



Hope Lutheran Church

Enumclaw, Washington

The Messenger of Hope

"Member of the Plateau Ministerial Association"

Pastor Dan's Corner

This morning, as the sun was just beginning to rise on a bright, sunny spring day that has been too long in coming, I walked along the foothill trail. The daffodils were beginning to bloom, flowers beginning to appear on the trees, new life coming out of a winter's slumber...and coming out in abundance. The cycle of life continues. God's promise renewed yet again.

As I walked along the path, my mind took me to the Gospels that first Easter morning. I could almost visualize the women walking along their path, maybe it was the Jerusalem foothills trail, as they faithfully came to the tomb of Jesus, prepared to do something they really didn't want to do, yet knew they must do, anoint Jesus' body.

I wondered if the daffodils and flower buds opening on the trees that morning gave the women a clue of what they would soon see...an empty tomb and the promise of new life. God's promise manifested in the early morning light. Manifested in an empty tomb filled beyond belief with grace. An empty tomb filled with hope for a weary, dreary world.

There is just no other morning

like Easter morning. Everything feels new, creation comes alive with excitement, and the breathless busyness of life gives way to a promise that changed the world forever. A promise of unconditional love and amazing grace given for you, a promise of life everlasting. Life that each day is filled like the bright morning sun fills a clear blue sky.

Yes, we still have three weeks of Lent to journey through, but I can't help but look forward to the most holy of days, the true high feast day of Christianity. Easter for me is the day of days, the day when God's true and amazing love for the world is made known to all through the resurrection of Christ.

Holy Week points us to that morning of promise. I hope you will be able to attend the Holy Week services because they serve to build upon each other, drawing the full range of our emotions out of the darkness and into the light of Easter morning.

We will begin with the Seder Passover Meal on Passover, Tuesday of Holy Week, held at Hope jointly with Calvary Presbyterian and Trinity.

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A Life Lesson from Joshua and the Gibeonites

The story of the Gibeonites found in Joshua chapter 9 is one of deception and gullibility. The Gibeonites were Canaanites and Israel was commanded by God to defeat and destroy them as they conquered the Promised Land. The Gibeonites had seen what Israel had done to the neighboring cities of Jericho and Ai, and so they devised a ruse to trick Israel and save their lives. A delegation of them made themselves appear to have come from a long distance. They dressed in rags and carried moldy bread in their packs. They wanted to negotiate a treaty to make themselves Israel's servants, rather than be destroyed. Joshua was fooled and gave them what they requested, breaking God's commandment to destroy all the people of the land. There are lessons here for us in our own decision-making. Let's learn from Joshua and Israel's mistake.

The Israelites were cautious and they asked good questions of these travelers; In short, the Israelites looked at the outward appearance, and were fooled by these early thespians. According to I Samuel 16:7, it is a human trait to look at the outward appearance, but God looks at the heart and attitude of a person. His perspective is much deeper, and much more important.

This is the tendency we all

share in common with Joshua and Israel. The lesson for us is found in chapter 9:14: "The men of Israel sampled their provisions **but did not inquire of the Lord.** In other words they did all the research they needed to do, but missed a big part of decision-making—asking God for his opinion. That's what we all should do when we have to make decisions. We should pray about the decision AND do our research. This is what I think is meant by the Scripture which commands us to "Pray without ceasing." It is being in a constant state of prayer.

Interestingly, when the Israelites found out, they were so angry they wanted to kill these Gibeonites anyway (verse 19 and following). But because Israel had sworn an oath to God, they kept their promise although there had been deception. Paradoxically, today, deception is grounds for voiding a contract, but for Israel, making an oath to God trumped even deceptive practices. The Gibeonites survived as woodcutters and water carriers.

The lesson for us from this story is to do our research before making a decision; more importantly, pray about it before committing yourself. Finally, if you make a promise, you'd better keep it.

Thoughtfully,
Richard Elfers
Sunday Forum Coordinator



Upcoming Events

- Apr 2 - Spring Cleaning
- Apr 2 - Fourth Wisemen
- Apr 4 - Agenda Items due
- Apr 6 - Holden Evening
- Apr 10 - Council Meeting
- Apr 12- Theology on Tap
- Apr 13 - Holden Evening
- Apr 14 - Brewed Awakenings
- Apr 16 - Fourth Wisemen
- Apr 17 - Messenger articles due
- Apr 19 - Seder Dinner
- Apr 21 - Maundy Thurs
- Apr 22 - Good Friday
- Apr 23 - Easter Vigil
- Apr 26 - XYZ Potluck & Outing
- Apr 26- Theology on Tap
- Apr 28 - Brewed Awakenings

April Birthdays

- 4/1 Kevin Carey
- 4/6 Tim Hazen
- 4/8 Linda Ingham
- 4/9 Cordia Hinderer
- 4/9 Alan Haywood
- 4/10 Eric Bearden
- 4/11 Stefan Semke
- 4/14 Shirley Lewis
- 4/14 Hogan Olafson
- 4/17 Dave Voss
- 4/19 Anne-Marie Semke
- 4/24 Lynn Thayer
- 4/25 Gene Kuhlman
- 4/26 Ann Kuhlman
- 4/29 Jorunn Ruff

April Anniversaries

- 4/5 Charles & Nancy Berg
- 4/5 Don & Ann Bettencourt
- 4/13 Brian & Sandy Carey
- 4/14 Rob & Pam Christensen

Our April schedule for POM Food Bank: Package Pasta & Sauce



Place all donated items in the basket in the Narthex. Thank you!

Articles are due for next month's Messenger by April 17!

Pastor Dan's Corner cont.

There we will experience the meal Jesus shared with his disciples on the night in which he was betrayed. Breaking the bread, and, again, after supper taking the cup.

Maundy Thursday begins the service of the Three Holy Days. A service that begins Maundy Thursday and ends at the Great Vigil of Easter on Saturday. We will hold a noon Maundy Thursday service at Hope and a 7:00 service at Trinity where we will celebrate that Passover in Christian tradition, with the sacrament ordained by God on that tragic night long ago. Not the last supper, but really the first supper in a new covenant with God.

Our emotions will yield to tears, sorrow, and silence on Good Friday as we experience the loss, the emptiness, the death of hope, the extinguishing of the light. We will hold services at noon at Hope and at 7:00 at Trinity.

On Saturday we will celebrate

the Great Vigil of Easter, at 7:00 at Trinity. Beginning with a new fire that will bring the light of new life to the darkness of Good Friday, we will hold a remembrance of Baptism, celebrate the stories of salvation history, and share Holy Communion together.

Taking that Holy Week journey will prepare you to experience the fullness of Easter morning with new meaning and new fullness. If you are able, I encourage you to experience the days of Holy Week. If you are unable to attend, I invite you to spend each of those nights reading the Bible accounts of those days. For the Passover, read Exodus Chapter 12, for Maundy Thursday, John Chapter 13, Matthew Chapter 26:20-29, For Good Friday, Matthew 26:30-27:66, for Easter Vigil, Matthew 28:1-20, for Easter morning, John 20-21.

May the blessings and joy of Easter bring new life into your life,

Pastor Dan

Habitat Mission Trip - September in Montana

Hope has been invited to participate in a Thrivent-Habitat for Humanity build in Kalispell, Montana September 18 to 24 this year. There will be about 40 people from Washington and Oregon on the build for the week, and that could include 5-7 people from Hope. We would leave Hope after service on September 18, and return on September 24. Lodging and meals will be at Flathead Lake Bible Camp. The cost for the trip, including lodging, meals, and daily transportation is estimated to be about \$500. The cost would not include transportation to Montana, which would be by car pool or train. Please give this service opportunity your prayerful thought, and let Pastor Dan know if you would like to be part of this service experience.

Council Meeting



A detailed copy of the Council Minutes can be seen on the roundabout

The Congregation Council met on March 13. The following was approved: The minutes were approved as written. The Treasurer report was presented. Total expenses for February were \$15,326 and receipts were \$13,766. The shortfall was used from existing funds, but upcoming quarterly commitments for benevolences will have an impact in March. The Council will continue to monitor the budget monthly. A detailed report will be included in the May semi-Annual meeting.

Old Business:

Pew Bibles – The order will be submitted for Bibles for the pews. The New Revised Standard Version was selected.

Cushions – A local firm was contacted to give a sample to council for pew cushions.

Furnace – The heat exchanger was replaced and the part was covered by recall but not labor.

New Business:

New Members – 8 new members were enthusiastically approved by council. As named below.

Welcoming Committee –

The Spring Clean-up for the interior is scheduled for April 2 and exterior for May 22.

Audit Committee – 3 members will be recruited and elected at the Annual Meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:45pm with Prayer.

Agenda item deadline: Monday, April 4 by noon, Next regular Council Meeting: Sunday, April 10 after the second service

Welcome New Members

We would like to welcome our new members to Hope. Bob and Sue Teem, Larry and Carol Ann Sanderson, Bob and Becky Lee, Gert and Sue Pilemalm,



Thank You

Harlan Valberg & Family and Shirley Lewis would like to send a thank you for all your cards, phone calls and prayers on behalf of Norma Valberg. She will be greatly missed. Many Thanks

Vacation

Pastor Dan will be on vacation in California from April 1 until April 9. Please contact Pastor Dennis at Trinity or Rev. Bev Jensen if you need pastoral care.

Bleatings From The Sheep Pen

As noted in last couple month's Messenger article, we have emphasized (with specific designated funding) six outreach ministries that impact numerous people beyond our doors as part of our annual church budget. This month we highlight Carl and Melody Knight's ministry in Africa with Lutheran Bible Translators

"Twenty five Years in the African Sun"

So reads the title of the cover story in the latest Lutheran Bible Translators Messenger news letter. In this article, the reporter tells of the past twenty five years in the life of Carl & Melody, who retired at year end and now live in Port Orchard, WA. Let me relate some of the high lights from this interesting article.

Carl and Melody were teachers by profession when a tragic accident took the life of their teenage son, Jeffrey. Their desire was to do something meaningful with their lives in memory of him. They learned how LBT could use people with teaching experience, applied to the organization, and began a 25 year missionary journey.

Starting in 1987, they moved to Tambiamba, Sierra Leone where their first assignment was literature development and literacy among the Loko people. The Loko New Testament had been published in 1983. The Knights promoted literacy in the people's heart language (local dialect), trained native literacy teachers, conducted writer's workshops, and provided materials. Silk screen printing was the "technology" used to mass produce these materials.

They lived in a village home with gravity feed water system. Their walls were made of mud brick covered with cement. Power was provided through solar panels and batteries. E-mail did not exist. Their closest contact with fellow missionaries was a twice daily radio check.

When civil war broke out in Sierra Leone, they were forced to evacuate. LBT asked them to stay in a missionary's home in another country "to keep an eye on things" while that missionary was on furlough. That short term assignment led to a 15 year commitment to work among the people of Botswana. There they would create some of the first literature for a language group, they helped run Christian song writing workshops to create a joyful noise in the native language, and they staffed and help create Christian puppetry performances.

As noted, Karl and Melody retired towards the end of last year. We are now supporting other working missionary families for Lutheran Bible Translators in Botswana to further grow the work that Karl and Melody pioneered. If you are interested in learning more about the Knights, or about the work of Lutheran Bible Translators, the news letter is available on the round-about. Thanks be to God for their dedication and caring.

Greetings, bleatings, from the sheep pen.

The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want. (Psalm 23: 1)



Jim Niehoff

"Making Christ Known in Our Community"



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Our Purpose:

"Making Christ known in our community by reaching out through worship, service and fellowship"

Hope Lutheran Church is a member of the Southwestern Washington Synod of the ELCA

Their mission: "...Spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ by empowering congregations and church leaders to grow in worship, education, outreach, stewardship and other missions"

Their website:

www.lutheranssw.org

Soli Deo Gloria

Holy Week Schedule

Seder Meal and Service

Tuesday, April 19 – 7:00pm at Hope

Maundy Thursday Service at Hope & Trinity

Thursday, April 21 –12:00pm at Hope & 7:00pm at Trinity

Good Friday Service at Hope & Trinity

Friday, April 22 –12:00pm at Hope & 7:00pm at Trinity

The Great Vigil of Easter

Saturday, April 23 – 7:00pm at Trinity

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 4 – 8:30am and 11:00am Services at Hope

Chelsea Globe Preaching May 1

Chelsea Globe, now completing her second year of seminary, will be preaching Sunday, May 1 at both services. Chelsea will be designing the worship services for that day, writing the litany and liturgy, the order of service, the words and patterns we speak during worship. It will be a pleasure to welcome her back to Hope as she continues to work towards her ordination. Come and support her with your presence on her journey.

You are invited to a "Fun and Fashion Spring Tea"!

The Golden Oldies, a group of ladies who put on vintage fashion shows to help support Good Will Industries, will be entertaining us with 100 years of fashion (24 different outfits) at a fund raising tea for the SW WA Synodical Women's Organization\ of Women of the ELCA, on Saturday, April 16, 2011, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm, at St Mark Lutheran Church, 2109 College Street SE, Lacey, WA, 98503

Cost is \$10.00. Door prizes will be awarded. The fashion show will delight you and there will be lots of goodies to eat!

Please call Adriana Chandler at 253-833-4550 or Dorothy Reed at 360-438-1352 with the number of women and girls coming and you can pay at the door. Or send your check to Adriana Chandler at 218 Hi Crest Drive, Auburn, WA 98001 and she will put your name on the list of attendees.

Fashion Show and Tea: April 16, 1:00 pm, St Mark Lutheran, 2109 College Street, Lacey, WA 98503

YOU KNOW YOU'RE GETTING OLD WHEN:

- Your joints are more accurate than the National Weather Service.
- Your investment in health insurance is finally beginning to pay off.
- Your back goes out more than you do.
- The twinkle in your eye is only the reflection of the sun on your bifocals.
- You feel like the morning after when you haven't been anywhere the night before.
- You finally got your head together, now your body is falling apart.
- Your supply of brain cells is finally down to a manageable size.
- It takes twice as long to look half as good.
- You sink your teeth in a steak and they stay there.
- You know all the answers but nobody asks you the questions.
- Your little black book contains only names ending in M.D.
- The pharmacist has become your new best friend.
- You shop for health insurance the way you once shopped for a new car.
- You wonder how you could be over the hill when you don't remember being on top of it.



Adult Forum

Sunday April 3rd, we begin a three week series on Islam presented by Dr Carolyn Heinz. Carolyn is a Professor of Anthropology, retired, with an emphasis on world religions. The program will run April 3, 10, 17, and cover topics that are at the root of unrest in the Middle East today. Sunni-Shiite religious differences, Sharia Law, women and family in Muslim life. Carolyn is an excellent presenter. Please plan on attending these very informative sessions.

Time For Some Spring Cleaning!

If it was your New Year's resolution to get organized at home and you are ready to start your spring cleaning, please keep in mind that we will be having a garage sale in May. We would love your cast off items, the things you have no room for and those items that were such a great idea at the time, but haven't been used since you can't remember when! Pack them up in a box and deliver them to the church the week of May 9th for the sale on May 14th to help support the Halloween Carnival in the fall. If you hadn't made cleaning out your closets a New Year's resolution, you just might want to make it a spring resolution! In order to make the garage sale a success, note the following.

Please limit the amount of clothing that you donate to one box or bag. We take our leftover garage sale items to Goodwill. Goodwill does not accept electrical items that need to be wired in, baby furniture or equipment, exercise equipment, window blinds or tires. If you choose to donate these items to the garage sale, please mark them with your name and if they do not sell, you will be asked to make other arrangements for them. You may want to post an ad on seattle.craigslist.org. Please make other arrangements for your unwanted televisions and computer equipment as well through ecyclewashington.org. Please see <http://tacomagoodwill.org/donate/items/>.

Thank you,
Sandy Carey





Stewardship April 2011

I am trying to decide if Spring came in like a lion or a lamb. We have rain, snow and wind, but we also have sunshiny days. The crocuses, daffodils and tulips are trying to come up and trees are budding out. They must wonder what is happening during the night when everything is covered with frost in the mornings. The trees are trying to prepare for summer and the fall harvesting of their fruits. As we journey through the Lent season, it is like Spring. A time for each of us to prepare for the rest of the year. We are having Lenten services on Wednesday evenings. With a time for fellowship with soup supper, a time for Bible Study with Dan Peterson and a time for an evening worship with the Holden Vesper service. It is a good evening to meet people from both Hope and Trinity.

Once again we have the reminder of Jesus' pain and suffering with the branches around the alter and the foot of the cross and the crown of thorns on the cross. It reminds me of Jesus in the wilderness for 40 days and His suffering on the cross for each one of us. Come to church on April 24th, Easter Sunday, when we will join around the alter for communion and give thanks for the journey of Lent, the passion of Good Friday and the unconditional love of Easter.

Thank you to everyone who has helped with the Wednesday soup suppers, for making soup and desserts to share with others from the community. Remember to sign up to help with the weekly services. Watch the signup sheets for Easter breakfast.

I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed through the world. Romans 1:8

God's peace to the stewards of Hope.
Kathie Thompson
 Stewardship Ministry Team

Worship Schedule

April 3 - Fourth Sunday in Lent
 First reading: 1 Sam 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Second reading; Eph 5:8-14; Gospel John 9:1-41

April 10 - Fifth Sunday in Lent
 First reading Ezek 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Second reading Rom 8:6-11; Gospel John 11:1-45

April 17 - Passion/Palm Sunday
 First reading Isa 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Second reading Phil 2:5-11; Gospel Matt 26:14-27:66

April 24 - Easter Day
 First reading Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 22; Second Reading Heb 10:16-25; Gospel John 18:1-19:42



† *Lenten Soup Suppers* †
 Lenten Soup Supper, 5:45p.m.
 Dr Dan Peterson " Why Did Jesus Die?" 6:30p.m.
 Holden Evening Prayer Service 7:20p.m.