

Good News of Peace

February 2015 A.D.

A Caring Family ✦ Reaching Out ✦ Sharing Christ's Love ✦ Teaching God's Word!

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends in Christ,

Even though we are now three months removed from our "Vision Cast" event on Sunday, October 26, I would like to continue to use this space to review some of the key points from the event for the benefit of the entire congregation. Held in conjunction with our Mission Festival Sunday, the event provided an opportunity for our members to be involved in our current strategic planning discussion by sharing a few ideas for ways in which we might better carry out our mission of caring, reaching, sharing, and teaching.

Prior to that discussion, it was my job to answer five questions in order to set the tone for the congregational discussion that would follow. Those questions were "who are we?", "what is our address?", "what time is it?", "what is God calling us to do?", and "what is our strategy?" Over the past three months (November-January), I have reviewed how I attempted to answer the first three of those questions (previous months' newsletters remain available on our web site, by the way). This month I will continue with the fourth question, "what is God calling us to do?"

What is God calling us to do as a congregation at this time and at this point in our congregation's history?

Needless to say, this is an important question, and I think we are in the process of figuring this out. Two important things have happened since my arrival in mid-2012, which

I believe help to answer this question:

First, not quite two years ago we revisited and subsequently revised our mission statement from "A Caring Family, Sharing Christ, Declaring God's Love" to "Our mission as a caring family is to reach out to all, share Christ's love, and teach God's Word." Do you notice the difference? I hope so.

During this process, the consensus amongst our congregational leaders was that we needed to put more emphasis upon reaching beyond ourselves. I continue to believe that this is one our foremost challenges: to become less inwardly-focused and less self-serving, to recognize that we are not here merely for ourselves, and to act accordingly. This may require some sacrifices on our part, however.

Secondly, between Abi's Family Life Internship (December 2012-May 2013) and the year that followed (June 2013-May 2014), we were able to have a staff person, albeit part-time, devoted to Family Life Ministry. I don't think the importance of this can be overstated. We have many wonderful volunteers at Peace, but what that meant is that we had during that period of time a professional staff person, other than myself, almost entirely devoted to ministry beyond what we were already doing.

During that year-and-a-half, although we only scratched the surface, we were able to accomplish two things:

One, we were able to start to do a better job of ministering to the younger generations within the congregation, both parents and children, and of trying to better connect the generations with each other.

Two, we were also able to start to do a better job of reaching out beyond ourselves - to non-member parents and families, for example. The Family Life Minister position opened the door, for example, to partnering with St. John's school to minister to school children. It also opened the door to partnering with community leaders to serve families and families with needs, in particular. Isn't that what God is calling us to do more of? If we open our eyes, I think we will discover that the opportunities for this kind of ministry are abundant!

Next month I will wrap up this series of columns with the fifth and final question, "What is our strategy?" For now, I continue to be excited about the work the Lord has before us in the months and years ahead. I pray that you are, too! And I invite you to continue to pray with me that the Lord will make His vision for our congregation's ministry our vision.

In the meantime, His richest blessings to each and every one of you in Christ, our Savior, our light and our life, and the Light of the world!

In His Service,

Pastor Derek Riddle

The Season of Lent

By the time the month of February is over, believe it or not, the season of Lent will be underway. Below you will find the schedule for this year's mid-week and special services. Please note the **time change** for our mid-week services this year, as announced at the January Voters Meeting.

2015 Lenten Schedule

Ash Wednesday – February 18

5:30-6:30 p.m. Pre-Service Supper
(Fellowship Hall)

6:30 p.m. Service with Imposition of
Ashes & Holy Communion

Theme: Yearning for Home – 1 Peter
1:8-12

Lenten Midweek #2-6 – February 25 and March 4, 11, 18 & 25

5:30-6:30 p.m. Pre-Service Supper
(Fellowship Hall)

6:30 p.m. Mid-Week Service

*Theme: Calling Us Home – based upon
selected passages from 1 Peter*

Palm Sunday – March 29 at
9:30 a.m.

**Maundy Thursday Service
(with Holy Communion) – April**
2 time TBA

Good Friday Service – April 3
at 1:00 p.m.

Easter Sunrise – April 5 at 7:00
a.m. (followed by an Easter
Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall)

**Easter Sunday (with Holy
Communion) – April 5** at 9:30
a.m.

*Please mark your calendars and plan
to attend these special services.*

2015 Lenten devotional booklets,
from Lutheran Indian Ministries,
will be placed in your mailboxes by
Sunday, February 15. Extra copies,
for visitors or for members to share
with family, friends, or neighbors,
will also be available in the
narthex.

BOARD OF ELDERS

**Attention!!! Note: A change in
midweek Lenten church
services. Starting time will be
6:30 p.m., preceded by soup
supper at 5:30 p.m.**

Soon we will be in the Lenten season with Ash Wednesday on the 18th of February. Some of us give something up for Lent to remind us what our Lord Jesus gave up for us and ALL people. When we were confirmed, we made a vow to God – a vow confirming our baptism. On our baptismal day, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit made us a part of His family and for us to be with Him always. With our confirmation vow we told God that we would make use of our Bible (God's Word) in our private and public worship and attend the Lord's Supper often so that we may strengthen our faith through the forgiveness of sins. God has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light to be a witness for Him in all that we do and say. As we worship and pray together with our brothers and sisters in Christ we help and encourage one another in our walk with Jesus, our Shepherd! As Jesus leads and guides us, may we also through the Holy Spirit lead and guide others to Jesus.

See you for soup supper on February 18 starting at 5:30. Church service will be at 6:30.

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

The Board is continuing to look into how Peace Lutheran Church could sponsor a missionary, along with our monthly Stewardship handouts that are put in our church mailbox... *are you reading yours?* The Board receives a Steward Cast that also helps us to better understand Stewardship and helps us to teach all members of Peace to better understand Stewardship.

As we worship together on Sundays and midweek services we pray, praise and give thanks to God for all His sacrificial gifts that He has given us. When we study and stay in His Word we understand that we, too, should also give sacrificially of the time, talent and treasure that God has given us to use to further His Kingdom.

All that we have is God's. We are just stewards of everything that God has given to us.

The Lutheran Hour

The Lutheran Hour can be heard locally on Sunday mornings at 7:00 a.m. on 92.5 FM and at 11:00 a.m. on 1450 AM. You can also listen on-line or via podcast at www.lutheranhour.org. Now you can also download the new Lutheran Hour Mobile App to your mobile device. Instructions for doing so can be found at www.lhm.org/apps/.

February 2015 Schedule: February 1

"Boring? Not Likely!"

Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Ken Klaus

Jesus' enemies considered Him too dangerous to let live, but we have wrapped the Savior in a cloak of dullness.

(Mark 1:21-28)

February 8

"The Gospel's Power for Gracious Living"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev.

Gregory Seltz

Christ empowers His followers to live lives that encourage, affirm, and serve others.

(1 Corinthians 9:18-23)

February 15

"Searching for Love - Listen to Jesus"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev.

Gregory Seltz

Jesus is God's love in action for you. Listen to Him!

(Mark 9)

February 22

"Regrets, Reality, and Grace-filled Restoration"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev.

Gregory Seltz

Through Christ's forgiveness, regrets give way to restoration.

(Luke 15)

Stewardship Corner

"Be merciful as your Father in heaven is merciful" (Luke 6:36).

The word for mercy that Jesus uses here has a more concrete meaning than what we typically associate with mercy. It means more than just being kind. It means to be concerned about your

neighbor's state and well-being. Thus, Jesus taught that we are to care, to be concerned about our neighbor's state and well-being even as our Father in heaven cares for and is concerned about our state and well-being.

How has our Father in heaven cared for our state? How has He shown His concern for our well-being? How has He showered this mercy upon us?

He gave of Himself. He sent His only-begotten Son in human flesh, to become one of us—a man—and to suffer all that we suffer and to endure what we endure—a fallen world full of sinful people, temptation, the attacks of the devil, and death. He took upon Himself what rightfully belongs to us—sin and death—in order that He could give to us what rightfully belongs to Him—righteousness, purity, eternal life, and victory over the temptation of Satan and this fallen world. That is how He cared for our state. That is how He was concerned for our well-being. He entered into our state for the sake of our well-being, died in our place, rose for our justification, redeemed us to make all things new. He entered our state so that by water and His Word we would be granted entrance into His state as children of our Father in heaven. In other words, He had empathy toward us, which resulted in true sympathy.

Jesus, therefore, calls the church to empathy and sympathy for her neighbors. "Be merciful even as your Father in heaven is merciful." He asks the church to give of herself, to enter into her neighbors' state for their well-being. And the church gives of herself the only thing in her that is worth giving. As the Body of Christ, she gives Christ to her neighbors. She gives out the same mercy that she has received. She gives the mercy that the heavenly Father poured out upon her through the sending of His Son. And she does it through the preaching of the forgiveness of sins in Word and Deed, in Word and Sacrament. For this is how the church lives—in the forgiveness of sins received in the means of grace—and, therefore, this is what the church does. What else can she do?

And since this is how the church lives and what the church does, this is likewise how Christians live and what Christians do. That is why giving to the church is so important. It ensures that the proclamation of the forgiveness of sins in Word and Deed continues. It ensures that our neighbors' state and well-being is cared for and attended to. It ensures that our neighbors have access to our heavenly Father's mercy just as we have received it here in time for all eternity.

Therefore, I say, let us be merciful even as our Father in heaven is merciful.

Taken from www.lcms.org

February Birthdays

Elna Glosser	2/1
Melissa Fuhrman	2/2
Brandon McCormick	2/2
Clayton Henry	2/4
Bob Loomer	2/7
Ruth Rothe	2/7
Cora Augsburg	2/8
Ryan Hart	2/8
Zachary Karsten	2/8
Jacob Hein	2/10
Jesse Fenstermaker	2/11
Aniya Kandal	2/11
Curtis Reisener	2/11
Kaitlyn Peltz	2/13
Dana Fairbanks	2/14
Karla Fairbanks	2/14
Cason Kowalewsky	2/15
Kaylee Fenstermaker	2/16
Alan Grulke	2/16
Emily Schleben	2/16
Harper Grulke	2/17
Dianne Darga	2/18
Bea Mosher	2/18
Jack Myers	2/18
Emmalynn Riddle	2/19
Dalton Rex	2/20
Barb Schaedig	2/20
Sophia Wenzel	2/22
Eric Muller	2/23
Tom Catalano	2/24
Kathy Karsten	2/24
Carol Noffze	2/25
Larry Haselhuhn	2/26
Ed Enlow	2/27
Isaac Hein	2/28
Jenny Longoria	2/28
Heaven Schalk	2/28

February Anniversaries

Pete & Julia Demos	Date	Yrs
	2/27	61

If you notice your name is missing from the birthday or anniversary sections, please let the church office know so we can update our records... and celebrate these milestones with you!!

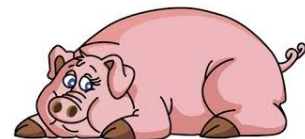
This service you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people, but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.

—2 Corinthians 9:12

BBQ Pork Sandwich Sale

Friday,
February 13
11:00 a.m. until
sold out

\$6.00
(take-outs, too)



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