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# Dungeness Valley Lutheran *Currents*

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Church Telephone: 681-0946

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## **Pastor's Notes** **A Zero-Sum Future?**

*“Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, ‘Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.’ But he [Jesus] did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, ‘Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.’ He [Jesus] answered, ‘I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.’ But she came and knelt before him, saying, ‘Lord, help me.’ He [Jesus] answered, ‘It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.’ She said, ‘Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.’ Then Jesus answered her, ‘Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.’ And her daughter was healed instantly.”*

*Matthew 15:21-28*

It’s called “zero-sum” thinking.

And as Matthew the Gospel writer tells the story recorded above, Jesus began his encounter with the Canaanite woman as a zero-sum thinker.

Don’t know what zero-sum thinking is? The idea comes from game theory, and it means that when there are two players vying against each other, the degree to which one wins is exactly equal to the degree to which the other loses.

Zero-sum individuals think “I win: you lose.” Similarly, zero-sum groups think “We win: you (plural) lose.” It is me against you, us against them. There is no such thing as a “win-win” in zero-sum thinking.

And “win-lose” is apparently just the way Jesus was thinking. We (Jews) are meant to win (receive all the benefits of Jesus’ healing ministry): you (Gentile losers) are out of luck. It’s as if Jesus is saying that there’s only enough to go around for his own people; God didn’t give him the where-withal to deal with anyone beyond his own group. It’s a hard, un-feeling line that Jesus takes. Quite in line, historically speaking, with the long-standing antipathy between Jews and Gentiles.

Yet when the woman persists, two miracles happen. Yes, you are probably thinking of the obvious one. The woman’s daughter is healed.

But the greater miracle, I believe, is what happened first: an event that enabled the subsequent healing to take place. Very simply, it was this: Jesus changed his mind.

No longer did Jesus see the blessings he had come to bring as being either restricted or limited to one group or other. There would be enough grace to go around. God would see to it.

Jesus left his “win-lose” zero-sum perspective behind, in favor of a “win-win” approach. And the whole world stood to benefit.

As it happens, I am writing to you on the day after the Inauguration. Our new president has gone on record as being the quintessential zero-sum (“I win: you lose”) thinker. His own life-experience as a deal-maker in business has no doubt shaped his perspective in profound ways. It remains to be seen just how “win-lose,” “us vs. them” his actual policies will be as his administration governs. Time will tell.

But I want to share with you that I am praying for two miracles. The first is that

President Trump may have an encounter not unlike that of Jesus with the Canaanite woman. An encounter that will open his eyes to the possibilities of “win-win” thinking. That there really is enough to go around, and that God will see to it.

The second miracle? That despite the temptation to revert to an increased reliance on “win-lose,” “us vs. them” thinking, I pray that we won’t go there. I pray that God will keep us all from labeling all non-conforming foreigners and other minority groups as only dangerous threats, sponging leeches or dishonest and lying rivals; and keep our hearts and minds open to all people – especially those in need – whether or not they happen to belong to our particular tribe or nation.

The future God has in mind is greater than just America, and we won’t get there with “zero-sum” thinking.

**Pastor Jack** ☺

## **Church Council Highlights**

- Audit Committee selected – Gary Capouch, Susie Herrick, Kathy Lohrman
- Homeless Study – a group here at DVLC has formed on helping the homeless in Sequim. Council supports the committee to move forward in gathering information.
- Rev. Kim Latterell, Associate to the Bishop, from the SW WA Synod was present. He spoke about the upcoming process and the steps to be taken for the call.
- Treasurer Report: we’re in the black.

### **Pastor’s Report – December 2016**

<b>22</b> – Meetings	<b>0</b> – Hospital Visits
<b>0</b> – Funerals	<b>10</b> – Classes
<b>4</b> – Home Visits	<b>0</b> – Weddings
<b>5</b> – Office Visits	<b>0</b> – Baptisms
<b>0</b> – Confirmations	One week vacation

### **AVERAGE ATTENDANCE:**

Average Sunday Attendance for

**December 2016: 90**

**December 2015: 97**

## **IN OUR PRAYERS**



### **ILLNESS/SURGERY RECOVERY MEMBERS**

Les and Ruth Skogman; Loren Kreutner; Annette Lindamood; Ginger Little; Tracy Williams; Bob Hardy; Lee Raymond; Mark & Rosemary Freed, Duane Little, Sue Stauffer, Janet Hintermayr

### **FRIENDS OR RELATIVES OF DVLC MEMBERS**

**Carl Skogman** (Les and Ruth Skogman); **Bernie** (Judy Green); **Anita Little** (Duane and Nancy Little); **Gladys** (Gordon Zander); **Mike Pierce** (Sue Pierce); **Anne** (daughter of Sue Pierce); **Christine** (LaNice Korus); **Marsha & Lee Richard** (LaNice Korus); **Tami** (LaNice Korus); **Larry** (Bob Green); **Lois and Lorne Kennedy** (Donna McMillen); **Kathy Hart** (Sue Pierce); **Karl** (Jerry Behrens); **Josh Moan** (Gail Schwab); **Debbie Moore** (Ruth Geiger); **Caroline & family** (Jan Webb); **Rebekah, Patience, Parker and Joeigh** (Ruth Geiger), **Kirk Jennings** (Brenda Jennings); **Vanessa** (Randi Cooper), **Rick and Julia Piglowski** (Paul and Gwyn); **June Wright** (Sherry Wright); **Eleanor** (Bev Horan)

### **OUTREACH PRAYERS**

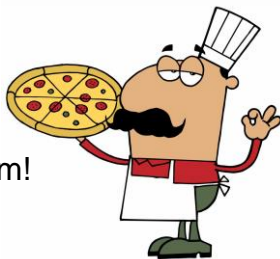
All those serving in the military; Sunshine Ministries in Vietnam; The Dream Center; Risen Faith Fellowship; Panama; The Living Stones Ministry; Lutheran Community Services; LWR Water Project

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**MORE**

**Pizza Night**

February 7<sup>th</sup>, 5:45pm!



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**Quarters for Parent Line**

Your quarters for 2016 amounted to \$335 which was used by Parent Line. The quarters are used for doing laundry at the laundromat (a package of dry soap powder is included) bus fare and a small hand out for those who come into Parent line needing a little help. Thank you one and all for saving those quarters.

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**The Reflections Group**

The Reflections Group Bible study, led by Pastor Ruth Geiger, will meet on Wednesday February 8 at 1 pm at the home of one of the group's members. They will be reflecting on the Beatitudes, Matthew 5:1-11 and Luke 6:20-26. Contact Pastor Ruth for more info [206-349-4082](tel:206-349-4082).

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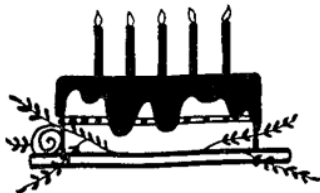
**DVLC Birthday Corner**

**Birthday celebrations for February:**

- 2 – Shirley Eaton
- 6 – Jeanette Fischer
- 8 – Pamela Cortes'
- 15 – Dale Rudd
- 21 – Kari Olsen
- 23 – Gary Capouch
- 28 – Nancy Little
- 29 – Judy Kenyon

**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.



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**Save the Date:  
Ash Wednesday Service  
March 1, 3 pm here at DVLC**

We will again be gathering with our friends from Trinity United Methodist Church for our Ash Wednesday Service. This service ends with the imposition of ashes and is a powerful way to begin our Lenten Journey. We hope everyone will join together for this special time.

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**THANK YOU DVLC!**

Your generosity is known among many! Feeding and helping the homeless through HOMELESS CONNECT. Over \$541 raised on 2 Sundays through our SOUPER BOWL OF CARING! HATS, GLOVES, & SOCKS donated to go to Lutheran Community Services.

**YOU ARE TRULY A GIVING AND SHARING PEOPLE WHO SHOW CHRIST'S LIGHT! LET IT SHINE!**



The youth are still collecting socks, hats, and gloves through February 12, to put together with food bags to give to Lutheran Community Services for their homeless outreach.

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## **YOUTH MEET!**

**High school youth will meet on Sunday, February 12 after 2<sup>nd</sup> service for a lunch, activities may include discussion and putting together bags of food for Lutheran Community Services.**

**HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH  
FEBRUARY 12  
AFTER 2<sup>ND</sup>  
SERVICE  
LUNCH AND  
ACTIVITY**



## **HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MEET HERE!**

In January, we hosted the GSA (Gay Straight Alliance) Club from Sequim High School. Ten youth gathered for an after school event.

On Sunday, January 29, Jan Webb hosted a spaghetti dinner and game night at her home for youth.

Thank you for your continued support of this group!



**NATIONAL  
PANCAKE  
DAY,  
FAT  
TUESDAY**

**SHROVE  
TUESDAY**



**MARDI  
GRAS**



**NO MATTER WHAT  
YOU CALL IT, WE  
WILL CELEBRATE AT  
DVLC WITH A  
PANCAKE SUPPER  
ON FEBRUARY 28,  
THE DAY BEFORE  
ASH WEDNESDAY.**

**WOW! Working On Wellness  
Free Community Lecture  
for February**

The program is *Prevention of Dementia: an Integrative Approach*, presented by Dr. Carolyn DeSalvo, Rain Shadow Integrative Medicine

**Wednesday, February 8  
2:30 – 3:30 pm  
at Trinity United Methodist Church**

**Upcoming Programs:**

**March 8 - The "New" Miracle Drug - Exercise For All Ages**

**April 12 - Better Dental Health For You**

**May 10 - The Mental Well-being Challenges of Living Longer**

**June 14 - Fight the Fall - Strategies and Exercise to Improve Balance, Safety and Fitness**

*"Working on Wellness" is a program of the Dungeness Valley Health & Wellness Clinic*

**Service Helpers for February**

Thank you for your participation in our worship life here at DVLC! Your service is an asset to our members.

**8:30 Service -**

Lectors:

Feb. 5            Andra Smith  
Feb. 12          Christie Foster  
Feb. 19          Dennis Isaac  
Feb. 26          Carleen Bensen

Ushers:

Feb. 5            Judy Lynn  
Feb. 12          Ray Dangman  
Feb. 19          Marian Needham  
Feb. 26          Dennis Isaac

Communion Assistants:

Feb. 5            Diane Isaac  
                     Betty Zander

Feb. 19          Mary Deckebach  
                     Gloria Virak

**11:00 Service:**

Greeter:            Eileen Larson

Ushers:

Feb. 5            Bud Fulhart  
                     Chris Juergens

Feb. 12          Ted Johnson  
                     Chris Juergens

Feb. 19          Bud Fulhart  
                     Chris Juergens

Feb. 26          Bud Fulhart  
                     Chris Juergens

**December and 2016  
Financial Results**

December was a good month financially with Operating Fund receipts at **\$28,884** which is **\$4,551 higher than our monthly budget** and **\$3,821 higher than our actual December expenses**. As a result, our Operating Fund receipts for the year totaled **\$293,273** which is **\$1,265 higher than our Budget** and **\$5,208 higher than our actual expenses**. The Operating Fund is summarized below.

Operating Fund

	<u>December</u>	<u>2016</u>
Planned Receipts	\$24,333	\$292,008
Actual Receipts	28,884	293,273
Actual vs.		
Planned Receipts	4,551	1,265
Planned Expenses	24,444	293,436
Actual Expenses	25,063	288,065
Actual Receipts vs.		
Actual Expenses	3,821	5,208

**Finance Committee**

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## YEAR-END FINANCIAL SUMMARY – 2016 (Preliminary)

	<u>12/31/2016</u>	<u>12/31/2015</u>
Number Of Giving Units	116	111
<b><u>Assets</u></b>		
<b><u>Operating Funds</u></b>		
Available Funds	\$36,193	\$33,815
Prepaid Offerings	<u>19,000</u>	<u>24,200</u>
Total Operating Funds	<b>\$55,193</b>	\$58,015
<b><u>Reserves</u></b>		
Opportunity Fund	\$25,649	\$25,745
Cheiko Clift Memorial Fund	10,281	10,281(1)
Major Repair Reserve	14,426	19,704
Pastor's Sabbatical Fund	1,369	1,369
Mortgage Reserve Fund	<u>5,113</u>	<u>5,113</u>
Total Reserves	<b>\$56,838</b>	\$62,212
Designated Funds_	<u>\$13,534</u>	<u>\$13,764</u>
General Fund Grand Total	<b>\$125,565(2)</b>	\$133,991
Mission Endowment Fund	<b>\$112,134(1)</b>	\$103,998
Behren Scholarship Fund	14,953	14,331(1)
Agape Fund	<u>1,764</u>	<u>2,444</u>
Grand Total All Funds	<b>\$254,416</b>	\$254,764
<b><u>Liabilities</u></b>		
Mortgage (2011 – 10 years @ 5.375%)	<b>\$152,634</b>	\$193,207
<b><u>Operations</u></b>		
Income (excl. reserves drawdown)	\$293,273	\$294,944
Expenses	<u>\$288,065</u>	<u>\$296,835</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)	<b>\$5,208</b>	\$(1,891)
Christmas Eve/Day Offering To Charity	<b>\$1,223 (Foodbank)</b>	\$1,544 (FoodBank)

Insured replacement cost for buildings and content = **\$2,437,500** (excludes value of property)

- (1) In 2015 DVLC received \$35,281 from the Cheiko Clift estate from which Council approved depositing \$25,000 into the Mission Endowment Fund. The Mission Endowment Fund also received \$15,000 in 2015 in memory of John Behrens to use for scholarships.
  - (2) The General Fund includes \$53,758 in our First Federal Money Market and Checking accounts, \$5,128 in a First Federal CD which matures in 2017, and \$66,679 is in our ELCA Mission Investment Fund account. The Agape Fund is held in a separate account at First Federal, and the Mission Endowment Fund is held in a Charles Schwab account.
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