Ernest Hemingway wrote a short story originally titled “The Horns of the Bull” and later called “The Capital of the World” originally published in 1936. The first sentence a rather long one at that contains one of my favorite stories.

“Madrid is full of boys named Paco, which is the diminutive of the name Francisco, and there is a Madrid joke about a father who came to Madrid and inserted an advertisement in the personal columns of El Liberal which said: Paco meet me at the Hotel Montana noon Tuesday all is forgiven Papa and how a squadron of Guardia Civil had to be called out to disperse the eight hundred young men who answered the advertisement.”

What were the 800 young men looking for? Grace. They were looking for a father who wouldn’t require an eye for an eye. They sought a father who wouldn’t call for him to work off his bad behavior. Grace.

We may never know precisely why Hemingway wrote that story, but his life gives some clues. His grandparents went to my alma mater—Wheaton College. And his parents were very strict Christians who detested Hemingway’s rather freewheeling lifestyle, to the point where his mother refused to allow him in her presence.

On his birthday one year, his mother mailed him a birthday cake, along with the gun that his father had used to kill himself. Another year she wrote a letter explaining that a mother’s life is like a bank. She wrote, “Every child that is born to her enters the world with a large and prosperous bank account, seemingly inexhaustible. The child makes withdrawals but no deposits during all the early years. Later when the child grows up, it is his responsibility to replenish the supply he has drawn down.”

His mother then went on to explain all the ways her son could make deposits—flowers, candy, paying her bills, and above all stop neglecting your duties to God. And Ernest Hemingway never got over his hatred for his mother or for God.

When you understand Hemingway’s life, you...
Do you consider the glass half full or half empty? For all the negative news we get pummeled with every day — Earthquakes! Unemployment! Cancer! — you’d think we would tend to be downright pessimistic, focusing on the empty part of the glass.

But according to a recent book, *The Optimism Bias* by Tali Sharot, we humans are actually an optimistic bunch. “The belief that the future will be better than the past or present is known as the optimism bias. It abides in every race, region and socioeconomic bracket.”

According to Sharot, a growing body of scientific evidence indicates optimism may be hardwired into all of us.

Which comes in handy when things don’t exactly turn out how we’d like. Just ask anyone who’s had their heart broken, yet dreams of new love anyway. Or the business manager who lost the bid, but starts searching for the next opportunity anyway. Or Cubs fans, because there’s always next year … errrr. Guess I can’t use that analogy anymore.

Optimism is founded on hope. Hope imagines new opportunities. Hope believes that conditions will improve. Hope drives us forward despite situations that scream out for pessimism.

It is that kind of hope that enabled Paul to confidently state, “We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28). Not just some things. Not the occasional thing. All things. So if hope springs eternal, shouldn’t the source of our hope also be eternal? What keeps driving you forward despite the negativity pressing in on you?

It seems to me Jesus was an optimist, and imparted some of that optimism in each and every one of us, as science is beginning to understand. After all, He did say, “I have come that they may have life and have it to the full” (John 10:10). That makes me think even if the glass appears to be half empty, we can believe it will eventually be full if you have faith in Him.

“Grace,” *continued from pg. 1*

Graduate Recognition Weekend
We are currently collecting names and photos of this year’s high school and college grads for our Graduate Recognition Weekend. During worship services on May 20/21, we will present a slideshow acknowledging all of LCC’s 2016-2017 graduates. To be included, please submit your name, school, and degree, along with a senior/graduation photo to the church office by May 16. Congratulations!

2017-2018 LCC Preschool Registration
Registration for the three- and four-year-old preschool classes is still open. Brochures with enrollment forms are available in the church, the office, and on the Preschool page of our website. (Kids must be age 3 or 4 by Sept. 10, 2017 to enroll.) If you have any questions, please contact Angela Brent at 461-6541 or email preschool@lifecchelena.org.
**KID AND YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

Kid Ministries Contact—Jodi Wigen: office@lifecchelena.org or 442-6813  
Middle School Ministries Contact—Jolanda Songer: jolanda@lifecchelena.org or 442-6813  
High School Ministries Contact—Matt Swider: matts winger@lifecchelena.org or 442-6813

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**MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**Confirmation Class**  
(7th - 8th Grade)  
Wednesdays, 5:45-6:15 p.m.  
*Last night of Confirmation is May 17.*  
*Save the Date: Confirmation Graduation is May 21, during the 11 a.m. service!*

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**ENFUEGO**

www.enfuegoatlcc.com  
(6th - 8th Grade)  
Wednesdays, 6:30-8:45 p.m.  
Dinner Included  
*Last night of EnFuego is May 17*

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**HIGH SCHOOL**

**2nd Annual Cardboard Boat Regatta & BBQ**  
1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, June 11  
BBQ starts at 1 p.m., race starts at 2 p.m.  
Spring Meadow Lake  
Mark your calendars! The middle school students and leaders will be making boats out of cardboard, duct tape, liquid nails, and paint, and we’ll race them on Spring Meadow Lake! We would love for you to come and join us for hotdogs and cheer on the participants! Please look for the sign-up list for the BBQ.

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**Life Covenant Kids**

**AWANA Awards Night**  
We invite all families to join us at 6 p.m. on May 2 for our Awards Ceremony and Ice Cream Social! (PLEASE NOTE: There is no family dinner on this night; we will have ice cream afterwards instead.)

**VBS @ LCC**  
**JUNE 19-23, 9 a.m. to noon**  
**Preschool—5th Grade**  
We are excited to announce that registration is now open for our Cross Culture VBS — Passport to Peru! Join us as we experience the sights, sounds, smells, and tastes of Peru, while helping kids discover God’s eternal love!  
You can register for VBS now by visiting our VBS website at VBSLCC.com. You can also pick up and return registration forms in the foyer, but online registration is best.  
In addition to registration for VBS participation, we’re also recruiting volunteers to help with this year’s event. There are so many ways to get involved! Contact Matt Swider to find out how you can help!

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**HIGH SCHOOL**

**Voltage Connect and Recruit**  
Wednesdays, 6:30-9:00pm (Dinner included.)  
Last Voltage is May 17.
KIDS AND YOUTH CONTINUED...

THANK YOU to all those who have served in LCC’s Kid Ministries this past year! We are so thankful for teachers and helpers that serve in our kid ministries. You are a blessing and we appreciate you!

AWANA

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Attention 5th Graders! Don’t miss EnFuego Info Night!

All 5th grade students are invited to join us before AWANA on May 2 for a pizza dinner at 5 p.m. During dinner, Jolanda and a few middle school students will talk about EnFuego and a special EnFuego night for 5th graders on Wednesday, May 10. We will conclude in time for AWANA awards at 6 p.m. Contact Jolanda at 437-8158 for more information.
EVENTS & CLASSES

Taste of the Summit

Want to find out more about the Global Leadership Summit? Join us at the Taste of the Summit on Sunday, May 7, at 4 p.m. at the Gateway Center. This free, one-hour event featuring Joseph Grenny (bestselling author and leading social scientist in business performance) and Mark Miller (author and Vice President of High Performance Leadership at Chick-fil-A) will provide some great teaching and also give you a taste of what is to come at the Global Leadership Summit in August. We hope to see you there!

55 and Better Luncheon

Join us at noon on May 5 for our monthly 55 and Better luncheon in the Fellowship Hall. Our speakers this month will be Mardi Benson and Nata Nolan, Helena-area realtors who will be sharing tips on how to get your house ready to sell. Come and hear all the latest on what to do or what NOT to do if there is a move in your future! Call the church office and let Callie know if you are planning to attend.

Family Promise Host Week: May 21-28

The Family Promise ministry has successfully helped many homeless parents and their children secure a permanent place to call home. Volunteers help with this by providing a variety of services that help support and encourage our guests while they work to achieve their goals of sufficient work and housing. Please come visit the sign-up table in the foyer during our weekend services and see how you can help with this meaningful and successful ministry. Thank you! Any questions? Contact Mary Martorana at (480) 516-1119 or marymartorana@hotmail.com.

LCC Preschool Happenings

April was a fun and "faithfilled" month! Our Lenten/Easter unit was celebrated with "JOY": J is for Jesus, who died for us; O is for Others, Jesus wants us to help and serve others; Y is for You, because Jesus loves You!

Both classes visited Hunters Pointe to participate in a special project with the residents and sing a few songs for them. What a wonderful opportunity to share Christ's neverending love with others.

We ended our unit with a Lenten Journey, walking with Jesus during Holy Week. We praised Jesus with palms, walked to the cross and ended at the empty tomb. Thank you, Pastor Keith, for being the "angel" at the tomb to share that Jesus is Alive!

Thank you to Dave Anderson for creating our beautiful "tomb."

Signs of spring, April showers and rainbows were the focus of the remainder of the month.

We celebrated our wonderful year of preschool with our annual Spring Sing and Art Show on April 20. A variety of artwork from each child was displayed, and the children entertained their family and friends with singing a few songs!

Our final month of school includes "Along the Seashore", bike day and hiking.
“Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

1 Corinthians 1:3

A similar greeting is found in 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Philemon, 1 and 2 Peter, 2 John and Revelation.

Mark your calendars to join us for these summer events!

June 19-23: Vacation Bible School (Passport to Peru)    ♦   July 7-9: Family Camp at C-N
August 10-11: Global Leadership Summit (at the Gateway Center)
August 17-20: Holland Lake Camping Trip