



PO Box 1259, Livingston
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ALC

FEBRUARY 2023

Newsletter

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MELISSA...

Dear Children of God at ALC,

Last Sunday, I and a small group of folks from ALC gathered via Zoom with people from three other churches (two in California and one in Colorado) and with Dr. Shauna Hannan, preaching professor at the Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. We are participating in a series called Revitalizing Your Congregation's Preaching Ministry. We will continue reading a book on preaching and will gather five more times over the next couple of months. As I started reading the book (*The Peoples' Sermon: Preaching as a Ministry of the Whole Congregation*), I got really excited thinking about the possibilities of the ways preaching at ALC might be revitalized and enhanced. I am also excited about learning alongside my fellow (future) preachers and eventually hearing them preach some good news. Thank you to those who have said "yes" to joining in this (Lynnette Evanson, Dale Guidi, Bill Harris, Randy Mogen, and Dennis Springer)!

I still feel like a bit of a newbie at preaching. It's something I enjoy doing but I'm far from an expert on preaching. Sure, I went to seminary and learned about the Bible and theology and homiletics (the study of preaching). But I would wager a guess that most of you probably know way more about life and living faithfully in this world than I do. The knowledge I gained in seminary is only one aspect of preaching, and I might even argue that seminary knowledge isn't the most important part of sharing the good news. You don't need to go to seminary to be able to tell other people about Jesus and about how God has transformed your life.

Dr. Hannan believes that preaching should be a collaborative practice rather than the preacher crafting a sermon in isolation. God collaborates with us in the work that God is doing in the world and therefore we should also collaborate with one another to proclaim the good news both inside and outside the walls of the church. When Jesus sent out his disciples, he didn't send them out alone. Jesus sent his disciples out two by two so that they could support one another and work together to share about Jesus. The idea of collaborative preaching is based on the idea that we are all partners in ministry and we are joining in the work God is doing in the world.

Collaborative preaching is something new to me and I'm not sure what exactly it might look like here at ALC, but I'm really really excited for the possibilities! Please join me in praying for our group as we go through this series.

Peace,
Pastor Melissa

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT RANDY MOGEN...

I recently went on a vacation with my wife's family to Disneyland in California. I hadn't been to Disneyland for over 20 years, not since my son was a small child. Some things remained the same but other parts of Disneyland and now California Adventure Land, across what used to be a parking lot from Disneyland, were brand new to me. As I entered the park with the throngs of other people, I was captivated by the immediate welcoming of everyone who entered. As we walked through the Main Street of Disneyland, people were taking pictures, smiling, laughing, and hustling about with excitement. I am not sure why some of these thoughts came to my mind as I was in the middle of Disneyland, but two main avenues of thought came to me repeatedly. One was the welcoming of ALL people. There were babies, elderly people, parents, children, teenagers, young adults, and the disabled, physically, and mentally. ALL were welcome. The second avenue revolved around DIVERSITY. People of all color, ethnic background, languages spoken, probably political and religious backgrounds as well as how they dressed, who they were with and every kind of difference. The key amid Diversity was ALL were welcome. Now I realize that everyone who came to Disneyland bought a ticket and paid to get in so of course they were welcomed from the business perspective. Yet, I could not help but think about the ideas of diversity and welcoming.

As a church, in Livingston, Montana, our diversity may be limited. I wonder who we are missing, who are we not "inviting" because we haven't thought about them. Are there people in our community who haven't had the invitation to know the risen Christ as we know? How do we think about "inviting" those in our community who aren't part of our faithful community? What does that even look like? I think I have more questions than answers, yet those questions keep tugging at me.

As we move into 2023, I hope that we can wrestle with some new and old questions, questions surrounding who we are, our mission as a church, our mission in Livingston. Let us not be afraid to ask questions that we don't have answers to, questions or ponderings about our next step as a church. I believe that we should ask those questions, be open to the "what if we..." and allow the Holy Spirit to work in and through us, to nudge us when we don't want to be nudged or to give us courage and strength to embark on something we have never done before. Oh, what an exciting time 2023 can be if we will be open to the possibilities!

Yours in Christ,
Randy Mogen

A MESSAGE FROM LPA DALE GUIDI....

Those who know me, always kid me about a habit I have. I sing or hum quietly to myself; or maybe not so quietly! Even when my mother-in-law was near death and the birds were singing outside her window, She told Gloria and Tena; "That's just Dale, He's singing all the time! When I walk out of church Sunday morning I often exclaim to Gloria or those around me that I know what song I'll be humming or singing the rest of the day.

Most mornings I wake up with a song running in the background of my thoughts. Maybe this is a way that I can best communicate with Jesus. When I wake up with a song already playing, it usually stays with me for most of the day. Sometimes, it's a verse or scripture that has been imbedded in me from years of cherishing it, reading it, studying it and pondering it. What would I do if that storehouse were empty? What would I be thinking if these worship songs and scripture hadn't stayed in my mind?

To me this is evidence of Jesus' grace. He is teaching me even when I sleep. I am alive during a time when Scripture is more easily accessible than ever before. I learned about Jesus from an early age. He taught me to read the Bible, cling to it and follow Him. For me it wasn't always a straight road, but I try my best to stay on His pathway. So hopefully by the Grace of God, I'll arise in the morning with a song of Jesus' love in my heart and on my lips!

Dale Guidi
LPA



ALC Council met on January 15th.

FINANCIAL REPORT: The financial reports for December were presented by Randy. Revenues for the month of December were \$12,455.85. Year to date revenues as of December 31 were \$99,145.12 and expenditures for the month of December were \$8,051.08. Year to date expenditures as of December 31 are \$106,114.06. Net Revenues for the month of December are \$4,404.77. Year to date net revenues as of December 31 are (\$6,968.94).

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Melissa will be taking vacation days February 6-12. She has been making home visits with Lynnette Evanson. She is also putting together a lay preaching group beginning January 22nd.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS: There was a discussion on the lighting of the sidewalk on the F street side of the church. The safe has been ordered and should arrive soon. The Emergency Fund Committee met and discussed the purpose of the fund.

NEW BUSINESS: Cathy Ziebarth has agreed to work with the secretary on computer training as needed.



SNOW REMOVAL VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

Thanks to Verne Beffert and John West for doing a great job keeping our sidewalks free of snow during January. The February snow removal team is Verne Beffert, John West, Dale & Gloria Guidi.



**LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF**

QUILTING

Quilting sessions are held each Tuesday morning from 9:00-12:00. No special skills are needed. There is plenty of work for everyone. Please join us!

LOCAL FEBRUARY BENEVOLENCE

Our February benevolence will go to Counterpoint. Counterpoint is a private, nonprofit corporation that has provided services to adults with disabilities in Park County since 1976. They provide a broad array of transportation, vocational, work and residential services to about 30 individuals in Park Country. Their services are tailored to the specific needs and desires of each of the clients. To make a donation you can designate it as part of your offering.



Lynnette Evanson, Linda Holland, Mike and Vicky Ryles, Carole Fagerli, Carol O'Dell, Holly Happe, Anita Bueling, Bill Harris, Doug Linsted



- 2- Dennis Harms
- 3- Don Sheen
- 3- Adam Shenker
- 4- Doug Linsted
- 5- Kim Fink
- 5 -Bonnie Wartman
- 6- Clarke Smith
- 8- Edie Linnewebber
- 8- Ryan Brown
- 10- Linton Jett, Jr. (little guy)
- 11- Lila Trzruc
- 12 -Kevin Bueling
- 17 -Curt Gosda
- 18- Gerald Happe
- 21- Sue Muza
- 29- Dana Latsch



LOAVES AND FISHES



Serving a meal at Loaves and Fishes has always been an important outreach opportunity for members of ALC. We are serving the evening meal on the third Monday of each month. In December 32 meals were served to the community. If you would be willing to help let Pastor Melissa or LoAnne know or just come down to Loaves & Fishes.

REVISED 2023 SERVICE TEAM SCHEDULE

February 2023

- 5th-Dennis & Kitty Springer
- 12th-Don & Lana Sheen
- 19th-Jane Haugen & Dana Latsch
- 26th-Tena Versland, Dale & Gloria Versland

March 2023

- 5th- Diane Mueller & Sue Muza
- 12th- Randy & Joan Mogen
- 19th- Jane Haugen & Dana Latsch
- 26th- Doug & Cookie Linsted

April 2023

- 2nd- Jim & Bonnie Evanson
- 9th- John & Diane West
- 16th - Billie Roberts, Anna Smith & Karla Pettit
- 23rd - Verne & Leslie Beffert
- 30th- Rod & Marcia Olson

May 2023

- 7th - Dennis & Kitty Springer
- 14th- Don & Lana Sheen
- 21st- Curt & Dee Gosda
- 28th- Tena Versland, Dale & Gloria Guidi

