



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

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RAYS OF SONSHINE NEWSLETTER for JANUARY 2012

Pastor's Letter:

Mark

The new year is upon us, but you probably haven't noticed that we have changed gospels because we haven't read that much from Mark just yet. Mark is the shortest gospel, and the year that is devoted to reading from Mark is often supplemented with readings from the other gospels, especially from John.

Mark is a short gospel, significantly shorter than the other three. It also moves quickly. In fact, the word "immediately," occurs over and over in the gospel, linking the different stories. So much so that it is left out of most translations because to our ear it becomes repetitious and a little strange.

But Mark itself is kind of a strange gospel. First there is the Messianic Secret. In Mark's gospel Jesus is very firm in commanding his disciples not to let anyone know he was the Messiah. Why is this? You would think that this is the point of what Jesus is about anyway. Many people have argued about what this secret might mean. However I believe it is probably so that there would be room for Jesus to reinterpret the meaning of the Messiah in his own way. There were a lot of ideas about what the Messiah was supposed to be and what he was supposed to do. Jesus has his own ideas on the matter. He takes the various threads of what "Messiah" means, appropriates them, and then reinterprets them in a new and challenging way. I think Jesus wants us to realize not so much that "the Messiah is Jesus," but that "Jesus is the Messiah."

Second there is the problem of beginnings and endings. Mark's gospel starts abruptly and ends abruptly. There is no real beginning to the book outside of a title (v.1) that was probably added later. All three of the other gospels have a proper beginning, either with birth narratives (Matthew and Luke) or with a more theological introduction to Jesus (John). They also have proper endings, with John's gospel even having an epilogue of sorts. Mark's gospel ends with the women coming to Jesus' tomb, meeting a man with a white robe who says that "he has been raised," and leaving, telling no one. The last line says, literally, "they were terrified."

How do we deal with this problem? Did Mark really mean to begin and end his gospel in this way? Some thinkers have postulated that Mark actually lost its beginning and end somewhere along the way. That, like a book without a cover, the pages were simply lost and never recovered. Others believe the text as we have it was intended. In ancient times, it appears scribes added to the text, adding a title to the gospel and tacking on two different possible endings. In modern times most scholars and preachers have worked around these additions, trying to find meaning in the words as we have them. We will probably never know, but the church relies on its larger witness to bring understanding to mysteries.

Authorship is another mystery in Mark. It is an anonymous work. There is a very old tradition that the gospel was written by an early companion to the apostles in Acts, a man named Mark, who was relating the stories and preaching of Peter, "but not in order." Most scholars find the evidence for this theory rather weak, but the gospel does have a rustic voice, very different from the refined writing of Paul or Luke or John. What most scholars do agree on is that Mark is the earliest gospel that we have. It is likely that Matthew and Luke both borrowed from Mark extensively (as well as another source). It was probably written during or shortly after the Jewish revolt (66-70 AD).

But while scholars give Mark a special place because of its date, we give Mark a special place because of the Jesus we find there. Mark's Jesus is a man of action. His message is found not only in his words, but in his deeds. The kingdom he ushers in brings him into conflict on several fronts, not only with religious and political leaders, but with demons and diseases. Jesus is a healer and exorcist. He travels from place to place fighting devils, illness, and arguing with the powerful. And even though in the end even his disciples betray, disavow and abandon him, his kingdom work and message are vindicated by the One who raises him from the dead.

Holiday Help for Local Aid: Thank you so much for your generosity this season. We raised \$450 for holiday chickens and turkeys for Local Aid!

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Submit your news and items for the FEBRUARY newsletter by 1/25 to jean.larkin@or.usda.gov

Be sure to update use of the church and hall on the calendar by Pastor's office door.

JANUARY Service Schedule

Sign-up sheet on the parish hall bulletin board.

Date	Lay Reader	Worship Assistant	Altar Flowers	Coffee Hour	Custodians – Have church & hall cleaned by this date
Jan 1	Michelle G	Scott Z	Amundson's	Amundson's	Edna & Ed Amundson
Jan 8	Cynthia M	Cynthia M	In memory of Elna Reerslev, J/J Larkin		Lori Z & Marie Lockett
Jan 15	Tom Fries		Sandy Wiese	Planning Comm.	Keller's
Jan 22	Cynthia M	Cynthia M	Larkin's	Larkin's	Nancy C, Greg & Sandy G
Jan 29	Scott Z	Scott Z		Annual Mtg - POTLUCK	Guillory's
Feb 5	Scott Z				Enola N, Irene L, Sandy W

JANUARY

Ushers: Joe & Jean Larkin

Altar Guild: Ruth Nelson & Judy Simpson

FEBRUARY

Ushers:

Altar Guild: Joe & Jean Larkin

Christmas Tree Pickup: If you'd like to have your tree picked up after the holidays, call Emmaus Lutheran to schedule a pickup. It's an annual fundraiser for the youth. Dates are December 29-31 and January 7-8. Donations gladly accepted and trees are recycled courtesy of Rexus Wood Products. Call 541.344.1150.

1ST TUESDAY POTLUCK/SPEAKER – JAN 3rd

Sandy Garrett – 541.998.6168

Share in the Potluck Supper at 6 pm.

At 7 pm the speaker will be Gini Bramlett, editor of our local paper, The Tribune News.

GAME NIGHT is **Jan 13** at the Larkin's, 7 pm. Bring finger snacks, drink of choice, games!! Questions? Joe/Jean 541.998.2475

The **Danish Ladies Aid (DLA)** group began at the time the church was formed. As Faith began as a Danish church, the majority of DLA members were Danish. That's no longer the case! There are only a few of us Danes left ... the vast majority are not! We do still cherish and support the roots of the group though. DLA is open to any and all women of the church. The DLA is not a committee, but rather a social and service oriented group. We meet the third Sunday of the month during coffee hour after church. Pop in and join us.

Glaedelig Jul!



Annual Danish Ladies Aid Christmas Party

Sunday January 8, 2:00 pm

Danish & American Christmas Songs

Rice Pudding

Cookies and Pastries

Good Conversation

ALL are invited to experience a bit of a Danish Christmas!



In Our Prayers:

Julie Jensen, health issues
Ethel Nygren, friend of Linda Wicklund, nearing death
Ingrid Autumn Rose, Linda W's daughter, for her baby, her safety, and spiritual guidance
Dorothy Senchina, broken ankle
Ethel Vogt, illness
Vic & Lois Nielsen, adjustment to move
Ashlie Chrowl, Wubit's friend, brain trauma/recovery
Mike Ogan, Jack's brother, health concerns
Vic Bender, Jack Ogan's father, health concerns
Mark Mares, Marie's son-in-law, Parkinson's
Jon Lockett, Marie's stepson, health concerns
Roy Maars, Frank's brother, recovery
Collin Randall, for family concerns
Eddie Relf & Ruth Buckley, quilters w/ health concerns
Grant Stephens, aneurysm, recovery
Shari Pierce, Sandy G's sister, cancer
Bonnie Miller, health concern
Beverly La Grange, John Chappelle, & Susan Tapia, Jim C's friends/family with health issues
Mildred Guillory, Ken Van Devender, Ken Ambers, Dick Jones, Harriet Grunewald, Gary Garrett, Duane & Rose Van Devender all for health concerns
Beth Westcott, daughter of Pastor Currens, cancer
Pam McNight, Michelle's cousin, lung tumor
Jones Family, Howard Peterson, Karen Lemieux, Gillie Bennett, Carol Meyers, Bobette Peterson: Mara's friends with health concerns
Kristina Barrett, grand-daughter of Pastor B's former pastor, soft tissue cancer
Larry Rasmussen, family of Ed/friend of Ken, cancer
Fran LaPerna, Nancy C friend, surgery complications
Karen Guzman, Carol Deskines' cousin, Parkinson's
Norine, friend of Irene Ferris, health concerns
Marilyn & Dale Huth, Don, Shawn & Jason Wilson, Ed Zimmerman, Wanda Curtis, Renee Van Norman, Don Putnam: Scott & Lori's family/friends with health concerns
Those in military service: **Diane, Paul, Dale & Dane**

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR NOVEMBER

Operating income: \$6363
Operating expense: \$8338

Expenses include \$1876 for property taxes.

The church subscribes to "The Lutheran" every member plan. For 2012 the cost per subscription is nearly \$8 for the year. This is a big savings over the cost of an individual subscription of nearly \$18 per year. However, we would appreciate donations for the subscriptions. Thanks, Nancy Clough

To our Faith Lutheran church family:

The cantata this year "A Tapestry of Light" was not only enjoyed by members of the congregation, but by many from the community.

Because the "Sounds of Faith" members rehearsed each Wednesday evening on this music, they were able to give a marvelous performance. "Thank you" to all who participated in making this cantata a success.

Larry and I feel blessed to be a part of Faith's family. May you have peace, joy, and contentment throughout the coming year.

Linda Larson, Director of Music

Reconciling in Christ Speaker, January 15

The Planning Group, which organized the process that formed our welcoming statement, has invited a speaker to come and help us understand what being a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation would mean. The group felt there was confusion about the significance of taking this step, even though our welcoming statement qualifies us to be listed as an RIC congregation. January 15 after church Jim Morrell will be with us to explain how we become an RIC congregation, what that might mean for our ministry, and to answer questions anyone might have. The Planning Group would like to propose a resolution at the annual meeting that we become a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

All Friends at Faith
are invited to the marriage of

Diane Christine Oliver
and
James Clark Chappelle

Saturday January 14, 2012
1:00 p.m.

First Baptist Church
28957 W 18th Avenue
Junction City Oregon

Reception to follow

A money tree will be available.



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES - December 13, 2011

Present: Sandy Garrett, Greg Garrett, Frank Marrs, Gary Keller, Nancy Clough, Carol Deskines, Pastor Brennen.

Opening: The meeting was called to order by Frank at 6:56 PM. Pastor led devotion.

Minutes: The minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Current operating income: \$6363.00 Current operating expense: \$8337.97 The Lutheran magazine subscriptions are renewed in December. If you are able, please donate \$8.00 for the subscription. Put it in the offering and designate it for the magazine.

Pastor's Report:

- Thanks to all who attended the Thanksgiving service. We had a wonderful ecumenical choir as well.
- Congratulations to the choir for their annual cantata held on December 11th.
- Our Christmas Eve service will be Saturday at 7 PM with our service on Christmas day at the regular time of 10:30 AM. On January 1st, we will celebrate the Feast of the Name of Jesus.
- Thanks to everyone who has been giving so generously to Local Aid for chickens and turkeys. We will continue to collect money through the fourth Sunday of Advent.
- The Bishop's Convention will be held at Cannon Beach from January 16-18th. I will be out of the office on those days.
- My planned conversation with the high school principle has been delayed until after the holiday break.
- The task-force that formed around our welcoming statement would like to have a resolution at the upcoming annual meeting regarding becoming an official Reconciling in Christ congregation. The welcoming statement we have qualifies us; however we have not taken the further step yet to submit it to the organization because there was some confusion early on about what the significance of being a reconciling congregation was. The task-force decided it was wiser to take one step at a time. We are inviting a speaker, probably Jim Morrell, to speak to us in January after the service about what being an official Reconciling in Christ church might mean for us.
- Pastoral counseling estimate:

Hospital: 2 Nursing Home/Residential Center: 5 Pastoral counseling: 30

Nominations: We need 2 volunteers for the Church Council and 2 volunteers (one woman and one man) to be voting members at the Synod Convention on April 27-29th in Bend, Oregon. If you are interested, please contact Pastor or any Council member.

Closing: The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer at 7:42 PM. The next meeting is January 10, 2012.

Respectfully submitted - Carol Deskines, Secretary

Addendum: It was moved, seconded and passed, via e-mail, to have the Annual Meeting on Sun, Jan 29, 2012.

DIRECTORY UPDATES:

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ANNUAL MEETING & POTLUCK

Sunday January 29

Meeting will follow the potluck after church.

Please get your committee and organization reports to Irene Lund for printing.

Contact Irene for her deadline.

IreneLund@wildblue.net

541.554.9785

JANUARY 2012 HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
1 9:15 am Confirmation 10:30 am Worship JOE LARKIN BD :-) HAPPY NEW YEAR!!	2 Church Office Closed 7 pm Weight Watchers	3 Office Closed 6 pm Potluck 7 pm Gini Bramlett, speaker	4 7:00 pm Choir	5 1-4 Memory Makers	6	7 10 am Budget Audit Comm.
8 9:15 am Confirmation 10:30 am Worship 2 pm Danish Christmas Party ALL INVITED	9 7 pm Weight Watchers ERIC MENARD BD	10 7 pm Council	11 7:30 am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast 7:00 pm Choir	12 10-12 Hens & Chicks	13 7 pm Game Night at Larkin's	14 1 pm Wedding of Jim & Diane at First Baptist Church JC
15 9:15 am Confirmation 10:30 am Worship Jim Morrell speaks about becoming an RIC church during coffee hour	16 7 pm Weight Watchers 7 pm Mutual Ministry Comm at Jean's	17	18 7:00 pm Choir	19 1-4 Memory Makers	20	21
22 9:15 am Confirmation 10:30 am Worship DLA meets during coffee hour	23 7 pm Weight Watchers	24	25 7:30 am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast 7:00 pm Choir NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE by Noon	26 10-12 Hens & Chicks	27	28 ELLAMAY VERVOON BD
29 9:15 am Confirmation 10:30 am Worship POTLUCK & Annual Meeting after church	30 7 pm Weight Watchers	31	FEB 1 7:00 pm Choir	FEB 2 1-4 Memory Makers	FEB 3 ENOLA NIELSEN BD	FEB 4 DOROTHY SENCHINA BD

Pastor Brennen's Office Hours: Mon & Wed 10 am – 3 pm & Thurs 10 am – 12 pm or call 998-2601 for an appt

RAYS OF SONSHINE – JANUARY 2012

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PO BOX 325
JUNCTION CITY OR 97448

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DEJLIG ER DEN HIMMEL BLAA (Bright and Glorious Is the Sky) is an anonymous Danish tune said to be the work of an old man non-versed in music composition (around 1840). Words are by Nicolai F. S. Grundtvig. A wonderful Danish Epiphany hymn... additional verses can be found in our green hymnal, #75.

1. Bright and glorious is the sky,
Radiant are the heavens high
Where the golden stars were shining
And their rays to earth inclining,
Beckoning us to heaven above,
Beckoning us to heaven above.

2. On that holy Christmas night
Through the darkness beamed a light
All the stars above were paling,
All their luster slowly failing,
As the Christmas star drew nigh,
As the Christmas star drew nigh.

3. Sages from the East afar,
When they saw this wondrous star,
Went to the find the King of nations,
And to offer their oblations
Unto Him as Lord and King,
Unto Him as Lord and King.

5. Guided by the star they found
Him Whose praise the ages sound,
We too have a star to guide us
Which forever will provide us
With the light to find our Lord,
With the light to find our Lord.



As members of Faith Lutheran Church (ELCA) we affirm that Christ has made us one body with many members, all sharing in God's grace and unconditional love.

We celebrate both the diversity and inclusive unity of all people as created by God.

Following Jesus' example we embrace all people regardless of ethnicity, physical and mental abilities, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or economic circumstance.

With welcoming hearts we invite you into full participation in the life and ministry of our congregation.