

For I was hungry
and you gave me something to eat...

Matthew 25:35



GRACE AND MERCY NEWS

We Welcome You...because you are you.

November 2015

For All the Saints

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses.... let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us."

Hebrews 12:1

It had become a custom for us to gather as a community of faith at various times during the year. To gather during Ash Wednesday, on occasion during Lent, Holy Week and Reformation Sunday did not seem unusual. Year round preparations were made to raise up these holy times of the year. It wasn't until the suggestion was made that we gather for All Saints Day. Different but doable. The talk and plans were made; style of worship and parts were decided upon and then the day, or more appropriately, the night came.

The sanctuary was bathed in candle light. An eerie sense came over the place. Shadows were cast and moved about as the wind teased the flames. Faces that could be seen clearly during the day or even in a well lit room, were now hidden in the half shadows. It was as if we were there, but not quite. Or, something was there just outside of our ability to see clearly.

The pastoral train began its slow procession to the nave. About halfway up the aisle we came to a stop and the first name of the long list of those who had died in the past year was read. In the quiet the name echoed off the walls. As this first name began to fade and we prepared ourselves to hear the next, a response was heard. "Here!" Collectively there was an inhaling at the response.

As I look back on that particular event I remember the response of many of the people that night. As names were read and responses were heard, tears began to be shed and heads nodded as the truth became known. Though dead, these people had been raised. Though gone, these people were very much present. Though sinner, these people are the saints of God.

All Saints Day/Sunday is a festival of connection. Rich in history, it reminds us of our history as part of a larger community of faith, a community that transcends time and

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November Worship

Assistants

November 1

Reader: Kevin Hedgepeth

Refreshments: Kevin and Michelle Hedgepeth

November 8

Reader: Jerry McMichael

Refreshments: Barbara Hertenstein, Ruth Konnigrud, JoAn Hill

November 15

Reader: Dot Hensley

Refreshments: Dick and Dot Hensley

November 22

Reader: Rochelle & Emilee Meyers

Refreshments: Meyers Family

November 29

Reader: Dot Hensley

Refreshments: Hensley and Madore Families



Who is the greatest?

What or Who is a saint for you?

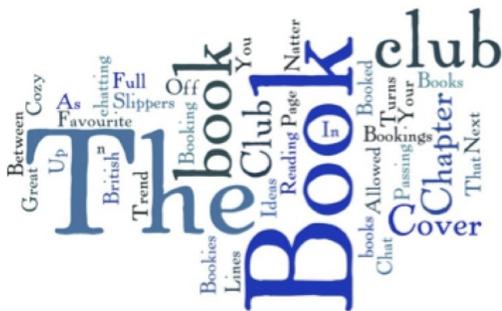


A New Year Begins



Quilt and School/Health Kit Update—

A great big thank-you to everyone who participated in the Benevolence drives over the summer. 66 quilts, 41 school kits, 27 health kits, and 15 baby care kits will be provided to Lutheran World Relief.



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

November 24th Spilt Milk Amanda Hodgkinson

January The Invention of Wings Sue Monk Kid

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

Tapping Into Faith



You are invited to join in this lively monthly discussion around topics, issues, and scripture. Meeting on Wednesday, November 18th at Hermiston Tavern on N. First Pl. @ 7pm, we gather around friendship, food, drink and a shared and explored faith.

This month's discussion on November 19th will be..... What do you think?



Final Update—VBS

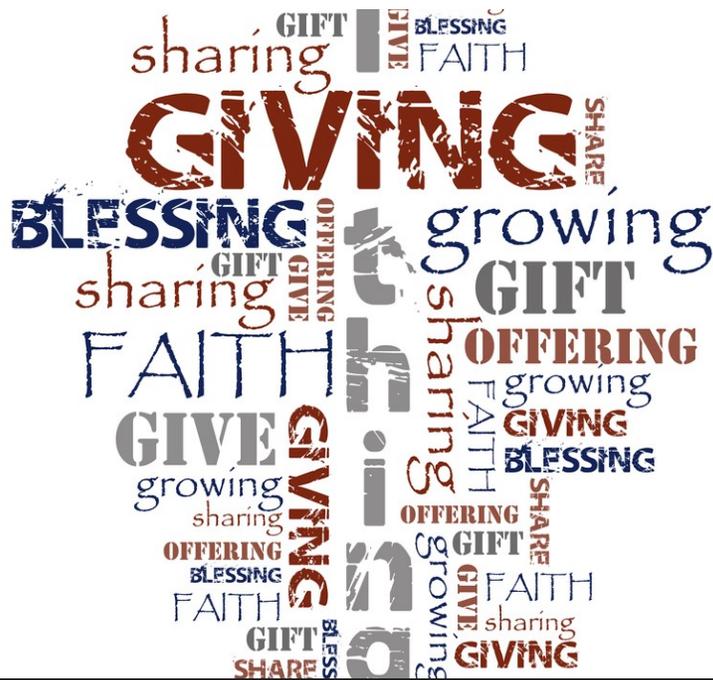
As part of Camp Kilimanjaro, the shared Vacation Bible School experience that we participated in with Methodist, Episcopal and Presbyterian churches, a daily offering was taken to support the Children's Hunger Fund. Well the tallies are in: for our part we raised 112 dollars, which translates into 451 meals. A total of 1.3 million meals have been funded through the Children's Hunger Fund this year, for a total of over \$1 Billion dollars distributed since 1992.

Coming Events

Dec 5-6: Hermiton Tree of Trees.

Dec 6—Bishop Brauer-Riecke @ G&M—Church @ 10am and then to Community Center for Festival of Trees

When you, lovingly, generously use some of what God has given you to care, you are helping to sustain all of life, the life of our neighbor.



How are we Stewards of God's Gifts?

Using God's Gracious Gifts

STEWARDSHIP: EVERYONE HAS A DIFFERENT DEFINITION. Here's one that works for me.

Stewardship means—to use the gifts God has generously given to us, to care for the gifts that God has graciously entrusted to us, so that those who come after us can rejoice in them in their turn.

Our loving God has given us so much—everything we have, everything we are, everything. And one of the many gifts that God has graciously entrusted to us is our beloved community created in the image of our loving, generous God.

When you, lovingly, generously use some of what God has given you to care, you are helping to sustain all of life, the life of our neighbor. How do we respond to God's call to serve and love our neighbors? We faithfully steward the gifts God has so abundantly given to us. Although some think of stewardship as only a financial response to God's love, stewardship encompasses so much more than money. It is about how we use all that God has entrusted to our care — our time, our talents and our treasures — to love God and our neighbors, both inside and outside of the church walls and our homes.

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space. The writer to the Hebrews reminds us that we are surrounded by this cosmic community, a community that serves as witness and encouragement in the life we live in Christ. This day also serves to remind us that the Saints are not just the "greats" of faith like Peter and Paul, but they are also you and I. In our baptism and by our lives we witness to the faith, to the Christ. You and I also respond with, "Here!" when the roll call of saints is listed. In this light we remember those from our congregational families who have been gathered unto God in the past year, those who have been faithful and run with perseverance the race that was set before them, who now celebrate the life promised to them in their baptisms.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Leadership Notes....

Back Pack as Benevolence? Dot would like to add the Back Pack project for children to our Benevolence list. After checking on the Benevolence list we discovered we donated to that project in April 2015.

Volunteers For Building Discussions: Our lease will expire in July 2015. Phil will contact Property Management about renewing the lease. Also, converse with them about the air conditioners that are not working, the lights in the front display windows, and the string of lights outside on front of building, and the spot lights out front. Also, talk about leasing the space next to us and how much for that area? Would the owner consider putting a connecting door between the spaces?

Christmas Festival of Trees: December 6th. After discussion decided to have another Service Sunday and wear our God's Work Our Hands shirts. We will have a church breakfast during a 10:00 AM service and then reconvene at the Community Center for Festival of Trees. Michelle and Cindy will coordinate breakfast.

Christmas Caroling: December 18th at 4:30 PM downtown. We will carol on a Sunday (maybe the 20th?) after church



Contact Us

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

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Visit us on Facebook at
Grace and Mercy Lutheran Church

Grace And Mercy Welcomes You



"But in those days . . ."

It's "those days" time again. The turkey isn't even cooked, eaten and cleared from the table and already we are in the midst of "the rush." Before it has begun, Advent is over and our focus is on Christmas. But for a moment, relax, take a deep breath, and hear the good news of this Advent season.

Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come.

It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake--for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake." Mark 13:26-27, 32-38

Such a subtle shift, Advent is. More than preparation for a birthday bash, Advent is the season of expectation, of long hoped-for fulfillment of promised presence (presents?), all bundled up in the lines "But in those days . . .they will see the Son of Man coming . . .therefore, keep awake."

THE BACK DOOR

November 2015

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 All Saints Day 9a—Worship & Communion 10:30a—Education Hour 10:30a—Kevin's Pumpkin Pancakes	2 6:32a—Next Text @ Pheasants 1p—Choir	3 8a—Coffee @ Pheasants 6:30p—Leadership Team Mtg.	4	5 9a—Quilters	6	7
Pastor Inch—Hermiston						
8 24 Pentecost 9a—Worship 10:30—Education Hour	9 6:32a—Next Text @ Pheasants 1p—Choir	10 8a—Coffee @ Pheasants	11 10a—Gather Study	12 9a—Quilters	13	14
Pastor Inch—Vacation						
15 25 Pentecost 9a—Worship & Communion 10:30—Education Hour	16 6:32a—Next Text @ Pheasants 1p—Choir	17 8a—Coffee @ Pheasants 1p—LaGrande Cluster Mtg.	18 9:30a—Foot Clinic 7p—Tapping Into Faith @ Hermiston Tavern	19 9a—Quilters	20	21
Pastor Inch—Hermiston						
22 Christ the King 9a—Worship 10:30a—Education Hour	23 6:32a—Next Text @ Pheasants 1p—Choir	24 8a—Coffee @ Pheasants 5:30p—Book Club @ G&M	25 10a—Gather Study	26 Happy Thanksgiving 	27	28
Pastor Inch—Hermiston						
29 I Advent 9a—Worship & Communion Decorate Church	30 6:32a—Next Text @ Pheasants 1p—Choir					
Pastor Inch—Hermiston						