



Hope Lutheran Church

Enumclaw, Washington

# The Messenger of Hope

"Member of the Plateau Ministerial Association"

## Pastor Dan's Corner

This past Pentecost I preached at Trinity. Several people have asked about what I said in the sermon. The following is the exact text of what I said concerning Hope and Trinity, together, over the next 100 years. It was based on the Acts account of Pentecost, Acts 2:1-11.

"More than 100 years ago, the Spirit spoke to two groups of Scandinavian immigrants here on the Plateau. And the Spirit spoke in a language each group could understand, their native tongues, Norwegian and Danish. In their native language they heard the call of the Spirit, and each group followed the Spirit's call to build a church. And for the last 110-plus years we have followed the voice of the Spirit, leading us into mission here on the plateau.

In that 110-plus years both Hope Lutheran and Trinity Lutheran have lived out a story of God's people. And each church's story is unique and important.

Our challenge for today is to discern what the Spirit is speaking today, individually and together, as the Lutheran presence, together, here on the plateau. And like our Christian forebears in that upper room at Pentecost,

God has given us the same gifts to discern the future – Presence with and for each other, and Prayer with and for each other, and the Promise of Christ to be with us in mission.

The same gifts given to the disciples as they pondered the future some 2,000 years ago in that upper room.

Those gifts are sufficient, and perhaps they can lead us to ask the important question of how can we, together as Lutherans, live out each church's unique story, together, in new and exciting ways?

The XYZ'ers have shown us the way this past year as they have met and shared their program together. Trinity and Hope have shared the blessings of Lenten and Holy Week services that have been a visible sign of what wonderful, exciting things the future could hold.

Today, we are harvesting some of the first fruits of joint ministry opportunities. Today, through our joint confirmation program, we are confirming our two confirmands in confirmation ceremonies at both churches.

The senior high group presents another opportunity, not just for Hope to send the senior youth to Trinity, but to support the program both in presence and financially.

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"Making Christ Known in Our Community"



# Numerology in the Gospel of John

The author of the book of John used the numerology of 8 miracles to send a message to his readers. The first two miracles are noted as being the first and second miracles, the rest are left for us to count. They add up to eight. The 8th miracle—the resurrection of Christ ties the New Testament to the creation account in Genesis. Let’s examine these 8 miracles to learn John’s message for us.

- The first miracle: Jesus turned water into wine at the marriage feast (chapter 2).
- The second miracle: Jesus healed the royal official’s son at the seventh hour (Chapter 4).
- The third miracle: The invalid at the pool called Bethesda was healed on the Sabbath day—the seventh day of the week. (Chapter 5) The Sabbath is supposed to be a day of rest—in the invalid’s case—a rest from his paralysis, but also from his sins (v. 14).
- The fourth miracle was Jesus feeding the 5000 with 7 pieces of food, 5 loaves of bread and two fish (Chapter 6).
- Jesus walked on water at the Sea of Galilee to complete the fifth miracle, also in chapter 6. At this point Jesus angered the crowds by telling them he wouldn’t

be continuing to give them free food. Even many of his disciples abandoned him at this point. Ironically, miracles don’t always convince people of God’s presence.

- The sixth miracle occurred when Jesus healed the man blind from birth. This miracle caused an uproar among the Jewish leaders who kicked out the formerly blind man because he stated that Jesus must be from God. (Chapter 9)
- The seventh sign was raising Lazarus from the dead (chapter 11). This miracle foreshadowed Jesus’ resurrection.
- John’s final 8th miracle takes place--in a garden! “Which, of course, takes us back to Genesis, to the first creation in a...garden” (R. Bell, Love Wins, 133).

John is using numbers to teach his readers a lesson about God’s creation—Jesus is a new creation after rising from the dead. The 8th day signifies the beginning of a new week—one that frees us all from death.

John counted the miracles to teach a lesson about God’s plans for our salvation. John used numerology to teach us the message to focus on the one who saves us, Jesus Christ.

Thoughtfully,  
*Richard H. Elfers*  
Sunday Forum Facilitator

# Member Quilt

The Membership quilt is temporarily down from the Nave wall; if any member has not written their name on a square now is the time to do it! There are lots of empty squares that are waiting for names. You’ll find the quilt in Berg Hall with the square sewed on already. Please be sure and use a permanent marker pen..

## Upcoming Events

- Aug 1-5 - VBS
- Aug 6 - Fourth Wisemen
- Aug 8-11 - Office Closed
- Aug 9 - Theology on Tap
- Aug 10 - Sp Ed Movie Night
- Aug 11 - Brewed Awakenings & Thursday Night Worship
- Aug 12 - PLU Night at the Rainiers
- Aug 14 - Council Meeting
- Aug 17 - Mid Week Prayer Walk
- Aug 18 -Thursday Night Worship and BBQ
- Aug 20 - Fourth Wisemen
- Aug 23 - Theology on Tap
- Aug 25 - Brewed Awakenings & Thursday Night Worship
- Aug 28 - Messenger articles due & Open House for Pastor Dan & Lois





### Birthdays

- 8/1 Becky Latham
- 8/5 Janie Lau
- 8/7 Ann Bettencourt
- 8/8 Danelle Borgen
- 8/13 Robert Watts
- 8/16 Rita Sand-Voss
- 8/17 Harley Ruff
- 8/19 Emily Voss
- 8/28 Gavin Pyle
- 8/30 Lori Robinson



### Anniversaries

- 8/11 Gary & Susan Hogerhuis
- 8/23 Robert & LaVerne Nearhood
- 8/25 Dave & Rita Voss
- 8/28 Bruce & Jody Pierce

Our August schedule for  
POM Food Bank:  
Canned Meat



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

## Pastor Dan's Corner cont.

The Spirit is speaking to us today, not just in Danish and not just in Norwegian, but in the language of the kingdom. A language of grace and love for each other, as fellow Christians and fellow Lutherans.

How will we hear what the Spirit is saying to Trinity and Hope today for the future? We have two great stories to tell. Stories of unconditional love and grace. Love from God so great that it was manifested in Christ's death on the cross. Love so powerful that in the resurrection, sin and death were overcome. Grace so everlasting that it is present in the wine and bread today at our Lord's Table.

How will we, you and I, Hope and Trinity, speak a story of love and grace today, together? Will our tongues speak a language of silence? Or will our tongues roar with the gale force wind of the Holy Spirit? Will our ears listen?

Will our tongues speak a language of welcome, grace,

and love, in all that we say and do? Will our ears truly listen to each other? Truly hear each other's story? Each others hopes and dreams for ministry?

Perhaps it may be a gift from God to not speak first, but rather to pray first. Pray for each other and then let the Spirit speak to us. Perhaps then we will truly hear each other. For it is in the miracle of the ear, in the miracle of each of us truly hearing each other, that we will better understand God's mission for us here on the plateau, together. Then we can speak a common language that all will hear and understand.

When we are open to the Spirit's fire within us, the words of God's Good News in Jesus Christ will ring out from the rooftops. Words that will be heard in a language all can hear and understand.

For God's words of grace and love will fall on ears eager to hear the rest of the story as it unfolds over the next 100 years."

In Christ,  
Pastor Dan

## Pew Cushions

**W**e are looking into purchasing Cushions for the Church Pews. The cost will be around \$200.00 per Cushion. If you would like to help purchase the cushions please make check payable to Hope Lutheran Church, and note on check "Cushions".

## Council Meeting

The Congregation Council met on July 10.

**Discussion:** Nominations: **Council Secretary:** Paul Powell  
Nominated by Brian Carey Council Vote: Unanimous

**President:** Debbie Littlefield Nominated by Brian Carey  
Seconded by Susan Hogerhuis Council Vote: Unanimous

**Vice-President:** Shirleen Flesner Nominated by Paul Powell  
Seconded by Debbie Littlefield Council Vote: Unanimous

**Agenda item Old Business Presenter:** Debbie Littlefield

**Discussion:** • Bible Purchase - completed

- Purchase of Pew Cushions – estimate for 42 cushions is \$7519 including sales tax.
- Council suggested that we ask for donations, since we are about \$3500 short of our budgeted amount. Next Sunday we will begin asking for donations and see how the response is, for a couple of Sunday's, and if it's positive we will proceed with the order, which requires 1/3 down.
- Property Signs – 5 signs, tabled until next council meeting.
- Emergency Buzzers – awaiting status from Lori
- Microphone Replacement – lapel microphone is not working for Pastor, so we will be getting an ear mount – approximately \$200.
- Lutheran Counseling Network signs – Pastor will have Linda find out costs.
- New members/phone directory page – Pastor will have Lorie prepare and make copies for handout.

**Agenda item: New Business Presenter:** Debbie Littlefield

**Discussion:** Ministry Teams – tabled until next council meeting

- Rotary Club request – Rotary has request again to hold their weekly, Thursday meetings at HLC in Berg Hall. This would be from 11:30AM to 1:00PM with a 1 hour clean-up. Rotary would pay us \$300 per month, to include the cost of 1 hour clean-up for each meeting. Brian Carey made a motion to accept the offer from Rotary, and Paul Powell seconded the motion.
- Audit Committee – Annie and Gene will be contacted to help the church develop audit guides and an audit committee will be solicited from the congregation.



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

*Agenda item deadline: Monday, August 8 by noon,  
Next regular Council Meeting: Sunday, August 14 after the second service*

## Habitat Update

The Montana trip for a Habitat build in September will not be possible this year. The local affiliate is cutting back on the work because money is tight. As well, the cost was set by Thrivent for the build that week, and included housing and meals for \$500 for the week, and a monetary donation of \$500 per person.

But don't put your hammers away just yet. We are working on putting together a Habitat build in Yakima that same week, without the significant cost. People coming for the build would be able to take their own RV's, and those without RV's may be able to stay at a Lutheran church in Yakima.

The plan is to go over on Sunday, September 11, work on the build Monday through Thursday, and, for those who would like, enjoy a day of wine tasting on Friday.

Hopefully we will have everything in place by the first week in August. So dust off you hammer and stay tuned.

## Greetings, Bleatings, from the Sheep Pen

**A**s 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 give an update on the work of our Southwest Washington Synod whom we support, and who in turn supports us and the 92 churches in our region that stretches from Enumclaw to Federal Way, across the Olympic Peninsula, and down west of the Cascades to the Columbia River.

In spite of overall 15% + funding declines this past year in total from our sister churches, and the departure of five congregations, our Synod has seen growth with the start of six new mission starts. These include St. Christopher Lutheran/Episcopal Federated Congregation near Olympia, Messiah Lutheran Church in Vancouver opening second church in the area, Federal Way Chinese Fellowship, Peace Lutheran Fellowship in Jefferson County, Light of Grace Lutheran Fellowship reaching out to the Korean population in Federal Way, and Living Stones Lutheran Worshipping Community inside the walls of the state correctional at Shelton.

Our Synod provides financial support to the ELCA Churchwide in its worldwide ministry of outreach, as well as local support for Lutheran schools, campus ministries, counseling services, leadership training programs, mission support, and overall administration needs of the 92 churches in the Synod. They provide workshops to help all of our churches grow in being able to spread the Good News of God's love. They provide much needed support to our Pastors.

Without our support/your support to the Southwestern Washington Synod of the ELCA, we would not be able to enjoy the great and many blessings God is bringing to us today at Hope Lutheran Church. Thanks be to God for your support.

Greetings, bleatings, from the sheep pen.

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



*Jim Niehoff*

## Thank You

**M**y Mom, Nellie Pfau, passed away on June 21<sup>st</sup>, the first day of summer. She was a farmer's wife and school teacher in North Dakota. She lived for 98 years knowing she would someday be with her Lord. Thank you for the cards, phone calls, flowers, words of condolence and hugs.

*Kathie, Becky, Brenda, Jason and Jett*

## Hope Lutheran Church

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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*

## Open House at the Wilson's Sunday, August 28

**W**ell, it took two years, but at last the boxes are unpacked and the house ready. On Sunday afternoon, August 28, Pastor Dan and Lois will hold an open house in grateful appreciation of all who helped us with our move and who held us in prayer for our move to Enumclaw.

We will hold the open house from 12:00 to 4:00. Stop by anytime. Refreshments and "pupus" (Hawaiian for appetizers) and "picka picka" (Philippine for appetizers) will be ready for you. Come, set on the porch, watch the corn grow and let us say "Thank You!" to you all. No need to RSVP, just come and be welcome.

## Mid-Week Worship - Thursdays

**M**any people take advantage of the great summer weather to get out of the 9 to 5 on weekends and enjoy the beauty of creation around us. Well, you will get a second chance to worship and praise God, and bask in the grace of our Lord's Table each Thursday this summer as we begin our summer mid-week worship.

The evening starts at 6:00 for BBQ hot dogs (and oh, are those Mariner dogs good!), hamburgers, or veggie burgers. Informal worship will begin at about 6:40, outside if the weather permits, concluding about 7:00.

Come and enjoy good food, fellowship, and a wonderful worship experience. Invite your friends to this casual and doubly fulfilling evening service. We will not be having Mid-Week service on August 4<sup>th</sup> due to VBS.

## Summer Evening Prayer Walk

**W**e will hold the second summer evening prayer walk on Wednesday, August 17 at 7:00. The prayer walk will begin at Hope, and we will walk and pray at different locations, such as a city park, the hospital, churches, city hall, the police department, POM, schools, social service organizations, businesses, and the fire department. The leisurely walk will take about an hour, stopping frequently to offer prayer for the various organizations and our community. We will end at Sweet Necessities!! All are welcome. Invite your neighbors and friends.

## PLU - Night at the Rainiers

All Students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends are invited to PLU Night at the Rainiers. Come check out the newly renovated Cheney Stadium. Join us for a great time at the ballpark!

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 12<sup>TH</sup> AT 7:00PM**

Admission is \$10.00 and includes a hot dog, chips, soda and Friday Night Fireworks. Please visit [www.plualumni.org](http://www.plualumni.org) to register or call 253-535-7415

## Unbinding Your Heart Small Group Study

**W**e will be doing an all church series of studies together in small groups for six weeks starting in October later this year. We plan to have 8 to 10 locations scattered around Enumclaw and Buckley including couple small group gatherings at Hope. You will find signup sheets in Berg Hall for those of you that would like to host one of these small groups and for others of you that would like to be a leader/facilitator for these small groups.

If you would like to host, you do not have to be the leader/facilitator (unless you want to). All we ask is you open your home for six consecutive weeks for a small group of 6-10 of our members or friends. You will pick a day and time of the week for these weekly gatherings and should anticipate each meeting/gathering to last for an hour to hour and a half.

If you would like to lead these small group discussions and sharing, we will provide the materials and will match you up with one of the home or church sites. We have had a dozen of our members already go through these studies and they all were moved and excited by the self discovery and sharing on this series of weekly studies. If you have the gift of hospitality or the gift of teaching/sharing, please sign up to help this 6 week all congregation study be a spiritual success.

*Jim Niehoff,*

*Jan Schumacher, Pastor Dan Wilson*

### Testimonials

“For the purpose of this book, evangelism is anything you say or do to help another person move into a closer relationship with God, or into Christian community.” So starts a marvelous book on opening your minds and your hearts to God’s sweet call to meet with Him.

Pastor Dan and I lead, or better to say encouraged, a couple of small groups of our lay leaders through an eight week study with individual 40 day prayer journal. Each week we would read a chapter in the book and then gather and share what we learned from the chapter, and what we experienced in our own prayer times. It was an amazing journey as we weekly & enthusiastically shared how God was working within us, was already working for those we were praying.

The purpose of spreading this study/weekly small group sharing to our all-congregation study isn’t to talk people into the idea of doing evangelism. The aim is to help our dear, faithful members of our church develop their own faith as we learn to talk about it with each other. I believe that all that take part in this will come away with a stronger faith and a stronger bond with our fellow members. Those of us that have participated before can joyfully proclaim that this will be an exciting experience for our church.

*Jim Niehoff*

I’ve been very pleased to see the enthusiasm for Unbinding the Gospel. I’ve been heartened by the emphasis on prayer in this program. To me, the key to both building the body of Christ – giving us spiritual muscles – and reaching out to the community – moving away from self-absorption. Lutherans at Hope need to get closer to God through prayer, study and fellowship. We’re doing that now.

*Rich Elfers*

What “Unbinding” has meant to me thus far, is that the church continues to search for new ways to make the Gospel fresh and relevant to a society always in flux. That takes creativity, and “unbinding” organizes for that purpose. I want to be part of that.

*Bob Lee*

The wonderful thing about this 40 day study is that it challenged me along with others in a small group in a non-frightening way by first encouraging me into a fresh appreciation for who God is and what He means to me personally. I have been a Christian for a long time. This study helped me to see new opportunities God is bringing my way every day to pray for and encourage others in their faith. When sharing opportunities do come, I can share from my own experiences of the Love of God in my life and then they sharing comes naturally.

*Becky Lee*

My participation in the small group's study of the Unbinding the Gospel has been the most meaningful experience of my church life. I have learned to bring my heart to God during prayer and not the list of things I need Him to do.

*Harley Ruff*



## Stewardship August 2011

**W**e finally have had a warm Summer day. What a difference a few degrees make. Everyone put on their shorts and relaxed; families were outside working in the yard, riding bikes and having a barbeque. The annual street fair was well attended and everyone enjoyed Creation 2011. We were fortunate to have a group from Oregon stay at Hope, they appreciated having a place to put their sleeping bags for four nights. We are blessed to be able to offer a place to stay. One of the leaders has been attending and taking kids to Creation concerts for the past 10 years. What a gift to share with the teens from their church.

The first week of August is Vacation Bible School. This year there will be "Panda Mania" in the halls of Hope. What a great opportunity to gather each evening at 6:00 for dinner and 6:30 for VBS songs, crafts and stories. Everyone is welcome to come join us. If you are out for a walk or driving by, stop in for the closing each evening about 8:10; listen to the singing and praying of the enthusiastic children and leaders.

Hope Lutheran has had many opportunities to welcome visitors this summer, remember to say hi and invite them to Berg Hall for fellowship. Please remember to sign up to help at Sunday morning service, there is only one opportunity at 10:00 am (no one will have to make calls to fill in the blank spaces); remember coffee hour is pot luck, and we can always help clean up. Signup sheets are in Berg Hall.

Also, has anyone borrowed a large red and white cooler from the kitchen? The one Pastor has been using for our Thursday midweek service left the premises. If you happen to have the wrong cooler please return to the church so we can have cold sodas again.

Thank you to each of you who share your stewardship gifts at Hope Lutheran. Giving your time to help others, using your talents to read, usher, sing and pray and remembering your offering to help financially.

Continue to pray for Hope Lutheran Church, for friends and families.

Enjoy the warm days of summer.  
Peace to each of you  
*Kathie Thompson*  
Stewardship Ministry

## Worship Schedule

**Aug 7 - Eighth Sunday after Pentecost:** First reading: 1 Kings 19:9-18; Psalm 85:8-13, 32-35; Second reading: Rom 10:5-15; Gospel Matt 14:22-33

**Aug 14 - Ninth Sunday after Pentecost:** First reading Isa 56:1, 6-8; Psalm 67, Second reading Rom 11:1-2a, 29-32; Gospel Matt:15:[10-20] 21-28

**Aug 21 - Tenth Sunday after Pentecost:** First reading Isa 51:1-6; Psalm 138; Second reading Rom 12:1-8; Gospel Matt 16:13-20

**Aug 28 - Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost:** First reading Jer 15:15-21; Psalm 26:1-8; Second Reading Rom 12:9-21; Gospel Matt 16:21-28

