



The Invasion of Peace

by Pastor Glenn Huebel

The title of this article seems, perhaps, a bit strange. After all, “invasion” and “peace” do not seem to belong together, unless peace is the object which is being invaded by an enemy – but that is not what is meant by the title. Peace is the subject which is doing the invading. Invasion usually refers to an attack by a conquering military force, the very disruption of peace. How can peace go on the offensive? How can peace enter into warfare? It can do so when the Peace-maker is Jesus who enters Satan’s domain. *Christmas is a celebration of the invasion of peace into this world.* It is the Normandy of the war between God and Satan for the reign over creation. Through sin Satan reigned as a cruel tyrant over the human race, holding them in chains

of sin and terrorizing them through the fear of death. Though he held the world in a vice grip from which no one could escape, his dominion could never be described as “peace.” There is no peace in Satan’s prison – only chaos, misery, and despair.

But God had decreed to Satan that his conquest would not stand. A seed of the woman would come forth to crush his head and deliver his captives (Gen 3:15). This child would be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14), and his name would be called Prince of Peace because the increase of his government and his peace would never end (Isaiah 9:6-7). Through his reign all creation would be restored to its original order under its benevolent Creator. In this kingdom, the wolf and the lamb, the leopard and the

goat, and the calf and the lion would lie down together. A paradise of peace would be restored, but first Satan would have to be defeated.

General Eisenhower meticulously planned for months to invade Hitler’s domain and establish a foothold in France from which he could ultimately defeat the Axis powers. God planned His invasion of Satan’s domain for centuries, and “in the fullness of time,” sent forth His Son into the fallen world to begin the mission of crushing the devil’s head (Gen 3:15). On the night of His birth the angels declared to the shepherds in the field that the promised Savior had arrived and with Him, “peace on earth.” Simeon the aged priest who received the baby Jesus in the Temple rejoiced in the peace He came to bring by praying to God, “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your Word; for my eyes have seen your salvation.” Yet the Prince of Peace would not be allowed to restore Creation peacefully. A sword awaited Him, and His mother also, for Simeon declared to her, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed

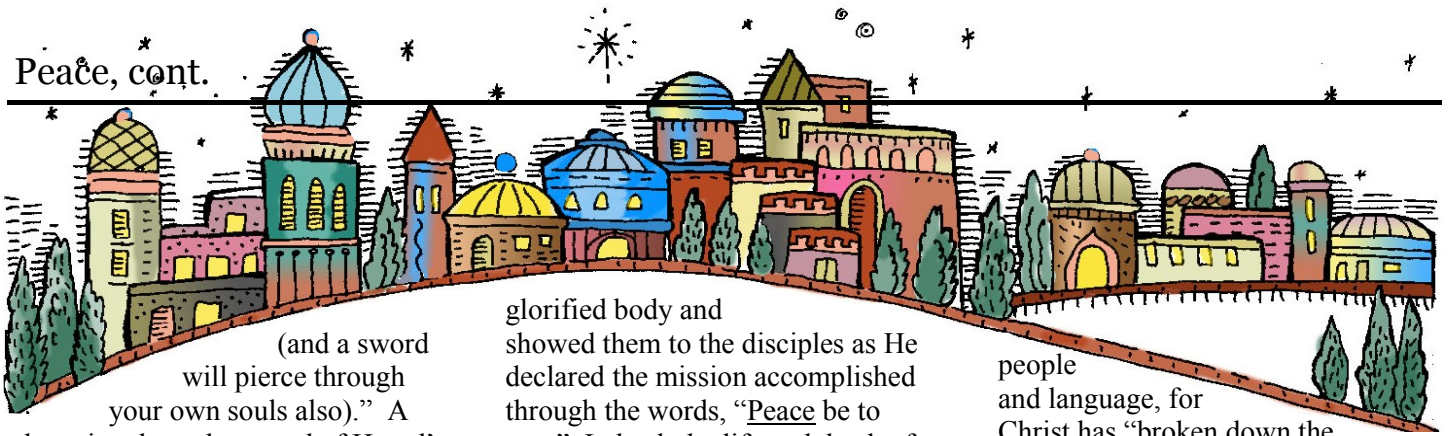


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That you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name. —John 20:31



(and a sword will pierce through your own souls also).” A short time later the sword of Herod’s soldiers slaughtered the infants of Bethlehem, but Jesus escaped the violence through angelic intervention. It was an omen of things to come, for the peace He came to establish could be secured only through His blood, as Isaiah the Prophet had declared, “He was wounded for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities, upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.” The devil, through wicked men, ultimately nailed Jesus to the cross, but that horrendously violent and brutal death secured peace. That is why Jesus retained the wounds in His

glorified body and showed them to the disciples as He declared the mission accomplished through the words, “Peace be to you.” Indeed, the life and death of Jesus has accomplished what no man could do, restore our peace with God through the forgiveness of our sins. God’s wrath against us has been appeased through the blood of Jesus once and for all. “We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Rom. 5:1).

The peace Christ won for us is the present possession of all believers. Jesus says, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you” (John 14:27). This is the inner peace of knowing that our sins are forgiven and that we are reconciled to God. That peace unites us with every other Christian of every nation, tribe,

people and language, for Christ has “broken down the wall of partition between us” and made us one, in Him (Eph. 2). The peace of brotherly love is a foretaste of the perfect peace that will reign when Christ returns in glory. John never used the word “peace” in writing the Revelation, but his description of heaven is a beautiful picture of final and ultimate peace (Rev 22:1-7).

“The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.”

Merry Christmas,
Pastor Huebel

O COME, LET US ADORE HIM

A Christmas Pageant and Concert presented by the Kindergarten and First Grade and the Sixth and Seventh Grade Students of
Messiah Lutheran Classical Academy
Thursday, December 15, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Music Notes by Vicki Main, Music Director

What a wondrous time of year as we anxiously anticipate the birth of the Babe in Bethlehem. And what an incredible amount of music is available for this season as well. We are so blessed to have such an abundance of musical talent within our own congregation - and a willingness to share it.

Our annual **Sunday of Carols and Lessons** will be **Dec. 18th** at both services. Handbells, choirs, and instruments will all be "preparing the way." It will be a glorious offering of music between special readings as we prepare for Jesus' coming. This is a musical gift to you from the Music Ministry of Messiah.

I especially urge you to take advantage of the music that will be presented on **Christmas Eve** starting one half hour before the five o'clock and seven o'clock services. Plan to come early and spend that time listening, reflecting and preparing your heart to celebrate the birth of our Savior.



Family Christmas Caroling - Please come and make a joyful noise as we go Christmas caroling on **Monday, Dec. 19th** to Whitley Place Assisted Living facilities and a few homes. We will leave the church *promptly* at

6:05pm. Songbooks will be provided. This is a wonderful opportunity for families of Messiah to share musically the wonderful Christmas message with some folks that may not otherwise hear it. If you have never done anything like this before, you will be deeply touched. It is a joyful experience for everyone - those singing and those being sung to. So bring mom, dad, and the kids and enjoy an evening of special ministry.

Blessings to you and yours as we worship together this Christmas season!

Vicki Main
Music Director

We Welcome Our New Members by Stephanie Gutierrez

Many years ago we used to have a regular article in our newsletters introducing new member families. The volunteer reporter who interviewed and wrote those articles transferred from our congregation and the practice ceased. We thank Stephanie Gutierrez for her willingness to resume this important task. Stephanie will be writing occasional articles on members who have recently come into fellowship with us at Messiah.

Dave and Naomi Adams



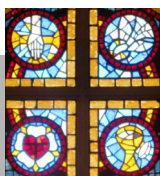
In this month's newsletter we would like to introduce new Messiah members Dave and Naomi Adams. Dave works for BNSF Railway in management; he started his career over 38 years ago as an engineer for

the Frisco Railroad in Sherman, Texas. Naomi is currently a homemaker who is seeking employment in administrative work. In the past Naomi has worked for various employers but most recently, the Kansas Board of Regents in Topeka, Kansas and Carl Sandburg College in Galesburg, Illinois.

Dave and Naomi were married 36 years ago after meeting at Grace Lutheran Church in Denison, Texas. They have three daughters who are located in the Midwest. Andrea, a registered nurse, lives in Galesburg, Illinois with her husband and two sons, Amber, a software developer, lives in Topeka, Kansas with her three children, and Alisha is a student at University of Missouri at

Kansas City, Missouri finishing her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology. As you can imagine, the Adams do a lot of traveling!

Dave enjoys golf and both Naomi and Dave enjoy working in their yard. They look forward to traveling when they retire in about five years. Currently their travel consists of helping family and visiting grandchildren, although they did take a cruise with their daughter and her husband this past April. This year they are looking forward to the wedding of their daughter Alisha, which will be held in June in New York City. Please take an opportunity to welcome the Adams family to Messiah.



Messiah Lutheran Church & School

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

1308 Whitley Rd. Keller, TX 76248

Church Office: (817) 431-2345

Early Childhood Center: (817) 431-6139

Classical Academy (K—8): (817) 431-5486

Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School & Adult Bible Class: 9:30 a.m.

Rev. Glenn Huebel, Senior Pastor

Rev. Dennis Kitzmann, Assistant Pastor

Mrs. Natalie Anderson, Principal, Classical Academy

Mrs. Alison Smith, Principal, Early Childhood Center

Mrs. Vicki Main, Music Director

Mr. Joseph Sustrik, Financial Director

www.messiahkeller.org

Youth News

Thanks to Chef Charles Youts, our youth were able to offer one of the best fund raisers ever at the end of October. With Chef Youts help, the youth prepared a multi-course Italian dinner in front of approx. 20 participants. Those who came received some wonderful new recipes, watched the cooking demonstration, and then had a marvelous supper.



Raise money for MLCA & enjoy great deals at the same time!

Our Hometown Deal is a local, daily-deal website that features amazing deals to restaurants, nail salons, spas, and many other types of local

businesses in our community. **From Dec. 3rd - 6th, Our Hometown Deal is helping MLCA.**

Here's how it works: 1.) Log on to www.OurHometownDeal.com 2.) Sign up to get great deals delivered to you by email 3.) Purchase any of the great deals between Dec. 3-6th and a portion of the sale will be given back to MLCA. Just choose MLCA from the dropdown list at checkout. It's that easy!



The 2nd -5th Grade Students and the 7th Grade Bell Choir of
Messiah Lutheran Classical Academy
present

Christmas
Messiah
For Young Voices

BY G. F. HANDEL

CREATED BY TIMOTHY W. SHARP

Friday, December 9, 2011
7:00 p.m.

