

Pats Pondering from the Pew

(by Pat Boesel)

Symbolic and Practical

When sitting in the pew, I often envision the brightest lights flickering on and off or worse yet going out completely wherever electricity is needed to illuminate the dark spaces. Then I get out the candles and matches and light them to place around the house or office so I can see. Unless of course one is privy enough to have lots of battery operated lights or a generator, candles have to suffice.

My pondering thoughts wander to the church, and its candles. They are used and lit for a different reason, more symbolic than for practical reasons. They represent the light of Christ either coming into the building or going out into the world.



Many churches have an altar with two candles on it that are named. One, the Gospel Candle and the other, the Epistle Candle. The Gospel Candle is the one closest to the pulpit, where the gospel is read and preached. The Epistle Candle is on the opposite side of altar where the lectern (smaller stand than that of the pulpit and of years gone past) stand and the lessons are read. The Gospel Candle is lit first, then the other, and are extinguished in reverse order--- When extinguished, the person doing the lighting re-lights the candlelighter wick from the flame of the Gospel Candle prior to extinguishing it, then that light is carried out of the church and represents the light of Christ going out into the world.

A candelabra is not really necessary, however, when incorporated into the worship space, they are located on either side and little to back of altar with the candle closest to the altar being lit first, then the others, one after another. They are extinguished in reverse order and prior to the altar candles.

The Pascal (Christ Candle) is used only for special Sundays and is then the last one extinguished. We see this one primarily used during the Christmas season and a few other Sundays throughout the year.

Even the candles have a symbolic meaning: they are usually made of beeswax and represents the body of Christ; the wick, his soul; the flame, his divinity; and the burning flame, the prayers rising up to God.

Of course that light going out into the world is the people sharing the good news of God's plan of redemption and salvation for a lost and dying world.

I ask myself if all this is important or relevant to worship in our era and the younger people and the answer is probably not. It is, however, part of what the older generation call 'high church' and when done well with other segments of worship can be uplifting and a meaningful experience. As I ponder if all this is important or absolutely necessary for celebrating the Risen Christ, the only answer I come up with is, no. Jesus said: "I am the light of the world" and it is the person of Jesus and we celebrate an extraordinary God each time we worship and/or share the good news with others.

Churchie Names

Chancel=part of building where the altar is located

Nave= area where the congregation sits

Narthex= the entry way or porch

Vestibule= the hall or lobby by exterior doors

Vestry= where stuff is stored

Sacristy= room where robes and communion ware is stored and where pastor dresses in alb (robe)

Sanctuary_ a place of refuge

Fall Season is in full swing with the annual popular **PUMPKIN PATCH**. This event for **all ages** will be held on **Saturday October 24** beginning at 10AM and lasting till 2PM. This will be held in the front yard as we welcome our neighbors and fellow citizens of Ukiah.



We will have Pumpkin Carving, Face Painting, Games to play and best of all FOOD –hot dogs chili dogs, chili in a bowl, and punch are on the menu for the attendee's. All Free!!!

We are asking Grace members to donate lots of pumpkins and individually wrapped candies for this outreach event.



GUESS WHAT THE MAIN EVENT IS???

Ham It Up Dinner and Dessert Auction
November 1, 2015 at 5 PM

Thrivent is sponsoring and hosting this fabulous event on November 1st. Come and enjoy a fun filled evening of fellowship, laughter and great food. ---Major recipient of the proceeds of both the dinner and dessert auction is Project Sanctuary. A donation of \$10.00 is suggested for the dinner.

Thrivent is asking for donations of pies, cake, cookies, brownies or other desserts for this action packed auction.



Reformation is historically celebrated on October 31, remembering the day that Martin Luther nailed his 95 thesis. (basis for his arguments with the then church of Rome) Lutheran's across the world will most likely have a big celebration **in 2017** as it will be the **500th anniversary** of this event.

The ELCA in America will be using "Free'd and Renewed in Christ" as its focus for this event with over 3,863,133 baptized members of the ELCA in over 9464 congregations.

LCMS focus will be "Its Still About Jesus and Making Christ Known" There are over 2,231,000 members in 6150 congregations.

The WELS, the smallest, has over 400,000 members in over 1300 congregations in the USA. Their focus is: "Walking Together"



That's still a lot of Lutheran's celebrating the advent of the REFORMATION

BREAD for the WORLD DAY
October 18

The ELCA national office is celebrating all peoples who have a need with this event. Please fill our empty shopping cart with your gifts of non-perishable food



items. This will benefit our local food bank and help alleviate hunger among those who are having difficulty stretching their budgets.

PAY IT FORWARD PROGRAM



Our stewardship team will once again be mailing out pledge cards. Sealed cards will remain sealed and mailed back to you in July of 2016, however, the unsigned portion of the card will be utilized to prepare our next years budget. The team suggests that you prayerfully consider your stewardship of your tithe.

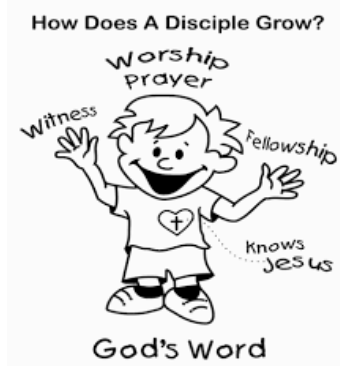
Discipleship and making more (Evangelism at its core)

What does it take to be a disciple of Christ???

Engage the Word

Hear & Respond to Jesus' Invitation

Consider the Implication of his invitation



In easy steps

- *Develop a relationship with Jesus, then with other disciples, then to others.
- *Learn the essentials, know who He is, then who you are, then ask yourself if it is real and tangible for you—then Ask the Holy Spirit into your life
- *Make any necessary changes in your own life
- *Reach out to the greater community and recognize that all have infinite worth and value
- * Train and equip others.

Perhaps NOW is the time to re-claim the passion you first had when you accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior of your life and become the light in others' life.

Grace's Card Ministry

Started by Ardis Willcut with a box of greeting cards for a variety of occasions placed on the table in the fellowship hall (east side) for members to take one to send, be it birthday, anniversary, get well, miss you, etc. Please take one, sign it, write a personal note in one then mail it. This is FREE to you!



If you are so inclined, there is a donation box for a contribution that benefits the Faith Girlz outreach ministry.

GROWING IN FAITH

Through study and small group fellowship



Are you the missing piece?

Whether you call a group a bible study or a small group it is all about making and growing disciples of Christ and fellowshiping with others on the journey of deepening one's faith.

Monday (mixed group) 10am in conf room
Monday (2nd Mon mo) 7pm ladies, various homes
Tues 8am men's only in conf room
Tues 1pm ladies only in conf room
Tues 7pm mixed group in fellowship hall
Weds 7pm mixed group, at Pat B home
Thurs 10am mixed group in fellowship hall
Fri (monthly, 7pm home study)
Sunday, 9:30 am adult study in choir room
Sunday 9:30am children 3 yrs and up, SS bl'd.

Little of This and That

Useful info for those who get unwanted and/or unsolicited mail-

Request to be removed from marketing lists by sending \$1.00 and your address and request to:

Mail Preference Services
Direct Marketing Assoc.
P.O. Box 643
Carmel, NY 10512

Thrivent will no longer have branch chapters, effective Jan 1. Instead, if a Thrivent member has a project they would like to do, they should contact the national Thrivent office or their local financial representative for information on how to proceed.

Wonder who the elf is that is beautifying the bulletin board in fellowship hall? Now our picture taking will have a great background.

We will now have an associate to bishop assisting our call team. (Remember: Patience is a virtue, Virtue is a Grace, Put them both together, To make a Happy Face).
Tess on Touched by an Angel

Girl Scouts began using our facility again last month. They meet the 2nd and 4th Weds of the month at 6:30 PM to 8PM. Welcome back ladies!!

Think you're too old for ministry??? Consider the following:

*Old is when you see your beloved spouse and your pace maker makes the garage door open

*Old is when you're complemented on your alligator shoes and you know you are barefooted.

J Hage

**Nov 2 at 2am
Fall Back, Again**



Time does not stand still for anyone, unless one forgets to change their clocks.



Grace's Community Garden

We were the first church in Ukiah to open up our property to our neighbors several years ago, Spearheaded by Toni Fort with some guidance from Miles Gordon of NCO., she managed to get donations to get the project off the ground, Then she and Carol Mordhorst walked the neighborhood inviting gardeners. Today, the harvest is more plentiful than ever, and a few of the backyard farmers not only feed their family but donate to the local food bank. Our current liaison is Gladys Telschow.



Many thanks to Shelia Prax for the beautiful photos.

Thanks and blessings to Grace members who garden at home and bring their excess veggie's and fruit for members. One person was overheard saying that this 'supplemented their diet' for the month.

Nov 1

This date has been set aside as the
INTERNATIONAL DAY of PRAYER
for the persecuted church.

Please pray for our brothers and sisters in all parts of the world who are standing on the promises of Jesus in the face of those who would rather inflict major injury or kill than get to know or to love with brotherly affection.

Adopt a Homeless Child (food for weekends)

Janet Carlson is currently spearheading an effort in our congregation in conjunction with First Baptist Church and other organizations to gather groceries as well as new or gently used jackets for homeless youth in Ukiah (about 133) and throughout our county.(approx. 647) It is estimated to cost approximately \$150 per child to feed 1 youth on weekends only for the school year . A monetary donation is also appreciated.

Janet is also recruiting volunteers to assist with 'packing parties' of donated food. These bags will then be delivered to schools on Thurs and passed out to appropriate children on Fri afternoon. Call Janet for additional information and your volunteer times.

Please prayerfully consider this ministry as we care for the youth who are homeless .



Your Council at Work

Info not provided this month by deadline –Sorry for the inconvenience

Last Minutes News

Kudo's Galore to Dianne Pauli for the great adult bible study on the Holy Spirit. Many thanks also go to Janet Carlson and Jeanne Yttreness as they share teaching times with the. younger set.

Call team still diligently at work on our behalf. They ask for your patience and continued prayer during this process.

Prayers for a quick healing to council member Ann Stolpe

Telling the Story in your Own Words

Choose one of these of these photo's and practice in the telling, then share the story with others.

