

Pastor's letter: Of doughnuts, humor and holy spirit



Dear friends in Christ,

First of all, thank you for the warm welcome as I join you as intentional Interim Pastor — a welcome that started even before I arrived, with Bryce, Brooke, John and the committee on Staff Parish Relations. I am delighted to be working with so many quality leaders and excellent staff.

My response when I am asked, "How it is that a Lutheran pastor is at a Methodist Church?" normally includes:

1. We are in full communion fellowship with each other as well as the Presbyterian Church
2. We both like doughnuts on Sunday morning
3. We both sing hymns
4. We both like church humor,* and
5. We both believe in the work of the Holy Spirit.

One way I like to think of the Holy Spirit at work during an interim appointment is by comparing it to a re-

lay race. Bruce Miller in his book, *The Leadership Baton*, says, "Leadership is more like a baton than a trophy. You lift a trophy, but you hand off a baton."

We as pastors are called/appointed to serve and lead congregations in the ministry of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. This means we almost always follow a pastor and are followed by a pastor. Bruce Miller calls this the "Exchange Zone" where you hand off the baton/ministry to the next pastor in the relay. The Apostle Paul says in I Corinthians 3:10, "... I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it ..."

The hope and goal of our time in the "Exchange Zone" is that we build on the foundation that has been laid. We use this as a time of conversation, listening, study and prayer in discerning God's ongoing call for faithful ministry. Why do we do what we do? Do we need to change how we do it?

What do we want to keep doing? What might need to be "retired" or what might need to be new? I believe this is a holy "leaning-in" time not intended for just getting through it but for creating excitement as we go about in word and deed, "Nourishing the Hungers of Life."

Pastor David

* Several churches in the South decided to hold union services. The leader was quite proud that he was "Non-Denominational."

"How many Non-Denominational members are here?" he asked on the first night of the revival. All except two little old ladies raised their hands. "Ladies, what are you?" asked the leader. "I'm a Methodist and my friend is Lutheran," meekly replied one lady.

"Why are you a Methodist and Lutheran?" queried the leader.

"Well," replied the little old lady, "my grandparents were Methodists, my mother was a Methodist and my late husband was a Methodist, and my friend's family were all Lutherans."

"Well," retorted the leader, "just supposing all your relatives had been morons, what would that have made the two of you?"

"Oh, I see. A member of a Non-Denominational church, I suppose," the lady replied meekly.

Common Hope: Update from Guatemala

Every day in Guatemala was full of activity for WBLUMC members Beth and Sarah Smith, from building a house for a local family, visiting sponsored children, going on social work visits, playing with children in the daycare, assisting in the pharmacy or clinic and observing in a local school.

Beth and Sarah recently returned from eight days of service on a Vision Team for Common Hope, a non-profit group that provides education, housing and health care to the children, families and communities of Guatemala. In August, Beth and Sarah joined 11 members from First Congregational United Church of Christ in Mankato at the Antigua-based Common Hope project site and in several of the small villages outside of the city.

Common Hope's programming helped their team to enter into the communities of Guatemala to meet the humble and kind-hearted people, learn about the Guatemalan culture, see and understand the effects of deeply-rooted poverty and serve the community in meaningful ways.

Besides their daily morning and afternoon projects, the team participated in "A Day in the Life" activities, during which team members went to the homes of businesses of local residents and

learned about their trades. A translator was available during and following many of these activities.

One of Beth's favorite memories was when she and Sarah visited their newly sponsored 9-year-old child, Yoselin, and family in San Juan del Obispo. She also liked working on the construction team.

Sarah enjoyed playing with children at a local school and leading a Polaroid picture project with children in the Common Hope library and daycare. Sarah found this service trip to be a wonderful opportunity to practice her Spanish and get to know the people better.

Both Beth and Sarah also enjoyed meeting and spending time with the UCC-team members. In addition, they found this to be an incredible shared service experience as mother and daughter. They plan to return to Common Hope for another vision team experience.

The WBLUMC congregation has a longtime commitment to Common Hope, sending six vision teams to Guatemala and sponsoring numerous children in the past 15 years. If you're interested in learning more about Common Hope, sponsoring a child or participating in a vision team experience, please contact Pastor Brooke Heerwald-Steiner or go to commonhope.org.



Beth and Sarah Smith made lots of friends and memories on their Common Hope Vision Team trip to Guatemala in August.

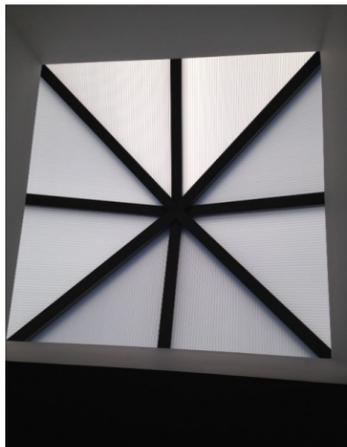


Summer fun: Family camping

A few memories from WBLUMC's family camping weekend in early August at Lake Elmo Park Reserve: a double decker s'more, catching a BIG fish, wild kids versus adults soccer games, the girls eating bacon-flavored suckers, new swim pond (looking very much like the old swim pond), plentiful food at the potluck, and wonderful fellowship!



One of the old skylights in the hallway ...



... and its replacement!

Progress on skylights

Have you noticed a different light in the church hallways? It's from the new skylights!

Our old skylights outlived their 10-year warranty by almost three times that. Between discoloration, cracks and leaks, it was time for them to go. Thanks to a generous gift from the estate of Bob and Betty Doyle, combined with a loan from Bremer Bank, all five skylights will be replaced.

The three small hallway pyramids were the first to be updated, with work completed on Friday, Aug. 26. The large Narthex pyramid was next, with work happening on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 2-3. After a glitch in a couple of the panels, we expect the work to be completed very soon.

The trickiest one to install will be the large slanted expanse over the stairway. Work on that won't get started for another month or so, as materials are refabricated to fit correctly.

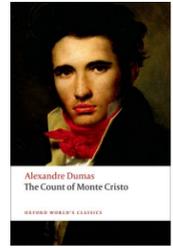
Book Club returns for fall with "Count of Monte Cristo"

Do you love books and reading? If so, you are warmly invited to join us at Book Club this year. All church members and friends are welcome.

Our first meeting is set for 7-8:15pm Monday, Sept. 26, in the library, of course. Meetings will continue on the fourth Monday of each month through May, except for December when it moves up a week.

You don't have to commit to the whole year; you're welcome to join the discussions at any time. Once you come, though, you may find that all this year's selections sound too good to miss. We have a great mixture of classical fiction, modern novels and non-fiction.

Hope to see you there!



The list

Look for more information about each title in the Sunday worship bulletins and weekly e-blasts.

Sept. 26, 2016

The Count of Monte Cristo, Alexandre Dumas. 1845. 1276p.

Oct. 24, 2016

(Note this is a double selection with both books to be discussed in October)

Part I. Frankenstein, Mary Shelley. 1818. 150p.

Part II. Romantic Outlaws : The Extraordinary Lives of Mary Wollstonecraft and Mary Shelley, Charlotte Gordon. 2015. 672p.

Nov. 28, 2016

Ghettoside, A True Story of Murder in America : Jill Leovy. 2014. 384p.

Dec. 19, 2016

The Bridge of San Luis Rey, Thornton Wilder. 1927. 128p.

Jan. 23, 2017

The Winter Fortress: The Epic Mission to Sabotage Hitler's Atomic Bomb, Neal Bascomb. 2016. 400p.

Feb. 27, 2017

English Creek, Ivan Doig. 2004. 352p.

March 27, 2017

The Wright Brothers, David McCullough. 2015. 336p.

April 24, 2017

A Man Called Ove, Fredrik Backman. 2014. 368p.

May 22, 2017

Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed, Jared Diamond. 2010. 608p.



Thanks Jacob!

Congratulations and thank you to Jacob Dalhoff for completing his Eagle Scout project to make high-top tables for our church. They are now available for adults to use in the Fellowship Hall!



White Bear Lake
**UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**

Office Hours

Monday: 9am-3pm
Tuesday-Thursday: 9am-3pm
Friday: 9am-12pm
Saturday: Closed
Sunday: 9am-12pm

Regular Worship

(Sept. 18-May 28, 2017)

9:30am Blended Worship Service
10:30am - Fellowship with coffee & tea;
Individual prayer, Prayer Room
11:15am Contemporary Service

STAFF

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Tim Wallin, *Groundskeeper*

Ron Houde, *Building Maintenance*

Tom Leiser, *Treasurer*

Harry Jones, *Financial Secretary*

2016 WBLUMC Ministry Leaders

Doug Mulder, *Board Chair*
Jeff Lantto, *Trustees*
Scott Vipond, *Finance*
Glenn Oliphant, *Bread Team*
Ginger Davis, *Staff Parish*
Joy Ballou, *Worship*
Chad Koppes, *Adult Faith*
Carol Effertz & Jeremy Steiner, *Hospitality*
Barb Hinz & Roberta Schmidt, *BeFrienders*
Kelly Knutson & Diane Lund, *Congregational Care*
Stephanie Boening Ondik, *United Methodist Women*
Karen Flynn, *Library*
Denise & Larry Kerr, *Community Garden*
Julie Jacot and Dave Hegdahl, *Prayer Team*