



GRACE AND MERCY NEWS

We Welcome You...because you are you.

September 2015



God's work. Our hands.

Domestic Violence Services has invited Grace & Mercy to provide service at their Hermiston shelter from 9 a.m. until noon Sunday, September 13th. The church has been called into action in our first (annual?) "God's Work, Our Hands" event, and we will serve by helping the Domestic Violence shelter with their yard. The yard requires some regular maintenance, such as mowing the grass, trimming trees and bushes, hauling stuff away, etc. But it could also use some sprucing up in general. The yard is the first impression for adults and children who come to the shelter after having experienced abuse, violence, and other hard circumstances related to domestic abuse. As you know, first impressions are very important. With that in mind, I can think of three important actions each of us may consider regarding participating in this important work. One action will be for 7 to 10 people to work in the yard and garden areas outside the shelter. Second, it will be important to provide liquid and snack sustenance and other support for the yard workers. And third, it is very,

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September Worship Assistants

September 6

Reader: Kevin Hedgepeth

Refreshments: Michelle and Kevin Hedgepeth

September 13

Reader: Jerry McMichael

Refreshments: McMichael Family

September 30

Reader: Dot Hensley

Refreshments: Hensley Family

September 27

Reader: Janet Boyd

Refreshments: Flora Larson and Junior



The Hotshot Crew at Holden (photo by Chuck Hoffman)

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- Educational Ministry and Table Talk



Holden Evening Prayer

(Continued from page 1)

very important to have people in the church praying for the work being done in the yard, for the work being done through the shelter, for the staff and volunteers, for those who experience domestic violence, and for those who commit violent acts. Please consider how you may serve in this important work, as God's Hands. You can add your name to the list **this Sunday**, or let me know and I will make sure you are signed up to serve in the role you feel called to. I will provide the list to my contact at the shelter, and she will tell us what the next steps are. I am excited that Grace & Mercy has this opportunity to make a difference that matters so much.

Blessings! And Peace!
Dan

Mission Developers Training Conference
August 13-16, 2015
Sheridan Inn, Portland, Oregon

Katja, Pastor Tom and I had an enjoyable and productive time at the Mission Developers conference in Portland. In attendance were many new start congregations from around the United States. Everyone had a chance to tell their story. I can assure you there are many new creative ministries being attempted in the ELCA from Christian cafes to ministries focused on minorities to ministries focused on the natural world. The message from the leaders is, "try anything. If it fails, learn what didn't work and try something else". We are in new times for the church.

We heard presentations from Ruben Duran who is the head of the ELCA Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit in Chicago who encouraged us in our ministries. We worshipped together which was led by Bishop Dave. There were workshops covering "Talking to Christians Cross-Culturally," 90 day Short Term Planning, Growing Leaders, and much more.

We had a chance to sit down with our Director of Evangelical Mission, Pastor Michael Keys, and began working on our 90 Day plan. He is aware of all that we have been *doing* in the community. His suggestion is to redirect our focus to *communicating* to the community what our beliefs and values are and how we are different than most or all of the churches in the area. We have some ideas on how we can do that....stay tuned for more information on that.

Jerry

the young ones to learn from their elders . . . and vice versa. The children will be with us during services, then after "refreshments", they will have their classes. We will continue to have a nursery attendant for those who are not school age if the parents wish.

And, there will also be an opportunity for adult forum conversation around the theme of the book by Stephen Bouman titled, "The Mission Table: Renewing Congregation and Mission". This book was part of the recent Mission Developer/Re-Developer training in Portland which focuses on, among other things, the place and power of the Holy Spirit in the life and ministry of any given congregation. Sound intriguing?



From the Leadership Team and the Sunday School Teachers/ Education Committee:

"As they grow in years you should place in their hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for their instruction in the Christian faith." (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, pg. 228)

Starting this fall the children's Sunday School lessons will go along with the readings from worship service. It will be a wonderful opportunity for



**To connect our Lutheran (and/or Ecumenical) Heritage,
Adaptive Leadership and Organizing**

Blue Mountain Cluster and Friends

September 25-27, 2015

Why?

Build strong lay and professional leadership

Connect congregations more deeply with the communities around them

Increase the vitality, viability and capacity of congregations

Discover how to respond more effectively to complex adaptive challenges

Connect our biblical/theological heritage to our work in the community

Teach and practice basic organizing skills

Who?

Leaders, both lay and clergy, interested in renewing the church for the sake of the world

Pastors and teams from ELCA congregations and their ecumenical partners

Those open to risking reformation and transformation

What?

Friday, September 25: Listening

Leaders will listen 1:1 with interested leaders from congregations in the cluster area

Saturday, September 26: Workshop

An interactive introduction to Transformational Leadership including:

Biblical/theological work, Adaptive Leadership, Organizing practices and mindset, Relational work, Congregational, cluster and/or ecumenical planning

Sunday, September 27: In congregations by invitation

Leaders available to preach, offer temple talk, Sunday Forum, etc in local congregations

When and Where?

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, September 25, 26, 27, 2015

Friday and Sunday by invitation in Blue Mountain congregations,

Saturday, 10:00 am-4:00 pm at Zion Lutheran, 902 4th Street, La Grande

Presented by Blue Mountain leaders in partnership with Oregon Synod Organizing Leaders

Coming Events

Sept. 1

Leadership Team @
Hedgepeth's @ 6pm

Sept 9

Gather Study @ 10am

Sept 10

Quilting Group @ 10am
@ G&M

Sept 13

God's Work Our Hands
community servant project

Sept 16

Foot Clinic @ 9am @
G&M

Sept 17

Quilting Group @ 10am

Sept 20

Rally Sunday—
Educational Ministry resumes

Sept 21

Next Text @ 6:32am @
Pheasants

Sept 23

Gather Study @ 10am

Sept 24

Quilting Group @ 10am
Tapping Into Faith @
7pm @ the Hermiston
Tavern

Sept 26

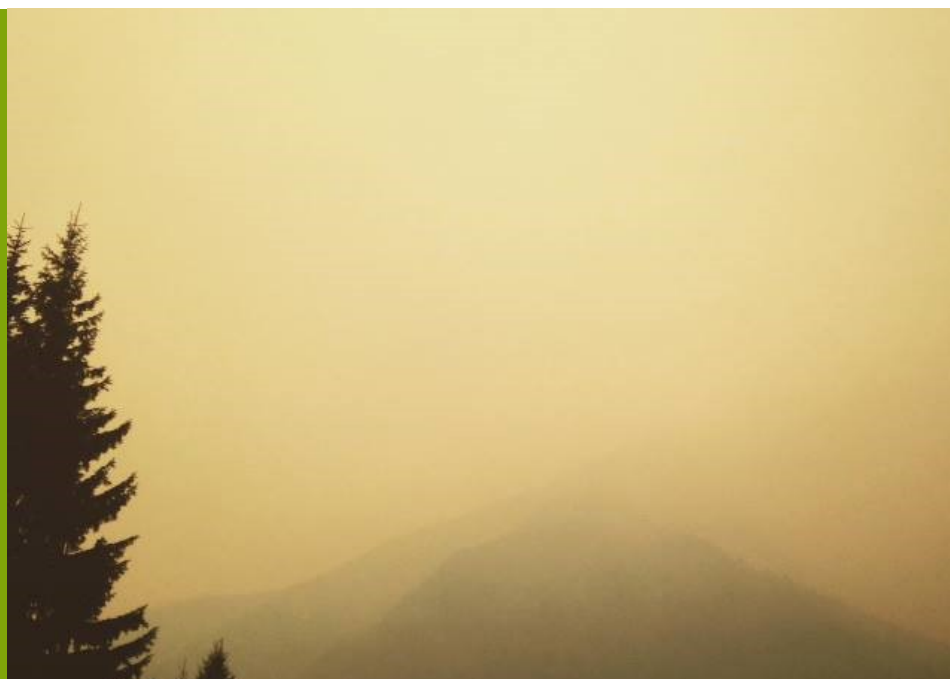
Cluster Meeting in La
Grande

Sept 28

Next Text @ 6:32am @
Pheasants

Sept 29

Book Club @ 5:30pm



The View From The Village (photo by Chuck Hoffman)

Holden Update

August 16, 2015

A note from Co-Executive Director Peg Carlson-Hoffman

This picture from the (Holden) Village looks quite a bit like Chelan and Wenatchee, and all of central Washington, I suspect. Air quality in Chelan today was in the “unhealthy” red zone, and here—an hour away at Celebration Lutheran (Wenatchee) - you can still taste the air. I wonder if it is the taste of the forests of Entiat Meadows, First Creek, or some distant grassland.

I struggle to imagine what the last three weeks have been like for Chuck: blazing fires, choking smoke, and constant watering of buildings for weeks on end. I have a hard time explaining the Chelan firs to him. I have witnessed DC-10s dropping fire retardant from 250 feet and watched as entire towns were evacuated.

As I look at Church's haunting photo, I am reminded of headlights in the fog—that you move ahead slowly, only as far as you can see. Holden is that way right now. If we lean into the visual metaphor provided to us this morning, we will look closely at and be present to what is right in front of us at this time. We will observe and be led rather than letting our egos project too far into the future. May God grant us patience for the coming days, as we wait for the way to be revealed.

With good courage, Peg



God's work.
Our hands.

Leadership Notes....

August 4, 2015

Committee Reports received and accepted

Leadership minutes approved with the correction to Worship report.

Thrivent members can apply for funds 20 days before a project. This is an online process and each member can apply twice a year.

Rally Sunday (Educational Ministry resumes) on Sept. 20

Next Text will be organized by Michelle and will focus on the upcoming lectionary readings for Sunday.

Building Lease is set to expire on July 1, 2016. Discussion about what we will do should begin immediately.

Would like to see greater involvement by the children in Sunday worship.



Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services and ministries.

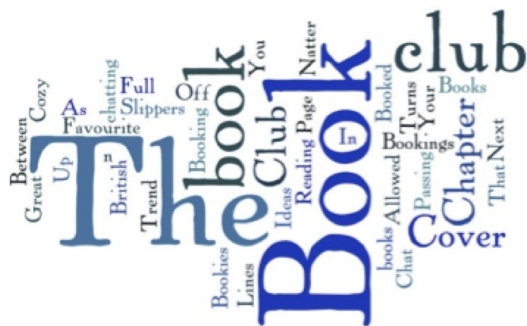
Grace and Mercy L.C.
POB 1108
Hermiston, OR 97838

(541) 289-4535 (church phone)
(509) 398-0258 (pastor's cell)

gandmlutheran@gmail.com

Visit us on Facebook at
Grace and Mercy Lutheran Church

Grace And Mercy Welcomes You



Join us for the monthly gathering of the Novel Ideas Book Club that meets at Grace and Mercy. This is a good time for a quick meal, lively discussion, and who knows what else might happen as we enter the different worlds that open up for us in the imagination of our author of the month. Here are the chosen books for the next few months:

September	Half Broke Horses	Jeanette Wells
October	Orphan Train	Christina Baker Kline
November	Spilt Milk	Amanda Hodgkinson
January	The Invention of Wings	Sue Monk Kid

We meet the 4th Tuesday of the month at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Bring something to eat, your book and be ready for a lively discussion.

September 2015

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		<p>1 8:00am—Coffee 6:30pm— Leadership Team</p>				
		<p>Pastor Inch—Hermiston</p>				
<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 8:00am—Coffee</p>	<p>9 10am—Gather Study</p>	<p>10 9am—Quilting @ G&M</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>Pastor Inch—Hermiston</p>						
<p>13 God's Work, Our Hands Sunday</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 8:00am—Coffee</p>	<p>16 9:00am—Foot Clinic</p>	<p>17 9am—Quilting @ G&M</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>Pastor Inch—Hermiston</p>						
<p>20 Rally Sunday 10:28am—Table Talk 7pm—Service @ Prison?</p>	<p>21 6:32am—Next Text—Pheasants</p>	<p>22 8:00am—Coffee</p>	<p>23 10am—Gather Study</p>	<p>24 9am—Quilting 7:30pm—Tapping Into Faith</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 Cluster Meeting— LaGrande</p>
<p>Pastor Inch—Hermiston</p>		<p>Pastor Inch—Continuing Education—Portland The Unending Conversation</p>				
<p>27 9am—Worship 10:28am— Educational Hour & Table Talk</p>	<p>28 6:32am—Next Text—Pheasants</p>	<p>29 8:00am—Coffee 5:30pm—Book Club</p>	<p>30</p>			
<p>Pastor Inch—Hermiston</p>						