

Journey of Faith is a pathway to spiritual growth and renewal that is patterned after Christ's way of welcoming people into community and calling them into discipleship. It includes a time of inquiry where your questions set the framework for discussion. This is followed by a period of Biblical reflection, prayer, and discernment based on the Sunday readings in which those new to LCGS are linked with members of the congregation who also seek to grow in faith and affirm their Christian vocation. Over all, we spend about eleven weeks together from September 13th through November 22nd.. **Journey of Faith** meets on Sundays from 5:00 until 6:45PM. The gatherings include a simple meal and childcare is offered .



A Time to Ask Questions and Get Acquainted

The first **Journey of Faith** gatherings are a **time of inquiry** where the questions you bring form the basis for our discussion. These gatherings will take place beginning Sunday, September 13th, 2009.

Those who are new to the Christian faith or returning to faith find this to be a great starting point, as do life-long Lutherans who are coming from active membership in another church. The truth is, all of us live with questions of faith that we bring to God out of the daily experiences we are having and the unique circumstances of our lives.

Of course, there may not be an easy answer to every question, but we will do our best to address it together in the light of our Christian faith and experience.

After this time, you will be invited to continue your faith journey with others.

A Time to Hear God's Word Together

Following the time of Inquiry, participants will be joined by members of our congregation who will walk with you as "companions". Each week, we will take **time to hear the Word of God together** and then reflect on how it is speaking to us today. These gatherings will take place beginning on October 4th, 2009.

This is not a "new member class" or a series of lessons on what it means to be a Lutheran. It is an encounter with scripture and with other people who are seeking to know God more deeply.

Hearing scripture together in this way also helps us to know each other better and to enjoy the gift of community in Christ.

In most cases, our focus will be on the Gospel lessons that are read in worship on Sunday. In hearing them again, we trust that they always have something new to offer us— even if we have lived with them since birth.

At the end of this time of reflection and prayer, all those who would like to join our congregation are invited to enter a **time of exploring the heart of our faith** in preparation for the rites of baptism or affirmation of baptism on All Saints Sunday, November 1st..

The Journey of Faith continues as we consider the unique vocation that each of us has as a disciple of Jesus Christ. More about this is found on the back side of this flyer.

A Time to Focus on Daily Discipleship

*Your vocation is that place to which
God calls you where your deep joy
meets the world's deep hunger.*

— Frederick Buechner

In the last stage of our journey, each person will have an opportunity to reflect on his/her own unique gifts and interests as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Your vocation may be defined in terms of a special area or context for service. It may also be defined by a cause that you care deeply about. It may revolve around important functions like singing in choir, serving a meal to hungry people, or praying for others. It can be lived out in both the congregation and the wider community.

Some of our congregational leaders will share their own stories with you as you consider your own calling. Our goal at LCGS is to engage every member in some kind of transformational ministry.

If you have questions about the Journey of Faith, please contact Pr. John Rosenberg or Pr. Chuck Harris by phone at 360-357-3554 or by email at:

jrosenberg@goodshepherdolympia.com

charris@goodshepherdolympia.com

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
1601 North St. SE
Olympia, WA 98501-3666

Journey of Faith

September 13 –November 22, 2009



**Welcoming People
into Spiritual
Growth
and Community
at
The Lutheran Church
of the Good Shep-
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