



Life Together February 2020

Denny Park Lutheran Church

***Gather** to worship and fellowship
Grow in the knowledge and love of Christ;
Go...serve, love and impact the world.*

What is Preaching For?

Pr. John Hoyum

Back during the time of the Reformation, in the 1500s, the typical church experience was a little different than it is today: in university towns, like Wittenberg, where Luther was pastor and professor, people would not only have attended church on Sunday morning for the divine service of holy communion, but also would have attended various other services throughout the week like matins (morning prayer) and vespers (evening prayer). They also would have attended private confession with the pastor as preparation for holy communion and to hear the comforting word of God's forgiveness.

In twenty-first-century America, things are different. People only attend church once a week on Sunday, if that. Some come only on Christmas and at Easter. Therefore, the task of preaching is different than it used to be. If you read Luther's sermons (or those of other early Lutherans), they would have been much longer than the typical eight or twelve minute sermon you might hear today from me, or many other Lutheran pastors.

Because of this, Luther's sermons and the sermons of other Lutherans at the time would have been filled with all kinds of things: extensive moral instruction, social commentary, and warnings to the people against various threats, internal and external. They wouldn't have had "adult forum" on Sunday mornings, but rather would have received their Christian instruction from the pulpit. Children were primarily taught (or catechized) at home by their parents, who would have been equipped to do so because of such frequent church attendance and the high level of biblical instruction from multiple sermons each week.

Today, we have a tendency, for practical reasons, to educate our children at church in Sunday school, our adults in bible studies and adult forums on Sundays (and throughout the week), and allow the sermon to be brief. So what shall we say? What is most crucial to hear from the pulpit in so brief a time?

Moral instruction, the practice of the Christian life, and the way of discipleship are all important, but they are not the most important thing about the church. The thing that predominates in all that we proclaim is the gospel of Jesus Christ, that he has come to save sinners by dying on the cross, and that he makes his promises of forgiveness to you here and now in word and sacrament.

The typical Sunday sermon therefore has two goals, which can be summarized as law and gospel: we preach the readings to show our need for Christ and declare what exactly he gives to you. Moral instruction is all fine and good. Theological explanations also have their place. But the Sunday sermon is primarily about Christ and the gifts he gives. It is about our need for him and what he gives us in return, without merit or worthiness of ours. It is to hear this applied to you Sunday in and Sunday out.

It's also the foundation of evangelism. Those who come in our doors to visit, however often or infrequently, need to hear of their sin and the promise of a savior in Christ. This is what the sermon must do, especially in a post-Christian society like our own.

the sanctuary
at denny park

As we look forward to a new year of outreach opportunities, I thought it would be encouraging to remind us of some of the good things we were able to be part of in 2019. Since many of you are not around the building during the week, sharing a few pictures of the many things that continue to happen because of your influence here in South Lake Union.



Thank you for investing well. *Dan*

W *worship*
WORKSHOP

Saturday February 22nd

10am - 12 pm

Join us in the Fireside Room for coffee and breakfast treats to discuss Christian Worship and the ways you can become more involved here at Denny Park Lutheran! Please RSVP to office@dennyparklutheran.org or 206.623.7447 to reserve your spot!



DPLC Women

Miriam Circle:

Monday, February 10th at 10:15 am in room 103. We have been challenged in our Bible Study to share with the Lord's people who are in need so we will be making Valentine gift bags for those folks in need. Come prepared to assemble the bags together. Our hostess will serve coffee and goodies as we work This would be a great opportunity to invite a someone to join us!

Quilter and Kit Assembly:

Join us as we create quilts and work on kits that go to Lutheran World Relief. Bring your own lunch and willingness to help and we will provide beverages. We will meet on Tuesday, Feb.18th from 10-2 in Room 103 Invite a friend or neighbor to join us!



Are you a prayer warrior, or do you know someone in need of prayer? The DPLC prayer chain would love to hear from you and support you or someone you know in prayer. Please know you are welcomed to call: 206.282.0383 to let us know of any needs so we can lift them before God.

"I call on you my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer." Psalm 17:6



- 15th - Caiti Huffman
- 21st - Doug Ostrander
- 22nd - Jim Plihal

- 20th - Merlin and Dianne Cavender



Do you have information for the March edition of Life Together? The deadline to have it to the office is **Thursday, February 20th at 10 am**. Any questions?? Contact Joanie in the office: 206-623-7447

Do you need space for a special activity or a meeting? Please email or call Joanie in the office to check on availability and reserve your space. 206.623.7447 office@dennyparklutheran.org



Sunday, February 2nd (Installation of Officers)

Worship, 10 am
Fellowship, 11 am
Adult Bible Study 11:30 am

Sunday, February 9th

Worship, 10 am
Fellowship, 11 am
Adult Bible Study 11:30 am
[Council Meeting 12:30 pm](#)

Monday, January 13th

Miriam Circle...10:15 am Room 103

Friday, February 14th

Bible Study...7pm Room 101

Sunday, February 16th

Worship, 10 am
Fellowship, 11 am
Adult Bible Study 11:30 am

Monday, February 17th - President's Day Holiday

Office/ Building Closed

Tuesday, February 18th

Quilting & Kit Building...10 am Room 103

Sunday, February 23rd

Worship, 10 am
Fellowship, 11 am
Adult Bible Study, 11:30am
[Property Team Meeting, 11am](#)

Wednesday, February 26th

Ash Wednesday Service 7:30 pm

DPLC - ON LINE

Please visit our website and join DPLC on Facebook and share the page with friends and family.

www.dennyparklutheran.org

www.facebook.com/Denny-Park-Lutheran-Church

You can now give and tithe online

www.dennyparklutheran.org/give-online.html



Pastor John is available for prayer or visits.
Contact him at: 206-623-7447, 360-689-4257 or email at
pastorjohn@dennyparklutheran.org