
Dungeness Valley Lutheran *Currents*



February 2012

Church Telephone: 681-0946

Pastor's Notes

"Putting the End Times in Perspective"

Occasionally, I run across books in preparation for classes here at DVLC that in my judgment, really hit the mark. This month, I am heartily endorsing two books. The first is a commentary on Revelation, written by one of my seminary professors, Craig Koester. It's entitled: *Revelation and the End of All Things*. This synopsis appears on the cover:

"*Revelation and the End of All Things* is a highly readable guide to Revelation that engages the questions people most often ask about this difficult book in the Bible. After discussing sensationalistic interpretations of Revelation - showing how these approaches work and why they are problematic - Craig Koester ably leads readers through the entire book of Revelation, keeping in mind the situations of both first-century and twenty-first-century readers. Koester's exceptional grasp of Revelation's history, text, and purpose allows him to present the book's message in a way that is clear, engaging, and meaningful to modern readers."

The book jacket also says that *Revelation and the End of All Things* is "Highly recommended for ministry students, church study groups, and general readers."

Having read it, I agree!

The second recommended offering is a book entitled *Left Behind and Loving It: A Cheeky Look at the End Times*. Written in 2011 by D. Mark Davis, pastor of Heartland Presbyterian Church in Clive, Iowa; the book is what you might call a mainline church's response to understanding the Bible's apocalyptic (i.e. often violent and scary end times) texts (such as Daniel and Revelation).

So, what's the book about? Check out this from the editor's cover notes:

"*Left Behind and Loving It* is a cheeky critique of popular writings [and related teaching] about the end times. Rather than presenting a steroid-buffed Jesus wrapped in an American Flag and 'coming again in clouds of gunfire,' *Left Behind and Loving It* invites readers to approach some of the most controversial and scary portions of the Scriptures with the utter confidence that 'God's steadfast love endures forever.' Rather than asserting a hope premised on a few chosen ones escaping the world, *Left Behind and Loving It* argues that if it is Jesus who is to return (and not his evil twin), then the 'second coming' has redemption written all over it. Many today cannot accept the escapist, violent, end-of-the-world scenario envisioned by 'Left Behind' theology. *Left Behind and Loving It* invites readers not to fear but to trust in God's steadfast love and look at the finitude of the world with hope in an infinitely loving God."

And this quote attributed to William P. Brown, of Columbia Theological Seminary:

"In this book filled with wit and great wisdom, Mark Davis takes on the *Left Behind* series and exposes it for what it is: fear mongering nonsense that makes a travesty of the gospel. Davis provides a way of reading the Bible that is historically sensitive and theologically acute. And as he ably demonstrates, a faithful reading of Scripture has its own share of surprises! I highly recommend this book to anyone who is concerned, or confused, about the apocalypse."

So there you have it. Two excellent books on the end time. Enjoy!

Yours for a blessed end to Epiphany, and beginning to Lent, this year of our Lord 2012,

Pastor Jack :-)

Church Council Highlights

Pastor's Report for December:

24 – Meetings 2 – Hospital Visits
1 – Funerals 6 – Classes
5 – Home Visits 0 – Weddings
6 – Office Visits 0 – Baptism
0 – Confirmations
1 week of vacation

Parish Nurse Report for December:

10 – Congregational contacts
2 – Community Contacts
4 – Meetings
3 – Sunday School classes
0 – Memorial Services
0 – Nursing Home Visits
9 – Worship services
1 – Sherwood Assisted Living Service

Follow-up health concern issues, assist with medical paperwork, provided health resource information, care/concern visits Sunday School teacher for Middle/High School class

Christian Education Director Report for Mid-December to January 9, 2012:

- After the Christmas program and party December 18, there was a hiatus in activity till January 8
- Sunday School continues with Debbie Bradbury, Jan Webb, Gwyn Wessel, Mary G. and Karin Anderson involved
- brainstorming & praying about mid-week activities with kids, Valerie Lape & possibly Trinity UM
- Goal: to spend time mid-week with kids

Activities planned for fundraising:

- January 29 - Souper Bowl fundraiser lunch for Living Stones Ministries

Additional scholarship fundraiser lunches planned:

- Feb. 21 - Pancake dinner for Shrove Tues.
- March 18 – Bake Potato Bar
- April 15th – Egg dishes
- May 6th – Taco Bar
- June ? picnic ? (may not be a fundraiser)
- Next meeting Feb 2 at 3:15 p.m.

Average Sunday Attendance for
December 2011: 110
December 2010: 111

IN OUR PRAYERS

ILLNESS/SURGERY RECOVERY MEMBERS



Carol Coleman;
Margaret Brown;
Bob Hardy, Alan Sawyer; LaRay Greene;
Bill Heinze; Les and Ruth Skogman;
Shirley Eaton;

Friends or Relatives of DVLC Members

Carol Howard (niece of Gordon and Betty Zander);
Marian Johnson (Karin Anderson);
Anne (Sue Pierce);
Darla (Mel & Marie Breitsprecher);
Jessie Grinstad; Terry Stratton (Alberta Baker); Dora Kramer (Albert Baker);
Karin (Bob Green's Niece);
Mary Horne (LaNice Korus);
Amy, Tyler & Garrett (Terri Bristow);
Ginger Little (Duane & Nancy Little);
Becky Kramer (Elizabeth Sump);
Sue Murray (Lou Schlaffman);
Edward Rogala Sr. (Shani Floyd);
Kathryn Bradley (LaNice Korus);
Shirley (Jolie Will); Geri (Judy Green)
Dee Aley (Donna Sommer);
Carl Skogman (Les and Ruth Skogman);
Becky Kraemer (Elizabeth Sump);
Mickey (Judy Green); Jodi (LaRay Greene);
Prudence Hockly (Judy Green)

OUTREACH PRAYERS

All those serving in the military; Risen Faith Fellowship; and Sunshine Ministries in Vietnam. Lutheran Community Services; The Dream Center; The Living Stones Ministry: LWR Water Project

From the Parish Nurse

February is the month to talk about heart disease not just hearts for Valentine's Day.

Here is a different kind of list taken from WebMD.

How to Wreck Your Heart

1. **Keep smoking.** A major cause of heart disease, smoking raises blood pressure, causes blood clots, and makes it harder to exercise. And it's the number one preventable cause of premature death in the U.S., according to the American Heart Association.
2. **Ignore that chest pain.** When your heart literally aches and you don't know why, it's time to get checked out. If you have chest pains while exercising, that's a red flag. But if it happens after a heavy meal, it's more likely to be your stomach causing trouble. If you feel like an elephant is sitting on your chest and you break out in a sweat, that's an urgent matter; CALL 911. DO NOT TRY TO DRIVE YOURSELF OR HAVE SOMEONE ELSE DRIVE YOU TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM.
3. **Just accept that it's in your genes.** Having a family history of heart disease is a strong risk factor for predicting your own chances of heart trouble. Heart disease isn't just what you inherit. It's also what you do about it.
4. **Skip your checkup.** When you don't get checked out regularly by a doctor, you might not realize you have some of the silent heart risk factors that are hard to detect, like high blood pressure and high cholesterol.
5. **Be a couch potato.** Being sedentary increases heart risks. Exercise helps lower blood pressure, improves cholesterol levels, encourages weight loss, benefits blood vessel function and cuts stress, among other things.
6. **Stop taking your medication.** If you stop taking your heart medications, you may not feel better or worse afterward,

but you could still be heading for a cardiac catastrophe.

7. **Forget your growing waistline – just buy bigger pants.** If your belt size is getting bigger, that's something to worry about. A hefty waistline is linked to doubling your risk of heart disease. That's good reason to redouble your efforts to get in shape through a healthy lifestyle. It's not just about your clothes size.
8. **Never mind when your heart flutters.** A fluttering feeling in your heart that causes discomfort, shortness of breath, the feeling you could faint, or actual fainting could be a sign of a heart arrhythmia. If it happens frequently or is associated with other symptoms, seek medical attention immediately.
9. **Let your blood pressure run amok.** A good way to wreck your heart is to leave your blood pressure elevated and untreated. Only about half of American adults with high blood pressure keep it under control.
10. **Eat with abandon.** Being overweight or obese contributes to heart disease, heart failure, and a shorter lifespan. No doubt, lasting weight loss is tough to accomplish, but the good news is, even moderate weight loss can improve heart risk factors. So eat a diet rich in fruits, vegetables, and nuts, low in saturated fats and cholesterol. Eat heart healthy fats instead.

There will be more information on the Health Resources table in February.

Mary Griffith
Parish Nurse

Shele's Alaska Prom

Late last year Shele Kinkead asked for our help to outfit students in remote Alaskan villages for a prom. You responded in characteristic DVLC style. Boxes have been mailed containing approximately 40 shirts, 60 neckties, 70 dresses, 40 scarves. WELCA paid shipping charges. Shele thanks all who contributed to this effort.

DVLC Birthday Corner

Birthday celebrations for January:

- 1 – Fred Code
- 2 – Kathy Sievert
- 6 – Jeanette Fischer
- 8 – Pamela Cortes'
- 15 – Dale Rudd
- 21 – Timothy Harrison
- 21 – Kari Olsen
- 23 – Gary Capouch

Happy Birthday to all!

By the way, please let us know if we have reported your birthday incorrectly or omitted it. If we have, we apologize.

Discovery Weekend 2012

April 20, 21 & 22

(Friday night, all day Saturday and Sunday afternoon)

Most of us take very little time for ourselves. During Discovery Weekend, each of us will look at the possibilities for growth in our Christian faith and, in the process, come to know the men and women in our church family better.

Discovery Weekend will take place two weeks after Easter (April 20, 21, & 22) and will include time for quiet reflection, prayer, personal stories, music, creative discussion and activities in small groups, food and fellowship. We'll begin on Friday evening, gather again on Saturday morning, meeting until late afternoon, and convene for the final session on Sunday afternoon immediately following second service. The weekend will be held here at DVLC. It is free of charge and includes meals (breakfast and lunch on Saturday and lunch on Sunday) and materials.

Focusing on eleven topics, ranging from loneliness, to trust in God, to growth in the body of Christ, speakers from the congregation will share personal stories related to the specific theme. This is a time of sharing about where we are in our individual spiritual journeys, a time to reflect about where we've been and where we'd

like to go, a time to consider what is most important in our lives and where we are in our relationship to God.

Mark your calendars now for this meaningful weekend. During the next month, many of you will be contacted to participate as speakers, team leaders and/or helpers. A sign up table will appear in the Narthex, Sunday January 15th. Please consider to be a part of the planning team to make this special "retreat" weekend possible.

More information will come as the weeks pass, but for now think of DVLC's first ever **Discovery Weekend** as a blessed opportunity to deepen your experience of God--and **SAVE THE DATE!**

Flowers for Sundays

Our Flower chart for 2012 is on the Bulletin Board outside of our Church Office. Please take the time to sign up. All dates are open and you can be the first to choose your special Sunday! Thank you to all how have participated in this special project. The offer is available for those who wish to pay \$15 in advance and I will be pleased to purchase the flowers for you. Your "flower angel"
Myrna Juergens, 582-0358

World Day of Prayer

**March 2, Friday, Noon to 1:00
at Trinity United Methodist Church
100 Blake Avenue**

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide ecumenical movement of many faith traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer held in 170 countries. WDP began 92 years ago in 1920. Each year a different country serves as the writer of the service. For 2012, the women of Malaysia developed the theme, Let Justice Prevail. All are invited to attend at Trinity United Methodist Church on March 2 at Noon. If you have any questions, please call Marsha Chatfield at 683-9163.

2011 Year-End Financial Results

During December our Operating Fund had a total income of \$29,258 which exceeded our monthly Budget by \$2,234 and our actual expenses by \$3,972. As a result, we ended the year with our total Operating Fund income at \$324,319 which was \$1,034 below our Budget, but our income exceeded our actual expenses so we ended the year with a surplus of \$5,340. Outside of our Budget, Council designated that our Christmas Eve offerings (\$1,214) went to Volunteer Hospice Of Clallam County. In addition to offerings for our Budget, more than \$6,500 in contributions were received during 2011 for a variety of fundraisers (for example the Scholarship Fund raised \$1,646.50) and Designated Funds (for example \$965 was given to the Memorial Garden Fund). The Operating Fund is summarized below, and in addition we have listed year-end balances for our reserves and designated funds as well as the Mission Endowment Fund.

Operating Fund

	<u>December</u>	<u>Year-to-date</u>
Planned Income & Expenses	\$27,021	\$324,319
Actual Income	29,258	323,285
Actual vs.		
Planned Income	2,234	(1,034)
Actual Expenses	25,286	317,945
Actual Income vs.		
Actual Expenses	3,972	
		5,340

2011 Year-end Balances

Operating Fund Available Cash	\$23,157
Prepaid Offerings (for 2012, 2013, and 2014)	\$29,000
Reserves –	
Opportunity Fund	\$21,664
Major Repair Fund	\$11,111
Pastor's Sabbatical Fund	\$ 6,400
Mortgage Reserve	\$17,113

Designated Funds –

Memorial Garden Fund	\$ 330
Library Fund	\$ 1,338
Kitchen Fund	\$ 600
DVLC Youth Fund	\$ 1,045
Stephen Ministry Fund	\$ 552
Scholarship Fund	\$ 2,127
Other Designated Funds	\$ 2,438
Mission Endowment Fund	\$58,356

Finance Committee

Sequim United Parish Ash Wednesday Service

February 22, 7 p.m.

At Trinity United Methodist

We join our friends of St. Luke's Episcopal and Trinity United Methodist Churches in sharing the beginning of our Lenten journey. Everyone is invited to attend.

Quilters

The quilters thank WELCA for purchasing batting and other supplies used in making quilts during the past year. We thank Dorothy Brancato and her friends for the steady supply of sheets and blankets gathered at yard sales. And to those who sewed tops or contributed sheets, thread and crochet thread, we thank you. A total of 134 quilts were made and distributed as follows: 120 quilts to the Salvation Army, 44 quilts for LWR, 6 to the Healthy Families benefit. Thank you to all who contributed money used to ship the LWR quilts. We continue to assemble and tie quilts each week. It takes a huge amount of sheets, batting, old blankets and thread to keep us supplied. If you have any of these to contribute, we would gratefully accept them. Thank you for your support of our efforts.