



Hope Lutheran Church

Enumclaw, Washington

The Messenger of Hope

"Member of the Plateau Ministerial Association"

Pastor Dan's Corner

Yes, this article is about Stewardship. And stewardship is not just about money. It is about sharing with God our talents, our gifts of the Spirit, and our time as well as the financial gifts God gives us.

No, I will not ask you to stand on your head to shake the change from your pockets. And, no, don't fall on your knees in wailing prayer. This isn't an end times sign. You see, stewardship, much like everything in life, is not about the end of the world as we know it, and it's really not about money...it is about having a vision of mission and making choices to support that mission. Choices we are called to make as Christians.

I think the finest example of stewardship in the Bible is found in Luke 21: 1-4, the story of the widow's two copper coins. For it is a story about choices, choices that we make.

The widow, who has virtually nothing, and as a widow has no one to support her, gives two copper coins, all she had, out of her poverty, while the rich people of the temple, who also put money into the treasury, gave from their abundance. Did the rich people put in more than the widow? Absolutely. Many

probably looked down on the poor widow and her pittance she gave in their eyes. But in the eyes of Jesus, it was a fortune she gave.

The point is the widow made a choice and chose to put in her two coins out of her poverty, trusting in God and supporting the mission of the kingdom. What Jesus tells us in this story is that it is not the amount of money one contributes, it is about choosing to trust God, giving from our heart, not "our treasure."

The amount each person gives is not what stewardship is all about. God help us if we ever think that's all that stewardship is. Stewardship is about supporting the *Missio Dei*, the mission of God that is Hope Lutheran and the mission of the broader church in the world. And making choices, as individuals and as a church, to wisely and effectively use the spiritual and financial gifts God has given us for the mission of the church and the good of the kingdom.

As a church, your council has committed to a kingdom vision and mission. A mission of making Christ known in our communities. And in that commitment, we tithe from the benevolence giving of the church.

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Faith versus Works

How many times have you heard in church that we are saved not by works but by grace? Ephesians 2:8-9: “For it is by grace, you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.” But have you read verse 10? “For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

Additionally, how do you reconcile this with James’ statement in chapter 2:17-19?

“In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, ‘You have faith; I have deeds.’ Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.”

Just to muddy the waters even more, let’s examine I Corinthians 3:10b-15 “

“But each one should be careful how he builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man’s work. If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. If it is burned up, he will

suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.”

Here’s what I understand from these verses that contrast faith versus works:

Faith is a gift from God. He forgives our sins and gives us the faith to believe. Jesus is our foundation.

Once we have received the Holy Spirit, then God expects us to do something with the gifts we have been given—caring for the poor and exercising the fruit of the spirit: Love, joy, peace.... This is what we build upon that foundation.

We each have to decide what the quality of our works is: Gold or silver and precious stones on one side, or wood, hay, or straw on the other. We choose the quality of what we build with—that’s our job and our responsibility.

We Lutherans seem to emphasize God’s grace, but that is only half the picture. We must also stir ourselves to serve others. That’s the part where we have to “work out our salvation with fear and trembling” (Philippians 2:12).

But even that stirring to good works comes from God: “For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose” (Philippians 2:13).

So, in conclusion, the old faith versus works argument is a false dichotomy. Instead, we should be thinking faith AND works; we play a part, but God also gives us the desire and the ability to do good works. The part we play is that we have to decide not to res-

ist the power of the spirit. We resist the spirit by not listening to God prompting our consciences. We don’t listen to God’s promptings either out of fear, or laziness and sin, or all of the above.

God plays a part, but we do too. God is consistent, are we?

Thoughtfully,
Richard Elfers
Sunday Forum facilitator



Upcoming Events

- Feb 1-29 - Every Thurs-Rotary.
- Feb 1 - Soup & Bible Study
- Feb 4 -Fourth Wisemen
- Feb 5 - Inquirer’s Class
- Feb 6 - Agenda Items Due
- Feb 8 - Soup & Bible Study
- Feb 9 - Brewed Awakenings
- Feb 13 - Council meeting
- Feb 14 - Theology on tap
- Feb 15 - Soup & Bible Study
- Feb 18 - Fourth Wisemen & WeBrews
- Feb 20 - Office Closed
- Feb 22 - Ash Wednesday
- Feb 23 - Brewed Awakenings
- Feb 24 - Theologically Correct
- Feb 28 - Theology on Tap & XYZ Potluck
- Feb 29 - Soup, Dan Peterson & Holden Evening Prayer

February Birthdays

2/3 Larry Sanderson
 2/4 Lois Wilson
 2/15 Eve Duginske
 2/16 Sheila Hanson
 2/16 Joseph Hazen
 2/17 Charles Berg
 2/17 Pat Swift
 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 POM- Package Side Dish



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

Pastor Dan's Corner cont.

That is, we have chosen as a church to give *out* in benevolence, to ministries outside of our church, at least 10 percent of what Hope receives *in* benevolence giving. Simple reasoning. If my church doesn't tithe, why should I consider tithing?

With our tithe we *chose* to support Christian mission - two missionaries from our own church, a student in seminary, POM, Lutheran Bible Translators, Living Stones Prison Congregation, and the work of the broader church through giving to our synod, and much more.

We *chose* to support the mission of the church and the good of the kingdom because we trust in God to know that our gifts are being used to do just that. And we trust in God that by doing that we do it out of our poverty, not our abundance.

I don't believe it is good for a church to have an abundance of cash when there are people in need. Having some financial resources in the bank is being a wise steward, hoarding an abundance of resources is not. Really, all that we do should always be out of our love for God as Christians following Christ, reaching out to the world.

We *chose* as a congregation to have programs that help the members of the church grow in relationship with God. We

chose to have an adult forum program to help us to learn through different and exciting voices. We chose to support Christian Education for children, for confirmation, and for senior youth. We chose to reach out to our neighbors and community with the Halloween Carnival, International dinner, and Relay for Life.

We are using the financial resources of the church, money saved when the church was in the call process before I arrived, for the mission of the church, for the programs mentioned above. In 2010 we spent \$19,000 from our financial "cushion." In 2011 we spent about \$12,000. But as we all know, we cannot spend beyond our means forever. We are Hope Lutheran, not Uncle Sam.

So what does this mean? I believe it means that each of us should take that frightening but important step to NOT commit to try to increase our giving by 10-15 percent immediately, but rather, over the next two to three years and in prayer before God, find ways by which, in these difficult times, each of us can gradually raise our giving to meet the challenge of the mission we are called to at Hope Lutheran.

We are not that far off from having a balanced budget. But it is a choice we have to make. It is a choice that will happen, two copper coins at a time.

In Christ,
 Pastor Dan

Council Meeting



The Congregation Council met on January 16.

Facilitator President: Debbie Littlefield

Agenda item: Jim Niehoff requested the Council consider an amendment to the by-laws Section 9, Endowment Committee. Jim provided the documentation.

Conclusions: Brian Carey made a motion that Council would study the proposal and discuss at the next council meeting.

Agenda item: Financial statements for 2011 were submitted. Review and discussion on the balances are what is normally expected and within budget.

Conclusions: Will discuss and finalize budget to submit for Annual Report for the Annual Meeting of January 29.

Minutes and Treasurer's Report were approved: Balances are where they should be during summer months and with the quarterly expenditures in ministry and outreach. Minutes were approved with no corrections.

Agenda item Old Business Presenter: Debbie Littlefield

Discussion:

- Pew Cushions: Received – balance due \$2,984.32.
- Cross on the steeple is missing a part, action put on hold until weather is clear.
- Emergency buzzers: In Process.
- Phone directory: In Process.
- Church Insurance-Will follow up with Harley Ruff on his meeting with David Babbitt.
- Vacant Council position – no one has accepted yet. Terms are coming up for 3 positions expiring in May.
- 2012 Budget was reviewed by Council. Motion was made to accept the budget as submitted. Executive Committee to give final approval.
- Eagle Scout projects were provided to Phil Steward, Scoutmaster.
- 2012 budget was reviewed and motion to accept.

Agenda item: New Business Presenter: Debbie Littlefield

Discussion:

- Ministry Team Updates.
- Endowment Committee by-laws.

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

*Agenda item deadline: Monday,
February 6 by noon,
Next regular Council Meeting: Monday,
February 13, 6:30pm*

February 2012

Greetings, Bleatings, from the Sheep Pen

New Year's Resolution Opportunities

Last month I wrote an article for "The Messenger" about considering making a resolution (or two) this year in regards to our church. Maybe change something in your church life this coming year for the betterment of you and the church. Maybe look into volunteering at outside activities that help those in our community to a better life.

As noted, it is a good time to think about how you can be good, maybe better, stewards this year in helping the church and our community. We all have been blessed with the gifts of time, talent, and treasures, but not all in equal measure. What do you have "extra" that you resolve you can share more this year with the church, with our community.

We plan to have a combined Ministry Team & Small Group Fair with our Stewardship Sunday this coming Sunday February 12, 2012 in Berg Hall after each service. We will have manned booths that will give you the opportunity to learn about our different ministry teams and what they do to see if they are of interest to you. You can also check out when all of our small group Bible studies meet and where they meet and maybe add your name to start participating in one of these.

We have some pretty interesting and varied ministry teams that help around and outside the church. They include Worship & Music, Stewardship, Inviting & Welcoming, Fellowship, Christian Education, Building & Property, and Social Ministry. We have Helping Hands for supporting our worship services. We do Habitat for Humanity build projects. We are looking at more ways to get involved when Creation Fest is in town. Halloween Carnival is a lot of fun as we host small kids and their families from our Enumclaw neighborhood.

In addition to checking out ways to get more involved in our church and community with your time and talents, we will be kicking off our Stewardship pledge drive for the financial support of Hope and the outreach programs we target. Please prayerfully consider this year how you can be good stewards of the treasures you have to share with Hope. Stewardship will have a booth and can explain what our various outreach programs are, or any other questions you have on what your giving to Hope supports.

This Ministry Team & Small Group fair combined with Stewardship Sunday will give you the opportunity of prayerfully considering your gifts of time, talents, and/or treasures this year to our church. Please stop in at our booths and check out where you can get a little more involved in the workings of the church. I believe you will find that the more you cheerfully give, and/or the more you get involved in church and community activities that suit your interest, the more joy you will get out of it in return.

Greetings, bleatings, from the sheep pen.

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



Jim Niehoff



Hope Lutheran Church

1316 Garfield St.
Enumclaw, WA 98022

Phone: (360) 825-2420

Fax: (360) 825-4120

E-mail:

hlcoffice@skynetbb.com

Website:

www.hopelutheranchurch.org

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

Lenten Services Planned

Yes, Lent is just a few weeks away and again this year we are planning joint services with Trinity Lutheran.

Ash Wednesday, February 22 – 7:00 at Trinity, Pastor Walt Rice preaching and Pastor Dan presiding Holy Communion

Wednesdays in Lent – February 29, March 7, March 14, March 21, and March 28

5:30-6:15 - Soup's On! Come and enjoy anytime. (Even if the presentation has started.)

First three Wednesdays Hope brings soup, Trinity dessert, last two Wednesdays Trinity brings soup, Hope dessert.

6:15-7:15 – Dr. Dan Peterson presentation in Berg Hall, "The Afterlife"

7:15-7:40 – Holden Evening Prayer in the Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday, April 5 – 12:00 Noon at Hope; 7:00PM at Trinity, Pastor Dan preaching, Pastor Rice presiding

Good Friday, April 6 – 12:00 Noon at Hope; 7:00PM at Trinity

The Great Vigil of Easter, Saturday, April 7 – 7:00PM at Hope, Pastor Rice presiding

Last year was a wonderful experience as we shared these services together. Make you plans now for a spiritually rich and fulfilling Lenten season.

Habitat for Humanity Mission Trip in July

Hope and Trinity Lutheran churches will jointly hold a Habitat for Humanity Thrivent Builds mission trip to Flathead Lake, Montana the week of July 15. Lodging will be available at Flathead Lake Bible Camp near Kalispell, or camping/Rv'ing as you choose.

We will plan to begin the build on Monday, July 16 and work for four days. Evening programs and sightseeing will be available. Let either Deb Littlefield, Rich Elfers, or Pastor Dan know if you might be interested in vacationing to help others build a dream.

Pastor Dan Vacation

Pastor Dan will be on vacation from February 27 to March 5, visiting his parents in California. Pastor Bev Jensen, or Pastor Walt Rice from Trinity will be available in an emergency.

God in Creation Group Ready to Hike!

The first God in Creation outing will be held Saturday, March 17 with a hike through the Nisqually National Seashore. We will leave Hope at 10:00, and return to Hope about 3:00. The hike is a flat walk through the sea-shore and estuary, much of it on Boardwalks, and takes about two hours. You will see bald eagles and wildlife in abundance. Pack a lunch, appropriate clothes for the day, and walking shoes. Contact Jim or Marti Niehoff for details.

Food and Fellowship Small (large!) Group Launched

At the first meeting of those interested in being part of a Food and Fellowship Group, we decided to kick things off with “Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner.” The program will be held in either late February or early March, depending on how things come together.

The evening will be planned with 3-4 host houses (depending upon participation). The people going to dinner will meet at a place to be determined, and “draw” names from a hat to see where they are going for dinner. This will be a great, fun evening of food and fellowship. Watch for more information.

Wear’s Your Nametag?????

Well, maybe where’s your nametag is certainly better English, but the objective is the same. Yes, we all “know each other,” but that isn’t always the case. And certainly visitors don’t know us. Your nametag helps everyone to feel that at Hope you are not just a face, but a real person with a real name to share.

Do you have a name tag? If not, let Lorie in the office know and she will make one for you. Wear’s your nametag? Yes, please every Sunday. It will make a difference.

p.s. Greeters, please make sure guests are offered a name tag. If they don’t want one, OK. If they do, please get them one.

WeBrews Welcomes All on February 18

WeBrews is a group of women and men from Hope that have an interest in following the tradition of Katie Luther brewing Martin’s favorite – beer. During our Unbinding program, we found that several people enjoy brewing beer, and this group formed to do just that.

Each month a different WeBrewer hosts a Saturday “brewfest” brewing different styles of beer, from “experts” brewing all grain mashes to “beginners” brewing their first extract beer kits. It really is interesting to see how this ancient beverage, widely present during the time of Christ, is brewed from God’s gifts of creation.

This is not a “drinking club” but a group who enjoy the challenge of brewing unique beers, and the fellowship of getting together to brew. All are welcome. The next brew is set for Saturday, February 18 at Dell and Karin Plagens’ home, across the alley from the church. Dell is going to brew an all grain rye beer. Brewing kicks off about 10:00AM, and lasts about four hours. Come anytime, leave anytime. After noon, there just may be a sample or two of previous WeBrews brews to try.



A Word About Greeting for Greeters

Well maybe more than “a” word. First of all, we are ALL greeters given the honor of greeting visitors and guests to our church. It is very important that our greeters be available and in the Narthex welcoming one and all at least 15 minutes before the service. If you don’t see the greeter in place, step in with a “good morning” smile and welcome all who come through the doors of Hope.

Our Narthex gets pretty crowded before service, and if the greeters are standing by the sanctuary doors, it can get a little congested. And at the sanctuary door, it is too late to sign the guest book. Better plan, stand by the guest book. Two greeters are best, one to welcome the people coming through the front doors and one to welcome people coming from the fellowship hall.

Put on your best smile, shake hands and give our visitors and guests a hearty “good morning and welcome.” Ask them if they would like to sign our guest book. Hand them a welcome bag and ask them if they would like a nametag. It doesn’t hurt to ask if they would like someone from the congregation to accompany them through the service. But don’t go overboard. Visitors might feel uncomfortable being ganged-up-on.

Our greeters are the first impression people get when they enter the church. Our gift to our visitors and guests is to make them feel welcomed and invited into worship and this church of Hope. What an honor to have, and thank you to all who step up to greet our visitors and guests.

Living Stones Raffle

Thank you to all who purchased raffle tickets for Pastor Dan’s fundraiser for Living Stones Prison Congregation. We received a donation after the raffle, and have raised \$696 for Living Stones. Anybody got an extra \$4.00 to make it an even \$700?

Living Stones is a congregation of the ELCA, started and supported by the churches of our Southwestern Washington Synod. The men of Living Stones cannot support their congregation financially, that is the responsibility of the congregations of the synod. Many of the men do tithe 10 percent of their prison income to support a homeless shelter in Mason County and the local Habitat Chapter.

Hope worshiped with the LSPC congregation in October 2010, and is scheduled to again worship with them this coming October.

Winners in the raffle were:

For the Evening in Tuscany Dinner, January 27 – Harley and Jorunn Ruff, Tim and Carolyn Hazen, and Paul and Genora Powell.

For the Theologically Correct Wine Tasting, with Spanish Tapas, February 24 – Becky and Jason Latham, Tim and Tina Rash, Becky and Bob Lee, Jerry and Renee Globe

For the Walla Walla Fine Red Wine Tasting with meats and cheese, March 16 – Deb and Ron Littlefield, Pat Swift, Pam Pyle, and Kathie Thompson.

Thank you to all who helped make this raffle successful, and helped the Living Stones Prison Congregation.



Adult Forum for February

- February 5 – Dr. Joseph Hickey-Thiernan, The Gospel of John
- February 12 – Ministry Team Fair in Berg Hall
- February 19 – Mic McDonald, an Enumclaw resident from Global Helps Network will speak about the ministry Global Helps Network has started to the Dalit people of India
- February 26 – Carol Smith will present a program on the Fair Trade Program of Lutheran World Relief

Women of Hope - Daughters of the King

Daughters of the King is a religious order for women dedicated to prayer and service that comes as a gift to us from the Episcopal church. Members of the Daughters of the King include women of the Episcopal Church and the ELCA, as well as the Roman Catholic Church.

On March 18 at Adult Forum, there will be an informational presentation by Madaline De Smet, president of the regional Daughters of the King Chapters, Marion Catto, and Pastor Dan about forming a Daughters of the King chapter here at Hope.

Spirituality and prayer are components of Christian life that deepen each person's relationship with God, with each other, and with the world. Members of the Daughters of the King follow a "Rule of Prayer" and pray daily for the unity of Christ's church, the growth of the kingdom especially for women and girls, for God's blessings upon the members of the order, for the spiritual growth of the parish and clergy, and for the grace to follow the Rule of Prayer for the needs of each person of the Order and all who are in need.

The Vision Statement for the Order of the Daughters of the King is "Empowered by the Holy Spirit, our vision as Daughters of the King is to know Jesus Christ, to make him known to others, and to become reflections of God's love throughout the world."

The mission of the Order is to "be an extension of Christ's Kingdom through Prayer, Service, and Evangelism." The Motto of the Order is "For His sake...I am but one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. What I can do, I ought to do. What I ought to do, by the grace of God I will do. Lord, what will you have me do?"

The Order of the Daughters of the King provides an opportunity for women of the church to grow in faith, spirituality, and prayer, together. Mark your calendars and make your plans now, especially for the women of Hope, to attend this information discussion.

Stewardship February 2012

WELCOME * INVITE PROCLAIM * RESPOND

January certainly put each of us to a test of endurance. Cold, rain, snow, ice, wind, no power, no heat, no water, no driving, branches breaking off in the night, trees falling across roads, houses and cars. A good time to stay in, enjoy family, a good book, puzzles and card games. We, at Hope, were blessed and didn't have anyone get injured throughout this trying time. Friends and neighbors reached out and helped others. Thank you. A special thank you to Tara/Kevin for offering a hot dinner and a shower. It was much appreciated.

February, already, a time for each one of us to look forward to a busy year at Hope. On February 12th, each of the ministry teams will be sharing information on what they do. Please take the time to see what opportunities are available for you to serve as a steward at Hope. Serve as reader, greeter, counter, assistant, usher, and acolyte; find time to visit with the people who are here on Sundays, both the new people and the ones you see every week.

Sunday, February 12th is also stewardship Sunday. We will be talking about stewardship and passing out our commitment cards for 2012. Please take the time to look at the 2012 budget and consider how you will financially help. Fill out the information, place the card in the white church in the narthex. The cards are picked up by the financial secretary so she can record the information.

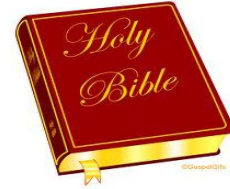
Be a good Steward as God has asked - take care of all that we have been given.

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 5 - 5th Sunday after Epiphany:
First reading: Isa 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; Second reading: 1 Cor 9:16-23; Gospel Mark 1:29-39

Feb 12 - 6th Sunday after Epiphany:
First reading 2 Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30; Second reading 1 Cor 9:24-27; Gospel Mark 1:40-45

Feb 19 - Transfiguration of Our Lord: First reading 2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; Second reading 2 Cor 4:3-6; Gospel Mark 9:2-9

Feb 26- 1st Sunday in Lent: First reading Gen 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; Second Reading 1 Peter 3:18-22; Gospel Mark 1:9-15

