

# Grace News

## BIG WINDS

I am really impressed by what the wind can accomplish. As a child in New England I remember one such wind that rearranged the landscape around our home. To this day it is the only Hurricane that I have experienced. The storm itself lasted about four days – rain, dark clouds, occasional flashes of lightening. Yet it is the wind that I remember – howling, driving the rain horizontally. In all my bravery I remember opening the storm door, just a crack, and sticking my finger out into the maelstrom. When all was said and done trees that once stood majestic lining our yard were now broken and twisted.

The second great wind took place on the plains of the Dakotas. Riding my cycle west, nearing the Missouri River, a wind came up that I could no longer navigate. I pulled my bike to the side of the road and leaned backwards, being upheld as the traffic went by. As quickly as it started, it stopped, but I wasn't ready, and down the embankment I tumbled. When I reached the rest area above the river I asked the docent what had happened. "You didn't see? A Tornado just went through" and then he showed me the scar that had been left on the plains.

"And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind... Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared on them... All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak..."  
Acts 2:2-4 (partially)

Pentecost has always held a certain fascination for me, and it is because of the beginning of the story—a big wind comes and all sorts of change takes place. The story of Pentecost tells us at least three things:

- A Promise is fulfilled

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**Big Winds**



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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- The Lutheran Reformation offers to Christian communities everywhere a liberating way of listening to and speaking the Scriptures. *me*
- The promise of presence of Jesus, revealed in the blowing and indwelling of the Holy Spirit, results in the action and ministry of the community within the greater community.

## BARNYARD ROUNDUP!!!



July 31 - August 4

"What is the Barnyard Roundup VBS? In Barnyard Roundup VBS, your children learn that Jesus, our Good Shepherd, gathers us together!"

They'll look into the Bible, God's Holy Word, and explore five farm-tastic Bible accounts that teach us how God is with us, provides for all our needs, and protects us now and forever! Jesus, our Savior, cares, provides, leads, and forgives us! "

Gather 'Round Songs, Skits  
Storytelling, Science in the Sheep Pen  
Bible Challenge, Bales of Fun Games  
Bountiful Blessing Snacks, Udderly Cool Crafts

Family Night Thursday!

Contact Michelle to find out what you can do!  
541.297.0050 or magoo@presys.comVBS



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*Jesus, our Good Shepherd, gathers us together!*

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## THE FOUNDATION 4 ORPHANS

Dr. Jim recently received an email from Rev. Wayne Lavender, executive director for Foundation for Orphans. Rev. Wayne came through and spoke with us (First United Methodist Church) just before General Conference last year. Here is a part of his communication:

The Foundation 4 Orphans (of which I am the executive director) is planning on a trip to Mozambique this October. This will be a VIP VIM trip. I am working on getting 10 - 12 UMC leaders to come with me. The trip will be from October 6 - 18 and cost approximately \$4,000. We will spend a few days in the capital, Maputo, getting adjusted and meeting with the bishop and her staff and learning of their issues. Then we will visit the first orphanage we constructed in Cambine, travel to Dondo to there dedicate an orphanage that is being built now, and to a third site where we will have a ground



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Foundation 4 Orphans

## "FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS" PRAY. FAST. ACT.



On May 18, 2017, the presiding bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Episcopal Church issued a joint invitation to a season of prayer, fasting and advocacy. The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, presiding bishop of the ELCA and The Most Reverend Michael Curry, presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church, extended this call out of concern for proposed deep cuts to programs that are vital to hungry people struggling with poverty. They summon our churches to practices of spiritual devotion that undergird a discipline of public witness with and on behalf of the neighbor.

ELCA Advocacy will support this call, equipping the ELCA Advocacy Network by:

1. Sending resources early each month to support faith practices of prayer and fasting, along with background materials to equip advocates to prevent elected leaders from cutting programs that work to eliminate hunger and poverty across the country and around the world or adopting policies that would harm our most vulnerable brothers and sisters. Each month will lift up a different area of concern, including food, water, racial justice, immigration and the environment.
2. Encouraging Lutherans to prayer and fasting on the 21st day of each month through the close of the 115th Congress. We fast on the 21st of the month because that is the day when 90% of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits run out for families, making the remainder of the month a hungry time. On this day, an advocacy alert will also invite participants to speak their faith by sending a message to their members of Congress.

Here is how to join us as we pray, fast and act together in this important time:

- Join the ELCA Advocacy network and invite your friends and family.
- Read Bread for the World's Fasting Guide in English and Guiao de Ayuno in Spanish.
- Speak your faith on social media using the hashtag #ForSuchATime and follow ELCA Advocacy updates on Twitter and Facebook.

The symbol for the fast is burlap, representing the sackcloth worn by the Jewish people in their time of mourning. It can be worn as a stole in public events.

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Pray, Fast, Act*

### Dwelling in the Word

Easter 7 - May 28, 2017  
John 17:1-11

"Father, the hour has come ..."

This Sunday is the last of the Easter Season. Tomorrow, Thursday May 25, is Ascension. Yes, the hour has come. Things are changing. A response is called for, from God in this case. Jesus' job is done. The next chapter needs to be read, Change is in the wind. How many ways can we say this?

Jesus' prayer asks three things:

Glorify the Son;

Protect the people;

Let them be one.

Next Sunday will be Pentecost. God's response to Jesus' prayer will be made known to all. This answer will come as fire from heaven. It will be heard as words in a familiar tongue. These words and this fire will ignite the hearts and souls of many. Water will flow. People will find their personal and corporate agency. The Church will arise.

But not yet. This Sunday there is simply a prayer. That is to say there is prayer, reflection, evaluation, love, completion and the incomplete. "The hour has come." Yes. It is a time, a moment, a movement, a shift. There is work unique to this hour and it is not yet birth. The work here is preparation, petition, protection.

For what might you and your community be praying for in the ending/beginning you behold?

Bp. Dave





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*Foundation 4 Orphans*

breaking ceremony for our next orphanage. Following this exhausting schedule we will stop at a resort for 2 days of R & R and discussions of what we saw and how we can move forward in productive ways as partners with those in need.

I want to extend this invitation to you to join us.

I of course know this is in the midst of the autumn season - and I don't know if you have ever been to sub-Saharan Africa before, but I hope you will seriously consider joining us - it will be an unbelievable experience and in many ways life changing. If you cannot join us, maybe there is someone there in your church who was touched by my talk, or someone you know - who might really want to participate in this trip.

Also:

I am looking for speaking engagements for 2018. I would like to come out that way and find 3 - 4 locations in which to speak on a Sunday and then during the week. The Foundation 4 Orphans can cover my expenses there and back - we are always looking to plant seeds and see what God will do with them.

Well, I hope you have been able to read this while sitting down! Its a lot to throw at you at once. But I do hope you will prayerfully consider these items and get back to me at your convenience.

In peace-

Wayne

Rev. Wayne Lavender, Ph.D.  
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Executive Director, The Foundation 4 Orphans  
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## **Kenya '18**

**KENYA JANUARY  
2018:**



Donations are now being accepted for the newly scheduled 2018 Kenya Mission of the First United Methodist Church.

*We will have a special presentation on Kenya Sunday, June 25th.*

*(Continued from page 1)*

### **Big Winds**

- A Presence is known
- A Community moves

As we move through the season of Pentecost our focus is generally on the latter of the three—the community in action. But this is only possible if we hear the promise of Jesus, to remain until.... And that **until** is revealed in wind, something as fire, and the action of the community in ways previously unthought of or unknown. The promise of presence of Jesus, revealed in the blowing and indwelling of the Holy Spirit, results in the action and ministry of the community within the greater community.

And here we are, a community living in the fulfillment of promise; the Spirit blowing around us compelling us to minister to those around us in ways unthought of or considered—or maybe it is to join others who experience the wind of God which has changed the world.



**"I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name-the name you gave me-so that they may be one as we are one."**

John 17:11 (NIV)

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<https://wphstore.com/>

## 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

**Novel Ideas** meets on the final Tuesday of the month (June 27th). Doors to Davis Hall open 5:30ish PM. Bring something to munch on and a desire for conversation. The book for June is *Chicago*, by Brian Doyle, "On the last day of summer, a young college grad moves to Chicago and rents a small apartment on the north side of the city, by the lake. This is the story of the five seasons he lives there, during which he meets gangsters, gamblers, policemen, a brave and garrulous bus driver, a cricket player, a librettist, his first girlfriend, a shy apartment manager, and many other riveting souls, not to mention a wise and personable dog of indeterminate breed."

For you fast readers, the book for July is *The Road*, by Cormac McCarthy

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**Pray, Fast, Act**

How do we fast? We are calling for prayer, fasting, and advocacy. Fasting is an effort to clear our bodies, our hearts, and our minds from the distractions around us so that we may be more present to God. Fasting from food is one option that many will choose. But we invite people to take on other disciplines of self-denial, such as fasting from technology, or particular habits, which will help them rely more fully on God.

These days of fasting should also be days of advocacy to oppose cuts to public programs that help hungry people living in poverty. Individuals or congregations who participate in the fast will receive updates, prayer and advocacy action opportunities by signing up for either the Episcopal Public Policy Network or ELCA Advocacy.

Prayer accompanies and undergirds the disciplines of fasting and advocacy. It roots our actions in our total reliance on God's loving grace and mercy. Turning to God in prayer shapes our advocacy and informs our fasting, grounding our actions in God's call to love and serve our neighbor.

Are there symbols for the fast? Fast leaders invite others engaging in public actions around the to wear stoles of burlap to represent the sackcloth worn by the Jewish people in their time of lamentation.

Bp. Elizabeth Eaton



## Why the Reformation Is Still Relevant

The Lutheran Reformation offers to Christian communities everywhere a liberating way of listening to and speaking the Scriptures. The Reformation teaching that Christ's life flows through faith into a life of service to the neighbor is especially liberating in our culture today.

The evangelical Lutheran Reformation offers the promise of God's love that makes possible a life of "living, daring confidence in God's grace."



The Reformation teaching that faith is the work of God's Holy Spirit is especially liberating in a culture that assumes a faith relationship with God is an act of human "free will."

Many, both within Christian communities and beyond, are held captive by ideologies that limit the full scope of God's mercy in Christ to

demographic groups defined sociologically by certain beliefs, behaviors or experiences. The Reformation teaching that Christ's life flows through faith into a life of service to the neighbor is especially liberating in a culture that makes religious life into a demonstration of one's own worthiness and privilege to the disadvantage of others.

### Serving God's People

<i>Date</i>	<i>Reader</i>	<i>Refreshments</i>	<i>Acolyte</i>
Jun 4	Steve Anderson	Andersons	
Jun 11	Kids	Potluck	
Jun 18	Steve or Phil	Ruhl & Ruhl	
Jun 25	Jerry McMichael	McMichaels	

### Celebrations

<i>Date</i>	<i>Celebration</i>	<i>Celebrant</i>
Jun 2	Birthday	Edward Largé
Jun 2	Birthday	Connor McMichael
Jun 8	Birthday	Cheyenne Wilkinson
Jun 10	Birthday	Sheila Cozad
Jun 14	Baptismal Birthday	Joseph Cooper
Jun 16	Birthday	Janet Boyd
Jun 18	Anniversary	Flora & John Larson
Jun 18	Anniversary	Dorothy & Phil Schmidt
Jun 18	Birthday	Melissa Rosenberg
Jun 21	Birthday	Michelle Hedgepeth
Jun 22	Anniversary	Kathleen & Danny Madore
Jun 23	Baptismal Birthday	Juliette Krueger
Jun 25	Birthday	Cindy Inch
Jun 30	Birthday	Talia Armstrong

# June 2017

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 2 3

1p Quilting

4 **Pentecost Sunday**  
8:45a Worship & Communion  
10a Educational Hour

5  
6:32a Next Text  
9:30a Next Text 2.0

6  
8a Coffee

7

8

9

10

1p Quilting

Pastor Inch—Hermiston

11 **The Holy Trinity**  
10:30a Combined Service  
11:30a Celebration Potluck

12  
6:32a Next Text  
9:30a Next Text 2.0

13  
8a Coffee

6:30p Leadership Team

14 **Flag Day**  
10a Gather Study

15

16

17

1p Quilting

Pastor Inch—Hermiston

18 **2 Pentecost Father's Day**  
8:45a Worship & Communion

19  
6:32a Next Text  
9:30a Next Text 2.0

20  
8a Coffee

21 **Summer Begins**  
9a Foot Clinic

22

23

24 **John the Baptist**

1p Quilting

Pastor Inch—Hermiston

25 **3 Pentecost**  
8:45a Worship & Communion

26  
6:32a Next Text  
9:30a Next Text 2.0

27  
8a Coffee

28

10a Gather Study

29 **Peter and Paul. Apostles**

30

1p Quilting

7p Tapping Into Faith

11a Kenya '18 Presentation

Pastor Inch—Hermiston