



Hope Lutheran Church

Enumclaw, Washington

The Messenger of Hope

"Member of the Plateau Ministerial Association"

Pastor Dan's Corner

The frenetic energy of Christmas and New Year is now a fading memory as we journey through the season of Epiphany, the revealing of Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God. Epiphany is an "elastic" season on the church calendar. Its length is determined by the Day of Epiphany, January 6 and the start of the Lenten season, which is determined by the date of Easter, which is determined by the moon and the ecclesial spring equinox. The earlier Easter is, the shorter the season of Epiphany is. The later Easter is, the longer the season of Epiphany is. This year we will celebrate the full eight Sundays in Epiphany.

The date for Easter is set on the first Sunday after the first full moon occurring on or following the ecclesial or Paschal spring equinox, which is always March 21 (although the vernal equinox is March 20 this year. Where are the magi when we need an astrologer to explain all this?).

This year the date for Easter, April 24, is only one day short of the latest date that Easter can be observed. We will celebrate Easter on April 25, the latest day, in 2038. You might want to plan ahead for that one. The earliest

day for Easter is March 22 (if March 22 is the first Sunday following the full moon on March 21). The next date for celebrating Easter on its earliest date is March 22, 2285. Perhaps it is a little early to begin planning for that.

OK, OK. That's probably TMI, (too much information), so let's get back to Epiphany. Jesus is revealed in different ways in the Gospels. The Magi in Matthew, the Baptism of our Lord, the miracle at the wedding at Cana in John are all stories of the revealing of Jesus as the true Son of God.

The magi, astrologers of their day, followed a star to find the Christ child. On our journey of Epiphany we don't follow a star, we follow the Son. And we don't have to look far to see the hands and face of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, in our towns, today.

Jesus, in his ministry, went throughout the land, healing people. As you read this, the new St. Elizabeth hospital will be open to provide not just medical healing, but a concept of healing that embraces body, mind, and spirit. Christ is revealed in this dedication to healing that follows his example.

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Thinking of Prayer from a Long Term Perspective

Jesus once wondered: “When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?” (Luke 18:8) I have often pondered that quotation’s meaning. Why, especially, when it comes to prayer does it seem we are not heard? I am becoming convinced that God looks on prayer in the long term as opposed to the immediate or short term.

Consider this: I think most of us Christians pray like children: Something goes wrong and we look for God to rescue us—to save us from the consequences of our own lack of foresight. And, just like a parent does to his/her own children, God sometimes immediately answers those kinds of “desperation prayers”. I think, though, that God is more interested in our development over the long run. God is more interested in us having us put “childish ways behind us”. If we want our prayers to be effective and answered, it requires us to pray with the long term in mind.

That means prayer should be constant and persistent, day in and day out over weeks, months, and even years to be really effective. That’s how we will be found to have faith at Christ’s return.

Furthermore, I think we American Christians especially have a problem with this concept because our culture has taught us

to expect immediate results: We like fast food, quickly resolved problems, and convenience. If we don’t get it, we often give up and quit. I think we do this in our prayer life as well. We need to remember God is not an American. He doesn’t follow our cultural norms.

There is a whole world of need that we Christians could pray for and literally change the face of history. God has given us the power of prayer to do that very thing. The only limit to that much power is our often-childish way of always expecting an immediate response to every prayer. Think of the people who could come to know Christ if we only used the power God has laid in our hands if we only are patient and persistent enough to use it. The power of prayer is in the drudgery of praying over and over through the days, weeks, months and years of our lives. The scope of prayer is enormous if we can only see the possibilities.

Jesus is hoping that he will find faith in us upon his return. Persistent prayer is part of the key to that faith that he will be searching for.

Thoughtfully,
Richard Elfers
Sunday Forum Coordinator



Upcoming Events

- Feb 1 - Relay for Life Committee meeting
- Feb 3 - Brewed Awakenings
- Feb 5 - Fourth Wisemen
- Feb 5 - Help with Tax Questions
- Feb 7 - Agenda Items due
- Feb 8 - Theology on Tap & Relay for life Jolly Ranchers
- Feb 10 - Brewed Awakenings
- Feb 14 - Council Meeting
- Feb 17 - Brewed Awakenings
- Feb 19 - Fourth Wisemen
- Feb 20 - Messenger articles due
- Feb 22 - XYZ Potluck & Outing
- Feb 22- Theology on Tap
- Feb 24 - Brewed Awakenings



February Birthdays

2/4 Lois Wilson
 2/15 Eve Duginske
 2/16 Sheila Hanson
 2/16 Joseph Hazen
 2/17 Charles Berg
 2/18 Hailey Olafson
 2/18 Julie Plagens
 2/27 Steven Myers

February Anniversaries

2/9 Tim & Tina Rash
 2/14 John & Wanda Fitzpatrick
 2/22 Lance & Mary Short

Our February schedule for Package Side Dish



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

Pastor Dan's Corner cont.

We will be blessed on Sunday, February 6, when Rose Shandrow, Director of Spiritual Care for the Franciscan Health System, will present a Sunday Adult Forum describing the spiritual healing work of the Franciscan hospitals. Volunteers are welcome at the hospital, and if the Holy Spirit is nudging you to help people in difficult times, Rose will be delighted to help you start that wonderful opportunity.

Jesus, in his ministry, fed the hungry with abundant food. I continue to see the revealing of Christ every week in our local food banks as the hungry are provided food, and those who feel they are at the end of their rope find assistance.

Many people from Hope already volunteer at POM and

the Buckley food bank. We will be blessed on March 6 when Kimberly Fish, Director of POM, comes to Hope to present an Adult Forum program about the plans and needs of POM. She would be delighted to help you start a wonderful opportunity of volunteering at POM.

You really don't have to look far to see the hands and face of Christ revealed in our towns, today. Where do you see the revealing of Jesus as the Son of God in your life? You don't have to look far. Just open your eyes and you will see Christ revealed everyday in your life, all around you.

Share the Good News...Christ IS!

Pastor Dan

XYZ CLUB

XYZ stands for "X-tra Years of Zest" and this group lives up to its moniker! These retired senior men and women gather monthly for fun, food, and fellowship. Programs vary from theme luncheons to games, special speakers, entertainment, and local field trips. Warm and welcoming, this group is a GREAT way for senior folks, to get acquainted and involved. The XYZ Club meets monthly (the last Tuesday) at noon in the Hope Lutheran Church fellowship hall. (Please bring a dish to share.) This month, after meeting for lunch we will head over to the Enumclaw Historical Museum.

Articles are due for next month's Messenger by February 23!



Council Meeting

The Congregation Council met on January 9. The following was approved: The minutes were approved as written. The Treasurer report was presented. The monthly report was reviewed with an emphasis on feasibility of meeting proposed 2011 budget. The yearend balance in the general checking was \$71,280, compared with opening balance on Jan 1, 2010 of \$86,862. \$25,000 was budgeted for fiscal supplement but we only needed \$15,582,

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

Old Business:

Salary increases – Synod guidelines recommend that pastors not receive a cost of living raise for 2011, but provide the “years of experience raise”. It was recommended that Lorie and Amanda receive a 1.5% salary increase as per synod guidelines.

Budget – Proposed 2011 budget of \$184,212 was proposed and adopted. The possibility of purchasing cushions pews using funds from the Memorial Acct.

New Business:

Nominating Committee – 3 members needed for comm.

Monthly Time Sheets –

Harley will select/prepare time sheets to be used by hourly employees.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 2:00pm with Prayer.

Agenda item deadline: Monday, February 7 by noon, Next regular Council Meeting: Monday, February 14 at 6:30pm

Adult Forum Schedule for February

Rose Shandrow, director of the Spiritual Care Center for the Franciscan Health System will be here Sunday February 6th for the Adult Forum in between services. She will present a Sunday Adult Forum describing the spiritual healing work of the Franciscan hospitals. Volunteers are welcome at the hospital, and Rose would be delighted to help you get started!

Beginning Sunday, February 13, Hope Lutheran Adult Forum will present a three-part series presented by Dr. Kevin O’Brien. The program will begin at 9:45 in between services. Kevin is professor of ethics at PLU, and his presentations are always lively and very informative, with respect for all and each person’s opinion.

Bleatings From The Sheep Pen

As part of our annual church budget, we have emphasized (with specific designated funding) six outreach ministries that impact numerous people beyond our doors. Many of you are very familiar with these ministries and what they do, but I thought it would be of interest to highlight each of these ministries over the next several months for those who may not be as familiar with their focus and positive impact on people's lives.

These ministries are Betsy (Elfers) Meyer with her work in South Africa with families suffering with Aids and other diseases, Kevin & Megan (Niehoff) Harris in their missionary work in Western China, the Knight family (and others) in working for Lutheran Bible Translators in Botswana, Africa, help with Chelsea Globe in her studies in Divinity school at Seattle University, our local Plateau Outreach Ministries, and the Southwestern Washington Synod of the ELCA. We start this month with Betsy Meyer and her great work in Loskop, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

Betsy originally moved to South Africa in 2004 as part of an organization named Agathos that had a goal of setting up an orphanage in South Africa due to all the children made orphans as result of the Aids epidemic sweeping among the South African native peoples. Eventually, Betsy moved her focus to work in helping hurting families, including grandparents, in coping with the effects of so many fathers and mothers dieing from Aids and leaving children behind. She spent her time in developing a structured response at the neighborhood level that included going house to house and working out of the back of a pickup truck.

Today Betsy is working for her own Thebalethu Care Organization in Loskop, a city of about 30,000, with funding help from the Global Fund to Fight HIV, TB, and Malaria. Her and her husband Eugene recently installed a solar system in a new building out of which she will office in her remote area among the Zulu people, where there is no electricity. She currently manages 17 dedicated local caregivers that provide community-based care to 120 per month orphaned and vulnerable children, and other children, with psychosocial support as well as food parcels, school uniforms and school supplies.

These caregivers and Betsy provide in home-based care, and have recently jumped in numbers from 85 patients to 210 patients, and the visits to these patients have also increased greatly to provide more thorough care and support of the sick, primarily those infected with HIV and TB. She has added a part time staff member to help in the administration of the work so she can spend more of her time in the field with her co-workers and face-to-face with the Zulu children and families she serves so well and loves so dearly.

We are delighted and blessed to have Betsy and her organization as one of our designated outreach ministries. She is a blessing to her neighbors (our neighbors) in South Africa. Thanks be to God that Betsy and Eugene are showing His love in their sacrificing actions. They plan to take a short sabbatical this coming Summer and return to the Seattle area with their one year old son Joshua. Welcome them back and thank them for they great work they do.

Greetings, bleatings, from the sheep pen.



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

Jim Niehoff

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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



Tax Time Help

Help! Oh no, its tax time again. Fear not help is on the way. On Saturday, February 5 at 12:00 Annie Schwietzer, a member of our congregation who runs an accounting business, will be at Hope in the fellowship hall to answer any tax preparation questions you may have. There will be a bowl of soup and sandwiches for lunch. Come and take this gift of assistance Annie has so generously offered.

Relay For Life

A message to all of Hope's Jolly Ranchers, our Relay for Life team. Our 2011 Relay will be held at JJ Smith school on July 9-10, 2011. The organizing committees have been meeting since November. There is a lot of planning that has to take place before everyone comes to "walk around the track".

We started having monthly meetings at Berg Hall for committee groups, now it is time for TEAMS to attend.

Everyone who has walked with us or who would like to walk this summer is invited to come to our first all teams meeting on Tuesday, February 8th 7-8:30. There will be prizes, snacks, speaker from ACS, fundraiser ideas, and a time to meet other teams.

Hope to see you there - Hope's Jolly Ranchers
Kathie Thompson 360 961-7183 cell

Coming Soon to Hopelutheranchurch.org

Have you visited our website lately? Jerry Globe is doing a wonderful job and service to Hope with his great work on the site. Coming soon; A Pastor's page with an on-line audio link for Pastor Dan's Sermons. Check it out!



Thank You from Plateau Outreach Ministries

Dear Hope Lutheran Church,

Thank You for your contribution to Plateau Outreach Ministries. Your donation enables us to meet the needs of clients struggling with unemployment, illness, disabilities or other causes of financial desperation. Unfortunately more and more of our neighbors are facing such crisis. Over the last two years the number of people seeking help at our agency has increased by more than 60%

Please accept our appreciation on their behalf. We could not accomplish what we do at POM without the compassion and generosity of people like you. Your contribution will make a difference in people's lives.

POM strives to help the community's most vulnerable people meet their basic needs. Our services include providing vouchers for utilities, rent, medical prescriptions, emergency shelter, as well as sustenance from our food bank and referrals for those who need counseling. We go beyond mere crisis relief by providing on-going case management and follow-up to put families and individuals on the road to long-term stability,

Thanks again for your generous support!

Plateau Outreach Ministries





Stewardship February 2011

“Time flies when we are having fun.” January came and went so fast it seems like we missed it. Now, I wonder if we had fun!! I think so. The Ministry teams have all been busy turning in their ideas for 2011

Inviting and Welcoming team is preparing for small groups studying “Unbinding Your Heart”. Fellowship will have sign up sheets for soup suppers during Lent, plan to set aside time on Wednesday evenings for soup and worship. Adult form and Sunday school meet every Sunday morning, everyone is invited to enjoy this education time; confirmation students from Hope and Trinity are meeting twice a month.

It’s a new year, it is time for each one of us to prepare to be involved. It is important to come to church on Sunday mornings and just as important to be involved other times too. Find time to visit with the people who are here on Sundays, both the new people and the ones you see every week. Every month will be a new opportunity to be a steward of Hope. Help the Ministry Teams, they put a lot of planning in their organizing functions, (a potluck, a Bible study, a get together) and they find it more fun when more people come. Be a good Steward as God has asked - take care of all that we have been given.

It is important once again to remember, we are -

**Rooted in Grace
Growing in Service**

peace to all,
Kathie Thompson
Stewardship Ministry Team

Worship Schedule

Feb 6 - 5th Sunday after Epiphany.

First reading: Isa 58:1-9a; Psalm 112:1-10; Second reading; 1 Cor 2:1-12; Gospel Matt 5:13-20

Feb 13 - 6th Sunday after Epiphany.

First reading Deut 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8; Second reading 1 Cor 1:1-9;; Gospel Matt 5:21-37

Feb 20 - 7th Sunday after Epiphany.

First reading Lev 19:1-2; Psalm 119:33-40; Second reading 1 Cor 3:10-11; Gospel Matt 5:38-48

Feb 27 - 8th Sunday after Epiphany

First reading Isa 49:8-16a; Psalm 131; Second Reading 1 Cor 4:1-5; Gospel Matt 6:24-34