

The Herald

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From Pastor

Is There “Enough”?

“I have a friend who carries a small stone in his pocket. The stone is named “enough”. Having it there to touch often helps him remember that by God’s grace there is always enough. Enough time in the day to do what is needed. Enough food and shelter. Enough grace to cover his mistakes. Enough strength to accomplish what God directs. Enough hope to move on to tomorrow.

“God’s leaders always have enough. Gideon, the ‘least of the least’ by his own admission, had only 300 warriors, but they were enough to defeat the great Midianite army. The disciples, certainly not trained speakers, had enough courage to stand before the tribunals and judges who called them to account for their faith. There they spoke, not their words, but the words provided by the Spirit. The believers gathered at Pentecost had enough---enough of the fire of the Spirit to proclaim the Good News to the multitudes gathered. And thousands believed.

“It is easy to fall into the “there is not enough” trap. By our human standards, there is never enough. Never enough time. Never enough money. Never enough workers. We live in a world of never enough. And if we try to run God’s church that way, we will always be frustrated, stopped, and struggling.

“God always gives enough. We have enough gifts to make wonderful things happen. We have enough grace to overcome the failings and faults of today and make better tomorrow. We have enough vision to see what God can do with us and through us in the place where we are. We are equipped to equip others generously and without hesitation.

Jesus said and continues to say, ‘You did not choose me but I chose you...’ (John 15:16) In that choosing we know that we are equipped with enough to do what God is calling us to do, now, in God’s world, among God’s people.”

May this message from Ted Schroeder be a healing balm for our journey ahead. May we always trust that, indeed, we do have “enough” and even “more than enough.”

We are the people God will work through in our visioning process. Everyone brings a bit of (God’s) wisdom to the table for our visioning process. Whether young or old, weak or strong, God’s Spirit floods our souls with “enough” vision, courage, power, strength to accomplish his work. Without the sustenance of God, we are left dried and desolate. With the power of God’s Spirit, we can accomplish even what is seemingly impossible. Mark’s gospel points to the salvation bestowed on us through Christ in the kingdom of God in Mark 10: “Jesus looked at them and said, ‘For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.’ (Mark 10:27, NRSV)

Yours in Christ –

Pastor Jeff

Two Brief Congregational Meetings July 9 & August 20

A brief five minute presentation will be made by Pastor Jeff immediately following the 9:30 Traditional Worship service on **July 9** and **August 20** as to the importance of our congregation having a 3 year vision statement to guide us into God's future. Pastor plans to follow this presentation with a question and answer period for five or ten minutes with regard to questions pertaining to our coming visioning process. All things holding to plan, participants will still be able to be downstairs for fellowship and adult Bible study beginning at 10:45 A.M.

This work ahead of us came through our council meeting with our consultants, Mary Sellon and Dan Smith, back in May. When challenged by our consultants to verbalize our vision for the future, we were unable to articulate a clear vision. Without a clear vision for our next three years, our efforts to redevelop our congregation will be quite futile. With clear focus and clarity of what we are called to (and especially what God is calling us to), we will be empowered for developing specific plans (and programming) to further God's mission in our community.

Everyone in our congregation brings a piece of (God's) wisdom to the visioning process. Your participation in the visioning process is vital for our ministry/mission and our "vision ownership" together!

June Council Meeting Highlights

Council met June 20 at 7pm with four members excused. Major discussion involved the importance of a congregation-wide visioning process; congregational meetings will be held July 9 and August 20 following the 9:30 worship. Council discussed preparations for the June 25 'Zoo Is Coming' event and Day Camp July 31-August 4. The camp banner must be updated/replaced. Sunday School for children will not be held during summer. Russ Reese completes his much-appreciated work as Financial Secretary with the July report; LeDonna Schrumm has agreed to take over this role. Regular contributions through May are \$27,548. The next Council meeting is July 18 at 7pm.

Liturgical Banners Reviewed; Advent Banner Planned

A big "thank you" to **Pam Thomas** and her crew who created our new Pentecost banner for this season. The words on the banner, from the fifth chapter of Galatians, depict well the fruit of the Spirit present in us: "...*the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control.*" (Galatians 5:22-23, NRSV)

Several of the banners just need a few minor repairs and will continue to work well for our liturgies. Many banners have "seen their better day" and the letters will be re-used with future banners when possible.

Our next banner, which is being planned now, will be for our next liturgical season, Advent. Just as the primary color for Pentecost is green (meaning "growth"), the color for Advent is blue (meaning "hope"). We give thanks for those gifted with talents for creating and adding to our liturgy in such meaningful ways. We will look forward to our coming seasons of advent when the coming banner will be displayed!

Opportunities Abound for Day Camp Volunteers

It's time once again for a terrific week of Day Camp at Bethany. This was a big project for our congregation to take on with the needed volunteers but it worked out very well last year thanks to many of you. This year we are looking forward to having a great group of staff people from Lutherwood as well as many returning volunteers from Bethany. A sign up poster will be in the back of the sanctuary beginning this month. Look for the many ways in which you can join in this great outreach event.

We are asking that all of our volunteers join us **Sunday, July 30**, for an orientation/training session with staff members from Lutherwood. Our theme this year is **Brave Believers** of the Bible. The dates for Day Camp are **July 31 to August 4** from 9 AM to 3 PM. We will wrap up with a special worship service on **Friday, August 4 at Noon**, with the children sharing some highlights from the week with those gathered. A big thank you to all who contribute time and financial resources to support this fabulous week of nurturing our children in the faith. If you have any questions about Day Camp or ways in which you can volunteer, please contact our Day Camp coordinator, **Eileen Eckart**, at **(503)288-4650**.

The Zoo Was Here

Another "Zoo Is Coming" event was held at Bethany on **Sunday, June 25** from **noon to 2pm**, featuring a van full of animals from the Oregon Zoo. Special thanks to the Zoo Animal Presenters and Bethany helpers who invited people to see and/or pet a rabbit, chicken, snake, walking stick, and other animals! Bethany welcomed 58 guests and participants, including 22 young children.

He's Having 'Barrels of Fun'

The temperature is officially above one hundred degrees on this fifth day of summer and the delivery person for the **Portland Police Bureau Sunshine Division** is having "barrels of fun" still!

Each time I go by our collection barrels, I am once again amazed at this congregation's generosity to those in need. As I helped the volunteer load the van (it took both of us to do it due to such generous donations of clothes and other non-perishable items), I just wanted to give all of you "donors" a huge thanks for your contributions. We may not see the people nor the impact that your donations have on hundreds of lives across the Portland area, but I believe it is safe to say that your kindness is certainly well received. Not only are you helping lives directly, you are also contributing to the community through the volunteers and staff of the Sunshine Division of the Portland Police Bureau.

What a great feeling it is to help "roll those barrels" out to the van loaded with donations for families and individuals! Keep those donations coming and thanks for your keeping the Sunshine Division hopping with barrels of donations for people in need.

P.S.: You can almost hear an Oompah Band playing with an accordion "Role Out the Barrels... We'll have a barrel of fun!" Thanks Again!!! – Pastor Jeff

St. Matthew Lutheran, Beaverton Sponsors “40 Days of Purpose” Campaign

On July 6, Pastor Jeff and other interested leaders will attend training to offer the “40 days of Purpose” to our church and community. During a recent capital campaign at St. Matthews, they set aside \$4,000 in order to sponsor 40 ELCA congregations in Oregon. The key resource used is Rick Warren’s book The Purpose Driven Life which has had far reaching effects for reaching Christians from all walks of life. Rick Warren is the pastor at Saddleback Church, a mega-church whose mission is to reach those who are un-churched.

Pastor Eric Burtness at St. Matthew has written a supplement to The Purpose Driven Life to help Lutheranize this resource based on our theological beliefs and faith. Each congregation which St. Matthews sponsors will receive all of the resources both in print, CD, and internet links which St. Matthew did as a mentoring congregation.

Training for offering a fall series will be from 9 AM to Noon at St. Matthews in Beaverton on July 6 with Jon Olson serving as the trainer. Another training session will be offered in January by Dan Hallgrimson of Corvallis for those congregations who would like to participate in a Lenten Series during 2007. Both Jon and Dan have participated in a “40 Days of Purpose” Campaign and their congregations have benefited greatly from it.

We are thankful to St. Matthews for their generous sponsorship in order to receive the training and resources for the “40 days of Purpose” Campaign. It is our hope that we may be able to offer a “40 days of Purpose” series sometime soon so others may come to know the rich purpose that God has given to all believers!

The Parish Paper by Herb Miller Makes it Debut in the Bethany Herald

Herb Miller, editor, author, and parish consultant, has been offering a vast array of rich resources for congregations. In this issue “Financial Stewardship: Myths and Principles”, he offers insight into the ministry of financial stewardship backed by his research. It is never too early to be thinking in terms of our earthly stewardship of all that God has given us. Giving is not just something we do to “pay the bills.” Rather, giving is something we do in order that *we may grow* in spiritual maturity and discipleship for Christ’s mission in the world. I commend this article to us for challenge and understanding of financial stewardship. – Pastor Jeff (see article on the following pages)