide the harvest.

God's blessings!

Pastor Bruce



January Lunch Bunch

Check the Bulletins for the next date and time for lunch bunch in January Please Sign Up On The Sign Up Sheets on the bulletin board in the Sanctuary and in Shepherd's Hall when it is announced.



FROM YOUR HISTORIAN



A HAPPY AND BLESSED NEW YEAR TO ALL! As God has opened another year for Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (its 59th to be exact), we praise and thank Him as we wonder what might be in store as we continue serving Him and enjoying the many blessings He gives us, one of which could be a new roof on the sanctuary after Hurricane Matthew and old age wore out much of what's up there now. Memories of thirty years ago come to the surface and remind us how many of our church men were up on the previous roof perhaps tearing off the worn covering in preparation for the professional roofing crew to start work. The late Ray Nething was up there with the others (a snapshot is in Bill Makey's boxes of old photos) wearing a horrible brown tee shirt (saved for that kind of job) with a cigarette dangling from his lips (and that's another later story!).

Around 1965 we were in desperate need of more space for congregational use, like Sunday School for instance, and the Ed. Building (now used by the early Learning Center) was constructed. More blessings: That building went up for under \$35,000 (can you believe it?!) with much of the construction being done by men of the congregation. Saturdays were the big work days, and the late Myrna Baumbach, then president of the LWML, supervised the noon-time meals, offering hamburger in every form possible. A couple of the roofing carpenters were Ronald Schwartz and Raymond Nething, Jr. who remembers swinging a hammer as "a lot of fun" as they helped nail decking to the new building's frame. The boys weren't over 13 years old at the time, and now I'm wondering if they were covered by insurance! Back then Ray, Sr. was president of the congregation and chairman of the sanctuary and ed. building construction projects. We still have several past presidents in our midst but doubt that Terry Terhune, Al Werden or Garry Coleman will be up on the sanctuary roof as the replacement project continues, and we're sure not going to push Angela Stokely up there! (Tom, are you ready to start climbing?)



May the Lord send special 2017 blessings to Pastor Bruce, Suzanne, Sophia and Gabriel. Debbie and Elaine could use some in the office also, along with Betty Kogok who seems to be somewhere on the premises almost every day in the week, plus Sunday.

Your Historian



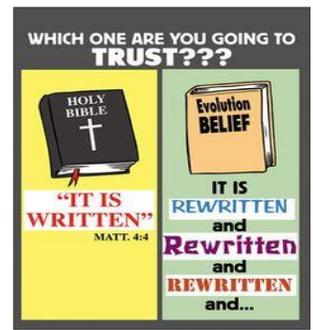
Early Learning Center



Thanks to all the very generous donations from our congregation, we now have enough funds to give each preschool student a Beginner's Bible to take home and keep, and enjoy with their family. Thank you all for the gift of giving a Beginner's Bible to these students. Merry Christmas!

CREATION / EVOLUTION

My debate with evolutionists gets more heated by the day. They cannot understand how I cannot see it is obviously evolution! At the same time I cannot understand how they don't see obvious design. The eye, ear, brain all show incredible design but they insist it all came by way of evolution. It is obvious both of our positions are locked in irreversible positions. They claim they could show me absolute proof of evolution and I would disagree and I say Jesus Himself could appear right in front of them and it would not be enough.



I make the extreme statement that it takes more faith to believe that as complicated as a human being is, that we came by way of mindless evolution instead of having been created and designed by THE Designer. What do you think?

Joseph Laberge

Handyman

Our Good Shepherd Handyman services seem to be in full swing. We recently custom built a wheel chair ramp for Betty Rowett. She was in a local hospice for a leg injury and she needed a ramp to be built for her to be able to stay at home. We were told we had 6 weeks to do it but by the third week she was unexpectedly sent home which meant we had to install it immediately. So that Monday morning installation began. I had drawn up the design previously and Lynn Edlund built the initial frame to Saturn 5 specs! By around 1 PM it was done with Lynn Edlund, Gary Gullikson and myself cutting, digging, sawing and nailing until complete. I want to thank Gary Gullikson, Ron Forte and Lynn Edlund for all their contributions towards this project. Betty was able to test drive it that day and hopefully it will last a long time for her. We were happy to do it and work seems to be piling up so if you desire to have something done visit me at the church on Monday mornings. Or call me at 321-268-3465 or call the Church. No matter what you need we will look at it. If we can do it the labor will be free, we just ask you consider something for the Church. You will be asked to cover the materials. If it is beyond our abilities we will still be willing guesstimate what you need so as to not get fleeced. The list of what we have done and what we have scheduled grows weekly.



Joseph Laberge





Helpful Health Hints By The Congregation Nurse

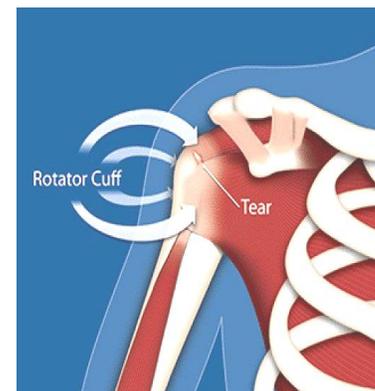


Did you know that the shoulder is one of the most complicated joints in your body? It also has the greatest range of motion and is used in most of your daily activities. It is no wonder then that over 4 million doctor visits yearly are for **Rotator cuff** problems.

The shoulder's rotator cuff is a series of four muscle groups and their tendons that connect the shoulder blade to the humerus (upper arm bone). When an injury occurs to the "cuff" it makes it difficult, and sometimes impossible, for a person to lift, throw, or do any other chores assigned to the shoulder – including getting dressed.

What are some causes of rotator cuff injuries?

- Accidents – such as a fall
- Repetitive use – golf, tennis
- Job related tasks – house painting, carpentry
- Age – simple wear and tear



Most common rotator cuff injuries are to the tendons because of the stress of daily activities and the degeneration that occurs normally with aging. These injuries range from inflammation and swelling of the tendon, to tearing, either partial or complete. Pain at night is very common, and is usually caused by inflammation and muscle spasms. There also can be pain that radiates down the side of the upper arm, which comes from the nerves in the shoulder.

Diagnosis is made by observing the patient's mobility and by MRI. Treatment may start with anti-inflammatory medications and physical therapy, but if symptoms persist, or if the tear is significant, surgery may be the only answer.

Surgery is very inconvenient due to the recuperation period. Arthroscopic surgery is performed in many cases but only your surgeon can determine if you are a candidate for this type of surgery. Physical therapy is an essential part of the recovery process and can last for 3-4 months. Your chance of a complete recovery with full mobility depends on your commitment to physical therapy.

To prevent rotator cuff problems, strengthen your shoulder with regular exercises and warm-up before activities. Have fun, but always use good judgment and watch out for the "weekend warrior" syndrome.

Barbara

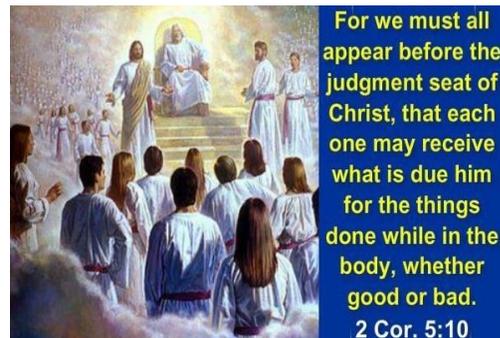
(source: Peter J. Millett, MD, director of shoulder surgery and partner, The Steadman-Hawkins Clinic, Vail, Colorado).

END OF THE WORLD



I smile every time I think of this story. A young boy was crying because his pet frog had just died. His Mom exclaimed "It's not the end of the world!" Crying and screaming the boy declared "It was for my frog!"

I listen to a lot of preachers declaring the return of Christ is right around the corner. Any day now. I have been hearing that since the 80's. Any day now, any day. For many of my friends the end did come, and it probably will come for me too, personally! Having nothing to do with His return to Earth. It will be my turn to stand in front of Him. I am excited and afraid all at the same time. I do pray daily, praying for safe passage for all my family and friends and I know this is just the first stop for eternity but I worry all the time. Did I do enough? Could I have helped save more? Did I really save any? Should I stand on a table and shout "The end is near!" Or just sit home and read the Bible? For me I cannot just do either but I can witness for Christ the Good News about His Gospel. And I can encourage all of you to take a stand with this Church, and volunteer to do something, because His return really is imminent. It might just be more personal than you want! Either way be ready!!



For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.
2 Cor. 5:10

Joseph Laberge

Annual Book Sale



Just one more month until our great annual book sale. We will also have a basket auction, as we did last year. We need books and items you would like to re-gift. Everything can be brought to Shepherd's Hall. The sale will be Saturday February 18th from 8:00am to 2:00pm. We will be setting up Friday February 17th at 7:00. We always need lots of help setting up and closing down after the sale on Saturday. If you have any questions, call Judy Bross at 268-4229 or Carol Rector at 446-4978. Thank you for your past and future help.



Judy & Carol

January Birthdays

9 th	Jacob Tuck	17 th	Sandy Hoffmann
9 th	Jennie Russell	18 th	Debra Hall
10 th	Rev. Bruce Alberts	22 nd	Tim Larson
11 th	Larry Johnston	30 th	Al Eichin
14 th	Brad McCain	30 th	Carilyn Tuck
14 th	Riva McCain	31 st	Olivia Stokely
16 th	Sharon Bohlmann		
16 th	Carl Threlkeld II		



January Anniversaries

20th Garry & Sharon Coleman
20th Mike & Kelly Fredericks



We join in thanking God for His blessings in the past. We ask Him to keep you in His Grace and love in the future. If your birthday or anniversary was not listed correctly, please contact the office.



To Thrivent Financial Members:

Thrivent Financial, as a non-profit organization, has many ways of giving back to the community those tax dollars that it does not have to send to the IRS. One way is through forming **Thrivent Action Teams**. Our Congregation and Preschool have benefited from many fund-raisers and service projects over the past years, and will continue in the future. Thrivent Action Seed Money of \$250 for each project has provided mulch for the preschool playground, funds for the Book Fair, Food Pantry supplies, help to the Youth Group, supplies for Rebecca's Garden, and a recent Action Team is helping to purchase tablets and obtain WiFi for Shepherd's Hall. Thrivent's help has been invaluable to our church and school through Action Teams and YOU are to be commended for taking advantage of this opportunity. Remember, your ability to form Action Teams will reset as of January 1st each year, so you can obtain even more Seed Money in the new year!

Another way that Thrivent donates money directly to our church and preschool is through **Thrivent Choice Dollars**. The number of Thrivent Choice Dollars for each account holder is based on insurance premiums and contract values. Those dollars (coming out of Thrivent's pocket, not yours) can be directed to any charity you choose, and again, our church and preschool have benefited from those dollars for many years. **The deadline for directing your current Choice Dollars is March 17, 2017.**

Here's how to direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars:

Go online to your account at **Thrivent.com/thriventchoice**

Click on the blue "**Get started now**" link located on the right side of the screen under "**Direct Choice Dollars®**" (login is required).

Select an organization you've previously directed Choice Dollars to or search the catalog for a different preferred organization.

Check the box to direct all Choice Dollars or enter an amount, then click on "**Direct Now.**"

If you would like to form a **Thrivent Action Team** or need help in directing your **Thrivent Choice Dollars**, please call Carol Steller at 321.225.4242. Remember, you can form one or two Thrivent Action Teams in each calendar year, so start now! Also, remember that your current Thrivent Choice Dollars need to be given to a specific charity by **March 17, 2017.**

Thank you to **Thrivent Financial!**
In His Name,
Carol Steller



Thrivent Financial
"Choice Dollars"



ACTION TEAM

Good Shepherd Board of Elders



The following column is the **Board of Elders'** attempt to better communicate with the members of the congregation. It is my goal to make this a monthly item in the Newsletter. As such, I welcome your input, ideas for future columns, and general thoughts on this effort.

So...**who are the Elders** and do they do anything other than help Pastor Bruce with Communion on Sunday morning?

The Elders have two main responsibilities in the church. The **first** is to the Pastor. We are charged with making sure he has the physical and spiritual resources to do his job of shepherding his flock at Good Shepherd. We also make sure that he preaches the true Word of God (not a problem with our pastor!).

Our **second** responsibility as Elders is to the members of the congregation. We are tasked with helping members grow in their faith. As such, we address members concerns about events happening in the church, members concerns about their personal faith, prayer requests, and occasionally, compliments on happenings in the church. If you have concerns in any of these areas, we encourage you to discuss them with a member of the Board of Elders.

So, let's meet the Board of Elders. Space constraints only allow for a brief introduction, but I hope each individual Elder will write a more complete bio in future issues.

Dick Steller – 321.225.4242 – I have served as an Elder since 2009 and am currently the Head of the Board of Elders.

Tom Lau – 321.267.9746 – Tom has served for many years as Head of the Board of Elders. He is currently the Congregational President.

Paul Maurer – 321.853.2601 – Paul has served in various positions at Good Shepherd, including Head Elder. He is currently the Congregational Vice President.

Art Kranz – 321.567.4638 – In the past, Art has enhanced our Services with his trombone solos. Art is currently working to establish a choir at Good Shepherd. If you are interested in joining the choir, contact Art.

Tim Larson – 321.544.7769 – Tim is the son of snowbirds Peder and Karen Larson. Tim is a pst member of the Board of Education and is currently our newest Elder.

The **Board of Elders** is there to serve you and welcomes your concerns, thoughts, and prayer requests.

Until next month, God's Blessings,
Dick Steller



Replace Our Roof:



Hurricane Matthew did extensive damage to the west side of our Sanctuary roof. There are over 40 areas where shingles were blown off. Following evaluations by several roofers, it was determined that the expense to just repair the damage would not be money well spent because the roof is old (30+ years), and could not withstand another strong wind storm. Fortunately there is no leakage at this time. The Board of Directors has recommend that we start raising funds, with of a goal of \$20,000 to replace the roof as soon as possible. Protecting our Sanctuary is vital to the future of our church. With God's help and guidance, I know we will be successful in raising the funds needed.

Replace Our Roof Funds Raised This Far

Our goal to replace the roof on the Sanctuary is \$20,000. As of the time of this newsletter printing, our donations have come to \$4,532. I will be giving weekly updates in the bulletins. Please keep this fund raiser in mind as you make your offerings to the church. We have a ways to go but, with God's help we will get there. Blessings



February Newsletter Articles will be due no later than Tuesday, January 17. A big thank you to all those that contribute to this monthly newsletter. Please email articles to office@titusvillelutherans.org or leave a hard copy on the desk in the church office