



**Congregational Vote—August 21 on shared space
and ministry with FUMC**

Grace Notes

MISSION UPDATE: Shared Ministry Among God’s People

As Christians we look to the Bible for guidance. Sometimes the message from God is clear. The Bible says that we are to love God and love our neighbor. That is clear. There should be no doubt. Love is the will and character of God and should be reflective of God’s people.

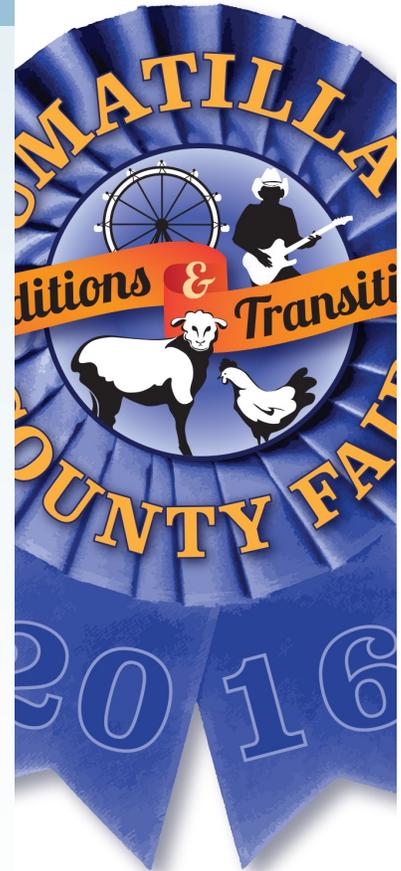
But in other cases, it is not always so clear. The Bible says that if we have enough faith, even faith as small as a mustard seed, that we can move mountains. So reluctance to act courageously can be seen as a lack of faith. On the other hand, the Bible tells us that we are not to tempt the Lord our God. In the context that this verse is used in Matthew 4, it would suggest that we are not to do something reckless and irresponsible and expect God to bail us out.

Roughly six years ago a small band of nomads struck out on a journey of unknown destination. Their wandering wove its way through conversation and prayer, shared space to a space they called home on the Main Street of Hermiston. As they considered this journey as a nomadic people, the quiet that can come with “place” has been disturbed. Once again we are a people in transition.

Putting aside all the pros and cons of staying or going, of seeking another “place of our own” where we can do what we want when we want (really?), do we or don’t we try to yoke with another congregation, maybe the lesson before us is the question of what is important? What gives us identity?

To the Hebrews the desert experience would often be reduced to a couple of different understandings, depending on how things were going. If the perception was that things were well in the land, the desert was the place of demons. Stay Away! If things were not going so well, the desert was remembered as the place where God called and formed a people into unique relationship, therefore unique ministry.

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Mission Update*



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Special points of interest

- A family is like a miniature version of a church
- the quiet that can come with “place” has been disturbed
- We will meet ...to discuss and make decisions about how to go about God’s work as a church.



Working Together

Paul compares the church to a body in I Corinthians 12. Each part of the body is gifted by the Holy Spirit so it can do its part to keep the body running smoothly. A family is like a miniature version of a church. It's a good training ground for teaching its members to work together toward common goals.

Elementary school children should be expected to help with the daily responsibilities of family life. Let them help decide the tasks for which they'll be responsible. They can also help plan and carry out their part of family projects.

Some families hold formal meetings to

make plans and divide responsibilities. Others do it more informally around the dinner table. Either way, self-esteem of children grows as they learn to contribute in their own ways. By building our children's confidence in their abilities to use their gifts within their own families, we help them identify talents that can benefit their church and world.

"A family is like a miniature version of a church. It's a good training ground for teaching its members to work together toward common goals."



Baby Shower and

Dessert for

Kathleen Madore!!

Sunday, August 14th, 4:00 PM

At Grace and Mercy Lutheran
Church

Hope to see you all!!!

Community Connections

1 Corinthians 12:4-6 reminds us that God gives each of us different gifts and talents. What a boring world this would be if we all looked and acted alike! God made some of us singers, others teachers, and others listeners. Help your children recognize their different talents and how they could best be used to share faith.

Use a game to help them think creatively of ways to serve others. Put several items in a bag and have family members draw them out one at a time, suggesting ways they could be used to serve or help others. Items might include: Bible (share God's word); dust cloth (clean the Sunday school area); can of food (collect food for the hungry); picture book (read to someone younger); page of music (sing in a choir); and dollar (give money to those in need).

Choose a project to work on together to benefit your church or community. Some ideas might be: make a matching game for the church nursery by gluing pairs of pictures to index cards; collect food to be distributed to those in need; plant flowers to beautify a park. To save money for the project, make a "We Share Because We Care" bank. Clean an empty nut can that has a plastic lid. Cut an opening in the lid for coins. Cut a paper cover for the can and label it: "We Share Because We Care." To make decoration stamps, cut several small hearts and crosses from perforated foam rubber shoe inserts or foam meat trays. Glue each shape to a small block of wood to create a stamp. Decorate the paper using the stamps and an ink pad. Wrap the paper around the can and tape the ends together.

*(Continued on page 6)
Community Connections*



Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.



LWR School Kits

Imagine having to choose between a meal or purchasing a notebook. Project Promise School Kits are sent to places where even the few required school supplies may be more than a family can afford. Pencils and paper can help write a positive future.

Some important guidelines to remember.

If you are looking to purchase backpacks, the preferred style is often used in the U.S. for youth to carry athletic equipment. Try your local sporting goods store or search online using the keywords, "buy drawstring backpacks."

Before purchasing backpacks, make sure they meet the size requirements (14" x 17") and General Assembly Instructions. We also have a list of suppliers who have appropriate bags available for purchase in bulk. (.pdf)

You can make your own backpacks with our School Kit Backpack Pattern (.pdf)

Please give new items only, except where otherwise noted.

Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, messages or your group's name.

Please do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.

Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed.

All items should be new and in good condition.

Do not enclose the Kit or any of its contents in plastic bags.

Church Happenings

Tapping Into Faith

Scheduled for the last Friday of the month, that would be August 26, we gather at the Hermiston Tavern @ 7pm to engage in a lively discussion and friendship. Topics run the gamut from what is currently in the news to the 2nd Amendment to the meaning of fulfilled. Join us. Bring your friends. Join the patrons of the Hermiston Tavern as we tap into faith, a look at a Christian's response to the world around us. Our next topic: Does God Answer Prayer?

Novel Ideas Book Club

Sometimes A Great Notion is Ken Kesey's second novel, published in 1964. Critics consider *Sometimes a Great Notion* Kesey's magnum opus. The story involves an Oregon family of gyppo loggers who cut and procure trees for a local mill in opposition to striking, unionized workers. Join us Tuesday evening, August 30th @ 5:30ish in the Fellowship Hall for a lively discussion.

If you would like to read ahead, *Swift Flows the River* by Nard Jones will be the book up for discussion at our September gathering.

Congregational Vote on Aug 21.

We encourage you to be in church on the 21st as we formally decide whether to pursue a shared site and seek common ministry with the members of the First United Methodist Church. We have met several times with members to consider how this might look and the ministry that can be undertaken. Please attend to voice your opinion.

Visioning

Beginning Wednesday evening, August 4th @ 6pm we will gather for a time of conversation and reflection to frame a new mission/ministry statement and identified ministry(s) for our new situation. We will close the evening at 7pm with Evening Prayer.

ELCA Churchwide Assembly

Freed and Renewed in Christ

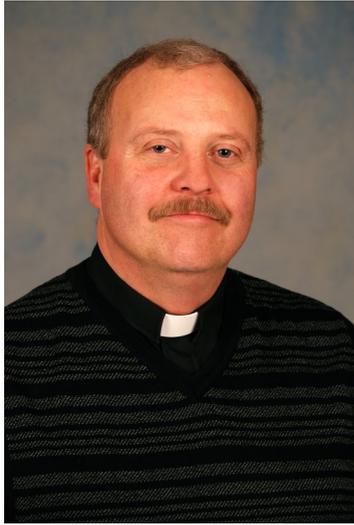
The ELCA Churchwide Assembly, the primary decision-making body of the church, is a process of communal spiritual discernment. Finding ourselves in Christ, the fourteenth Churchwide Assembly will be a time for us to be the living body of Christ guided by the Spirit and conformed to God's will.

We will meet at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 8-13, 2016 to discuss and make decisions about how to go about God's work as a church.

This year the assembly will observe the 500th anniversary of the Reformation under the theme "Freed and Renewed in Christ" and the accompanying tagline "500 years of God's Grace in Action." The 500th anniversary of the Reformation is an opportunity to rejoice in the life-giving, liberating power of the gospel. As part of the observance, we are inviting non-voting members to attend the Grace Gathering, August 10-13, 2016. More information about this event is available at ELCA.org/gracegathering.

When the ELCA Churchwide Assembly convenes, its voting members meet with confidence in God's grace around word and water, wine and bread, to carry on their work on behalf the entire church.

Resources



Rev. Mark Nelson

How do you manage the resources that God has given you? How do you financially care for your family, friends, and those to whom you have responsibility? How do you budget, receive income, pay bills, and keep an accounting of it all? Financial giving and management, along with organizing your time and talents, is all a part of stewardship.

Do you know how your congregation manages its finances? I bet that you've voted on a congregational budget that includes mission support to our Synod and churchwide along with support to a variety of good causes. I'd suspect that some of you have even prepared your congregation's budget by serving on a finance committee or your congregation's church council.

Some of you have been voting members to a Synod Assembly and have passed the Synod's budget. Others have served on Synod Council or the Synod's finance committee and have prepared such a budget. But how are the finances of the Synod managed?

In Region 1 the six synods in Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Alaska and Montana jointly own a Financial Services Office.

We are the only region in our ELCA to do this work together, although recently a few synods have begun to experiment with partnerships modeled after ours. Our Financial Services Office, FSO, has an accountant and bookkeeper. We are located at the University of Washington campus ministry building in Seattle. Our amazing accountant, Alyce Bakker, has been with us since the start of the ELCA. Our bookkeeper position is in the process of being filled. Our former bookkeeper, Leslie Frederick, left this position to join her new husband in Arizona.

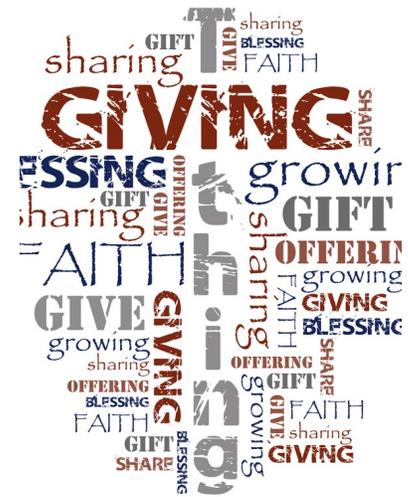
Each month your congregational treasurer sends your mission support dollars to the Region 1 FSO. On a remittance form your treasurer designates what portions of the check he/she has enclosed go to general mission support to our Synod and ELCA, to specific ELCA causes, to designated ministries of the Synod, and to other non-ELCA ministries that your congregation supports through your offerings. Our accountant and bookkeeper receive these gifts and distribute them as your congregational treasurer has directed.

The dollars designated as mission support go into our Synod's account. Our Synod's budget directs how these monies are distributed to our churchwide expression, to campus ministries, or our seminaries and colleges, to social service agencies, outdoor ministries, and a host of other mission partners. FSO also manages our Synod's payroll, pension and medical expenses, and the dollars necessary for running a Synod office. Our FSO also receives grants to our Synod from churchwide. These go to new mission starts, ongoing outreach through our Director for Evangelical Outreach, domestic hunger grants, and many other ministries in our Synod that receive churchwide funding. Our Synod Treasurer, Tami McHugh, directs this good work using the budget passed by our Assem-

bly and updated by our Synod Council.

The Financial Services Office is simply good stewardship. There are many checks and balances, not the least of which is an annual audit of each synod's books as well as the books for the Region. Yes, we pay an outside auditor for this work, but as a region we receive seven audits for the price of what some synods pay for an audit on their own individual books. Also each of six synod treasurers in Region 1 has support and back up for their good work. God has entrusted us with so much. In Region 1 we work together to efficiently put God's gifts to good use!

Rev. Mark Nelson
Coordinator for Missional Leadership
Region 1, ELCA
4525 19th Avenue N. E.
Seattle, WA 98109
206-624-0093



"...let's remember that it is a process of communal spiritual discernment to bring about God's will for God's people."

Over the course of the assembly, voting members:

- Hear reports and review the work of churchwide officers, leaders and units;
- Receive and consider proposals from synod assemblies;
- Elect officers, board members and other leaders as specified by the constitution or bylaws;
- Establish ELCA churchwide policy;
- Worship together;
- Adopt a budget; and
- Conduct other business related to the ELCA churchwide organization.

Let me also highlight one of the important responsibilities of the assembly – the election of the Vice President as well as persons to the Church Council and to churchwide boards and committees. Voting members received information regarding nomination and election

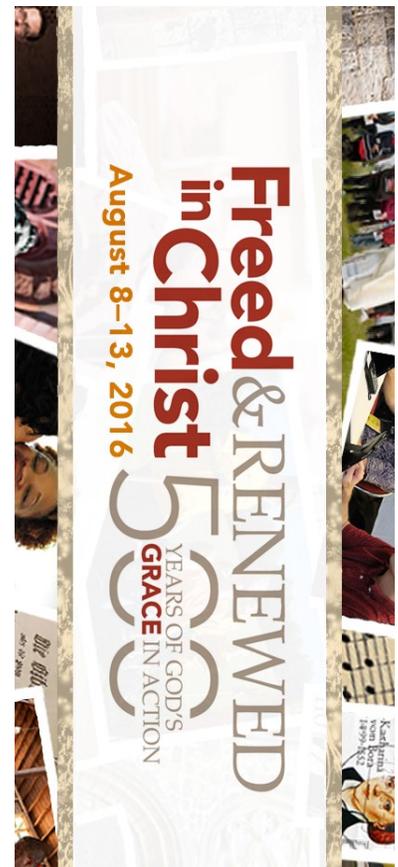
processes earlier this year. Please think about gifted people willing to serve this church.

As we prepare ourselves for the 2016 Churchwide Assembly, let's remember that it is a process of communal spiritual discernment to bring about God's will for God's people. Together, we will worship, pray, engage in Bible study, deliberate and conduct business in plenary sessions.

When members of the assembly participate in and make decisions about the mission and ministry of the ELCA: We are church. We are Lutheran. We are church together. We are church for the sake of the world.

God's blessings,

Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop



Grace and Mercy Welcomes You

Contact Us

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

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Hermiston, OR 97838

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(509) 398-0258 (pastor's cell)

gandmlutheran@gmail.com

Visit us on Facebook at Grace and Mercy Lutheran Church

Dwelling in the Word

11th Sunday after Pentecost - July 31, 2016

"The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones ...'" Luke 12:16-18.



What makes one great? What makes us rich? What makes one secure? It seems to me this question is being debated on the stages of Republican and Democratic National Conventions this month. It is also, additionally, a question for us in the Church.

Do our buildings/barns make us great? If not why do we cling to them so? Does the size of our budget or our program mix tell the story? I don't think so. In fact, the phrase "you fool" is reserved by Jesus specifically for those of us who believe this to be true.

No, it is the God who blesses us abundantly that makes us great. It is the Creator of all who has created all for all who determines and defines faithfulness. What we have is given to us to use and share. We hold what we have lightly, just long enough to give thanks and pass it on. You think?

Bp. Dave

(Continued from page 1)

Mission Update

As we consider our options and the gracious invitation from First United Methodist Church to view their facility as a shared home, this gives us time and opportunity to reflect on our place, our ministry, and our identity. Not simply as the nomadic people known as Grace and Mercy Lutheran Church, but to also consider this identity and ministry as partners, brothers and sisters with the people of the First United Methodist Church.

To that end I invite us all to gather as we are able to consider Mission and Ministry, to reflect on and begin to put into action a ministry that we feel God is calling us to in this place and time. We will begin on Wednesday, August 3 at 6pm. We will meet for about an hour, this time to be followed by a short service of Evening Prayer to close out the day and our discussion. I have set a date of December 31, 2016 to have everything in place. Given our history and the many things that we have been and are involved in, I think that this will be an exciting and fruitful time for us. May God lead in our journey.



(Continued from page 2)

Community Connections

Use the decoration stamps described above to create "We Care" cards. Decorate folded pieces of construction paper. Help each person use the stamps to create a different, but beautiful, effect. Write messages of love inside and send or deliver the cards to a care facility, hospital, or prison.

Create a reminder that each person has God-given talents which can be combined with other people's talents to do God's work. Trace around each person's hand on construction paper. Have the person print his or her name and write or draw a talent on the hand. Cut out the hand prints, group them in a circle, and place them in a circle on a large sheet of white paper and glue them there. At the top of the sheet write: "GOD GIVES US TALENTS."

AUGUST 2016

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

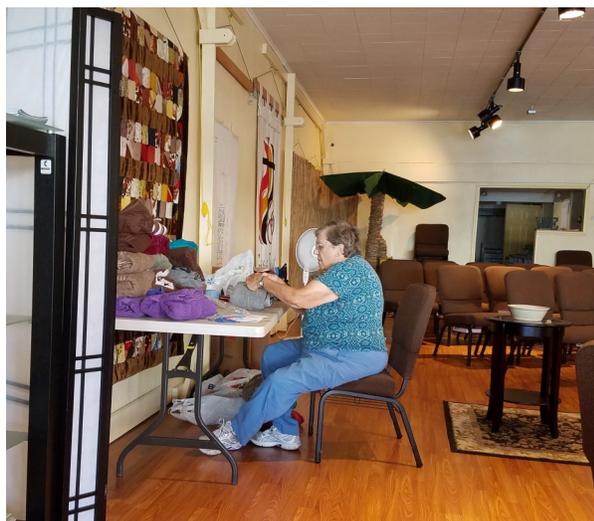
	1 6:32a Next Text Classic 10a Next Text 2.0	2 8a Coffee @ Pheasants	3 6p Visioning 7p Holden Evening Prayer	4 2-4p Terry Moe Conversation	5	6
Pastor Inch—Hermiston						
7 9a Worship & Communion 10:15a Fellowship	8 6:32a Next Text Classic 10a Next Text 2.0	9 8a Coffee @ Pheasants 6:30p Leadership Mtg.	10 10a Gather Study 6p Visioning 7p Holden Evening Prayer	11	12	13
Pastor Inch—Hermiston				Umatilla County Fair		
14 9a Worship & Communion 10:15a Fellowship	15 6:32a Next Text Classic 10a Next Text 2.0	16 8a Coffee @ Pheasants	17 9:30a Foot Clinic 6p Visioning 7p Holden Evening Prayer	18	19	20
Pastor Inch—Hermiston						
21 9a Worship & Communion 10:15a Fellowship 1015a Congregational Vote	22 6:32a Next Text Classic 10a Next Text 2.0	23 8a Coffee @ Pheasants	24 10a Gather Study 6p Visioning 7p Holden Evening Prayer	25	26 7p Tapping Into Faith	27
Pastor Inch—Hermiston						
28 9a Worship & Communion 10:15a Fellowship	29 6:32a Next Text Classic 10a Next Text 2.0	30 8a Coffee @ Pheasants 5:30p Novel Ideas	31 6p Visioning 7p Holden Evening Prayer			
Pastor Inch—Hermiston						

Serving God's People

<i>Date</i>	<i>Reader</i>	<i>Refreshments</i>	<i>Acolyte</i>
Aug 7	Kevin Hedgepeth	Michelle & Kevin Hedgepeth	
Aug 14	Regina Marks	Regina and David Marks	
Aug 21	John Larson	Maxine Rice & Gerry McMullen	
Aug 28	Jerry McMichael	Katja & Jerry McMichael	

Celebrations

<i>Date</i>	<i>Celebration</i>	<i>Celebrant</i>
Aug 2	Baptismal Birthday	Michael Armstrong
Aug 3	Anniversary	Steve and Joni Anderson
Aug 5	Baptismal Birthday	Victoria Armstrong
Aug 10	Birthday	Rosaline John
Aug 15	Birthday	Katriena Ford
Aug 17	Birthday	Jean Ruhl
Aug 19	Birthday	Misty Wilkinson
Aug 27	Birthday	Bob Kasari
Aug 30	Birthday	Barbara Hertenstein



LWR Health Kits are readied for shipping. Thanks to everyone who helped support this vital ministry.