



Hope Lutheran Church

Enumclaw, Washington

The Messenger of Hope

"Member of the Plateau Ministerial Association"

Pastor Dan's Corner

Yes, it might still be the middle of winter, as I write this article the forecast is for snow this week, but there is one sure sign that spring is on the way. It's not the robin bobbing along the grass or the daffodils poking their green noses out of the cold earth. The sure sign I see is Vi Swain, weeding rake in one hand and plastic bag in another as she faithfully takes out the weeds in the church garden areas. It gives my spirit a lift, and brightens my day when I look out the window and see Vi giving so much from her heart.

We are blessed here at Hope to have so many wonderful people who give unselfishly of their time to serve the church in so many ways. There is something really special happening when I see so many people giving from their hearts and hands to make Hope such a wonderful blessing to God's kingdom right here on the Plateau. It shouts, "We Care," about being good stewards of the gift God has given us in Hope Lutheran. Thank you to all the people who volunteer their time to care for this living blessing that is Hope.

Another sure sign of spring on the way is the changing of the

church season. We move now from the season of Epiphany to the season of Lent. The word "Lent" comes from the German "Lenz" and Dutch "Lente" which means spring.

There are traditionally forty days in Lent, marked by fasting and by other acts of penance. The forty days signifies the forty days Jesus was in the wilderness, tempted by Satan. Christians are called to three traditional responses to God for Lent: prayer (justice towards God), fasting (justice towards self), and almsgiving (justice towards neighbor). Sundays in the Lenten season are not counted as part of the forty days of Lent. Rather, they are considered preludes to Easter and the resurrection.

Lent is a time to reflect, to ponder your life before God as we journey with Jesus to the dark sorrow of Good Friday. It is a time to come before God, fall on our knees, and ask God from the winter darkness of our lives to bring us into the promise of new life.

Lent is a time of reflection, repentance, and renewal. A time to slow down from our busy lives and remember that

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Created in the Image of God?

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them” (Genesis 1:27). What does this scripture mean? In a recent Sunday Forum I was surprised when a few members had a different concept of what this scripture means than I have. They thought the image of God does not refer to God’s physical shape, but to his character, personality, and intelligence. They do not see God as looking like us, with arms legs, eyes, head, etc. Let’s see what the scriptures teach us about what God looks like, because as I have said before, “How we picture God, is how we treat other humans.”

In Genesis 3:8 we see that God walked in the Garden of Eden: “Then the man and his wife heard the sound of **the Lord God as he was walking.**”

Later, in Genesis 18 we read, “**The Lord appeared to Abraham...Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby.** When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground.” Then Abraham told them **he would supply them with water to wash their feet.** Later, Abraham stood nearby “**While they ate under the tree.**” This narrative indicates that God ate and drank and had feet and could sit down.

In the book of Exodus God showed Moses his back because Moses asked him. God obliged him with restrictions: “**I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand** until I have passed by. Then I will remove my hand **and you will see my back, but my face must not be seen**” (Exodus 18:12-23).

Another example is Jacob’s wrestling match, found in Genesis 32: 22-32. This was a real match between God and Jacob. It got very physical, to the point that Jacob’s hip was put out of joint. We know that Jacob saw God because he called the place Peniel, which means, “face of God.”

There are literally hundreds of other scriptures that point out the “human” qualities of God’s physical appearance—eyes, ears, the ability to smell, to name a few. Based upon these scriptures, it is obvious that God portrays himself in human form, in both in the Old and New Testaments. After the Resurrection, Jesus appeared to the disciples and showed them his hands and side with scars from the nails and sword lancing his torso.

God made us in his image because he wants relationship with us and he wants us to be like him. The more we become like him not only physically, but spiritually, the closer the relationship we will have.

Thoughtfully,
Richard Elfers
Sunday Forum Coordinator



Upcoming Events

- Mar 3 - Brewed Awakenings
- Mar 5 - Fourth Wisemen
- Mar 7 - Agenda Items due
- Mar 8 - Theology on Tap
- Mar 9 - Ash Wednesday at Trinity
- Mar 10 - Brewed Awakenings
- Mar 13 - Council Meeting
- Mar 16 - Soup Supper & Holden Evening Prayer Service
- Mar 17 - Brewed Awakenings
- Mar 19 - Fourth Wisemen
- Mar 20 - Messenger articles due
- Mar 22- Theology on Tap
- Mar 23 - Soup Supper & Holden Evening Prayer Service
- Mar 24 - Brewed Awakenings
- Mar 29 - XYZ Potluck & Outing
- Mar 30 - Soup Supper & Holden Evening Prayer Service
- Mar 31 - Brewed Awakenings

March Birthdays

- 3/2 Neil Ingham
- 3/3 Paul Powell
- 3/6 Chris Bettencourt
- 3/7 Ron Evans
- 3/10 Sherry Idso
- 3/12 Jerry Globe
- 3/17 Brett Hanson
- 3/17 Jim Niehoff
- 3/18 Rachel Moen
- 3/19 Pam Pyle
- 3/26 Deb Cromwell
- 3/29 Al Lau
- 3/31 Ramsey Graham

March Anniversaries

- 3/17 Al & Janie Lau

Our March schedule for POM Food Bank: Soup



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

Pastor Dan's Corner cont.

grace for the forgiveness of sin is a costly grace. A costly grace won for us through suffering and death. A costly grace given freely by our generous God.

We will begin the first Sunday in Lent with a service of healing prayer and anointing. This Lenten season we will bring a time for silent reflection into our Sunday services. Each service will start with a prolonged period of silence. A time to gather our thoughts, reflect of our lives, pray in silence, and ask God for forgiveness.

This period of silence for many will seem unusual. It might even feel a little uncomfortable at first. But I hope you will find it meaningful in your life. A time to sit quietly with God and pray.

As we did last year, we will hold joint Lenten and Holy Week services with Trinity. You will find the Lenten schedule in The Messenger.

As you come before God in prayer this Lenten season, in repentance and seeking forgiveness, may your heart be renewed with God's unconditional love.

In Christ,
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) in the Hope Lutheran Church fellowship hall. (Please bring a dish to share.) This month, we will meet at 10:30am and head to the Black Diamond Bakery for lunch and then take a tour of the museum.

Articles are due for next month's Messenger by March 20!



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

Council Meeting

The Congregation Council met on February 13. The following was approved: The minutes were approved as written. The Treasurer report was presented. Council members requested to have the budget report to them prior to the council meeting. Also, the MT leaders get monthly reports of the status of their particular team's budget expenditures/balance. The Pastor's report included the Lenten service schedule which will be held jointly again this year with Trinity Lutheran.

Old Business:

Bible purchase – Discussion was held concerning the proposed purchase of Bibles for the pews including the different possibilities for storing/placing them for ease of use. Brian will do a follow up with Boy Scout leaders to determine the interest of them producing pew or bench compartments.

New Business:

Sanctuary Furnace – The furnace that provides heat for the sanctuary has quit working. The heat exchanger has ordered and was a recall item.

Financial Computer –

The financial computer has quit working but the data had been saved to a hard drive. It was determined that we will now run the financial software on the new office computer instead of purchasing a new computer.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:50pm with Prayer.

Agenda item deadline: Monday, March 7 by noon, Next regular Council Meeting: Sunday, March 13 after the second service.

Hope's Jolly Ranchers Relay for Life

The Jolly Ranchers have a new team captain. Karin Plagens has volunteered to be our leader. The Enumclaw American Cancer Society Relay for Life walk will be held at JJ Smith school on July 9-10. We will be walking from 11:00 am on Saturday until 9:00 am on Sunday. The theme this year is **Mardi Gras**. If you would like to help with fund raising or decorating our campsite, please contact Karin.



"Making Christ Known in Our Community"

Bleatings From The Sheep Pen

As noted in last 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 Kevin & Megan (Niehoff) Harris and their great missionary work in Asia.

They have been living and learning the local language and customs in the country and the large city that they reside in for two years now, and have seen God working with them and those they have come in contact with. The area in which they reside is not politically open to missionary work, so details on exactly where and with whom they are in contact are omitted in this report.

However, we can report that they do not feel personally threatened and have seen a great outpouring of love and support in the native people they have come in contact with and want to witness to, with the people and small businesses in their local neighborhood, and with fellow missionaries in their city. They have made great friends and are encouraged as they see signs of doors being opened, hearts seeking the Good News.

They are part of a nondenominational Christian group whose focus is on areas and regions where less than 1% of the people know of Jesus. Areas where the desire is to plant small churches in indigenous people groups that have little or no prior knowledge of Christianity and that will grow as the Spirit reaches more and more of these peoples. It is a movement of God in which the Gospel spreads to the entire people, resulting in native disciples of Christ becoming a rapid expansion of groups of believers.

We are delighted and blessed to have Kevin and Megan and their organization as one of our designated outreach ministries. They are a blessing to their neighbors (our neighbors) in Asia. Thanks be to God that Kevin and Megan are showing His love in their sacrificing actions. They have a periodical news letter that gives updates on how they are doing, how their two children are doing, in their daily lives. Please let us know if you would like to be added to this circulation.

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 Worship Schedule

March 9 – Ash Wednesday at Trinity Lutheran, Pastor Dan preaching

Lenten Wednesdays – March 16, 23, 30, April 6, and April 13 at Hope Joint Soup Supper, Presentation By Dr. Dan Peterson, and Holden Evening Prayer

5:45pm Soup Supper (Hope brings soup first three Wednesdays, desserts last two Wednesdays – Sign up in Berg Hall)

6:30pm-7:15 – Dr. Dan Peterson, "Cross Perspectives – Why Did Jesus Die?"

7:20pm -7:40pm – Holden Evening Prayer in the Sanctuary

April 21 - Maundy Thursday, noon at Hope, 7:00pm at Trinity, Pastor Dennis preaching

April 22 – Good Friday, noon at Hope, 7:00pm at Trinity

April 23 – Easter Vigil, 7:00pm at Trinity



Adult Forum for March

- **March 6** – Kimberly Fish from POM
- **March 13** – Pastor Dan, What Is "Spirituality?" - Finding Your Spiritual Balance, Part 1
- **March 20** – Pastor Dan, What Is "Spirituality?" - Finding Your Spiritual Balance, Part 2
- **March 27** – Pastor Dan, Talking to God - Sacred Prayer Practices

Kids Proverbs

A first grade teacher collected well-known proverbs. She gave each child in her class the first half of a proverb and asked them to come up with the remainder of the proverb. Their insight may surprise you.

- As you shall make your bed so shall you ... Mess it up
- Better to be safe than ... Punch a 5th grader
- Strike while the ... Bug is close
- It's always darkest before ... Daylight Savings Time
- Never underestimate the power of ... Termites
- You can lead a horse to water but ... how?
- Don't bite the hand that ... looks dirty
- No news is ... impossible
- A miss is as good as a ... Mr.
- You can't teach an old dog new ... math
- If you lie down with dogs, you'll ... stink in the morning
- Love all, trust ... me
- The pen is mightier than the ... pigs
- An idle mind is ... The best way to relax
- Where there's smoke there's ... pollution
- Happy the bride who ... gets all the presents
- A penny saved is ... not much
- Two's company, three's ... the Musketeers
- Don't put off till tomorrow what ... you put on to go to bed
- Laugh and the whole world laughs with you, cry and ... you have to blow your nose
- Children should be seen and not ... spanked or grounded
- If at first you don't succeed ... get new batteries
- You get out of something what you ... see pictured on the box
- When the blind leadeth the blind ... get out of the way



Life Gifts

Thank you for my yesterdays, the memories that I cherish, those precious moments captured by the heart throughout the years. Thank You for Your guidance through the trials and the triumphs - Your presence was unfailing through the good times and the tears.

Thank you for the promise that You hold all my tomorrows securely in Your hand as You walk with me on the way. Most of all, Lord, thank You for this present hour of blessing, for the splendor of this shining gift - the glory of today.

B.J. Hoff - Faces in the Crowd



Stewardship March 2011

The season of Lent gives us the opportunity to not only reflect on what Jesus did for each of us, but is also a time to ask what have each of us done for Him? Jesus set so many examples for us. We can reach out to people who need help, people who have no job, people who have no food, people who are looking for someone to talk to and people who are sick. Come, enjoy our Lenten worship service on Wednesday evenings. We will have the opportunity to have soup suppers and worship with friends from Trinity.

We received a letter from University Presbyterian Church thanking us for giving support to Betsy and Eugene in 2010. It also had this incredible stewardship message:

‘When you give, you remind yourself that life belongs to God . . . your life and all of life. We remember that we do not eat the anxious bread of toil but live in the abundance of heavenly love. And so our giving becomes an occasion for greater boldness in faith.

When you give at church, you don’t give directly to someone’s needs; you give first to a community of faith. We open our hands toward each other in a corporate spiritual discipline. And then through our community God meets needs so that together we give witness to the presence of the dying and rising Savior.

When you give, you extend yourself in ministry. We invest in what God is doing in the world. As Jesus tells us, our treasure follows our hearts. It’s also true that our hearts follow our treasure. In our giving God opens us to the joy of participating first-hand in his world-changing mission.

Thank you faithful stewards of Hope who give to the many outreach programs we support. Thank you, too, for taking care of Hope Lutheran Church, both inside and outside. Thank you for all that you do to help make Hope a welcoming church for worship and fellowship.

God’s blessing to each of you stewards of Hope during this season of Lent.

peace to all,
Kathie Thompson
 Stewardship Ministry Team

Worship Schedule

Mar 6 - Transfiguration of Our Lord. First reading: Exod 24:12-18; Psalm 2; Second reading: 2 Peter 1:16-21; Gospel Matt 17:1-9

Mar 13 - 1st Sunday in Lent. First reading Gen 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Second reading Rom 5:12-19;; Gospel Matt 4:1-11

Mar 20 - 2nd Sunday in Lent. First reading Gen 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Second reading Rom 4:1-5; 13-17; Gospel John 3:1-17

Mar 27 - 3rd Sunday in Lent First reading Exod 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Second Reading Rom 5:1-11; Gospel John 4:5-42