



Table Talk

Fairbanks Lutheran Church
1012 Cowles (across from the public library)
Sunday Service Times: 8:30 & 11:00am
Sunday School 9:45

October 2009

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Reformation Sunday
October 25th



From the Pastor's Desk:

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Why is it that when one person is "up", another seems to be "down"? And why is it that when life is going along smoothly, there is a catastrophe? When there's a death in a family, it always seems that there's a birth or another joyous occasion soon to follow.



One week your physical shows you to be in great health... and the next week...? Is life a matter of balances? Or is it just that life consists of "ups" and "downs"?

The first of these last two questions is hard to answer because it suggests some other power or law at work in the universe that attempts to balance what we define as good and bad. This would lead to questions of fairness and justice ... for what if one person or group of people seems to suffer a great deal, while another individual or group seems to exist comfortably most of the time.

The second question allows for randomness to occur within life, without the sense of selectivity. Life, in this sense, is more like rolling dice - you never know what will turn up. If you're fortunate - no catastrophes ... but if you're not so fortunate - well ... who really wants to know?

The belief that God is present and active in our world is a given in the Bible. But just how God affects the "balance" between the "ups" of life (great achievements, friends, joy, security, etc.) and the "downs" of life (tragedies, enemies, sorrow, hardships, etc.) - is impossible to know. Besides ... who makes the definitions? The Bible interprets the Israelites' 40 years of wandering in the wilderness as both deliverance and punishment ... both an "up" and "down".

I liked what the grandmother said about life in the movie "Parenthood" - that she'd rather experience life as a roller coaster than a merry-go-round. The "ups" and "downs" are what give "life" to life! However, when the "ups" or "downs" are too overwhelming, or too many "ups" or "downs" are

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October 2009

Sunday School hour is 9:45 am – 10:45 am.

We have a couple special days to mark on our October Sunday school calendars. **October 11th is “Bring a Friend” Sunday**, and although you can bring a friend any Sunday, we are going to see just how many friends we can bring! Our goal is to bring 20 friends, neighbors, and cousins to Sunday school on October 11th! If we make our goal, we will schedule a Sundae Sunday in November!!

Another day to highlight is **Reformation Sunday on October 25th**. We will have a visit from Katie (and hopefully Martin Luther) while we enjoy an **all ages Sunday school hour this day**.

*****3rd graders will also receive a Bible during Worship on this Sunday!**

Preschool – 3rd Grade Sunday school

Beginning in September and going through October, the Preschool – 3rd graders have been using **Game Day Central** curriculum. The main idea of **Game Day Central:Where Heroes Are Made**, is that kids will be introduced to biblical heroes. They will learn that true heroes are not made on a football field, basketball court, or baseball field. Kids will see that true heroes are ordinary people, like themselves, who follow God’s plan for life. In each Sunday’s lesson, kids will be introduced to five characteristics of heroes as lived out by Bible people.

The main ideas and Bible stories include –

- Ø True heroes obey God even when it’s not easy. (Mary and Joseph)
- Ø True heroes do their best in everything. (John the Baptist)
- Ø True heroes believe in Jesus and follow God’s plan. (Jesus, the Greatest Hero)
- Ø True heroes put others first. (Early Believers)
- Ø True heroes tell others about Jesus. (Priscilla and Aquila)

The theme Bible verse is “Let us throw off everything that hinders, and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus.” Hebrews 12:1-2

4th – 6th Grade Sunday School

The Godly Play Worship Center for 4th – 6th graders will be hearing the following stories in October.

- Ø October 4 Creation
- Ø October 11 Noah (Bring a friend Sunday!)
- Ø October 18 Abram and Sarai
- Ø October 25 Reformation Sunday – all ages Sunday school

Pray for our local church and our Prayer Partner Church:
Good Shepherd Lutheran in Wasilla, Pastor Duane Hanson and congregation.



YOUTH GROUP NEWS

OCTOBER 2009

Sunday, October 4th 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm

We're headed to **Zip Zaps!** Zip Zaps is a laser tag business in North Pole. We will meet at church at 6:00 pm to tally up our scores for Scavenger Hunt September, and then we'll load up the cars and be off to North Pole by 6:30 pm. We will be returning to church between 8:30 – 8:45 pm. Fairbanks Lutheran has reserved Zip Zaps from 7 – 8 pm, so we can play as many "games" as we can in our hour. If there are parents or congregational members out there who like to have a good time and are willing to drive a carload of our wonderful youth group, please let Sharon know. This is also a GREAT time to ask a friend to Youth Group. Cost is \$5.00.

Sunday, October 11th 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

We have invited the 1st United Methodist Church Youth Group to play some **wild and crazy large group games!** It is always a lot of fun to get together with their group! Everyone is asked to bring their favorite snack to share. Remember, it is "Bring a Friend Sunday!" If we reach our goal of 20 new people today, we will schedule a Sundae Sunday.

Sunday, October 18th Noon – 6:00 pm (No school on October 19th!)

Grab your swimsuit and towel and we'll head out to **Chena Hot Springs** for the afternoon! This is a family event, so invite your family members to come along. We'll have some pizza after the 11:00 worship service, so we don't start out hungry. What to bring – a snack to share, your swimsuit and towel, a water bottle, and anything else you know you need. **Important – please sign up by Sunday, October 11th with the number of people in your family who are planning to come and money. The cost is \$10.00 per person which includes pizza and swimming. (If you are a driver, and you help bring people out there, you go free!)**

Sunday, October 25th 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Back by popular demand – **COOKING!** Bring your favorite pizza topping tonight, because we will be making pizza from scratch! We will each be making, and eating, our own pizza tonight. If you have an apron and rolling pin, bring those along too – they will come in handy. We will also be planning what other foods we would like to cook this year.



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experienced in too short a time ... we may desire a more stable or even-tempered ride through life. We may want more of the predictable "roller coaster" type of life because we fear change.

Last Sunday, September 27th, the congregation voted to move ahead with the Phase I building project. This is a huge leap of faith, which will require a large financial base of support from the congregation, over an extended period of time. Some see this as a huge "down" in the life of the congregation ... a drain of resources and time. Others see this decision as a huge "up" ... a time of hopeful thinking and renewal. As the congregation moves forward, what is essential to either is to be able to "**Take it to the Lord in prayer**", as the great hymn witnesses.

Look at the changes around you in nature right now. There are timeless rhythms in life ... some slow to change, some, almost instantaneous. The journey, and challenge, of the Christian faith is to discover the presence of God in every place and moment - both "ups" and "downs" and "in-betweens". Perhaps what we need to pray for is not deliverance from tragedies, or for the road of life to be smoother... but rather, for the ability to perceive God's presence in all of life.

Peace, Pastor Ottum

