

Monitor

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA

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GRACE

BY: REV. JONATHAN ZIELSKE | PASTOR



"We are gathered by God's grace to share hope, to share our abundance, and to reach out to all our neighbors." – Our Mission Statement

As you must know by now, I like to play with words and images. I recall a time a few years ago when we seemed to be at a low ebb and were grumbling with one another; I said in a sermon that there is a reason we are not Mope Lutheran Church, but Hope Lutheran Church! Today, as I reflect on the mission statement that we agreed to adopt at our Annual Meeting, I am proud of what we are claiming as our mission. Playing with words again, it does not say we are gathered to share how to cope. There are people and institutions that make that their highest aim, to try and help people just get by, to eke out at least something positive in this life. Yet precisely because "We are gathered by God's grace", we see and know how much more there is to this life. I suspect most of you have heard this before but I like to share this acronym: Grace is

God's **R**iches **A**t **C**hrist's **E**xpense.

With God's riches lavished on us through Jesus Christ, we have tremendous hope to share, and amazing abundance to share. And the more we share it, the more there is of it to go around. There is no scarcity of good things in God's kingdom! It never ceases to amaze me how in his earthly life, Jesus always drew the circle of who is included wider than even his own closest followers were comfortable with. Read the Gospel stories and take notice of how often this is the case!

So it is that we too, as followers of Jesus Christ, are called "to reach out to all our neighbors." This includes our Hmong neighbors, our Latino neighbors, our Native American and African-American neighbors, and the whole spectrum of new immigrants and long time residents. And of course, our identification of "And who is my neighbor?" doesn't stop with those who are within walking (or even driving) distance of where we are. We also feel called to reach out to our neighbors in Guatemala and Tanzania and many other parts of the world where, as a part of the wider Church that we call the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we are serving as the hands and feet of Christ.

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END OF AN ERA IN GUATEMALA

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven” Ecclesiastes 3:1

Last September, Bishop Castillo celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination, and the previous year, the ILAG celebrated their 20th anniversary. And now the time has now come for La Iglesia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala (ILAG) to announce the retirement of Bishop Horacio Castillo.

“Bishop Castillo has been the visionary founder and leader of this church for so many years,” shared Janet Metcalfe, chair of the SPAS Companion Synod Task Force. “Along with Pastor Esther Castillo and their family, they have committed their lives to working among the poorest of the poor. We are so grateful for his faithful service and selfless devotion to building this church.”

This latest transition comes in the wake of the recent departure of Pastors Amanda Olson de Castillo and Horacio Castillo, Jr., who relocated to St. Paul earlier this year. Pastor Karen Castillo, daughter of Bishop and Esther Castillo, has been elected President of the ILAG, and they have added additional staff to the pastoral team. “We have full confidence that Pastor Karen will be able to lead the church effectively and faithfully,” shared Janet Metcalfe. “This transition has also created the space for other pastors and leaders in the ILAG to step into new roles, and they are doing that. We will continue to support them with our prayers and our love.”

Because of the relationship that Pastor Jonathan and many other members of Hope have developed with the Bishop and the Castillo family over the years, Pastor Jonathan will be traveling to Guatemala this month from February 6 to 11 to be present and to support ILAG at their National Council meeting at which these transitions will be formally recognized. Your prayers for Pastor Jonathan's safe travel and for the ongoing ministry of ILAG are most welcomed. Thank you to many of you who have generously made gifts for Pastor's travel expenses and for a gift to the Bishop.

GRACE. cont. from Page 1

I ask that you will spend some time with this mission statement and not only pray about it and come up with your own reflections about it, but let the words sink in deeply so that you have them memorized, not only in your mind, but also in your heart.

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

On February 20 at 6 PM we will join with Moms Food Shelf to learn and celebrate Black History Month. There will be delicious food, music, and guest speaker, Marius Massie. All donations received will go towards helping Moms Food Shelf grow, in order to better serve the east side.

TOOL KIT FOR CONGREGATION LEADERS

On Saturday, February 22, Saint Paul Area Synod is hosting the annual Tool Kit for Congregational Leaders at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in North Saint Paul. Cost is \$20 per person and includes lunch.

Tool Kit is a training event for congregational leaders that features extended conversation with Bishop Rogness, networking opportunities with leaders from congregations throughout this synod, and workshops with information specific to leadership matters and concerns. We strongly encourage you to attend. Workshop topics include:

Engaging Your Community
Change! What Does That Mean?
When the Pitcher Runs Dry
Discipleship
Difficult Conversations / Deepening Connections ...and many more!

To register and see the full workshop list please visit: www.spas-elca.org/events/toolkit OR contact the Hope Church office.

THANK YOU

A huge thanks to everyone who braved the cold weather to come out for the annual meeting on Sunday, January 26. It was great to have everyone there, and to enjoy our community meal afterwards.

-Judy Dorner, President

ADULT FORUMS

On **Sunday, February 2**, we will be sharing a survey that has everything to do with "Hearing the Cries of the People." This survey is asking you to share: "In the past year, have you or someone you know...

-- struggled to find employment, had difficulty making a mortgage or rent payment, been injured by a gun, been uninsured or under-insured for health care, and other concerns.

We are taking this survey along with members of Iglesia Promesa de Dios, Scherlom Church, and families that come to Moms Food Shelf. We hope to gather at least 100 surveys in the coming weeks. Please plan to fill one out - these surveys are anonymous - we are not gathering any names and any info you give about yourself is entirely optional. Please come on Sunday to learn more about how this information will be used and watch for further updates about this.

On **Sunday, February 9**, Pastor Grant Stevenson will be our guest preacher, and we will watch a video about Martin Luther King, Jr in honor of Black History Month. Pastor Jonathan will be in Guatemala City at the Lutheran Center for the Bishop Horacio Castillo's Retirement and Karen Castillo's installation as president of the ILAG.

On **Sunday, February 16**, Pastor Jonathan will show a video about the growing and exciting ministries of the Lutheran Church in Guatemala (ILAG) and share photos and stories from his recent trip.

On **Sunday, February 23**, we will have an intergenerational Exchange; a hands-on service project opportunity; further details will be forthcoming but we will likely be collecting kitchen and toiletry items for women who have been forced to flee their homes due to domestic abuse.

WORSHIP NOTES

On **Souper Bowl Sunday, February 2** we will collect an offering for our local food shelves, splitting the funds between Moms Food Shelf and Merrick Community Services, each of which do excellent work providing for needy families here on the East Side. The preaching text is John 4:1-42; Jesus meets a Samaritan woman at a well and tells her that he himself is a source of living water.

On **February 9**, the focus of the service is on healing as Jesus returns to Cana in Galilee and heals an official's son in John 4:46-54. Immediately following this sign, in John 5:1-18, we hear of Jesus healing of a man on the sabbath.

On **February 16**, we are entreated to understand Jesus as the bread that came down from heaven. In chapter six of John, Jesus teaches, "Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

On **February 23**, Jesus provides another life-giving image as he implores of us, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink" (John 7:37-38).

Looking ahead, Lent will begin with Ash Wednesday on March 5th this year.

BOOK CLUB

This month we will be reading *And the Mountains Echoed* by Khaled Hosseini, author of *The Kite Runner*. *And the Mountains Echoed* is a novel about the love of family, and how our choices reverberate through generations. Join us on Tuesday, February 25 at 4 PM for a discussion.

MEN'S NITE OUT!

The next Men's Nite Out is Friday, February 21 - 6:30 PM. Mark your calendar. Location is TBA.

Please email Incowan@gmail.com or call 612-280-2751 for more information.

BOOK OF FAITH

Our Monday morning Bible study was cancelled twice in January because of the bitter cold temperatures so we will be picking up on February 3 with John, chapter nine. This is the story of another of Jesus' miraculous signs as he heals a man born blind. On the 10th, we will read the beloved chapter ten in which Jesus speaks of himself as the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep. On the 17th, we will learn about the death of Jesus' friend Lazarus and his dramatic response to it. And, then on the 24th, we will already be moving to chapter twelve and Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

SERVICE TEAMS

FEBRUARY

Team Lead:	Mike & Judy Dornier	651-450-2277
	Ken & Karen Barrett	651-771-0017
	Karen Ehlert	651-714-5222
	Carol Goodwill	651-578-8753
	Fred & Lorraine Schreiber	651-771-8483
	Jonathan & Anne Zielske	651-222-5264

MARCH

Team Lead:	Cindy Heitman	651-773-0404
	Larry & Nancy Cowan	651-770-1108
	Howard Drager	651-777-9563
	Lucille Gebhard	651-777-6288
	Vern & Inez Kenyon	651-483-6454
	Carol Martinson	651-776-6469
	Gina Ricci	651-774-9779
	Clara Sorenson	651-704-0920

LECTORS

2	Aaron Brink-Johnson	612-716-7593
9	Dave Schiller	651-771-0792
16	Nancy Schiller	651-771-0792
23	Don Young	651-283-1767

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

2	Larry Cowan & Aileen Wahlstedt	612-280-2751 651-484-0450
9	Dave Schiller & Irene Cline	651-771-0792 651-778-8341
16	Sara Thomas & Aaron Brink-Johnson	651-357-7245 651-771-0792
23	Ken & Karen Barrett	651-771-0017

BIRTHDAYS

4	Mike Dornier
4	Lucille Gebhard
5	Judy Dornier
9	Brenda Reichow
22	Vern Kenyon
26	Elvera Ufer

ANNIVERSARIES

14	Mike and Judy Dornier
15	Greg and Kathy White

COMMUNITY HUDDLE NOTES

SUBMITTED BY: NANCY COWAN

January 14, 2014

Attending: Nancy Schiller, Larry Cowan, Carol Overland, Judy Dornier, Irene Cline, Don Young, Nancy Cowan, Pastor Jonathan

The meeting opened with a devotion and prayer led by Pastor Jonathan.

The leadership positions to be elected are president, secretary, Mission Support and Congregation Mission and Outreach.

There was extensive discussion regarding the budgets of 2013 and 2014. Several committees have come under budget, realizing substantial savings. Significant reductions have been made in the proposed 2014 budget to be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting.

A motion to move \$8,000.00 from the Education Endowment Fund to the savings account at Premier Bank was approved. It will be held for major expenditures such as for a new boiler in the parish building.

A suggestion to improve the outside signage will be discussed at the next huddle. The next meeting will be February 2 and Nancy Schiller will provide supper.

FEBRUARY 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<p>1</p> <p>9 AM Scherlom Church</p> <p>7 PM Scherlom Church</p>
<p>2</p> <p>9:30 AM Worship: Souper Bowl Sunday</p> <p>11 AM Adult Forum</p> <p>1 PM Iglesia Promesa de Dios</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:30 AM Bible Study</p> <p>11 AM Staff Meeting</p>	<p>4</p> <p>5:30 PM Mission Support Team</p>	<p>5</p> <p>3 PM After School Program</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6 PM Iglesia Promesa de Dios</p> <p>Pastor to Guatemala</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6 PM Scherlom Church</p>	<p>8</p> <p>8 AM Conference Assembly</p> <p>9 AM Scherlom Church</p> <p>7 PM Scherlom Church</p>
<p>9</p> <p>9:30 AM Worship</p> <p>11 AM Adult Forum</p> <p>1 PM Iglesia Promesa de Dios</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:30 AM Bible Study</p> <p>11 AM Staff Meeting</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6 PM Community Huddle</p> <p>Pastor returns from Guatemala</p>	<p>12</p> <p>3 PM After School Program</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6 PM Iglesia Promesa de Dios</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6 PM Scherlom Church</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9 AM Scherlom Church</p> <p>7 PM Scherlom Church</p>
<p>16</p> <p>9:30 AM Worship</p> <p>11 AM Adult Forum</p> <p>1 PM Iglesia Promesa de Dios</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:30 AM Bible Study</p> <p>11 AM Staff Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Monitor Articles Due</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9 AM Emmaus</p> <p>3 PM After School Program</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6 PM Iglesia Promesa de Dios</p> <p>6 PM Black History Month Celebration</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6 PM Scherlom Church</p> <p>6:30 Men's Nite Out!</p>	<p>22</p> <p>8:30 AM - 2:00 PM: Tool Kit @ St. Mark's</p> <p>9 AM Scherlom Church</p> <p>7 PM Scherlom Church</p>
<p>23</p> <p>9:30 AM Worship</p> <p>11 AM Exchange</p> <p>1 PM Iglesia Promesa de Dios</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:30 AM Bible Study</p> <p>11 AM Staff Meeting</p>	<p>25</p> <p>4 PM Book Club</p>	<p>26</p> <p>3 PM After School Program</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6 PM Iglesia Promesa de Dios</p>	<p>28</p>	

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Hope Monitor

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