



Hope Lutheran Church

Enumclaw, Washington

The Messenger of Hope

"Member of the Plateau Ministerial Association"

Pastor Dan's Corner

Last month, I wrote that the metaphor for God that comes to my mind for God is Mother. And as Mother's Day approaches, I see the lilacs beginning to bloom and remember the lilac baskets that I made for my mother in grade school. There are many ways to think of God, and perhaps the new life that springs forth all around me influences that metaphor of God as Mother in my mind. God – Mother of all this beautiful creation. Giving life to creation, bringing to life all this beauty.

God truly is an amazing mother. Giving us life, washing away our sin in the bath of life, feeding us with God's Word, comforting us when we hurt, and never ever giving up on us, even when we turn away. And there to receive us when we claim the promise Christ won for us.

The way we tend to see God is often a reflection of the way we live our life. If we see God more as a vengeful, law and order and punishment God, we often will live that way towards others. If we see God more as a loving, grace-filled God, we probably will live a little more like that towards others. If we see God far away and distant from us, we will see God in our life differently than if we see God walking with us every day. There are many ways to see God. Ways that influence the way we live, the way we are.

If we only see God one way, I think we miss the wide diversity of how God speaks to us. In 1987, British composer Brian Wren wrote a wonderful hymn, *Bring Many Names*, in which he refers to God as "Strong mother God...planning the wonders of creation," "Warm father God, feeling all the strains of human living, caring and forgiving, till we're reconciled," "Old, aching God, glad of good surprises, wiser than despair," "Young, growing God, eager, on the move, crying out for justice, giving all you have," "Great, living God, never fully known, closer yet than breathing, everlasting home." There are many ways we can relate to God. Just look around you.

The images of God are real images of life. Can you see Mother God, planning all the beauty around us, caring, comforting, never wavering in love? Can you see Father God feeling the difficulties of life that God indeed experienced as Christ walked the earth? A God who, I think, experiences life through each of us even today. And yet, always forgiving that so that we would be reconciled with God.

Can you see God as knowing the aches and pains of the ages, the wisdom gained from the despair of trying to reconcile a broken world? *Cont on Page #3*

In this issue...

1	Pastor Dan's Corner
2	Christian Ethics. Upcoming Events
3	Pastor Dan's Corner cont Thank You Pastor Dan Vacation Welcome Boy Scouts
4	2 new programs in May Garage Sale
5	Bleatings from the Sheep Pen
6	Special Counseling Adult Forum Schedule
7	Bleatings cont. Relay for Life Family First
8	Stewardship Worship Service Schedule Confirmation Sunday
	Calendar



Reflections on Kevin O'Brien's Discussion On the Christian Ethics on Abortion

Guest Presenter Professor Kevin O'Brien touched on the hot button topic of abortion recently in an April Sunday Forum. He examined and discussed the biblical view of abortion by examining three scriptures: The Genesis account of Abraham and Sarah sending Hagar and Ishmael out into the wilderness, the killing of infants by Herod, and the love chapter in 1 Corinthians 13. It certainly was thought provoking and emotional, but an issue that needs to be civilly discussed in the church. I have some thoughts that might apply to us on this very controversial issue.

First, Christ never directly talked about abortion, either pro or con, but he did talk a great deal about caring for the poor: "I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me... I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me" (Matthew 25:31-40).

Second, for those Christians out there who are strongly pro-choice, what are you doing to help keep women from feeling the need to get an abortion? How are you acting in such a way to prevent unwanted pregnancies?

For the pro-lifers, what are you doing to care for the unwanted children who are born and then are not cared for by

their mothers, fathers, and family members and who then grow up to lead messed up lives harming all they come in contact with?

I firmly believe this issue has arisen as a key litmus test in politics to win votes. Many people, Christian and non-Christian, will vote for or against a politician based solely on this issue. Politicians fan the flames of emotion because they don't want people to think other, more prominent issues in society. They just want to get (re)elected.

Third, I also believe many of us Christians find it easier to be angry and emotional and to focus on this issue rather than doing what Christ commanded us to do—care for the poor.

It's a very effective way to divert our attention from our Christian responsibility and to forget about the less advantaged of our society.

I had to agree with Professor O'Brien's conclusions from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 on this issue:

"Love is patient; love is kind; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

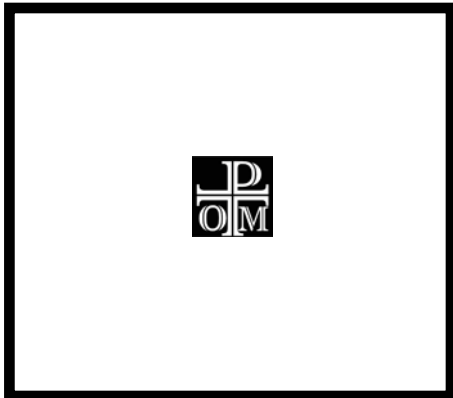
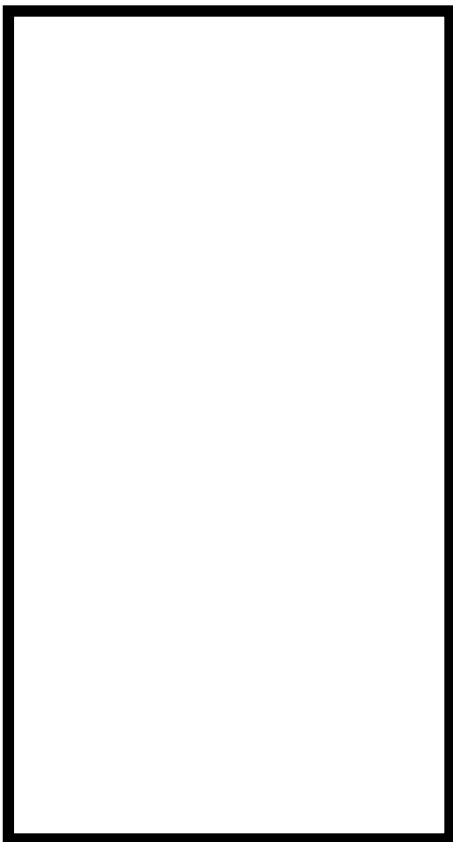
Finally, to paraphrase Sarah Palin, "How are we all doing on this gospelly sort of thing?"

Thoughtfully,
Richard Elfers
Sunday Forum Coordinator



- May 1 - 4th Wisemen
- Pastor Dan on Vacation until May 9
- May 2 - Speakers, Dr Doug Peterson, Fred Wegener & Paula Hoyt, Sister Lucy Wynkoop.
- May 3 - Agenda Items due
- May 8 - Garage Sale
- May 9 - Adult Forum with Dr Doug Peterson
- May 10 - Council Meeting
- May 11 - Theology on Tap
- May 13 Brewed Awakenings
- May 15 - Fourth Wisemen
- May 16 - Adult Forum with Dr Doug Peterson
- May 23 - Steven Myers confirmation
- May 23 - Adult Forum with Dr Doug Peterson
- May 25 - Xyz luncheon
- May 30 - Adult Forum with Dr Doug Peterson

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- June 4 - Family Night
 - June 19 - Relay for Life



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

Pastor Dan's Corner cont.

Yet eagerly smiling each time we surprise God. Can you see God with the passion and fire of a young person, eager to take their image of God into the world, crying out for justice, reaching out to others? Do you see God in one way, or in many ways?

Perhaps the mystery of God is best shown in the last verse. Great, living God, never fully known to us as we walk on earth, but closer to us that our very breath, and always and forever our everlasting home, our everlasting God ready to receive us.

How do you see God today, and how does that affect the way you live your life in the world? The way you relate not only to the people in your life, but those outside the church, also.

As I soak in the beauty of spring as Mother's Day approaches, this year I think I'll make two lilac baskets. One for Mom, and one for God, the Mother and Father, the Old, the Young, the Great Living God of all creation. Happy Mother's Day!

Living in God's amazing grace, together,
Pastor Dan

Thank You

I am grateful and delighted with the gift of the quilt by Hope's quilters. Such a beautiful handmade gift will remind me daily of how I am wrapped in the love of Jesus through and with the people of Hope Lutheran Church. I have already snuggled in it and it is very cozy!

In Christ,
Linda Ingham

Pastor Dan Vacation

Pastor Dan will be on vacation, attending the Byberg Institute preaching workshop in Coeur d' Alene, Idaho from April 30 to May 9. He will be available on his cell phone for emergencies, 253-961-6711, or contact Lorie in the church office or Jim Niehoff.

Welcome Boy Scout Troop 546

Hope is a busy place on Monday nights as 35 Boy Scouts and their adult leaders now call Hope Lutheran home for their troop. Your council has voted to be the chartering organization for the Troop, and Brian Carey has agreed to be the congregational representative for the scouts.

This is a wonderful community use for Berg Hall, so please welcome the scouts. They will meet each Monday from 6:30 until about 8:30. Contact Brian if you have any questions about the scout program.

Two New Programs in May

Brewed Awakenings in Buckley – May 13

On Thursday, May 13, at 9:00 we will start a new program, Brewed Awakenings in Buckley. We will meet from 9:00-10:00 at the Main Street Coffee Café.

Brewed Awakenings will focus on the questions you have always wanted to ask, but on Sunday mornings usually don't have the time to ask. Questions about God, the Trinity, free will, salvation, resurrection, grace, Lutheran doctrine, Christian doctrine, why do we do..., predestination, fundamental versus evangelical versus mainline, your questions that you want to explore. Current Christian topics,

or topics that impact us as Christians.

There are no boundaries on questions, and there are no guarantees of answers. Invite your friends, this is a not a Lutheran only program. All are welcome, and Pastor Dan Oliva from Calvary may be joining us. So come, join in the conversation and challenge the theological depths of Pastors Dan. (p.s. the first cup of coffee is on Pastors Dan).

Theology on Tap – May 11

Like Brewed Awakenings, only with different beverages, Theology on Tap will meet from 5:30 to 7:00 on Tuesdays beginning May 11 at the Mint in Enumclaw. No

boundaries on questions, no guarantees of answers. Invite your neighbors or friends and bring your questions. Come and discuss them in a way Martin Luther probably did. Oh, and having a beer is not a requirement of the program.

Council minutes were not available this month

Agenda item deadline: Monday, May 3 by noon, Next regular Council Meeting: Monday, May 10 at 6:30 p.m.



Upcoming Garage Sale!

It's spring cleaning time, so get those closets and garages cleaned out and donate your items to the annual garage sale to support the Halloween Carnival! The garage sale will be held Saturday, May 8th. Sign up sheets for helping before, during and cleaning up after the garage sale are available in Berg Hall. Contact Sandy Carey for further information at 802-0139.



Bleatings From The Sheep Pen

Latest from the Sheep Pen (and Pasture)

I was leaving our Endowment Fund Ministry Team meeting a couple of Tuesday nights ago and I was pleasantly surprised by seeing around 75 people using our Berg Hall for a planning meeting on local Relay for Life activities. I walked around to the side parking lot and the AA group that uses our basement facility for their Tuesday night meetings were out by the ramp taking a break. With all the activity going on, our church parking lots were full on a Tuesday night. What great ways to share our facility.

The night before during our church council meeting, we met with the new Boy Scout troop leaders for the first time that were going to start to use our Berg Hall for their weekly meetings. Your council moved into the library and the Boy Scouts moved around 45-50 boys and parents into Berg Hall. Another really neat way to share our facility.

It made me feel (and rejoice in) by these examples that Hope Lutheran and the property and facilities it has is not just a Sunday thing. It is not just a Lutheran thing. It is a community of Christian believers that want to share our church facility blessings with others outside our church to help enrich their lives all through the week.

So I shared my excitement on what I witnessed with Pastor Dan and asked him what all happens during the week within our walls at our little Hope Lutheran Sheep Pen. His summary on just the planned meetings (not all who stopped in and provided one help or another during the week) of that week included;

Sunday

Our Hope & Praise Service and Traditional Service with Coffee Fellowship and both Sunday School and Adult Forum in between. Our Adult Forum had Pacific Lutheran University Professor Kevin O'Brien as guest speaker leading a pretty active and interesting study on Christian ethics and the difference between Justice and Love.

Monday

Quilters meeting in the morning (the smoke billowing off due to all the cool busy bee activity may have confused passer-bys that they had mistakenly made a wrong turn in Albuquerque and ended up in Iceland). Council meeting at night. And now the addition of the Boy Scouts.

Tuesday

Endowment Fund Ministry Team meeting at night and Relay for Life planning meeting. AA Meeting as well. A full house!

Wednesday

Jonah Soup & Bible Study (well actually, Jonah was only in the part consisting of the Bible study). Choir practice and Praise Band practice.

Thursday

Lady's Group Bible Study in the Library. Youth Group gathering in Berg Hall (which by the way was pretty special as the (4) teen girls that attend had went with Sandy and Pastor the previous week to serve at Hammond House in Seattle. This is an inter city women's shelter that provides overnight lodging and a dinner meal for these homeless women, and Pastor, Sandy, and the girls cooked and served them their dinners. The girls were so moved by the experience that even after a week, they were still talking about it and wanting to plan a new mission trip.)

Friday

Church and family members making arrangements for next day memorial services and luncheon.

Cont on Page #7



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

Special Counseling Sunday

On Sunday, May 2, we are planning very special services and Adult Forum presentations. This Sunday will be dedicated to spiritual counseling, pastoral counseling, family and marriage counseling, and spiritual direction.

Four wonderful presenters will provide both message and Adult Forum presentations as we learn about these various counseling programs, and recognize their importance in our world today. The community will be invited, and all are welcome.

Dr. Doug Anderson of Lutheran

Counseling Network, will present Family and Marriage Counseling, Fred Wegener and Paula Hoyt from Healing Places Counseling Center will present Pastoral Counseling, and Sister Lucy Wynkoop of St. Placid Priory will present Spiritual Direction.

During the services and adult forum we will recognize and give thanks for spiritual directors and counselors throughout the area. Please plan to attend this wonderful Sunday service and program.

See Jan Schumacher and Linda Ingham for further details.

Adult Forum for May and June

Dr. Dan Peterson Returns for Adult Forum

From Sunday, May 9 through Sunday June 6, Dr. Dan Peterson, professor of religion at Seattle University and PLU will be presenting a five-part program on the Resurrection. Dan's presentations on Luther were well received last fall. He is a wonderful presenter, so plan on joining Adult Forum for these five great presentations.

Rev. Erik Wangen-Hoch of Living Stones Prison Congregation

Our synod began a new ministry about four years ago inside the walls of the Men's Correctional Facility in Shelton. The ministry is a mission congregation of the ELCA, and is called Living Stones Prison Congregation. Pastor Erik Wangen-Hoch is pastor of the congregation and will be preaching and presenting an Adult Forum presentation about the ministry. Pastor Dan is a board member for the Living Stones Congregation.

Come and learn more about this exciting ministry of our synod, and how Hope can support this ministry. Ten people from Hope are scheduled to worship with the Living Stones congregation inside the prison walls on October 9 of this year. It will be an amazing worship experience.

Bleatings From The Sheep Pen Cont.

Saturday

Doug Dow Memorial Service, which was very well attended with around 200 people of the church, of the community, of Doug and Mollie's family & friends gathering and sharing their remembrances in our welcoming and inviting church.

I don't know what your thoughts would be on hearing about or seeing all this activity at the church, including a lot by non members of our church, but I think it's great. And we on the Church Council are currently looking to see how we can further share our facilities with Lutheran Youth Groups from our region of Alaska, Washington, & Oregon during this July's Creation Fest. This is being held at the

Enumclaw Fair Grounds and there is not enough camping space for all the youth that are planning to attend this great Young Christian event. We may need to not only open up our pen, but our pasture as well.

Lots and lots happening. An inviting and welcoming place of Christians sharing their time and talents, and our great facility, with others. Pretty nice place to call home, with visitors and guests welcome.

Greetings, bleatings, from the sheep pen.

The Lord is my shepherd.

I shall not want.

(Psalm 23: 1)

Jim Niehoff

Relay for Life

The Hope Lutheran church Relay for Life Team is looking for people who will walk with us. There is a sign up sheet available in Berg hall, please sign up for a time when you would like to walk. We will be at JJ Smith track, noon June 19-9:00 on June 20.

We are selling tickets on a Relay for Life t-shirt quilt. Dianna sewed it together for us. There is a "change can" in Berg Hall where you can donate your spare change. Please come to the Relay to support teams that are walking, there are activities all afternoon and evening. Come to the Relay and have dinner, there will be Bar-B-Q with hamburgers/hot dogs, there are brats, soup and desserts; a silent auction will take place on Saturday-close Saturday night.

If you are a team member please remember to sign up on line and list your t-shirt size, everyone should be signed up by May 3, this gives Marilyn time to order the t-shirts for all of the teams.

At the present time we have 43 teams. This will be a great year.

Our theme this year is "Rockin through the decades," if anyone has an idea for decorating our campsite, please call.

Thanks for all of your support
Kathie Thompson 360 961-7183

Family First Friday - A New Program

You can read that Family, First Friday, or Family First, Friday. Beginning the first Friday in June, June 4, at 5:30 till 9:00, we will hold family night. Board games, fun activities for parents and kids, grandparents and grandkids. And neighbors and friends are most welcome. A movie, popcorn, ice cream sundaes and a really good time for all.

If this works out well, we will plan a Family First Friday each month. So set aside Friday June 4, and the first Friday of each month, for some good old-fashion family fun.

STEWARDSHIP May, 2010

The month of May starts and ends with a holiday. May Day, May 1, started 100's of years ago in Europe; it is celebrated in the United States by dancing and singing around a maypole tied with colorful ribbons, also by hanging May baskets on the doorknobs of neighbors and friends.

Memorial Day, May 31, is observed on the last Monday of May. Originally this day was called Decoration Day, it started as a day to honor Union Soldiers who died during the American Civil War. It was inspired by the way Southern states honored their men and women who died in war or military action. After World War II the name was changed to Memorial Day and it became a Federal holiday. People have parades and picnics and honor family members and friends who were or are veterans from all wars.

And in the middle of the month, Mothers Day, this year on May 9, a day to honor all mothers. The Resolution for having a dedicated Mothers Day was signed by President Woodrow Wilson on May 8, 1914. Declaring, a mother does so much for her children, this day is set aside to acknowledge her hard work and her selfless love for them.

Come on Sunday mornings and join with friends and family in rejoicing that we as stewards of God can celebrate the Good News. Give thanks to the people who have given their lives so we have the freedom to go to church.

Continue to remember our financial commitments made in January. We have the monthly utility bills, mortgage, salaries, synod benevolence and our missionary outreach to Betsy and Megan and their families and to Carl and Melody Knight.

God Bless America
and peace to all
Kathie Thompson
Stewardship Ministry

Worship Schedule



May 2 - Spiritual Counseling.

First reading: Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Second reading; Rev 21:1-6; Gospel John 13:31-35

May 9 - 6 Sunday of Easter.

First reading Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Second reading Rev 21:10, 22-22:5; Gospel John 14:23-29

May 16 - 7 Sunday of Easter.

First reading Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97; Second reading Rev 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21; Gospel John 17:20-26

May 23 - Day of Pentecost

First reading Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Second Reading Rom 8:14-17; Gospel John 14:8-17 [25-27]

May 30 - The Holy Trinity

First reading Prov 8:1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8; Second Reading Rom 5:1-5; Gospel John 16:12-15

Confirmation of Steven Myers

On Pentecost Sunday, May 23, at first service, Steven Myers will be confirmed. There will be a confirmation reception in the fellowship hall following first service.