



Grace Notes

A Little Revolution

Every generation needs a new revolution.
Thomas Jefferson

"a little rebellion now and then is a good thing"
Thomas Jefferson in a letter to James Madison, January 30, 1787

"That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form...But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security..."
The Declaration of Independence, 1776

Currently, revolution is the new buzzword. It shapes not only our current political process and conversation, but also seems to be the mode of operendi for our world. It is the word that we choose to use to give shape and meaning to the sea-change that is taking place around us.

History is a great teacher, if we take the time to learn. Otherwise I think the maxim is true, "those who don't learn from history are doomed to repeat it."

For the past year we have been doing a lot of talking and a little exploration of the term Change and/or Transformation. We have been doing this work in many venues – Leadership Team, small group meetings, coffee hour, even a little in church. At root it has been a time to remember how and why we got here, what God's mission is, and our part in this ministry. The real question to be dealt with is: What is God up to in this world? Only as we come to grips with this reality – that it all begins with the movement of God – can we then come to terms and

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A Little Revolution

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Special points of interest

- What is God up to in this world?
- In Jesus' day, as in ours, politics, occupations, military solutions to complex problems and violence were every day occurrences.
- A constant in life is change— and it is cause for celebration!



Synod Assembly 2016

Friday, April 29, 2016 - 1:00pm to Sunday, May 1, 2016 - 11:30am

Valley River Inn, 1000 Valley River Way, Eugene

***What does it take to travel from yesterday into tomorrow?
How do we as children of the Reformation keep our eyes on tomorrow?***

Words From Our Bishop...

Dwelling in the Word: Palm Sunday - March 20, 2016

"Some of the Pharisees in the multitude said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." Jesus answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out." Luke 19:39-40.

This Sunday I will be at Bethesda Lutheran in Eugene. I will thank them for their ministry and their Mission Support, but then I will tell them I am more interested in Palm fronds than money this week. Nothing is more important than our observance of this most holy time. Then I will tell them as I read Luke 19:28-40 that I am more interested in rocks than I am even in Palms. What does Jesus mean, "If these were silent, the very stones would cry out."?



In Jesus' day, as in ours, politics, occupations, military solutions to complex problems and violence were every day occurrences. As the Pharisees ask Jesus to silence his followers on that first Palm Sunday (for fear of Roman reprisals) I believe Jesus is saying it can't be done. The dam is about to burst. You can only treat people poorly for so long - and then the truth will come out.

I believe Jesus is echoing here the words of Habakkuk (2:10-11), "You have devised shame for your house by cutting off many peoples; you have forfeited your life. The very stones will cry out from the wall, and the plaster will respond from the woodwork." Or maybe Jesus makes reference to stones found in the hands of rioters. Or maybe it's the stones of the temple, which will not stand one upon another for very much longer. Whatever the case, though, Jesus' own death and humiliation seems the more preferable path to God. How strange.

I invite you to forget what you think you know this coming Holy Week. Listen, rethink, open your heart and mind to the Spirit. Some things in life are really hard. Some are harder. Will it be Palm branches or stones? The cross or the cock crow? I mean for you, not Jesus. What will you pick up as you choose whom to follow?

Blessings, Bp. Dave



Lutheran Disaster Response
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Lutheran Disaster Response e-Alert

U.S. spring storms

**"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest." – Matthew 11:28**

Dear Sisters and brothers in Christ,

In the midst of Lent, our neighbors cry out with weary hearts as heavy winds, floodwaters and tornadoes have affected many regions of the U.S., especially Louisiana and Texas. We anticipate more devastation in the days and weeks ahead.

In many areas in the South, river flooding has reached historic levels, affecting streets and highways, damaging or destroying homes, causing thousands to evacuate, and leaving at least five dead.

Your gifts to respond to these U.S. spring storms through Lutheran Disaster Response will work to bring God's hope, healing and renewal to those who have been affected. Together, we stand with synods, congregations, pastors and Lutheran-affiliated social ministries as we work together to respond.

Lutheran Disaster Response's coordinators are currently present, working with local communities and officials to begin planning the long-term recovery. We are ready to respond and walk with survivors in the weeks and months ahead, for as long as we are needed.

Gifts designated for U.S. Spring Storms will be used in full (100 percent) until the response is complete to help disaster survivors recover and rebuild their lives. Your generous offerings of prayer and financial support will help address the unmet needs of those affected.

Join me in prayer and partnership to help spread the word and support those who need rest.

In service,

The Rev. Daniel Rift
Director, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Church Happenings...

Book Club

A Light in the Wilderness by Jane Kirkpatrick, a New York Times bestselling novelist who weaves the dramatic story of a freed slave who has lost her husband and her freedom papers and must find a way to survive in the wilderness of the Oregon Territory. Join us in Tuesday, March 29th at 5:30ish pm in the Fellowship Room.

Tapping Into Faith

Join us Friday evening, April 29th @ 7pm @ the Hermiston Tavern for good company, drink and conversation.

March Benevolence: ELCA Disaster Response

Lutheran Disaster Response brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

Church Worship and Picnic

As the school year nears completion we will gather as a congregation at Butte Park on **June 5** to celebrate the ministry of education at Grace and Mercy with open air worship, picnic, and celebration of those who have participated in Sunday school this year.

God's Work, Our Hands— September 11, 2016

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. The suggested date for the 2016 dedicated day of service is Sunday, Sept. 11. Mark your calendars today!

All God's People

In church school children hear and read stories about people like Zacchaeus and the Samaritan woman who were shunned by the Jewish people, but who were loved by Jesus. How do these stories affect our children's attitude and behavior toward other people? That depends on us. Do our children see us reflecting Jesus' love when we deal with difficult neighbors, coworkers, and relatives? Do they hear us speaking about others in respectful or biased ways? Is our treatment of others based on their value to God or their net worth in the world? None of us can possibly measure up to Jesus when it comes to loving people. If we try to love like Jesus, it will make a lasting impression on our children.

When we struggle to reflect Jesus' love in our lives, we're helping our children learn the importance of demonstrating this kind of love in their own lives. We're teaching them to stop and ask: What would Jesus do in this situation? Hopefully, they'll remember the Bible stories and follow his example.



Bonded in Baptism

In 1 Corinthians 12:13 and Titus 3:4-5, Paul explains that baptism brings us into God's family. Baptism is the sacrament by which new members, young and old, are welcomed into the family of God. By exploring this sacrament, each member in your family can begin to realize how valued they are as members of the body of Christ.

Gather together with your family calendar. Draw a shell, (a symbol of baptism), on the dates each family member was baptized. If you are unsure of these dates, or if some have not yet received baptism, draw the shell on the person's birthdate. (You may wish to check through your family records to find baptismal certificates, or check at your church office for baptismal date information.) Talk about how baptism is a



special way of saying, "You are a child of God." Offer reassurance that God loves each of us.

Make candles to burn on each family member's baptism birthday. Make an extra one to use during your family prayer time. Melt paraffin and old crayons (for color) in a coffee can set inside a large saucepan partly filled with water. Wrap a string wick around the center of a pencil and place the pencil across the top of a juice can mold. Pour the paraffin into the mold. When the wax hardens, peel away the mold.

Make thumb prints to symbolize the God given individuality of each person. Have each family member press

Very, Very, Very, Good Food

What would a birthday be like without birthday cake? When there's a special occasion, people often share a special meal. At church there is a special meal that is shared by God's family. It has many names. Two of them are Holy Communion and the Lord's Supper. At this meal very little food is eaten. Usually people receive a little wafer or a bit of bread and a tiny cup or sip of wine or grape juice. But it's not the amount of food that matters. This meal is special because Jesus is present.



Long ago, a few days before Jesus was crucified, he shared a meal with his disciples. He said some things to his disciples which pastors still say before people eat this meal. Think about it: when we share the Lord's Supper we say the same words and do the same type of thing that Jesus did with his disciples 2,000 years ago! Think of the billions of people who have eaten the Lord's Supper during that time! They didn't all live in one city or town, but in many countries.

Even though this meal does not include much food, it's eaten because it gives people something no other meal can give: strength, hope, and peace. People know that God loves them and cares about them when they eat this meal. That's one amazing meal!

Prepare a meal with someone in your family. Then serve it to the rest of the family, using your best dishes. Special meals bring people together!

Pack With A Purpose: InspireDR

Here are some pictures for you to share with your congregation from our recent trip to Dominican Republic. The boys responded with such joy! I believe it was like Christmas to them! Their need was great, and we praise God for your donations!

Thank you again!

Paul and Denise Eaker



Grace and Mercy Welcomes You

Contact Us

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

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Who Moved My Cheese? and other vexing questions of life

A constant in life is change. Regardless of whether we want it or are ready for it, embrace it, or fight against it—change happens. If you haven't read the above titled book, find a copy and enjoy. In the meantime, here is a summary of what you can expect:



THE HANDWRITING ON THE WALL

Change Happens: They keep moving the cheese

Anticipate Change: Get ready for the cheese to move

Monitor Change: Smell the cheese often so you know when it is getting old

Adapt to Change Quickly: the quicker you let go of the old cheese, the sooner you can enjoy new cheese

Change: Move with the cheese

Enjoy Change!: Savor the adventure and enjoy the taste of new cheese!

Be Ready To Change Quickly and Enjoy It Again and Again: They keep moving the cheese.

his or her finger on an ink pad and make a fingerprint on a piece of heavy paper. Make picture frames for the prints by gluing four craft sticks together. Decorate them with texture paints or markers. Compare family members' fingerprints to see how they differ. Talk about how God makes each of us special and unique. Glue the print to the back of the frame. Have older family members help younger ones print "GOD'S CHILD" on top of the frame and the person's name on the bottom. These are fun to make year after year to see how the family members grow.

Celebrate everyone's baptism with a birthday cake. Using frosting, draw a shell on the top of the cake. Write the name of each family member inside the shell shape.

Light baptismal candles and dim the lights. (If you made candles, use those, or purchase candles for this purpose.) Join hands and invite each family member to pray silently, thanking God for welcoming them into God's family.

Would you like something in the monthly newsletter. Please get any article, idea, or photo to Pastor Inch by the 15th of each month. Thanks

April 2016



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat



3 2 Easter 9a Worship 10:30a Educational Hour	4 The Annunciation 6:32a Next Text	5 8a Coffee 6:30p Sunday School Mtg @ Starbucks	6 10a Worship Com.	7 9:30a Quilters	8	9
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Pastor Inch—Hermiston

10 3 Easter 9a Worship 10:30a Educational Hour 6p Worship at TRCI National Volunteer Week	11 6:32a Next Text	12 8a Coffee 6:30p Leadership Team Mtg.	13 10a Gather Study	14 9:30a Quilters	15	16
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Pastor Inch—Hermiston

17 4 Easter 9a Worship 10:30a Educational Hour	18 6:32a Next Text 6:32p Warming Station Mtg.	19 8a Coffee	20 9:30a Foot Clinic	21 9:30a Quilters	22	23 Passover
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Pastor Inch—Hermiston

24 5 Easter 9a Worship 10:30a Educational Hour	25 Mark Evangelist 6:32a Next Text	26 8a Coffee 5:30p Book Club	27 Administrative Professional's Day 10a Gather Study	28 9:30a Quilters	29 7p Tapping Into Faith	30
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Pastor Inch—Hermiston

Pastor Inch—Synod Assembly

Serving God's People

<i>Date</i>	<i>Reader</i>	<i>Refreshments</i>	<i>Acolyte</i>
April 3	John Larson	John & Flora Larson	Emilee
April 10	Rochelle/Emilee	Meyers Family	Daniel & Laura
April 17	Regina Marks	David & Regina Marks	Mickenzie & Karlee
April 24	Kevin Hedgepeth	Kevin & Michelle Hedgepeth	Micah & Chloé

Celebrations

<i>Date</i>	<i>Celebration</i>	<i>Celebrant</i>
April 4	Birthday	Dan Madore
April 5	Birthday	Robert Cozad
April 4	Birthday	Dan Madore
April 9	Birthday	Emilee Meyers
April 9	Birthday	Rayden Nava
April 14	Birthday	Nikki Nava
April 29	Birthday	Hunter Lindley

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A Little Revolution

define what our part in this mission is, personally, collectively, locally and globally. On the surface this looks like a lot to take in, it may even seem overwhelming. I believe that it can be overwhelming, if we fail to learn from history.

On occasion I have suggested that God is a change agent; that God is in the business of change. If we follow the story of scripture it is hard to miss this:

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth. . .God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. . .now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you" . . .(God said to Moses) I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt. . .She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. . .Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word" . . ."Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" she said, "No one, sir." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you" . . .Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him" . . .He (Jesus) replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise" . . .Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them" . . .He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.

To sum it up from the words of Paul: So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! (1 Cor. 5:17).

What has this to do with the title? Revolution and to a lesser degree rebellion are synonyms for the word(s) change/transform. For some the very conversations that we have been having may be uncomfortable, even threatening. Yet this is what we are called into, are called to be—agents of change through the proclamation of the Good News—Christ is risen. He is risen, indeed! Hallelujah!