

Good News of Peace

November 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,

I just finished changing the sign out in front of the church. I am not telling you that so that you will think that I am normally the one who does that. I am not. One of our faithful members has been taking care of that job for the past couple of years. And another one of our faithful members was doing it before that. So a big thank you to them both and to any others whose job that has been over the years!

To be perfectly honest, after several days of doing so, I was tired of looking at my name when I pulled into the parking lot. And I figured that those driving by were probably tired of doing so, as well. The real reason for the change, however, was to advertise our Marriage Enrichment Workshop this coming weekend. Which, by the time most of you are reading this, will already have happened. I hope that you were able to be here and to take advantage of the opportunity!

As I was removing the letters from the sign, though; and then replacing the old letters with the new letters; and then, after bringing the old letters inside, drying them off before putting them away because of yesterday's rain, at some point it occurred to me that it is a lot of work to be thanked! Changing the sign is admittedly something of a tedious and time-consuming job. And it tends to become less and less enjoyable the colder it gets, as well. And there was something mildly amusing, I thought, about the fact that I was removing and replacing my own thank you message.

It is a lot of work to be thanked! Ironically, I think I can admit that is also how I was feeling as this past Sunday was approaching. As I mentioned to those of you who were here that morning, neither Julie nor I particularly like the attention. And I think that both of us were a little bit anxious to have the day, or at least the Pastor and Julie Appreciation part of the day, over and done with. Believe it or not, I was more uneasy about that small part of the day than I was any of my other responsibilities that morning.

Once the morning was over, however, as I sat down and reflected for a few moments, I found myself feeling very humbled by the extra attention and all the time and effort that many of you put into various aspects of the morning. And as I finally found a few minutes later in the weekend to read through all of your thoughtful cards and all of your hand-written notes, and to reflect upon your generosity and kindness, I was very moved. And I wanted to use this space to say thank you to all of you. Thank you for your kind words, and for your encouragement, and for making it a special day for our family.

But enough about all of that! Now, of course, it is time for us to move on to what is next. The seasons are changing once again, as we watch the leaves fall and the temperatures begin to drop. The time will change this coming weekend. November will be a busy month as a whole. And before we know it, Thanksgiving will be upon us. And then Advent. And then Christmas. And then another new year, Lord willing.

Through all of the changes, on our calendars, and to our clocks, and in our lives, at the risk of repeating myself, it is my prayer that we will always find great comfort in knowing, as the Book of Hebrews reminds us, that *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever* (Hebrews 13:8). He never changes. His mercy never changes. His love for us never changes. What He has done for our forgiveness and salvation never changes. The blessings that belong to us by faith in Him, and by God's grace, never change. His promises never

change. His Word never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and always.

I am thankful for many things. I am thankful for the privilege of being your pastor. I am thankful to all of you for your support and encouragement and for your partnership in the Gospel. I am thankful for all of the ways in which God continues to bless our congregation. I am thankful for the ministry which He has entrusted to us, and for the important work which He has given us to do together, and for all of the opportunities and challenges that lay ahead of us in the coming weeks and months. But I am especially thankful for that – that in an ever-changing world, our Lord never, ever changes! All praise and glory and honor be to Him and to Him alone for that!

With Gratitude, and Humbly Serving our Unchanging God and Savior With You,

Pastor Derek Riddle

BOARD OF ELDERS

Do you remember? Your promise to God. Do you remember that promise? For some it happened less than a year ago, for others it was a few years and for some it was many years ago. It happened on your Confirmation day when you made the biggest promise of your life and renewed your vow once made on your baptismal day. It was a vow that you made in front of the church. Think back to who was there when you made your vow.....your pastor, parents, Godparents, friends and family. But most important of all...your Savior was with you as you made your Confirmation vow to Him. We make promises to one another that we do not keep or maybe just forget about. God never forgets. Do you remember your vows? Questions like these were asked of you... will you make use of the Bible in private and public worship?...will you attend the Lord's Supper frequently?...do you, as a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, intend to continue in the confessions of this Church and suffer all rather than fall away from it? Answer: "We do so with the help of God."

While God expects you to keep your vow that you made to Him on your Confirmation day, He does not expect you to do it with your own strength. He will keep you loyal to your vow of faithfulness by trusting Him and relying on Him. Draw near to God in His Word and Sacrament, and He will draw near to you. Live every day as though Jesus died yesterday, rose today, and is coming back tomorrow.

Board of Stewardship

As God's stewards we have the opportunity to make a difference by serving our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. At our baptism God called us into His family of believers. As a mother, father, daughter, son, brother, or sister, we have a calling to live where Christ has put us and show and give our love to our neighbors. Being part of Christ's family, we can pray. Pray to God, asking Him to take care of our neighbor and his needs. We can also teach through word and actions of Christ's grace, mercy and love that He has for ALL. We are

part of God's family, heirs to His heavenly kingdom where we will live forever in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness. Until we reach our heavenly home, we will never lack for work to do in our home, our community, or our church.

Oh! I just had a flashback. The Nominating Committee is in need of members who would serve as officers of Peace for a two-year term. What a wonderful opportunity to serve your Lord. Don't say no. Take it to the Lord in prayer and see if He is calling you to serve as a board member here at Peace.

Pray, praise and give thanks for all the ways that God has blessed you.

Thanksgiving Day Service with Holy Communion
November 26 – 9:30 a.m.

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/.

November 2015 Schedule:

November 1

"Who Do You Think You Are?"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

Don't just look up, down, or around-look to Jesus Christ for life and salvation.

(Isaiah 51:4-6)

November 8

"Do You Know THIS Jesus?"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

If you think Jesus is just one of those very good and capable people who show us a better way to treat others, you haven't really captured who Jesus is.

(Hebrews 9:24-28)

November 15

"Readied for That Time"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

Our most advanced technology soon becomes worthless and obsolete, but God has a life for you in Jesus that lasts forever.

(Mark 13:1-13)

November 22

"Our Heart-Song of Thanks"

Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Ken Klaus

Heart-songs of praise are sung by those who realize the Lord loves the unlovable and saves those who thought they were beyond saving.

(Ephesians 5:18b-21)

November 29

"Are You Ready?"

Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Ken Klaus

Advent looks forward to Christmas and that final day when Christ will return. Are you ready?

(Luke 21:34-36)

Cantata Update

Thanks to the efforts of John Gledhill and the kind generosity of a number of individuals, expenses for this year's cantata are no longer a concern. We are grateful for all those who believe in this outreach program, and supported us in making it a reality. Our choir and nine "friends" have been diligently working on the musical presentation, "Let the Whole World Sing." This particular cantata focuses on the worldwide (160+

countries) observance of Christ's holy birth where, despite our many differences, we all celebrate the season united as one kingdom of believers. Many of the arrangements gently underscore the universality of the gospel message through recognizable yet diverse rhythms. The group is enjoying the challenge of this global presentation. Lee Bingle, who is heading up the pageant, has some wonderful ideas for the physical presentation of the Christmas Story. She continues to look for actors (no speaking parts) and would welcome any staging assistance. Adding this visual element to our cantata underscores the reality of the Christmas Story. And our outreach wouldn't be complete without the infamous Peace Lutheran reception. Julie Schwiesow has a crew lined up (and could probably use a few more helping hands) for creating a global ambiance complemented by a variety of holiday delicacies. Your assistance and/or donations will be very much appreciated by the Reception Committee and attendees as well. All in all, as choir director, I'm elated that Peace is once again able to offer this special Christmas gift to our community and surrounding area. Plan to join us on Sunday, December 13, at 3:00 p.m. We promise to light your Christmas Spirit!

Dianne Darga

Stewardship Corner

"In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering he had no regard" (Gen 4:2). Why did the Lord not have regard for Cain and his offering, but did regard Abel and his offering? Was it because Abel's offering was better intrinsically than Cain's? No. The Book of Hebrews tells us: "By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts" (Heb 11:4). The thing that distinguished Abel's offering from that of Cain's is faith. By faith, Abel offered a more acceptable offering.

Faith and giving are inseparable. They are two sides of the same coin. It is faith in the promises of God that leads us to give. By faith we trust that God will do what He says. By faith, we receive everything God gives as a gift from His divine mercy and goodness. For what do we have that we have not received (1 Cor 4:7)? Nothing. Everything we have comes from the Lord. By faith we give to others because God has first given to us, and by faith we trust that He will continue to provide for us all that we need for this body and life. And when by faith we give, God accepts our offerings and commends us as righteous. For by faith we are accounted righteous before God on account of Christ. Giving is a spiritual issue.

But there is a flip side to this two-sided coin: Cain didn't give an offering to God by faith. His offering did not come from faith but from someplace else. And since it didn't originate with faith in God and His promises, it was not regarded by God. And he was not accounted righteous. This is a warning to us. Pay attention to your faith and your offerings, and from where they come.

From where do your offerings come? Like all good works, offerings acceptable in God's sight flow from faith in Christ. They are given in response to the gifts God has given to us, especially the gift of forgiveness of sins in Jesus Christ. And since they are given by faith, they will be the target of Satan's attacks to ruin the church, do damage to the gospel of Christ, and to weaken your faith in Him. For sin is crouching at our doors, and the temptation to sin in giving is great because of the fallen world and our sinful flesh. But Jesus is greater than our hearts. Jesus has overcome the world. And by faith, so have we. By faith, we rule over them.

Taken from www.lcms.org