



La Habra United Methodist Church

Vista

August 2017

The Svalbard Global Seed Vault is on the Norwegian island of Spitsbergen within the Arctic Circle. It contains “duplicate” seeds from other seed banks in the world just in case something bad happens. The big idea is that we might, some day, need to start over after a global catastrophe. I don’t even want to think about what that would be like.

This seed vault is the brainchild of Cary Fowler who has written a book about the effort entitled Seeds on Ice. I’ve heard him interviewed on the radio recently. Agricultural crop diversity is hardly ever on our minds, and yet it is a very important issue for our survival.

I’ve been thinking about seeds ever since I started doing background work to preach the parable of the “Wheat and the Weeds”. The wheat are referred to as “good seeds” in the story. I called them wheat, but they could have been another grain. The point is that this is something grown for human or animal consumption.

The weeds in the story were ‘zizania’. At the time of Jesus this crop was grown as fuel. We have since cultivated this as wild rice. The point in the story was that the farmer had not planted this crop, though it is likely that it was a legitimate crop to be planted. In the story it is made clear that these two grain crops are virtually identical while growing. When it was noticed that the grain of one was mixed in with the other people began to panic.

Those who collect and store seeds in very cold underground vaults don’t come across to me as folks who panic. In fact the Norwegians paid to build the vault and don’t even charge for the storage of the seeds. They allow them to be stored by other seed banks across the world as a backup. They just take care of them. They don’t claim any ownership.

In Jesus’ story the desirable and undesirable seeds grew side by side. In our world and in our lives things we desire and things we don’t desire take root. Hopefully we won’t do anything so self-destructive that we will ever need the back-up seed bank.

The people of Norway are doing a very gracious thing. Allowing for the permeate storage of our agricultural crop diversity. The world could be in big trouble if this did not exist. Maybe we should send them a nice thank you note.

Like our Nordic friends, the farmer in Jesus’ story had a very practical approach to his problem. “Let them grow side by side” was how he put it. There certainly is something to be said for calm in the face of potential disaster.

I hope all of us can learn to be calm. I pray that we can address the problems we face with grace and hope. We can learn much from Jesus’ farmer and our Norwegian friends.

Blessings,

Pastor Doug

Out to Lunch Bunch

Out-to-Lunch Bunch meets every third Wednesday of the month. We get together for a nice meal and fellowship. Come join us for this month's event on Wednesday, August 16, at 1:00pm. We will be meeting at "Mimi's" in Whittwood Hope to see ya there!

**happy
birthday**

August Birthdays!!

Corinne Bell	August 2 nd
David Hastings	August 3 rd
Andrew Hayes	August 4 th
Dorothy Knox	August 8 th
Oscar Janeway	August 13 th
Darlene Wollweber	August 13 th
Bill Tittle	August 14 th
Kelsey Walker	August 15 th
Ron Jones	August 16 th
Shani Finney	August 17 th
Kathryn Dietrick	August 19 th
Barbara Pierce	August 23 rd
Betty Lane	August 27 th
Pat Zeah	August 28 th
Greg Pfenning	August 29 th
Joan Twitchell	August 30 th



....if we have forgotten your birthday, please contact the church office.....

Preschool News.....



The preschoolers are so excited about Super Hero Vacation Bible School beginning this month!! We all can't believe how fast summer has gone by. Our teachers have been working hard getting their classrooms ready for the new school year.

As we say good bye to some of our school friends, we are excited to meet our new incoming friends.

We are happy to announce the New Fire Alarm System is almost complete! The workers have been working overnight hours as to not disrupt the children during the day.



Dear Church Family,

I am more than grateful for the scholarship money you gave me. That will really help me further my education. I really appreciate all the love and support I have received from you all as I learned and grew in my faith at this Church. I love you all and thank you again.

Sarah Williams

THANK YOU

*Dear Friends at LHMUC
I am truly touched by your
thoughtfulness...*

*Thank you for all your
prayers, visits, cards and
phone calls. I'm finally settled
in my new apartment at:
2527 N. Brea Blvd. Apt 208
Fullerton, CA 92835
I am located in the Assisted
Living section of Park Vista, part of
Morningside.
All my love,
Oscar*



Dear Church Family,

Camp was fun, inspiring and just wonderful! We were so happy to have Sarah Williams as our cabin leader/counselor and our larger family group got along as if we had known each other forever.

Morning worship was fantastic and started the day making us feel closer to God and ready for whatever came our way. Our day activities included hiking, playing games, crafts, swimming and cooking with food from the camp garden. Every night we had campfire where we sang and heard Bible stories. The last night we had a very meaningful communion. In the afternoon we were each given a small piece of dough and asked to add food coloring of our choice. Then three of us stretched our dough and made a colorful braid. All of the small braids were connected into one big braid and baked. That was our communion loaf! Beautiful and special - it included a bit of each of us.

THANK YOU for sending us to camp. WE LOVED IT !! WE can hardly wait until next summer.

God Bless You All,
Shani and Stella



VaCation Bible School

Vacation Bible School will begin August 14th through August 18th from
9am until 11:30am.

We can still use helpers even for just a day or two. Call the church office if you are
interested!!!