

Grace News

SITE FOR SORE EYES

It used to be at about this time of year I would begin to move from my winter long slumber (roughly July through March) and once again think about walking and running. In Ephrata this usually meant that I would once again take on the soaring heights of Beezley Hill, and I try not to do this alone. I usually try to drag someone along to talk with, Bailey would rather sniff out critters is not much of a conversationalist. Conversation usually focuses around the problems of the world, which by the way I was able to solve on these walks. It is amazing what the early morning air can do for you – the clarity of sight. It usually is an early enough climb that I was able to watch the sunrise. Beautiful! It is always a magnificent sight to watch the sky change colors – from deep blue to a bright orange, and then the cresting of the sun. To do this from the elevation of Beezley Hill adds to the wonder. It is quite a sight (site), and if you are able, I would recommend this early morning walk or one like it (after the snow and ice are gone).

In a few weeks we will read again the cresting of another Son. It is the story of scared and grieving women and men; of angelic visitors and an unexpected empty tomb. Mary and her friends come to the tomb early in the morning hoping to finish preparing the body of Jesus for burial. Lost in grief and sorrow they are met instead by an empty tomb and a visitor who reminds them of what Jesus had already said, “He is not here!” What a sight (site)! Soon they are encountered by their risen Lord, the word soon spreads, grieving and fear turn to joy and proclamation!

Some 2000 years later we have a vantage that is unique. Not only are we able to look back upon the history of the Son’s rising, we are invited to see his rising in the ministry and mission of the Church. Specifically for this congregation it revolves around the process of identifying new avenues of shared ministry. What will be areas of ministry can we share? What are the passion(s) of G&M and FUMC? As we explore, identify and prepare what resources will we need? Do we look for other partners? Do we see ourselves involved in that which are encounters of possibility and joy and proclamation. What a sight (site)!

As we continue our journey through this season of Lent, a journey that takes us to garden and a cross and garden again, are the breezes of the Spirit strong enough to help clear mind and sight to discern the call to joy and proclamation?

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Site for Sore Eyes



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- The Bible calls us to welcome the stranger and treat the sojourner as we would our own citizens
- Search Institute found that serving others as a family, both formally and informally, was one of three factors that affect family religiousness.



LOVE ON THE LOOSE

Think of someone you love a lot. How do you let that person know about your love? Do you draw pictures or use words? Are you extra helpful or kind? During Holy Week, the week before Easter, Jesus shows us how to love each other and how he has loved us. One day especially made for this is Maundy Thursday. That's the Thursday right before Easter. The word "Maundy" comes from a Latin word which means "command." So, Maundy Thursday is the day we remember Jesus' command: "Love one another as I have loved you."

In worship on that day, people often do two things to show that love. One is a special ceremony for washing feet. That action doesn't mean the same thing to us that it did for people in Jesus' time, because we usually wear socks and shoes. But in Jesus' time, people wore sandals and they walked everywhere. Their feet got very dusty and dirty. It was a servant's job to wash guests' feet when they

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Love on the Loose*

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PEACE IT ALL TOGETHER

Micah 6:8 reminds us that God wants us to do justice and be fair and loving with others. Working for peace in the world — that's a tough order! Help children feel they are taking an active part in peacemaking by starting at home.

A key to a peaceful world is understanding that despite our differences, we all have much in common. Look at pictures of other cultures, such as those in a geographic magazine or the five-volume "Visiting in the Global Village" series (Augsburg Fortress Publishers, codes 15-9678, 15-9679, 15-9680, 15-9681, 15-9682). What might the people shown in those resources worry about, and what might make them happy? Share stories from other cultures. Explore the "Friends Around the World"

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Peace It All Together*

REACHING OUT

Elementary children love to help others. Nurture your children's desire to help others by serving others as a family. Look for opportunities to help others through your church, or community. Help collect necessities for victims of a disaster. Put together and distribute holiday food baskets. Serving others through the church is an important way of living our faith,



but it's equally important for children to know that we can informally help others as well. Encourage your children to look for ways your family could assist others. A new mother might appreciate it if you provided a dinner. A neighbor with a broken leg might need someone to walk the dog. Talk with someone who is new to your school, or community, or the country.

In *Effective Christian Education: A National Study of Protestant Congregations* (1990), Search Institute found that serving others as a family, both formally and informally, was one of three factors that affect family religiousness. And family religiousness is one of the two most powerful influences on the faith maturity of youth. Helping others as a family promotes the unity of the family, increases the self-esteem of family members, and nurtures the growing faith in our children.



ELCA PRESIDING BISHOP RESPONDS TO ATTACKS ON JEWISH COMMUNITY

February 22, 2017

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

These famous words attributed to the German Lutheran pastor Martin Niemöller have been on my lips in recent days: *"Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out – because I was not a Jew. ... Then they came for me – and there was no one left to speak for me."*

In the face of anti-Semitism, we are called to speak out – as an expression of our love of neighbor and as our faithful response to the love of God in Jesus. In doing so, we become ambassadors of hope in the face of despair, imitators of Christ.

Our Jewish neighbors are once again living under threats, fearful for their safety and security. Over the weekend, a Jewish cemetery in St. Louis was desecrated, and on Monday, another wave of bomb threats was made to Jewish community centers across the country. This was at least the fourth round this year alone. As Christians, we affirm that Jews remain "beloved of God" and that an attack on them is an attack on those whom our God – the one God – has called "my people."

In many places, with leadership from across this church, we are reaching out and showing up with our Jewish neighbors, often with ecumenical and inter-religious partners. We can and should continue and expand these important ministries of presence.

There is also the critical long-term work. As a church, in our 1994 Declaration to the Jewish Community, we have pledged "to oppose the deadly working of such bigotry, both within our own circles and in the society around us." This will not happen quickly. It will take concerted efforts to correct "the complicity of our own tradition within this history of hatred" and to seek deeper mutual understanding and cooperation between Lutheran Christians and the Jewish community. We have many excellent resources to aid us in these complicated but necessary tasks: ELCA.org/en/Faith/Ecumenical-and-Inter-Religious-Relations/Inter-Religious-Relations/Jewish-Relations.

So, let us continue to speak out, to reach out, to show up, and to root out this deadly bigotry of anti-Semitism. For the courage to do God's will, and for the peace of our Jewish neighbors, we pray.

In peace,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton

Dwelling in the Word Transfiguration - February 21, 2017

Matthew 17:1-9

"Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah . . ." It is my privilege this Sunday to preach at Trinity Lutheran Church in Dallas. They are in an interim process looking towards the call of a new pastor. I already know my opening sentence from this Transfiguration sermon. "Today we get to talk about letting go of what we have known, loved and assumed in favor of a wonder we haven't even imagined yet!"

This is what happens to Peter, James and John, right? All they have known and loved, all they have committed themselves to, the Law and Prophets - all fades away in the presence of Jesus!

Jesus has been talking about this for several weeks now. "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the prophets . . ." "You have heard that is was said, but I say to you . . ." Hmm, playing both sides of the aisle it sounds like to me. But, this is the point, isn't it? It's hard. What now do we do as this 'Sermon on the Mount conversation' becomes concrete? Are we going to make three dwellings where only one should stand? I think not! Rather, we will follow Jesus out to the margins where the sick and outcast are. That's where Matthew takes us. It is now the city, more than the synagogue, to which we are called. (And of course, liturgically, we're going there too. Off into Lent. Out towards the cross.)

Well, all of this can be said of looking forward to a new pastor, too. Do we hang on to the old? (Of course not.) Do we seek to replicate what has been? (Not a good idea.) I should think it also applies to your congregation's ministry, whatever you are up to.

And, it may be that this is true of the day and age in which we live. Is our relationship to the 'Law and Prophets American style' the same? Is that which we've held on to still dependable? Are new pathways and new patterns called for? Take the pulpit, Pastor. You're on.

The good news, of course, is that starting March 1 we have 40 days to talk about it.

Blessings,

Bp. Dave

GRACE AND MERCY LUTHERAN 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

Worship: Sunday Morning @ 8:45 @
First United Methodist Church, 191
E. Gladys

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Site for Sore Eyes

Are we ready to live into the words of commission and command: "All authority is given to me. Go and make disciples..., baptize and teach them all that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always to the end of the age"?

The early morning is a wonderful time. The sun rises, a new day begins. A gift, and challenge from our God who calls us from the night.

AGAPE HOUSE is the focus of our local benevolence for the month of March. Please consider where you can help.



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Love on the Loose

visited someone's home. On Maundy Thursday, people's feet are washed to remind us that we show our love by serving each other.

Another way Jesus shows his love is through a special meal called Holy Communion or the Lord's Supper. It may not seem like much to eat or drink, but it's a very important meal. At this meal Jesus is present just as he has promised. At home on this day do an act of loving kindness for someone in your family. Call or write a letter to a grandparent or to someone in the hospital or in prison.

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Peace It All Together

series (Augsburg Fortress Publishers — including "Pam Mann's Friends in Africa," code 15-8118), which contain a variety of mission activities.

Write post cards with prayers thanking God for all living things; asking for God's care; and for peace and freedom everywhere. Add decorative designs with markers if you like. Send them to friends and family who live elsewhere.

Make an "Earth Flag" to display. Obtain a picture of the world and copy it onto a square of fabric. Have family members color the continents and oceans with fabric pens or markers. Cut out the picture and glue it or stitch it onto a 2' x 3' piece of felt or nylon. On felt squares, trace gingerbread boys and girls, making one figure per family member. Glue the figures in circle around the picture of the world to represent your family's efforts to join in peace-making.

The paper crane has become a symbol of peace worldwide. Obtain a book on Japanese origami to learn how to fold a paper crane. Hang several from a hanger to make a peace mobile.

Pray a prayer asking for peace. Then ask the family to think of ways they wish to work for peace in their daily lives. Invite them to pray for God's help in doing this.



Feb 10, 2017

To better serve our community, improve communications, and explore areas of need, Agape House will be hosting four meetings this year. Meetings will be on Saturday mornings with a light continental breakfast. The dates

are March 25, June 3, Sept. 23, and Nov. 4. Meetings will begin at 9:00 and conclude by 10:30am.

We are limited to 20-25 participants to ensure a good exchange of ideas. We would like to encourage the pastor and one other person to attend. Each meeting will cover the same topics: Services provided; Family Promise; Areas not be addressed in our community; Presentation of a cloud base information sharing system; other topics of interest.

Serving God's People

<i>Date</i>	<i>Reader</i>	<i>Refreshments</i>	<i>Acolyte</i>
Mar 5	Dot Hensley	Hensley Clan	Laura & Daniel
Mar 12	JoAn Hill	Ruth Kunningrud, JoAn Hill	Mickenzie & Karlee
Mar 19	Phil Schmidt	Maxine Rice, Geri McMullen	Micah & Chloé
Mar 26	Dawn Largé	Amber Cooper/Dawn Largé	Joseph & Lucas

Celebrations

<i>Date</i>	<i>Celebration</i>	<i>Celebrant</i>
Mar 2	Birthday	Kevin Hedgepeth
Mar 4	Birthday	Gavin Rosenburg
Mar 16	Birthday	David Largé
Mar 17	Birthday	Dwight Osborne
Mar 18	Birthday	Steve Anderson
Mar 22	Anniversary	Robert & Sheila Cozad
Mar 24	Birthday	Jacqui Sellers
Mar 30	Birthday	Kathleen Madore

March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 9a Pastor @ Starbuck's 6p Service— FUMC Host Pastor Inch	2 1p Quilters	3	4
5 1 Lent 8:45a Worship & Communion 10:15a Fellowship & Education 5p Prison	6 6:32a Next Text 9:30a Next Text 2.0	7 8a Coffee @ Pheasants	8 9a Pastor @ Starbuck's 9a Gather Study 6p Soup Supper 7p Service— FUMC Host	9 1p Quilters	10	11
Pastor Inch—Hermiston						
12 2 Lent 8:45a Worship & Communion 10:15a Fellowship & Education	13 6:32a Next Text 9:30a Next Text 2.0	14 8a Coffee @ Pheasants 6:30p Leadership Team	15 9a Pastor @ Starbuck's 9:30a Foot Clinic 6p Soup Supper 7p Service—G&M Host	16 1p Quilters	17	18
Pastor Inch—Hermiston						
19 3 Lent 8:45a Worship & Communion 10:15a Fellowship & Education	20 6:32a Next Text 9:30a Next Text 2.0 11:45a Chamber Luncheon 7P Hispanic Adv. Council	21 8a Coffee @ Pheasants	22 9a Pastor @ Starbuck's 9a Gather Study 6p Soup Supper 7p Service—St. John Episcopal—Host	23 1p Quilters	24	25
Pastor Inch—Hermiston						
26 4 Lent 8:45a Worship & Communion 10:15a Fellowship & Education	27 6:32a Next Text 9:30a Next Text 2.0	28 8a Coffee @ Pheasants 5:30p Novel Ideas	29 9a Pastor @ Starbuck's 6p Soup Supper 7p Service— FUMC Host	30 1p Quilters	31 7p Tapping Into Faith	
Pastor Inch—Hermiston						



Lenten Services

FUMC/G&M: 191 E. Gladys Avenue
St. John's Episcopal: 953 E. Gladys Avenue
Hermiston, OR

3/1 (Wed)	6pm Ash Wednesday service (FUMC hosts)
3/8 (Wed)	6pm soup/bread 7pm Lenten service (FUMC hosts)
3/15 (Wed)	6pm soup/bread 7pm Lenten service (G&M hosts)
3/22 (Wed)	6pm soup/bread 7pm Lenten service (St. John's hosts)
3/29 (Wed)	6pm soup/bread 7pm Lenten service (FUMC hosts)
4/5 (Wed)	6pm soup/bread 7pm Lenten service (G&M hosts)
4/9 (Sun)	11:00am Joint Palm Sunday Service (FUMC hosts)
4/13 (Thurs)	7:00pm Maundy Thursday service (G&M hosts)
4/14 (Fri)	7:00pm Good Friday service (G&M hosts)
4/15 (Sat)	7:30 – 10:30am Peter Rabbit Breakfast
4/16 (Sun)	6:30am Worship at the Butte (FUMC hosts) 10:30am Joint Easter Service & Breakfast (G&M hosts)