

Monitor

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
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TOP FIVE

BY: REV. JONATHAN ZIELSKE | PASTOR



What would be in your "Top Five?"

On my most recent trip to Guatemala, I was able on behalf of our own Bishop and Synod to celebrate and give thanks to God for Bishop Horacio Castillo upon his retirement and I was able to be a part of the installation of Karen Castillo to serve as the President of the Lutheran Church of Guatemala. It was a momentous occasion and deeply moving to have a role in that transition. Thank you to the more than twenty people who made gifts to cover the costs of my travel and for the monetary gifts I brought down to offer to the Bishop and to Pastor Karen.

In addition to the beautiful worship service, this gathering at the Lutheran Center in Guatemala City was also a National Council meeting, meaning that there were leaders from ILAG churches across the country who travelled to be there. Unfortunately, no one was able to make it from San Juan Bautista in Zaculeu, our partner congregation, but I did see a number of other pastors and leaders that I have been privileged to meet before. The leaders had assembled not only to discuss their plans as a congregation for the coming year but also for some theological training.

This was exciting for me as I had never been a part of one of these leadership gatherings, though I had heard a great deal about them. I was told I would have the opportunity to lead two sessions, but if there is anything you should know about traveling to Guatemala, it is that you have to be flexible. As it turned out, I wound up leading four sessions! The first one, and hence the title of this article, was called "My Top Five Lutheran Teachings." Try to imagine yourself speaking to a group of

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former Catholics, most of whom have had minimal schooling, let alone very much training in how Lutheran teaching differs from Catholic doctrine, and they do not speak the same language as you. What would you place in your top five teachings that you want them to grasp?

Well, I ended up cheating a little and snuck in a sixth one. And here they are, in brief, in an albeit debatable, increasing level of importance.

- 6) *Simul justus et peccator*. That is Latin for, at the same time, we are justified and we are sinners.
- 5) The Priesthood of all believers. Or, as someone else has put it well, "We all have something to offer." By virtue of our baptism, all Christians are "priests" in a sense.
- 4) *Sola Scriptura*. This is Latin again for scripture alone or we sometimes hear it as "word alone." When push comes to shove, we will stand on the Bible over church tradition.
- 3) Water, Bread, and Wine. This teaching is about our two Lutheran sacraments - how God uses ordinary, earthly things to accomplish God's purposes.
- 2) We are "bags of worms." This is to say that there is nothing that we can do on our own when it comes to saving ourselves. Our salvation is wholly dependent on what God does for us in Jesus Christ.
- 1) We are justified by grace through faith. This is the teaching upon which the church stands or falls according to Luther. Our justification, or, we more often speak of it as our salvation has to be God's gift of grace. Through Jesus Christ, God did everything for us and the gift comes to us through faith, which, is itself a gift of our loving, merciful God.

It was a great challenge to share these teachings in a way that the students in Guatemala could understand. Even so, based on their level of engagement and questions, it was also highly rewarding for me and for them. So thank you again for the opportunity to be there with these leaders, it is a wonderful partnership in the Gospel that we are a part of. I look forward to more opportunities ahead in which we can be supportive as we are called to "equip the saints for the work of ministry."

LENTEN EXPLORATIONS BASED ON THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS

I have never attempted to try such a thing but I figure, "Why not?" Those of us who have gotten together on Tuesday mornings during Lent have covered a wide array of subjects from how Jesus is portrayed in art to saints and other historical people worthy of commemoration to favorite hymns and much more. This year I hope to welcome others to join us. What might we learn about ourselves and our faith by looking at the religions of others? The answer at this point is, "I don't know, but I'd like to find out."

So, starting on Tuesday, March 11 (and each Tuesday following through April 15) at 9:00 a.m. at Denny's Restaurant, at 3050 White Bear Avenue, we will use Huston Smith's classic, *The World's Religions*, to briefly explore Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Islam, and Judaism. Please plan to attend and join in this Lenten Exploration.

Hope Lutheran Church

ANNUAL TWINS BASEBALL GAME

Spring is a ways off yet but at least Spring Training has begun. Please mark your calendar for our Hope Church Night at the Twins. It will be Friday, May 16 at 7:10 PM. versus the Seattle Mariners; tickets will again be \$25 each. If you know Target Field at all, we will be seated in right field, close to the flag pole, in a section called the "Overlook." We will be collecting money in April and need it all in by the end of next month.

BOOK CLUB

This month's book is *Caleb's Crossing*, a tale of passion and belief, magic and adventure from the Pulitzer Prize-winning author Geraldine Brooks.

We will gather in the Heights Center Gallery to discuss the book on Tuesday, March 25 at 4:00. Please pick up a copy and plan to participate.

PARISH BUILDING UPDATE

We continue to be in ongoing dialogue with the Hmong American Partnership about leasing the Parish Building. They have submitted architectural plans to us for needed renovations as they prepare to open a Montessori School. Members of the Executive Leadership Team saw their plans and approved their moving forward. They and we are both very excited about providing another type of quality child care and education in the neighborhood.

We have also had a number of interested parties contact us about leasing out the lower level of the building. The plans fell through for the Montessori Training Center of Minnesota to offer adult classes beginning in the fall. If you want to see our ad, here is the link: <http://minneapolis.craigslist.org/ram/off/4298091973.html>

BOOK OF FAITH

Due to some extremely cold and snowy weather, we have missed a few of our study times this winter. But even so, we keep on keepin' on. As Ken Barrett said, our Sunday lessons have almost caught up to our Monday readings. We gather at 9:30 a.m. and read a chapter a week of John. Anyone is welcome to join.

On March 3, we will read chapter eleven, a fascinating chapter in which Jesus raises his friend Lazarus from the dead. The great irony here is that the decision to have Jesus killed ("it is better to have one man die for the people than to have the whole nation destroyed") stems directly from his giving life back to Lazarus.

On March 10, we will read chapter 12 and hear of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and of him speaking about his own death.

On March 17, we will have "caught up" with our Sunday readings as we read chapter 13. We will notice how early in the Gospel of John we gather with Jesus and his disciples on the night he was betrayed. It is in this chapter that he gives the new commandment, "that you love one another just as I have loved you."

On March 24, we will read chapter 14 and those beloved words of Jesus, "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also."

On March 31, we hear Jesus speak of us as his friends in chapter 15 and how "You did not choose me but I chose you."

MAKING CHANGE • LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS:

We will be worshipping in The Heights Center every Wednesday throughout Lent. Soup supper will be served at 6 PM and worship will begin at 7 PM. Soup servers in March are:

- March 12: Judy Dorner & Carol Overland
- March 19: Irene Cline, Cindy Heitman, and Jonathan & Anne Zielske
- March 26: Lillian Bloom, Inez Kenyon and Nancy Cowan

PROCLAIMING THE STORY OF JESUS

This past month, we heard the first of Jesus' "I am" statements when he told the crowds, "I am the bread of life." This coming month, on Sunday, March 2, we hear from Jesus describe himself saying, "I am the light of the world" in John 9. On Ash Wednesday, March 5, the lesson is from John, chapter ten, wherein Jesus says, "I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." Included on this night, we will observe the imposition of ashes, as we are reminded that "we are dust, and to dust we shall return."

Sunday, March 9 we hear the story of the raising of Lazarus from the dead and Jesus' declaration, "I am the resurrection and the life." On Sunday, March 16, we

hear from John, chapter 13, how Jesus demonstrates his love and commitment to serve as he washes the feet of his disciples. On Sunday, March 23, we hear in John 14 Jesus' promise that he will not leave us orphaned, that the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, will be sent by his Father and will teach us and remind us of all that Jesus has said to us. And, on March 30, we hear one more "I am" statement from John 15 as Jesus tells us, "I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit."

What a month of beautiful readings! I hope that you will make every effort to come to Hope to hear them in worship and also to bear fruit in all you do.

ART SHOW UPDATE

BY: SARA THOMAS | YOUTH OUTREACH ORGANIZER

Unfortunately we had to reschedule our Annual Kids Art Show, but it's back on this month! On March 6 at 6:30 PM we will be opening our doors to the artists, their families and the general public to come and see the wonderful art that has been created by the students at the Heights Elementary School.

Last year we had a great time coming together to view and vote for our favorite paintings. This year we will be having door prizes, voting and delicious food again. I hope to see you there.

I hope you have been enjoying the Exchanges so far this year. I am very excited for the March Exchange because we will be making some small humorous care packages for members of the congregation who are unable to join us for worship and other events throughout the week. It will be a great time of connecting and it will be fun to see all of the silly little items we plan to put in the packages. Hope you can make it on Sunday March 30 for Exchange.

ADULT FORUM

The Great Emergence by Phyllis Tickle served as our book of the month awhile back and will now be the subject of an Adult Forum series beginning this week and continuing through the season of Lent. If you have no idea what "emergence" even means, no worries! Come to learn and we'll explore it together.

SERVICE TEAMS

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

April

Team Leads: Inez Kenyon & Lillian Bloom 651-483-6454
 651-776-0251
 Michelle Besky 651-647-0169
 Opal Davids 651-774-5294
 Karen Ehlert 651-714-5222
 Gina Ricci 651-774-9779
 Jackie Rossow 651-774-2057
 Heather Svenson 612-791-0366

LECTORS

2 Larry Cowan 612-280-2751
 9 Cindy Heitman 651-773-0404
 16 Carol Overland 651-778-0853
 23 Ken Barrett 651-771-0017
 30 Aaron Brink-Johnson 612-716-7593

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

2 Dave Schiller & Irene Cline 651-771-0792
 651-778-8341
 9 Larry Cowan & Irene Cline 612-280-2751
 651-778-8341
 16 Dave & Carol Overland 651-778-0853
 23 Don & Sally Young 651-283-1767
 30 Sara Thomas & Aaron Brink-Johnson 651-357-7245
 651-771-0792

BIRTHDAYS

1	Jim Campbell	18	Tim Snyder
1	Ruby Rydel	27	Cindy Heitman
4	Lorraine Schreiber	28	Edith Campbell
7	Andrea Oster	29	Chris Schiller
10	Dick Bloom	29	Kay Gustafson
16	Clara Sorenson	30	Carole Erickson
17	Ellen Benson		

COMMUNITY HUDDLE NOTES

SUBMITTED BY: CINDY HEITMAN

February 11, 2014

Present: Ken Barrett, Irene Cline, Larry Cowan, Nancy Cowan, Judy Dornier, Carol Overland, Nancy Schiller, Don Young, Cindy Heitman

Parish Building Lease Update – Four more inquiries have been received regarding leasing the space. Judy is following up with them.

Parish Building Facility Discussion – Two water heaters need to be replaced. One for the kitchen is leaking; the other for the rest rooms is 40 years old. Both heaters can be replaced with one new one for approximately \$3500. The chimney liner needs to be replaced as well as a new boiler, which, combined, would cost approximately \$16,000.

Lenten soup supper schedule was discussed. Ash Wednesday is March 5. Wednesday Lenten services are scheduled for March 12, 19, 26, April 2 and 9.

Carol Overland invites ideas regarding future funding for the Heights Center for Hope after current grant funding has run out. There was discussion about space rental, such as offering meeting room space, and the concerns about who would manage a reservation calendar and who would be present to lock up or clean the space afterward.

“Housekeeping” concerns were discussed and will be brought to the attention of the other churches.

Upcoming Events – The annual rummage sale has been rescheduled for Saturday, April 26.

Next Community Huddle is Tuesday, March 11, 6:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

MARCH 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 9 AM Scherlom Church 7 PM Scherlom Church
2 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM Adult Forum 1 PM Iglesia Promesa de Dios	3 9:30 AM Bible Study 11 AM Staff Meeting	4 5:30 PM Mission Support Team	5 3 PM After School Program 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service	6 6 PM Iglesia Promesa de Dios 6:30 PM Kid's Art Show	7 6 PM Scherlom Church	8 9 AM Scherlom Church 7 PM Scherlom Church
9 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM Adult Forum 1 PM Iglesia Promesa de Dios	10 9:30 AM Bible Study 11 AM Staff Meeting	11 9 AM Breakfast at Denny's 6 PM Community Huddle	12 3 PM After School Program 6 PM Lenten Soup Supper and Worship 7:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	13 6 PM Iglesia Promesa de Dios	14 6 PM Scherlom Church	15 9 AM Scherlom Church 7 PM Scherlom Church
16 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM Adult Forum 1 PM Iglesia Promesa de Dios	17 9:30 AM Bible Study 11 AM Staff Meeting Monitor Articles Due	18 9 AM Breakfast at Denny's	19 9 AM Emmaus 3 PM After School Program 6 PM Lenten Soup Supper and Worship 7:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	20 6 PM Iglesia Promesa de Dios	21 6 PM Scherlom Church 6:30 Men's Nite Out!	22 9 AM Scherlom Church 7 PM Scherlom Church
23 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM Adult Forum 1 PM Iglesia Promesa de Dios	24 9:30 AM Bible Study 11 AM Staff Meeting	25 9 AM Breakfast at Denny's 4 PM Book Club	26 3 PM After School Program 6 PM Lenten Soup Supper and Worship 7:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	27 6 PM Iglesia Promesa de Dios	28	29
30 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM Exchange 1 PM Iglesia Promesa de Dios	31 9:30 AM Bible Study 11 AM Staff Meeting					

STAFF

Jonathan Zielske | Pastor
PrJonathan@hopechurchsaintpaul.org
twitter.com/PrjZielske
c. 651-247-2826

Nancy Cowan | Music Director
Music@hopechurchsaintpaul.org

Daylan Callahan | Custodian
Custodian@hopechurchsaintpaul.org

Brianna Trovall | Office &
Communication Manager
Brie@hopechurchsaintpaul.org

Alicia Bauer | Bookkeeper
bookkeeper@hopechurchsaintpaul.org

Sara Thomas | Youth Outreach Organizer
Youth@heightscenterforhope.org
c. 612-224-6331

Aaron Brink-Johnson | Multi-Cultural
Ministry Intern
Mcmintern@heightscenterforhope.org
c. 612-716-7593

Main Office | 651-774-9503
www.hopechurchsaintpaul.org

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 @ HopeStPaul
@ heightscent4hope

Hope Monitor

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
1340 HAZEL ST. N
ST. PAUL, MN 55119-4506