



Hope Lutheran Church

Enumclaw, Washington

The Messenger of Hope

"Member of the Plateau Ministerial Association"

Pastor Dan's Corner

Well, as I write this article from the San Francisco Bay area, I find myself singing "I left the rain in wet Seattle." Dear friends, there actually is a sun, and it is warm and bright. Now that I've made you feel bad, I'll try to make it up. Actually, the song I am singing is "I left my heart in Enumclaw."

The seminary here in San Anselmo sits high on a hill with Mt. Tamalpais a short distance away. Mt. Tam is no Mt. Rainier, more like a Mt. Peak. The building I am studying in was built in 1890, and is literally a huge sandstone and granite castle. Winding staircases, castle towers and a belfry. It is a beautiful space to experience theological study. The two weeks of continuing education are an important part of ministry and theological renewal. And I thank you for providing for this opportunity.

The class that I am taking, Theology in the Contemporary World, has students from New Zealand, Vietnam, Korea, and lots from Seattle. The professor is a Korean woman who teaches at Texas Christian University. What wonderful perspectives of theology come from such a diverse class.

The book that has captured my attention for the class is "What

Would Jesus Deconstruct?" by John Caputo. The main point of the book is that Christians have "constructed" many different dogmas, doctrines, and concepts within the church since the time of Christ, but the kingdom has not changed. The danger for churches and Christians is that these constructions of the church can blur the "uncontainable" truth of the kingdom.

The book then looks at the church as deconstructable, that is, able to be taken apart, but the kingdom of God is not deconstructable. It cannot be taken apart. This concept of a deconstructable church is similar to what Luther did to deconstruct the Roman Church when he took on the injustice of selling indulgences to the poor to pay for St. Peter's Cathedral.

The book asks the question, what would Jesus deconstruct if he were to return today? The question calls us to look at our actions as Christians. Where and how and what do we do or not do to advance the kingdom? Caputo lists several categories of the kingdom that he considers not deconstructable.

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“Doing Your Own Thing”

The book of Judges ends with its thesis found in the last verse: “In those days there was no king in Israel: **every man did that which was right in his own eyes**” (Judges 21:25 KJV).

My daughter tells me we are living in the “postmodern age.” According to one Internet dictionary: “Postmodernism is highly skeptical of explanations which claim to be valid for all groups, cultures, traditions, or races, and instead **focuses on the relative truths of each person.**”

Do these two statements sound familiar? They do to me. It seems we are living in an age in some ways similar to the time after the death of Joshua when Israel, living in the midst of Canaanites, succumbed to the Canaanite religious and cultural ways and values.

It was a time of religious ambiguity where traditional (in this case Israelite) values were questioned. People were caught up in the religion of their Canaanite neighbors. It was the time of Gideon and his religious confusion, and Samson who, while a man set apart by God, had an affair with the prostitute Delilah. He then was shorn of his locks, and blinded. Samson atoned for his sins by killing the leaders of the Philistines as well as himself when he pulled down the building they were seated in.

In our time we Christians are beset with two opposite extremes: On one hand we have

fellow Christians, who are so desirous of certainty, that they demand a singular religious and political viewpoint in which any opposing views are seen as evil and wrong.

On the other hand, we have fellow Christians who decide, based upon emotions and experience that any interpretation of the Scriptures is okay.

It’s my view that neither is where God would want us to be. We need to hold fast to what the Scriptures teach us, based upon their context, and at the same time be tolerant and patient enough to understand that we don’t always have to agree on every point.

My hope for all of us at Hope is that we grow into Christian maturity so that we are able to live in the tension between “doing that which was right in our own eyes” and at the same time becoming flexible enough not to be caught up in rigid religious and political fundamentalism.

Thoughtfully,
Richard Elfers
Sunday Forum Facilitator



Events

- July 3 - Fourth Wisemen
- July 4 - Independence day
- July 6 - Theology on Tap
- July 8 - Brewed Awakenings
- July 15 - Brewed Awakenings
- July 17 - Fourth Wisemen
- July 18 - Messenger articles due
- July 20 - Theology on Tap
- July 22 - Brewed Awakenings
- July 25 - Summer Jazz Vespers
- July 29 - Brewed Awakenings

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VBS “High Seas Expedition”
starts August 2 6:00pm to
8:30pm

Pastor Dan's Corner cont.

July Birthdays

7/2 Kathleen Elfers
 7/4 Kathy Stanley
 7/7 Sheila Haywood
 7/8 Celeste Bettencourt
 7/10 Andrea Idso
 7/13 Alan Borgen
 7/13 Dianna Olafson
 7/17 Hank Johnson
 7/19 Amanda Sand
 7/24 Robert Nearhood

July Anniversaries

7/2 Allan & Pam Pyle
 7/6 Roger & Sheila Hanson
 7/10 Harley & Jorunn Ruff
 7/21 Kevin & Tara Myers
 7/23 Dell & Karin Plagens
 7/24 Jason & Becky Latham

Our July schedule for
 POM-Canned Vegetables



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

Justice, the justice of the kingdom, is not deconstructable. We can't make God's call to justice for all people into something we want justice to be. Love, the love of the kingdom, is not deconstructable. We can't make God's love into something we want our way and try to control it. To do so would be to make God's unconditional love for all people and creation into something we can make conditional. Forgiveness, the forgiveness given to us as a gift through God's grace and out faith in Jesus Christ, is not deconstructable. We can't make forgiveness into something that is conditional.

As I thought about this reality of the kingdom that can't be

deconstructed, I am drawn to think of how often people, religious groups, fundamentalists, liberals, Christians all, have tried to make the kingdom into something they can control. Control so that they have power over others. Control so that God then must behave the way they want God to behave.

So what do you think? What in your life would Jesus deconstruct? What in the kingdom have we tried to construct into something Jesus would simply deconstruct? We need not look far into the world to see the poverty, injustice, hatred, and oppression that Jesus calls us to deconstruct into the uncontrollable truth of the kingdom.

In Christ and studying hard,
Pastor Dan

Sunday Evening Services Jazz Vespers

We will hold our first summer vespers (evening prayer) service on Sunday, July 25 at 5:00 PM. The service will be a jazz vespers, with Michael Deak, a recorded jazz musician and winner of a national composer's award.

The service will include opening prayer, a 20-25 minute music set, a short reading and reflection, another 20-25 minute music set, and a closing prayer. We will start at 5:00 and finish about 6:00-6:15.

Other services in August will feature jazz, an evening service with "By Committee," and hopefully bluegrass and blues vesper services. Invite your friends and come and experience God's gift of music as we offer prayers for our community and world.

Articles are due for
 next month's Messenger
 by July 18!

Council Meeting



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

The Congregation Council met on June 14. The following was approved: The minutes were approved as written. The election of Council officers was held Jim will continue to be President, Debbie will be vice-resident, Harley will be Secretary.

Old Business:

Council Liaison's to the MTs were decided – See round a bout for details.

Director of Music – two candidates for the position have been interviewed and will lead choir at one Sunday service.

Thank You – Trinity had received Jim's e-mail offering support and offered their thanks.

Creation Fest – One congregation had expressed in-

terest in using Hope's facilities for Creation Fest.

New Business:

Budget Items – 2010 budget items were discussed, increases in benevolences and employees were clarified.

Mortgage Payments – Jim suggested we should increase the Mortgage payment to \$3,049.00 it was approved.

Synod Meeting – Jim gave the council a full report on the SW Wa Synod meeting. Explained the "1000 Mission Friends.

Council installation – Pastor Dan announced the installation for the council will be held during the July 11th Church service

Council Meeting – Next council meetin will be on August 9th.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm with Prayer.

Agenda item deadline: Monday, August 2 by noon, Next regular Council Meeting: Monday, August 9 at 6:30 p.m. There will not be a meeting in July

Thank You

Thank you so much for the generous scholarship as well as the wonderful quilt. I am so excited to head up to Canada in a few months to study at the University of British Columbia to become a mechanical engineer. The blanket will be absolutely perfect as it can get quite chilly up there in the north!

Thank you again, Love
Robin Hanson

It is so hard to express how much we appreciate the overwhelming outpouring of love and support we have received since Cameron's death. If you are reading this, please know that you have somehow touched our hearts and lives. Perhaps it was a visit, a phone call, a kind word, a card, a hug, a tree, a plant, flowers, making food, delivering food, attending Cam's service, helping in the kitchen at Cam's service, making our appointments, buying groceries and supplies, a monetary donation, sharing tears, or even just your thoughts and prayers sent our way. In your own special way, you have made the tragic loss of our son and brother a bit more bearable by your acts of kindness. We are comforted in knowing that Cam is resting peacefully in the loving arms of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Perhaps he is running with his dog Jasmine, soaring with the eagles, or maybe even playing in the greatest hockey game of his life!

With Love The Globes
Jerry, Renee, Chelsea and Britta

Bleatings From The Sheep Pen

Habitat for Humanity Tacoma Project

This past month Pastor Dan and I, Julie and Erwin Plagens, Rich Elfers, Kathie Thompson, Kim Borgen, and her dad Ed Osborn volunteered to work a Saturday at a Thrivent Financial sponsored Habitat for Humanity home in the Salishan neighborhood of Tacoma. What a rewarding experience.

We all met at Hope and drove down to what was in the 1990's a Tacoma neighborhood known as a center of gang activity, drug trading, and crime. In the year 1990, Salishan reported 331 violent crimes for a stunning rate of nearly one violent crime per day! In April 2001, the Tacoma Housing authority received a \$35 Million Hope VI grant to revitalize the neighborhood and a full redevelopment plan was created. The then current housing was demolished and new neighborhood housing was started for mixed-income housing and apartments, with a strong flavor of multi ethnic diversity.

Habitat for Humanity Tacoma is in the process of building nine single family homes in this revitalized area. When we arrived they had three homes in various stages of being built, including the one sponsored by Thrivent Financial. All told, there were several other regional church volunteer groups and other volunteers with a total work force around 40 people. These included several Habitat for Humanity employees including construction staff and the soon owners of the houses being built.

After an opening prayer and an inspiring song on blessing the homes we would be working on, we divided up into three groups, each with different tasks to do on the three homes currently under construction. Our Thrivent home we were going to work on was in the outside siding phase where our job was to measure, then cut the concrete siding for the outside walls, and then hammer them into place. Besides the eight of us we had Guy as our construction staff supervisor, an ongoing every Saturday volunteer from one of the local military bases, and the home owners that would be living in this home when completed.

This couple was Stephan Kahwa and Sophia Njoroge, who had four young children, and had moved to Tacoma from Nairobi Kenya in February 2009. We split up into two groups, each working on siding different outside walls. Sophia was in my group and she was a very proud and a very hard worker, and very, very thankful for our being there to help with her future home. A couple of her older children showed up and thanked us as well.

It was hard work, and we all got a pretty good workout. But what a joy it was working with this family, with the other church groups and other volunteers, and with Guy and the Habitat staff. Together, we helped make a lasting impact on three in progress Habitat homes, and on the lives of three families.

In a recent news letter from the Tacoma Habitat group, our Kahwa/Njoroge family noted the following: "The family wants to make sure that every volunteer that will work on our home knows that we thank God for the wonderful people that will help someone they don't even know and pray God will continue to bless them." I think all of us that worked that day really felt blessed as we cut siding, hammered nails, and had a lot of fun working together for (and with) some not so fortunate sheep, but truly thankful sheep.

Greetings, bleatings, from the sheep pen.

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

Jim Niehoff



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Our Purpose:

*"Making Christ known
in our community by
reaching out through
worship, service and fel-
lowship"*

*Hope Lutheran Church
is a member of the
Southwestern Washing-
ton Synod of the ELCA
Their mission:*

*"...Spreading the Good
News of Jesus Christ by
empowering congrega-
tions and church leaders
to grow in worship, edu-
cation, outreach, ste-
wardship and other mis-
sions"*

*Their website:
www.lutheranssw.org*

Soli Deo Gloria

Endowment Fund Committee

The Endowment Fund was very pleased to receive a gift of \$12,533.12. With this gift the Endowment Fund now has a balance of approximately \$28,800.

As part of this year's budget, the Endowment Fund was again able to present each of our two high school seniors with a \$100 Scholarship. Congratulations to Alison Haywood and Robin Hanson!!

By the time you have read this you will have had an opportunity to hear the presentation made by Thrivent Financial at the June 27 Adult Forum. Hopefully that presentation has helped to answer many of your questions. We also thought we would share with you the following questions (and answers) that the Committee has received:

Q. I would like to make a donation to the Endowment Fund in memory of a church member who has recently passed away. How do I do that?

A. The easiest way is to just write a check to the "Hope Lutheran Church Endowment Fund" and give it to the Pastor, Church Secretary or any member of the Endowment Fund Committee.

Q. Why isn't more of the money in the Endowment Fund used for the needs of the church?

A. The Bi-Laws of the Endowment Fund limit expenditures to only the interest and/or dividends that are earned from the original gift(s)/principal.

We hope this information is helpful. If you have any additional questions regarding the Endowment Fund, feel free to contact any member of the Committee!

*Jim Niehoff
Gene Kuhlman
Debbie Ekstrom*

Family First Friday

We will not hold a Family First in July. We will hold the next Family First on Wednesday, August 11th (Wednesday after VBS) with hot dogs and hamburgers. Invite your friends.

Its Between You and God

People are often unreasonable and self-centered.

FORGIVE THEM ANYWAY

If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives.

BE KIND ANYWAY

If you are honest, people may cheat you.

BE HONEST ANYWAY

If you find happiness, people may be jealous.

BE HAPPY ANYWAY

The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow.

DO GOOD ANYWAY

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough.

GIVE YOUR BEST ANYWAY

For you see, in the end, it is between you and God.

IT NEVER WAS BETWEEN YOU AND THEM ANYWAY

Mother Teresa

Summer Worship Schedule

Beginning July 4, our summer worship schedule will be one service on Sunday morning, starting at 10:00 AM.

We are currently working on launching a Sunday evening music vespers (prayer, reflection, and lots of music) featuring jazz, bluegrass, and blues music on different Sundays. The service will be from 5:00 to 6:30. Plan on enjoying a fresh worship experience as we celebrate God's love through music.

Theology on Tap and Brewed Awakenings

We will start out Tuesday T on Tap program at 6:00 on July 6 at The Mint, and Brewed Awakenings in Buckley at 9:00 on Thursdays at the Main Street Coffee Shop. Rev. Elaine Swiegart of Community Presbyterian in Buckley will be joining the discussion. Come and bring a friend. These programs are open to all perspectives of theology and church, including none.

Messenger

Starting with the next issue of the Messenger, (August) we will be providing a copy for you via our web site www.hopelutheranchurch.org with a copy of the calendar. Along with being good stewards by not using extra paper we will also cut down costs for the use of the printer. If you do not have access to a computer or printer, please let the office know and we would be glad to print one for you.



Hopes' Jolly Ranchers Relay For Life Team

Our 2010 Relay was good for everyone. Even though the weather was not all that great, we certainly didn't get hot! There were over 40 teams registered, over 600 walkers registered and the \$'s raised is at over \$142,000.

Thank you to the many people who came out and walked with and for our team. These are people I watched go around the track: Mary, Jorunn, Tim, Tina, Kayla, Tara, Kevin, Jed, Hailey, Hogan, Diana, Nancy, Debbie Littlefield, Deb Brummel, Karin, Rich, Kathleen and Claudette; and a new walker, Chuck, who we met at the garage sale. He wanted to walk with a team, we invited him to join us on Saturday. A special thank you to Julie and Erwin, who always help with garage sale and setting up our Relay camp site. It takes a lot of time and work to organize the week end plus finding enough shelters so everyone can be dry. Thanks to Gary for bringing fire wood, we all stayed warm, some of us roasted marshmallows at 2:00am. That might be when they taste best of all.

Thank you to everyone who supported all of the fund raisers we have done though out the year. You are the people who help make the relay a success.

Please start to think about next year. The planning committee starts organizing in October.

Once again God bless the stewards of Hope.
Kathie

Worship Schedule

July 4 - 6 Sunday after Pentecost.

First reading: Isa 66:10-14; Psalm 66:1-9; Second reading; Gal 6:1-16; Gospel Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 11 - 7 Sunday after Pentecost.

First reading Deut 30:9-14; Psalm 25:1-10; Second reading Col 1:1-14; Gospel Luke 10:25-37

July 18 - 8 Sunday after Pentecost.

First reading Gen 18:1-10a; Psalm 15; Second reading Col 1:15-28; Gospel Luke 10:38-42

July 25 - 9 Sunday after Pentecost

First reading Gen 18:20-32; Psalm 138; Second Reading Col 2:6-19; Gospel Luke 11:1-13

Vacation Bible School

From August 2nd through August 6th

Dinner begins at 6:00 p.m. followed with the program "High Seas Expedition"

From 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.