



Hope Lutheran Church

Enumclaw, Washington

The Messenger of Hope

"Member of the Plateau Ministerial Association"

Pastor Dan's Corner

“At the beginning, when the earth was a formless void, the rushing Spirit of God hovered over the waters of chaos....” (Five Books of Moses, Everett Fox) I had a peek at the waters of chaos this past week in the midst of a sensational, windy storm at Long Beach as we stayed inside by the fire, watching the fierce wind blow the rain in sheets parallel to the ground. Even the sea gulls huddled on the ground as 50 mile-per-hour winds and rain howled and brought chaos to the ocean. Waves crashing, roaring with power, throwing spray far into the sky.

No creature with a desire to live seemed to dare to venture out, and, then, there they were, hovering almost motionless over the water we saw three pelicans. Just over the crashing waves, seeming to hang in the air, they reminded me of the Genesis account of the Spirit hovering over the waters of chaos as the waves crashed around them. And it was out of that chaos that God spoke creation forth. When all seemed dark with no hope, no purpose, God spoke, and the

Word of God brought forth hope and new life.

There are times when our world, and sometimes our lives, seems dark and with no purpose. And that can be pretty frightening, the chaos all around us tossing us into despair. In our world, during these chaotic times, no doubt many of us feel that desperation. In our community, during these chaotic times many of our neighbors may feel that despair. Perhaps you know someone who feels that despair, a friend, a family member, a neighbor, suffering from a lost job, health concerns, broken relationships, so, so many things that wreck havoc around us.

These are times when we desperately need to need to hear the words that bring hope and new life to our world, our neighbors in need, and ourselves. And yet, many won't hear them because they won't be spoken to them. Simple words of invitation that could reach out to someone having difficult times often aren't spoken for so many reasons.

We know what we are called to do, and yet, reaching out to someone still remains a difficult thing for us to do.

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The Power to Forgive Sins

Recently I used the example in the Children's Message of pencils having their erasers worn down as an example to point out all the mistakes we humans make. The issue got me to thinking about the difference between sins and mistakes. Are all mistakes sins? Are all sins mistakes? Since we know Jesus did not sin, does that mean he never fell down and skinned his knees, or smashed his finger with a hammer? Also, in our modern culture we rarely use the word "sin". When someone lies, or gets caught in fraud or adultery, or fails at something we often say he/she made "major mistakes" rather than saying they sinned. Is there a difference between a sin and a mistake? Let's examine the differences.

First, what is sin? According to Scripture, "Sin is lawlessness" (I John 3:4). It's breaking the rules God set for us humans to obey. They're of a spiritual as well as of a physical nature.

What is a mistake? A mistake, according to several Internet dictionaries is defined as: "An error or fault resulting from defective judgment, deficient knowledge, or carelessness." Another defines a mistake as: "An unintentional act, omission, or error."

If we compare and contrast these two different definitions we come to the understanding that all sins are mistakes, but not

all mistakes are sin. That means Jesus fell down and scraped his knee, or smashed his finger with a hammer. It's part of being fully human, which he was.

In our culture today we don't often use the word "sin" because to do so would be to recognize that a God exists who has set codes of conduct for right and wrong behavior. Calling transgressions of individuals like lying and committing adultery mistakes also allows for the separation of church and state set forth in the US Constitution.

Why is this distinction important? To me, making mistakes are how we humans learn and grow. Sinning actually does the opposite—it stunts our growth to maturity by getting us caught up in lusts and vanity that become habitual. My perception is that our culture should use the word "sin" more often, but won't because to do so would be to acknowledge a higher power which has a say in how we live our lives. We'd rather categorize all erroneous behavior as mistakes so we don't have to deal with the concept of a God and obedience to Him.

We Christians need to be aware of not getting caught in this cultural trap, and to acknowledge the differences between sins and mistakes, and live our lives accordingly.

Thoughtfully,
Richard H. Elfers
 Sunday Forum Facilitator



Upcoming Events

- Oct 1-31 - Every Thurs-Rotary
- Oct 1 - Fourth Wisemen
- Oct 5 - Sp Ed Movie Night
- Oct 9 - Council Meeting
- Oct 15 - Fourth Wisemen
- Oct 19 - Special Olympics
- Oct 25 - XYZ Luncheon
- Oct 30 - Messenger articles due
- Oct 31 - Halloween Carnival



October Birthdays

- 10/3 Angela Pyle
- 10/11 Sheila Carey
- 10/12 Chris Ingham
- 10/15 Brenda Thompson
- 10/17 Darren Niehoff
- 10/23 Shirleen Flesner
- 10/26 Anna Burt
- 10/26 Rob Christensen
- 10/29 Pastor Dan
- 10/29 Emilee Ann Sanderson

October Anniversaries

- 10/14 Jim & Marti Niehoff
- 10/15 Tim & Carolyn Hazen

Our October schedule for POM- Jell-O & Tooth-paste



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

Pastor Dan's Corner cont.

As we enter into the first week of our Unbinding Your Heart program, my prayer for each of us is that the Spirit would hover over us, our world of chaos, our lives of chaos, and give each of us the confidence in our faith and our church to simply speak words of invitation to someone who longs to hear some good news for their life.

Simple words of "come and see" that will open doors to discover new life in God and new hope in desperate times. Words of invitation from a caring community of Christ who gather to celebrate that out of chaos God does bring new life and purpose.

I hope and pray your experience in the Unbinding program will be filled with new life for you, new hope for those in our community, and will build and strengthen relationships with God, each other, and with our neighbors.

At the beginning, when the earth was a formless void, the rushing Spirit of God hovered over the waters of chaos. When all seemed dark with no hope, no purpose, God spoke, and the Word of God brought forth hope and new life.

In Christ,
Pastor Dan

Unbinding Class Schedule

Here is the schedule for the Unbinding Your Heart series. If you have not signed up for a class, please come and join one.

- Sundays** 12:15pm after second service at Hope
- Mondays** 7:00pm at Bob & Becky Lee's
- Tuesdays** 9:30am at Hope
5:30pm at Harley & Jorunn Ruff's
7:30pm at Jed & Dianna Olafson's
- Wednesdays** 5:30pm at Bruce & Carol Smith's
7:00pm at Dell & Karin Plagen's
7:00pm at Rob & Pam Christensen's
- Thursdays** 7:00pm at Rich & Kathleen Elfer's
- Saturdays** 9:00am at Ron & Deb Littlefield's

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,
October 3 by noon,
Next regular Council Meeting: Sunday,
October 9 after the second service*

Lutheran World Relief and Equal Exchange

We buy the coffee and the teas but what are we really buying into?

Through the LWR Coffee Project, a partnership between Lutheran World Relief and Equal Exchange, we enjoy delicious fairly traded products while supporting small-scale farmers across the world. Farmers earn a fair price for their crops, have access to affordable credit, and can invest in education, health care and sustainable agriculture, and are building a better future for their families.

In addition, for all fairly traded coffee, tea, cocoa, sugar, and snacks purchased through the LWR Coffee Project, Equal Exchange gives \$.20 per pound back to Lutheran World Relief for projects supporting small-scale coffee farmers.

[Lutheran World Relief](#) works with partners in 35 countries to help people grow food, improve health, strengthen communities, end conflict, build livelihoods and recover from disasters.

[Equal Exchange](#) is a democratically organized worker-owned co-operative dedicated to building a new model of trade based on fairness, environmental sustainability and strong relationships between farmers and consumers.

I'm having ideas on how to make it an Equal Exchange / LWR Holiday season, keep a watch in a fellowship hall near you and I hope that you'll be interested too.

Blessings,
Carol Smith

Greetings, Bleatings, from the Sheep Pen

“Unbinding *your Heart*”, the inside story

Starting with the first Sunday in October, we as a congregation get to experience together a journey that will open your eyes, open your mind, to a new and better relationship with God, with your fellow members, with those you come in contact with in your everyday lives. In a real sense, you will be given the opportunity to be more inviting, open, and welcoming. Below is an article written five years ago in the Messenger about doing just that as a church wide emphasis.

Suppose you moved into a new community and wanted to check out the local library for a really good book to read. But you couldn't find anything about the library in the local paper, phone book, or even from a neighbor on where to go. That wouldn't be a very inviting library.

Well one weekday you decided to look for it yourself and drove around and just happened to stumble upon it, but found that it wasn't open, except for a couple hours on Sunday morning. You might wait to that next Sunday morning to walk in and see what it was like, or you might go try to find another library open since you were out anyway and in the mood to find some good reading material. You might even say to yourself “If they're not interested in being open now, I'm not interested in waiting until they are.” That wouldn't be a very open library.

Well, let's suppose that since you found this library, you decided to wait and go check it out that next Sunday morning. You get there and you are not sure where is the right place to park, then walk in the open doors but you don't know what services they have, where the restrooms are, where your children are supposed to go to find their books, and no one taking any special interest in you and telling you all about the set-up of the library and volunteering to help you find that really good book you've been looking for. That wouldn't be a very welcoming library.

Now suppose instead of a library, you are looking for a lifeline to help you out of a struggle. Or you want an environment that is accepting of you and your children, and that teaches the good news of Christ's love for us. You are looking for a local community church to call your own that is inviting, open, and welcoming. You want all three aspects.

That is what we want to be at Hope Lutheran. We want to re-look at what we are doing, and need to be doing, to make us a more inviting, a more open, and a more welcoming community church. This is evangelism that we all can do.

The “**Unbinding your Heart**” small group study we are doing this Fall will help you see what good news we have at Hope and how we can all be more inviting, open, and welcoming in sharing this. Please join one of the small groups and enjoy the next 6 week journey. It will be quite a ride.

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”



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

Fellowship October, 2011

The Fellowship Ministry Team will be preparing for the annual Scandinavian/Ethnic dinner. It will be on Saturday, November 5th at 6:00pm. Please put the date on your calendar. We will be selling advance tickets, adults \$15 and children 12 and under \$6. This helps us know how much to prepare.

We will be having a sign up board for anyone who would like to help prepare food, set up tables and decorate, and clean up. It is a really long day if we only have 2-3 people do it all.

Thank you for celebrating this fun evening of food and fellowship.

Seventh Annual Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction

On behalf of Plateau Outreach Ministries (POM), High Point Village will be hosting the seventh Annual Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction on October 8, 2011. All proceeds will go directly toward the services provided by POM.

The Auction Committee is excited about making this year even better than last year. We know that the more successful we are in raising money for POM the more members of our community that can benefit from their services.

We thank-you for your consideration in supporting this Auction and again supporting POM and all of the lives they affect with the services they provide.

Come Discover your Lutheran Colleges

Thinking of a Lutheran college, but need to know more? Attend the college fair and workshop that gives an overview of Lutheran colleges. Oct. 9 at Messiah Lutheran Church of Auburn, 410 H St. NE. Registration begins at 6:45p.m. A financial-aid seminar is at 7 p.m. and the fair goes from 7:30pm to 9 p.m. The event is hosted by the Lutheran Educational Conference of North America.

A little boy was in a relative's wedding.
As he was coming down the aisle, he would take two steps,
Stop, and turn to the crowd.
While facing the crowd, he would put his hands up like claws and roar.
So it went, step, step, ROAR, step, step, ROAR, all the way down
the aisle.
As you can imagine, the crowd was near tears from laughing so hard
By the time he reached the pulpit.
When asked what he was doing, the child sniffed and said,
"I was being the Ring Bear."

Six-year old Angie , and her four-year old brother, Joel , were sitting to-
gether in church.
Joel giggled, sang and talked out loud.
Finally, his big sister had had enough.
"You're not supposed to talk out loud in church."
"Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked.
Angie pointed to the back of the church and said,
"See those two men standing by the door?
They're hushers."

Halloween Carnival:

Once again it is time to sign up to help at the Halloween Carnival

Signup sheet will be in Berg Hall.

Come join the fun on Sunday October 31, at 5:00pm



Stewardship October 2011

WELCOME INVITE PROCLAIM RESPOND

October is a busy month. It is that time of year when the gardens and fruit trees are all producing, and it is time to harvest the vegetables and fruits. The cold nights remind us that winter is just around the corner. It is time to wash windows, rake leaves and mow the lawn.

Plans have been in process for several months for the E-Vent. The all church study of the book "Unbinding Your Heart" will start the week of October 2nd. There are opportunities every day to attend a study group, if you haven't signed up yet, stop by the church and choose a day.

We will begin working on the 2012 budget in November. If you are on a ministry team, please turn in your budget request for 2012. It is important to know what each team is doing throughout the year.

We give thanks to the many stewards of Hope. The ones who help clean, both inside and outside, the ones who serve at Sunday worship, the band, the choir, teachers and students, the ones who come to worship and to those who financially support Hope.

Peace to each of you,
Kathie Thompson
Stewardship Ministry Team

Worship Schedule

Oct 2 - 16th Sunday after Pentecost:

First reading: Isaiah 60:1-5a Second reading: Acts 9:1-19; Gospel Matt 21:33-46

Oct 9 - 17th Sunday after Pentecost:

First reading 1 Kings 19:11-13; Second reading Luke 5:1-10; Gospel Matt:22: 1-14

Oct 16 - 18th Sunday after Pentecost:

First reading Acts 2:14, 32-39; Second reading Micah 6:6-8; Gospel Matt 22:15-22

Oct 23- 19th Sunday after Pentecost:

First reading Isaiah 43:15-19, Second Reading John 4:7-10, 16-29; Gospel Matt 22:34-46

Oct 30- Reformation Sunday:

First reading Mark 2:1-12 Gospel John 8:31-36

