

Monitor

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA

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ISSUE 1

SEEDS OF FAITH

BY: REV. JONATHAN ZIELSKE | PASTOR



"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed... it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown... the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." -- Matthew 13:31-32

I thought of this curious parable of Jesus as I reflected on this past year. The way I summarized my reflections a year ago is, "we are a small church with a big God that is up to exciting things." And that has continued in 2013 and then some!

This past year "the birds of the air" have come in flocks to make nests in our branches. No sooner had one flock, led by Pastor Alfredo Soriano, decided to leave when another, Iglesia Promesa de Dios, led by Pastor Armando Moreno, called to inquire about worshipping here. At nearly the same time, we welcomed Scherlom Church, a Hmong speaking flock led by Pastor Jzonpia Her; they worship on Saturday mornings. Thanks to the members of the Altar Guild, led by Nancy Schiller and Karen Barrett, and the entire congregation for being so accommodating and hospitable. In the fall, we had a delightful joint worship and potluck with both congregations and we look forward to making deeper connections as these relationships take flight.

We also have expanded our various forms of outreach to the community by welcoming Moms Food Shelf, led by Lynette Harris. Lynette and her covey of volunteers along with the families that she serves have begun coming to our doors on a regular basis. They receive bags of healthy food and some fifty or more families received gifts at Christmas.

If that is not enough, we have tripled the number of children that we reach out to through our Heights Center for Hope After School Program. We have a gaggle of forty or more third through fifth graders who have been coming regularly on Wednesdays. Thank you to Sara Thomas and her friend Tika Jones as well as to Lillian Bloom, Inez Kenyon, Karen Barrett, Aileen Wahlstedt, Dave Schiller and many others who have been helping out so lovingly.

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KIDS ART SHOW

BY: SARA THOMAS | YOUTH OUTREACH ORGANIZER



Hello Everyone! Hopefully the start of the New Year has been enjoyable for you! This year we will be having our Annual Kids Art Show on Thursday, January 30 at 7 PM. Like last year, we will be working with the school to develop and display artwork made by the students. The posters are painted by small groups of students; some of who participate in our After School Program also! This year's theme is Fairy Tales with inspiration from author/illustrator Jan Brett.

All are welcome to participate in the Kids Art Show by showing up and voting for their favorite poster. Last year families, students and the members of Hope had a very pleasant time at the show. This year we are hoping for a greater turn out, so hopefully we get out of the negatives temperatures by then! I anticipate seeing you there!

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.

MEN'S NITE OUT!

The next Men's Nite out is Friday, Jan. 24 - 6:30 PM. Mark your calendar.

We will meet at Okinawa Buffet in Hillcrest at 1625 White Bear Avenue. On a cold winter night it's right in the neighborhood, so we look forward to seeing you! Of course we're open to all and our friends.

Please email Incowan@gmail.com or call 612 280 2751 to RSVP so we have an idea for seating. See you there for great conversation and food.

HERE'S WHAT WE KNOW:

(THE LATEST ON THE PARISH BUILDING)

First of all, we have been in contact with Ric Horgan of the Latter Day Saints in Salt Lake and he is being kept apprised of our situation as we seek a new tenant. He has given us assurance that they will follow through on their obligation to us until we find a new tenant or tenants. So that is good news insofar as the first quarter of 2014 is concerned.

Secondly, the Hmong American Partnership, located at 1075 Arcade here on the East Side, is very interested in moving forward with a lease for the upper level of the building. They want

to do some renovating of the rooms so that they can offer a Montessori Pre-School. In these early stages it is looking as though this could also become a partnership with American Indian Family Center, located on Wells Street, near the YMCA, another excellent East Side service provider that is looking to start its own Montessori program.

And third, we have been in ongoing conversations with the Montessori Training Center of Minnesota, located at 1611 Ames Avenue, and there is a distinct possibility of them using space on the lower level to offer teacher

training starting in the fall.

Finally, your continued prayers are greatly appreciated as nothing has been formally approved and no documents signed as yet. It is exciting and promising to have interested parties but even so, there is still a great deal of work to be done! As it appears right now, even if these come through for us, our income from these lease arrangements will still be reduced from what it was in 2013. But God is good (all the time!) and I am confident we will continue to be blessed by these and other partnerships in 2014.

PREACHING THE STORIES OF JESUS

BY: REV. JONATHAN ZIELSKE | PASTOR

This past fall, our Sunday morning preaching texts were selected from Biblical stories from the Old Testament. My guess is that many of us likely remembered them from Sunday School but had not heard them in quite some time. With the New Year, we will be turning our attention to the New Testament and particularly, the Gospel of John. On January 5, we heard Jesus' invitation to "Come and see" as he calls his first followers. What a great invite to renew our faith in 2014!

On January 12, we will be celebrating with the Svenson and Besky families as they bring Jack Michael to the font to receive the sacrament of Holy Baptism. Our story for preaching that day is the first of Jesus' signs recorded in John's Gospel, changing the water into wine at the wedding at Cana.

On January 19, we will hear the story of Jesus overturning the tables of those who made his Father's house into a marketplace. In this season of Epiphany, a season of light and revelation, what does this reveal about who Jesus is and what he came to do?

On January 26, the day of our congregation's annual meeting (followed by our first delicious potluck of 2014!), we will hear the story of the Pharisee Nicodemus coming to meet Jesus at night and being schooled on what it means to be born of the Spirit and about the incredible love that God has for the world.

BOOK CLUB

This month's book is *The Healing* by Jonathan Odell. He now resides in Minnesota but was originally from Mississippi. In his own words he says, "this novel explores the subversive nature story plays in the healing of an oppressed people." A review by the Minneapolis Star-Tribune said, "Compelling, tragic, comic, tender and mystical. . . . Combines the historical significance of Kathryn Stockett's *The Help* with the wisdom of Toni Morrison's *Beloved*." We will be meeting to discuss this book on Tuesday, January 28 at 4:00 in the Heights Center for Hope.

BOOK OF FAITH STUDY

During the month of January, we will be continuing our study of the Gospel of John. We gather on Mondays at 9:30 a.m. and welcome everyone. On January 13, we will read what is likely the least known of all the chapters in the four Gospels, John, chapter seven. What does this chapter reveal to us about who Jesus is? On January 20, we will read my favorite story in all of the Gospels, the story of the men caught in the act of wanting to stone a woman, from John, chapter 8. On January 27, we will read from John, chapter nine the story of another of Jesus' miraculous signs and the Keystone Cops-like behavior of the Pharisees who investigate the healing of a man born blind.

GREETINGS FROM TIM SNYDER

BY:TIM SNYDER | FORMER OUTREACH ARCHITECT

Greetings from Boston! It's hard to believe I just had my second Christmas in Boston. Once again, there's so much I'd like to write and I dearly wish I had the time to write each of you personally!

This past spring I wrapped up my first year of doctoral studies. This spring will mark the first major milestone in the program: completion of my two years of coursework. Beginning this coming summer I expect to move on to a year of exams, followed by dissertation research. There's still several years to go but I'm excited to be so close to this first milestone. My favorite part of these two years in coursework has been the opportunity to take courses across the University in areas such as education and sociology as well as at other schools in the area. Last year I took two classes at Boston College and this year I've been taking courses at Harvard Divinity School.

This past summer I spent the month of July at Union Theological Seminary/Columbia University in New York. I was there for a research fellowship that proved a wonderful time for collaborative study with an amazing group of scholars from around the country. In August I began a new call at Faith Lutheran Church (Cambridge, MA) as Director of Education. The church is an incredible community and I've really enjoyed working with a fantastic pastor and fellow staff. My favorite part of my ministry there has been working with infants, children, and young adults all the way through seniors. Literally cradle to grave within a few hours each Sunday. It's great.

In the coming year I'm looking forward to writing more. I've recently agreed to write a series of reflections for The Lutheran (the magazine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America)-- those will come out quarterly or so. I have also started a writing project I'm calling "Letters from a Young Theologian." These short pieces will reflect at the intersection of theology and everyday life. Be on the look out for more on this around summertime. There's also two book proposals in the works so I'll be very excited to share more about these as I learn more in the coming months.

GREETINGS FROM AMELIA

New Zealand has been awesome and chaotic and fun in every way. At one point in time there were two full houses of international friends, and it was this crazy mash-up of culture and hilarity. I am working on a place to live and a temporary job right now and hoping for the best.

Pictured: Amelia with friends on the New Zealand countryside. It was a whopping 70°!



COMMUNITY HUDDLE NOTES

SUBMITTED BY: CINDY HEITMAN | COUNCIL SECRETARY

December 10, 2013

Present: Ken Barrett, Irene Cline, Larry Cowan, Nancy Cowan, Judy Dörner, Carol Overland, Dave Schiller, Nancy Schiller, Sara Thomas, Don Young, Pastor Jonathan, Cindy Heitman

Pastor Jonathan led devotions regarding Isaiah 11 – The Peaceful Kingdom, the Shoot from the stump of Jesse and the Coming Savior.

Judy led a review of three topics which were discussed in more detail previously at the Executive Team meeting held on December 3, 2013. The topics were: Pastor's compensation package as provided in St. Paul Area Synod's 2013 guidelines for clergy compensation; the 2014 Partnership Support Grant and Covenant; and the Parish Building lease update. More detailed information is available in the December 3, 2013, Executive Team meeting notes.

PASTOR'S COMPENSATION PACKAGE:

Per the Saint Paul Area Synod's 2013 guidelines for clergy compensation, Pastor Jonathan's compensation package has been significantly below the guidelines for a number of years. By following the Synod's compensation worksheet, calculations indicated a guideline salary and housing compensation of \$73,550 according to a number of factors. In considering Hope Lutheran Church's annual income, raising the Pastor's salary to \$73,550 may not be possible. Therefore, Pastor Jonathan proposes a reduction to $\frac{3}{4}$ time, rather than to try to find the additional funding to "catch up" to salary guidelines. It would basically mean that Pastor Jonathan would have an additional day off. Pastor's Jonathan's proposal will be presented at the annual meeting. Pastor Jonathan could begin this transition in January.

2014 PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT GRANT AND COVENANT:

Hope Lutheran Church has been approved for a third year of funding by the ELCA for the operation and staffing of the Heights Center for Hope. The grant begins in 2014. We are required to sign a Partnership Support Covenant from the ELCA that establishes a set of expectations. The Executive Team accepted the partnership covenant as provided by the St. Paul Synod. Pastor Jonathan delivered the signed covenant today.

PARISH BUILDING UPDATE:

The Parish Building space has been shown to four interested groups, including a daycare, a Montessori school

through the Hmong American Partnership, a Montessori Training Center group, and a pastor of a COGIC church. Each would have need for various spaces in the building, but not the entire building, so it is anticipated that multiple groups would use the building. We will find out more details from each group regarding space needs, property adjustments and compatibility with other group or groups before a lease can be drawn up. Pastor Jonathan spoke with the LDS church regarding removal or storage of their furniture in a timely manner. The organization will leave the rostrum, which consists of the worship space façade—woodwork structure of pulpit and communion rail. Another organization has shown interest in leasing—Evangelist Jones—and even a buyer has contacted us. We are not considering the buyer as we want to use the Parish building lease/s as sustainable income.

We will check to see if possible tenants would be considered tax exempt.

Hope Lutheran Church 2014 Budget Proposal:

At the December 3rd meeting, the Executive Team reviewed an estimate for the 2014 budget proposal. The budget for 2013 is \$177,230. This amount may not be able to be maintained for 2014, so some possible cuts may be required. With budget cutting, a possible 2014 budget proposal may be \$151,000.

Currently, Hope Lutheran Church has no debt! It is very good to know when considering how many churches have large debts with which to contend. However, we still need to send our agreed-upon \$7,000 benevolence check to the Synod.

Leadership teams will be meeting within the next week or two to discuss their budgets for 2014 and possible ways to cut spending.

In order to have the Annual Report available to the congregation on the Sunday before the Annual Congregational Meeting, reports are due to Brie by Wednesday, January 8, 2014. The Annual meeting will be held Sunday, January 26, 2014.

Pastor Anita Hill will be preaching this coming Sunday, December 15.

The next Community Huddle is scheduled for Tuesday, January 14, 2014. Any member of the congregation is welcome to attend.

SERVICE TEAMS

JANUARY

Team Lead:	Dave & Carol Overland	651-778-0853
	Ellen Benson	651-776-7902
	Diane Chute	651-776-2418
	Irene Cline	651-778-8341
	John Greger	651-771-3344
	Martin Greger	651-771-3344
	Dave & Nancy Schiller	651-771-0792

FEBRUARY

Team Lead:	Mike & Judy Dorner	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

LECTORS

5	Cindy Heitman	651-773-0404
12	Larry Cowan	612-280-2751
19	Carol Overland	651-778-0853
26	Ken Barrett	651-771-0017

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

5	Dave & Carol Overland	651-778-0853
12	Ken & Karen Barrett	651-771-0017
19	Don & Sally Young	651-283-1767
26	Larry Cowan & Irene Cline	612-280-2751 651-778-8341

BIRTHDAYS

3	Dave Schiller
4	Martha Ewing (Barrett)
4	Molly Radke (Barrett)
6	Marie Mann
10	Matt Swanson
13	Ellen Benson
16	Joshua Buhl
25	Don Ly
28	Julie Bennett

Seeds of Faith... continued from page 1

Now to back up a bit. I feel tremendous gratitude for the ten-week sabbatical that I was able to take this past summer. The additional time spent with family, reading books, and traveling to Canada and to Guatemala was a wonderful blessing that I will cherish for years to come. Thank you to Brie Trovall, our office manager; Nancy Cowan, our musician; Pastor Trudy Cretsinger, Amelia Decker, our Outreach Leader; Sara Thomas, our Youth Outreach Organizer; and to Judy Dorner our congregation president and the entire leadership team, all of whom made it work and kept things humming around here while I was gone.

When I returned, we again had a delightful Music on the Blacktop event and Vacation Bible School. Regrettably, shortly after these successful outreach activities, our Outreach Leader, Amelia Decker, decided to return to school full time and had to resign from her position. While our time with Amelia was too short, she blessed our lives with her deep faith and her graciousness and smile. We wish her nothing but the very best!

Finally, thanks are due to others who were important to making 2013 a special year here at Hope: Daylan Callahan, our custodian, Alicia Bauer, our bookkeeper; Aaron Brink-Johnson, our Multi-Cultural Ministries intern, and the rest of the leadership team: Don Young, Irene Cline, Cindy Heitman, Nancy Schiller, Carol Overland, and Larry Cowan. We are so fortunate to have this dedicated and immensely capable group of leaders here at Hope as we "like a mustard seed" continue to grow the kingdom of heaven!

JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 New Year's Day	2 6 PM Iglesia Promesa de Dios	3 6 PM Scherlom Church	4 9 AM Scherlom Church
5 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM Adult Forum: Baptism 1 PM Iglesia Promesa de Dios	6 9:30 AM Bible Study 11 AM Staff Meeting	7	8 3 PM After School Program 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	9 6 PM Iglesia Promesa de Dios	10 6 PM Scherlom Church	11 9 AM Scherlom Church 7 PM Scherlom Church
12 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM Adult Forum: Exchange 1 PM Iglesia Promesa de Dios	13 9:30 AM Bible Study 11 AM Staff Meeting	14 6 PM Community Huddle	15 9 AM Emmaus 3 PM After School Program 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal Monitor Articles Due	16 6 PM Iglesia Promesa de Dios	17 6 PM Scherlom Church	18 9 AM Scherlom Church 7 PM Scherlom Church
19 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM Pre-Meeting to Annual Meeting 1 PM Iglesia Promesa de Dios	20	21	22 3 PM After School Program 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	23 6 PM Iglesia Promesa de Dios	24 6 PM Scherlom Church 6:30 Men's Nite Out!	25 9 AM Scherlom Church 7 PM Scherlom Church
26 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM Annual Meeting 1 PM Iglesia Promesa de Dios	27	28 4 PM Book Club	29 3 PM After School Program 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	30 6 PM Iglesia Promesa de Dios 7 PM Kids Art Show	31 6 PM Scherlom Church	

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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