



Hope Lutheran Church

Enumclaw, Washington

The Messenger of Hope

"Member of the Plateau Ministerial Association"

Pastor Dan's Corner

I can't describe how amazing this past month has been. The Unbinding Your Heart program has been successful beyond anything I imagined. Thank you Jesus! And thank you to each of you for stepping up and stepping out in trust to take this program on.

Whether you are in a small Unbinding group, or whether you are, importantly, simply praying for the program, participants, and church, your contribution has been like the fresh air of the Spirit blowing through our lives and our church.

When we began, I secretly hoped that 50 people would participate. That was my "success" number. We have 80 people participating. Wow! Considering we average about 86 people worshipping each week (last year's number), that is a response beyond any expectation.

As I have visited each group, I clearly can see the enthusiasm, the excitement, and the joy of being part of a program that will make such a difference to Hope and to our neighbors and friends outside the church. I can only describe the enthusiastic discussion as Spirit-led, and Spirit-filled.

BUT WHAT NEXT?

We will wrap up our Unbinding Event program with an All Church potluck celebration on November 20. We will hold just ONE service that day at 10:00, and celebrate with a potluck after the service. We will be receiving new members at that service.

BUT WHAT NEXT?

Many people have expressed a desire to continue small group programs. And that is great. At the Unbinding Celebration on November 20 we will have sign-up opportunities for new small groups, or perhaps your group may elect to continue meeting as you have for the program.

There will be opportunities for Bible study groups, interest groups, classes to take such as Mark Madness, a look into the Gospel of Mark, the primary text for the new church year; Reading the Bible, Again, For the First Time, new ways of reading and interpreting the Bible; The Lutheran Faith Tradition – What Does It Mean to be Lutheran Today; and we will also have an Inquirer's program for people new to the Lutheran tradition to explore their faith foundations and learn more about what Lutherans believe.

Cont. on Page #3

In this issue...

1	Pastor Dan's Corner
2	Jesus Didn't Always get His own Way Thank You Upcoming Events
3	Pastor Dan's Corner cont Mark Madness Birthdays & Anniversaries
4	Council Meeting Equal Exchange
5	Bleatings
6	One Service - Nov 20 Holden Evening Prayers Uth Nuz
7	Living Stones Fundraiser Funnies
8	Stewardship Worship Service Schedule
	Calendar



Jesus Didn't Always Get His Own Way

Did you know that Jesus didn't always get his own way? There are several instances in the Gospels when he told people to do things and they did the exact opposite. There were other times when he needed to get away and be alone and he was constantly mobbed, and at other times he embarrassed his family and was asked to leave an area. In other words, Jesus, God Incarnate, was fully human just like us.

The first example I'll share comes from Mark 1:40-45. Jesus had just healed a leper and, "having sternly warned him he sent him away at once, saying to him, 'See that you say you nothing to anyone.... But he (the healed leper) went out and began to proclaim it freely, and to spread the word, so that Jesus could no longer go into a town openly but stayed out in the country; and people came to him from every quarter.'"

A second example is seen in Mark 3:20-22 where there were so many crowds that he was not able to even eat. This was quickly followed by his family trying to grab him "because they were saying, 'He has gone out of his mind.'"

A third example in Mark shows Jesus, having just healed a demoniac and driven the evil spirits into the pigs who

drowned themselves in the sea, "They (the residents) began to implore him to leave from their region" (Mark 5:17).

In a fourth example, "he (Jesus) was not able there (in his hometown) to do any miracles...and he was amazed on account of their unbelief" (Mark 6:6).

In an interesting twist in the miracle of Jesus walking on the water, Jesus actually intended to walk right by his disciples (Mark 6:49) because he wanted to be alone, but they saw him!

Jesus was both fully human and fully divine. That means he had to put up with being ignored, ridiculed, and rejected. That's our lot, too. It's up to us to deal with these things just like Jesus did, with patience and love.

Thoughtfully,
Richard H. Elfers
Sunday Forum Facilitator



Thank You!!

Thank You to all the volunteers who were willing to share their time, talents, and energy to help make the Halloween Festival a fun and festive time for everyone!



Upcoming Events

- Nov 1-30 - Every Thurs-Rotary
- Nov 5 - Fourth Wisemen
- Nov 11 - Veterans Day
- Nov 14 - Council Meeting
- Nov 19 - Fourth Wisemen
- Nov 20 - Messenger articles due
- Nov 24 - Happy Thanksgiving
- Nov 29 - XYZ Luncheon
- Nov 30 - Mark Madness



November Birthdays

- 11/1 Kendall Elliott
- 11/5 Kevin Myers
- 11/5 Jody Pierce
- 11/6 Tara Myers
- 11/8 Karin Plagens
- 11/15 Sue Pilemalm
- 11/16 Kyle Robinson
- 11/17 Betty Jensen
- 11/17 Marti Niehoff
- 11/17 Gary Thompson
- 11/19 Grace Thorne
- 11/22 Alex Pierce

November Anniversaries

- 11/18 Jed & Dianna Olafson
- 11/20 Brad & Anne-Marie Semke
- 11/27 Pastor Dan & Lois Wilson
- 11/29 Jerry & Renee Globe

Our November schedule for POM- Cereal & Soap



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

Pastor Dan's Corner cont.

BUT WHAT NEXT?

Where do you feel Spirit leading you? What do you feel called to do here at Hope or in the world? I will hold a spiritual gifts and discernment program that will provide you with the tools to discern what and how the Spirit is calling you to do. And then together make a plan to make it happen for you.

BUT WHAT NEXT?

I am hopeful that through the experience of this program, the Spirit will nudge you to become part of a team to develop new, creative worship ideas. I am hopeful that through the experience of this program, the Spirit will nudge you to be part of a team that knocks down the perceived barriers in the church, and creates ways to meaningfully integrate new members into the life of Hope. Jesus didn't

change the world by being Casper Milquetoast. Neither will Hope.

BUT WHAT NEXT?

Bringing Unbinding to life through the simple act of invitation. To a friend, a family member, a neighbor. And Christmas is a great time to make that invitation.

BUT WHAT NEXT?

Well, we could do nothing. What's to prevent us from doing nothing? Nothing...and everything. We have been changed by our Unbinding experience. The Spirit has stirred up the Spirit's fire in our hearts and in our church. We will never look at evangelism with the same eyes we looked through before Unbinding. So what's to prevent us from doing nothing? You. Thanks be to God!

In Christ,
Pastor Dan

Mark Madness Begins Wednesday December 30, 5:30 PM

The Gospel of Mark will be the primary gospel text for the new church year. Mark was the first gospel written, and is like a fast-forward, fast-action movie. Much of Matthew and Luke are based upon Mark. Come on a four-week journey as we take an overview of the gospel in Mark Madness. A bowl of soup will be provided, and Holden Evening Prayer and dessert will follow.

Council Meeting

The Congregation Council met on September 11.

Facilitator President: Debbie Littlefield

Agenda item Old Business Presenter: Debbie Littlefield



Discussion:

- Pew Cushions: Received information & Samples from Waggoner's. Kathie & Debbie visited two current church's that have used them and both were very pleased. The cost is about \$4600.00 which is about ½ the cost of the local vendor. Council approved.
- Lutheran Council Network signs were donated by Elaine Bierman from R & K Graphics.
- New church signs have been purchased and installed.
- Habitat for Humanity: A group went from Hope on Saturday 9/10 and worked on the Thrivent Home.

Agenda item: New Business Presenter: Debbie Littlefield

Discussion:

- Stewardship Ministry Team will do a pledge drive in January.
- Fellowship will have the Ethnic Dinner on November 5th.
- Council Retreat will be tentatively on December 2-3.
- Monthly council meetings starting in November will be held on Mondays at 6:30pm.

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

*Agenda item deadline: Monday,
November 7 by noon,
Next regular Council Meeting: Sunday,
November 14, 6:30pm*

Lutheran World Relief and Equal Exchange

Chances are you're going to do it – get a hostess gift or two, or give a little something to some special co-workers or employees, well and there are always those special friends who never want a thing but you still like to show your love and appreciation for them, or tuck a little something extra into those stockings on the mantle and we can't forget the mailperson, the dog sitter, the daycare, the tolerant teacher, the housecleaner, the neighbor with the extra egg you needed, the paper boy (or girl) or the bank teller who always goes the extra mile for you. It's amazing how many people there are in our lives that really enrich it. So why not enrich the Equal Exchange farmer's lives? Have your dollars go a little further in making someone's dreams come true.

Through November I'll have some information and order forms for Divine Chocolate and Equal Exchange coffee in Berg Hall. I'll collect all that needs to be collected and get the order in no later than the first week of December to then get everything to you with time to surprise those you love and appreciate. If I get enough orders earlier, I'll order earlier.

Blessings,
Carol Smith

Greetings, Bleatings, from the Sheep Pen

“Unbinding *your Heart*”, It’s Relational!

Many of you are participating in the various small groups scattered around Enumclaw and Buckley where we gather together to openly share our thoughts and feelings and experiences as we discuss our weekly readings and our daily prayer journal. For many of us, we are discovering for the first time how unbinding it can be to share with other Christians some of our personal experiences, both good and bad, our concerns, and our insights as we meet together, pray for each other, and be supportive of one another.

Author Martha Grace Reese talks about a trinity of relationships; our relationship with God, our relationship with other members of Hope, and our relationship with people in our lives outside of the church. As we go through the daily prayer journal readings and exercises, many are experiencing that their relationship with God is changing. As she writes in the introduction to the 40 day prayer journal; “Prayer is about developing a relationship with God, not just believing in God.” This is happening big time in our small groups. We are sharing within our groups some of our amazing experiences with prayer, how our relationship with God is becoming more personal.

She writes; “As individual relationships with God grow, people are able to be more real with each other within the church. As relationships within the church get richer, members of the church somehow know how to be better friends at work, in the neighborhood, coaching Little League.” People are getting more real with their fellow Christians in these small groups and relationships are getting deeper, richer. We may still have differences within the church, but we are learning to be more open to change and more open to accepting others as being vital parts of our family of God even if we may disagree on one thing or another in our church. God wants us to show unity and love for each other.

This point came across to me powerfully in one of the daily prayer devotions. It was entitled “My Best Memory of Church”. In this daily guide we were asked to think back on some of the beautiful memories we have ever had in church. For me, there were, there are, many. It was powerful to think back on so many.

But even more powerful was the scripture reading given to go along with this prayer theme. It was Colossians 3:12-17. She wrote in the instructions to read this and pray that our church will become like the church described by Paul a couple thousand years ago. I pray we are on our way. I pray you join this prayer as you read below.

Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues, put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Greetings, bleatings, from the sheep pen.



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

Jim Niehoff

“Making Christ Known in Our Community”



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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

SINGLE SERVICE NOVEMBER 20 – POTLUCK

On Sunday, November 20, we will hold a single service at 10:00 AM, as we welcome new members and celebrate the completion of the Unbinding Your Heart Program. There will be a potluck following the service. Come and share your Unbinding experiences, enjoy the celebration, and welcome our new members.

Holden Evening Prayer through Advent

Beginning Wednesday, November 3 at about 6:40, we will celebrate the Advent season with Holden Evening Prayer. We will enjoy the simplicity and beauty of the prayer as it was first intended for Holden Village. It will be about 20 minutes in duration. Volunteers to sing the evening prayer are needed. We will have a simple dessert in the fellowship hall after the evening prayer service. If you have never experienced this beautiful prayer service, you will find it to be a Spirit-filled prayer.

UTH NUZ

Did you know that Jan Schumacher and Lori Robinson have been leading the Sunday school class through the Unbinding Your Heart program? Thank you to the kids for making the Prayer Wall and for participating in the program.

On November 4 and 5 we held our first joint confirmation retreat with Trinity. We have six great young people in Confirmation this year. The retreat was to Camp Berachah. Other service projects planned for the year include serving meals at homeless shelters in Seattle.

Support of National Youth Gathering in New Orleans this July. Harley Olafson and Jamie Ritzdorf will be joining the senior youth group of Hope and Trinity for a trip to the national youth gathering. Tammy Rismiller, the youth leader and newly rostered Associate in Ministry from Trinity is planning the trip and program for the senior youth.

The gathering involves nearly 50,000 Lutheran youth from around the world, and includes programs, speakers, service projects, and worship, and great music. Hope will be joining Trinity is helping to raise money for more than 20 senior high youth to attend the program.

What a great Halloween Carnival this year. Over 230 kids and 187 adults. Wow! A special thank you to Sandy Carey for leading this program, to Kathy and Keith Nelson for all their help, to Brian Carey for all his work, and to all the volunteers who made this incredible night possible.

Pastor Dan's Living Stones Gourmet Fundraiser

The mission prison congregation, Living Stones, is struggling financially. And Pastor Dan is going to use his culinary and wine skills to raise money to support Living Stones. His goal is to raise \$400 for the support of the congregation.

Living Stones is a congregation of the ELCA, and specifically Southwestern Washington synod. The congregation is *inside* the walls of the Washington men's Correction Center at Sheldon. Hope is scheduled to worship with the men of Living Stones in October 2012.

So what's the deal? Pastor Dan will sell raffle tickets, \$1.00 each, 12 tickets for \$10, and 25 tickets for \$20 for the following:

Pastor Dan will prepare and host an Evening in Tuscany for six people. Three tickets (two people per ticket) will be drawn for an authentic Tuscan dining experience using the recipes he brought from his cooking classes in Tuscany. A seven course Tuscan extravaganza! With very special Tuscan wines. The dinner will be held in January.

But don't stop there. Five more tickets (ten people) will be drawn for an evening of Spanish Tapas that will include a theologically correct wine tasting. Yes, a theologically correct wine tasting (and he promises not to use our concord grape communion wine as one of the five wines tasted). Who will be the most theologically correct? Late January.

But don't stop there. Five more tickets (ten people) will be drawn for an evening of fine cheese and meat, and a tasting of Walla Walla red wines, including a tasting of Ensemble Cellars award winning reds, the winery where PD and Lois work as cellar rats during the harvest. Enjoy some of the finest Walla Walla red wines. Early February.

But don't stop there. One ticket will be drawn for a jar of PD's famous homemade dill pickles, with cheese and summer sausage from Olson's Meats.

Ticket sales begin November 20, drawing December 18.

THANK YOU!

You sure know how to bring tears to your pastor's eyes. Thank you for the wonderful cards and writings, and the supper gift card for Crystal, given to me (and Lois) for Pastor Appreciation Month. I want you to know that whenever things get difficult, I look at those cards and my spirit is lifted high.

God has truly blest Lois and me with such a wonderful church family. I want you to know that in my prayers I thank God for each of you every day as we journey in ministry together. God bless you, all!



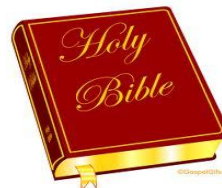
"Making Christ Known in Our Community"



Stewardship November 2011

Worship Schedule

WELCOME * INVITE PROCLAIM * RESPOND



Exciting times at Hope Lutheran church. Small groups have been meeting all through the month of October, gathering in people’s homes, meeting new people and reading and learning about *Unbinding Your Heart*. This has been an awesome way to not only read the same book and pray together but also to learn about the people we worship with on Sunday mornings. Our “church family” is very important to each of us, too. Hopefully we will continue our faith walk together.

A reminder to everyone . . . we are now having two services each Sunday morning. Please remember the signup sheets for helping on Sunday mornings are still located in Berg Hall. There are many ways to serve each week, an acolyte, children’s message, ushers, worship assistants, counters, coffee hour, readers, and greeters. I have received a message (like everyone else) from the secretary, Lori, the past few weeks. Before Lori does the weekly bulletin she needs the weekly information for people who are serving at each service. It will help if we sign up ahead of time.

Watch for announcements for our E-Vent celebration potluck lunch coming up later in November. Give thanks for each day and the many blessings we have been given.

1st Peter 4:10 Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.

Happy Thanksgiving
God’s peace to each of you
Kathie Thompson
Stewardship Ministry

Nov 6 - All Saints Sunday: First reading: Rev 7:9-17 Second reading; 1 John:3:1-3; Gospel Matt 5:1-12

Nov 13 - 22nd Sunday after Pentecost: First reading Zeph 1:7, 12-18; Second reading 1 Thess 5:1-11; Ps 90:1-8; Gospel Matt:25: 1-13

Nov 20 - Christ the King: First reading Ezek 34:11-16, 20-24; Second reading Eph 1:15-23; Ps 95:1-7a; Gospel Matt 25:31-46

Nov 27- 1st Sunday of Advent: First reading Isa 64:1-9, Second Reading 1 Cor1:3-9; Ps 80:1-7, 17-19; Gospel Mark 13:24-37

