



Parables

A monthly publication of Peace Lutheran Church

February 2017



A Message from Pastor Keith

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

Sometimes the words of another are more powerful than anything I can write. These are the words of Chad

Bird, posted on January 29th, about being the church:

The worth of a congregation is determined by statistics. A church with 25 people in the pews is not as important to Christ's kingdom as a church with 2500. It's simple arithmetic, really. The more worshipers, the more worth. The larger the church, the larger accolades it deserves.

"Go ye into all the world and build bigger and bigger churches," Jesus said. If you want to make a difference in the world, you must keep up with the Joneses' congregation—and they just built a huge sanctuary.

The sacrament of competition is the adrenaline pumping through the veins of the body of Christ. At least, so it would seem as we scan the unspoken assumptions of Americanized Christianity.

This should hardly surprise us. Our TV and smart phone screens are full of ads that inculcate a mindset within us that insists bigger is better. The new thing is the better thing. Your worth, your importance, your upward mobility are contingent upon your purchase of the fanciest gadgets, the nicer home, the hottest clothing. You are what you own. And if you don't own much, well, you aren't worth that much.

When the Big Creed overshadows the Apostles' Creed, the result is as predictable as it is destructive. Smaller churches are deemed irrelevant in the grandiose programs of denominational leaders. The pastor of a white clapboard church in an Iowa cornfield is considered less important than the pastor of a sprawling suburban megachurch. Size matters.

Worse by far, however, is the assumption that Christ's work is measurable by worship attendance, budget size, and the square feet of the sanctuary.

February Worship Services

- February 5** 8:15 & 10:45am Organ-led
- February 12** 8:15am Organ-led
10:45am Revive Praise Band
- February 19** 8:15 & 10:45am Organ-led
- February 26** 8:15am Organ-led
10:45am Revive Praise Band

Orrey McFarland Ordination Service

Please join us on
Sunday, February 5th, 2017
 at **3:00pm**
 for the ordination of
 Orrey McFarland (former intern of
 Peace Lutheran Church). Bishop
 John Bradosky will preside and
 Pastor Keith Falk will preach.
 There will be a reception to follow.

OUR MISSION:

"CONNECTING PEOPLE TO CHRIST"

OUR VISION:

TO BUILD A COMMUNITY OF DISCIPLES WHO ARE ACTIVELY PURSUING CHRIST'S MISSION FOR THE CHURCH.
 Matt. 28: 19-20



Peace Lutheran Church
 2600 East Danforth Road
 Edmond, OK 73034
 (405) 341-3205 (office)
 (405) 341-7630 (fax)
www.peace-lutheran.net

Worship Schedule

Worship: 8:15 and 10:45 am
 Christian Education Classes (all ages): 9:30 am

Office Phone Hours

Monday - Thursday: 8:30 am - 1:30 pm

Staff

Pastor.....Keith M. Falk
 Director of Youth & Family Ministries.....Scott Saxton
 Director of Music/Organist.....Tony Carrillo
 Director of PreschoolSonya Easley
 Church SecretaryElena Falk
 Facilities Manager.....Al Reml
 Bookkeeper.....Donna Pflaum

Executive Board

Pastor.....Keith M. Falk
 Chair.....Joe Spahr
 Vice Chair.....Steve Wackerly
 Past President.....Susan Bedwell
 Financial Coordinator.....Bill Bates
 HR Coordinator.....Kevin Richter
 Volunteer Coordinator.....Beverly Funderburk
 SecretaryCindy Houghton

Ministry Team Leaders

Finance and Planning.....Kevin Clark
 Discipleship.....Courtney Coghill
 EvangelismMary Kay Schroeder
 Missions
 Worship & MusicPhil Coghill
 Congregational Care.....
 Facilities.....Al Reml
 Preschool.....Lori Clark

Peace Health Ministry

Carolyn Smith, LouAnn Gallion, Jean Kidd

In other words, we become so fixated on the bigger, newer things the Lord is supposedly doing that we lose sight of the little, older things the Lord has been doing all along.

The work Jesus does in our world, particularly in our churches, will never make CNN. Probably not even the town newspaper. It just isn't that sexy or mind-blowing. The limelight holds no attraction for the Lord. He's a behind-the-scenes kind of Savior, faithfully and slowly laboring in our midst to renew our minds, reshape the love of our hearts, and mend our broken lives.

Christ's work, though unmeasurable by numbers, is immeasurable in importance.

It doesn't matter how huge or tiny your church is, how cool or uncool your pastor is, how many bells and whistles your sanctuary has, Jesus ignores all that shallow nonsense. He's the God of the cross not the circus. What he does won't be entertaining but it will be life-saving, life-transforming. Hidden in plain sight, beneath a sacred simplicity, he's working humble miracles every day in individuals and congregations that only angels usually applaud.

The baptism of one child is worth more than a 5 million dollar worship facility.

Forgiveness spoken to a single soul broken by guilt is worth more than a thousand splashy denominational programs.

A single, fifteen minute sermon that proclaims Christ and him crucified for you is more important than hundreds of hours of lectures by experts on revitalizing your ministry.

The worship facility, the programs, the ministry revitalization all have their place. But that place never replaces the faithful, unostentatious ministry of the Spirit giving Jesus to us.

Water and blood, not gold and silver, are the church's wealth. The preaching of the cross, not the entertaining of crowds, is the church's calling. Kneeling around an altar, not strutting about for attention, is the church's posture.

"The cross alone is our theology," Luther famously said. It's the theology of the church's life. A life that may never seem glamorous or sexy, hot or relevant, but which fills us with peace and holiness that cannot be purchased or measured.

The worth of a congregation is the worth of the Christ who dwells in our midst. And that worth is so great heaven and earth cannot contain it.

In Christ,
Pastor Keith



Connecting People to Christ
....through discipleship





We thank the Rev. Gary Bauch for preaching and leading worship and Sunday School on Sunday, January 15th, while Pastor Keith was out of town. He spoke about a ministry that provides direct relief to the poor throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Food for the Poor is an interdenominational Christian ministry serving 17 countries throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Beyond feeding the poor, they implement programs in destitute communities to enable the poor to become self-sustained. As stewards of the poor's money, they strive to keep administrative costs at 5% or less for the entire year, so that more than 95% percent of all donations go directly to programs that help the poor become self-sufficient. If you would like to learn more about this ministry, please visit www.FoodForThePoor.org. There are envelopes in the information center in the Parish Hall if you would like to donate to this ministry.



Ash Wednesday Soup Supper Fundraising Concert Wednesday, March 1

All members of Peace are invited to the Ash Wednesday soup supper. Members interested in sharing their musical, dramatic, and/or visual art talents are encouraged to contact Tony at 341-3205 so their talent can be included in the program.

Ash Wednesday Supper Fundraising Concert
When: Ash Wednesday, **March 1, 5:15-6:15 pm**

Where: Fellowship hall.

Who: All Peace music ensembles and young soloists sharing their musical talents

Why: We are fundraising to purchase music equipment for various music groups



Parishioners interested in joining one of the music groups please call Tony at 341-3205 or 408-4358.

Cooks Night Out

CNO Report

Ninety-five guests were served a meal at Cooks Night Out on January 20. We were blessed with good weather and good help. We adults want to give a really special shout-out to the young people who come and volunteer to help serve and clean. Our next meal will be **February 17**. Volunteers are welcome and desserts are needed.



ACTION TEAM



Thrivent members have the opportunity to be of help to Cooks Night Out in a unique way! You can apply for a \$250 "seed money" gift card which we use to buy groceries and supplies for the meals. This is a great help because we do not have to use church funds. Please talk to Pastor Keith for details.



Ladies Bunco

6:30pm

Friday, February 10

Bring \$5, a dish to share, and a friend!



Super Bowl Party

Sunday, February 5th
5:30pm

All are invited to join in!
Upstairs in the LOFT Youth Room





February Prime Time

We will meet on **Tuesday, January 10, 2017** at noon
In the Parish Hall

Please come and bring a friend, family, or neighbor!

We encourage you to bring a side dish or dessert to share with others.
The main entrée is provided.



Discover The 7 Costly Mistakes Families Make
In Their Estate Plans and How To Avoid Them
Why Most Estate Plans Fail, What To Do About It and
How To Provide Your Family the Protection and Peace of Mind It Deserves

This Valuable Education Program Will Cover...

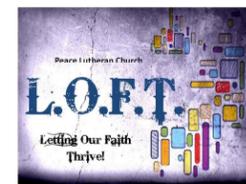
- Wills & Living Trusts: The myths and realities, and the role each should play in your estate plan;
- The Pain of Probate: During an already emotional and stressful time, guarantee you protect your family from battling with the IRS and greedy creditors; paying unnecessary court, attorneys and executors' fees; dealing with frustrating delays (average of one year); and the humiliation of publicity that all comes with probate.
- Powers-of-Attorney: Understand the different kinds and know which ones are right for you and your parents;
- Incapacity: What happens when you or your parent becomes legally incapacitated or disabled and how to smartly avoid its challenges;
- Do-Not-Resuscitate: What you need to know when it comes to end-of-life and do-not-resuscitate issues;
- Keeping Control: Guarantee you retain complete control over to whom, how and when your estate is distributed (despite the challenges arising from probate, lawsuits, taxes, irresponsible behavior of family members, divorce, re-marriage, and more);
- Preserving Your Nest Egg: Choose the right options to preserve your nest egg (such as mutual funds, IRA, 401(k), government benefits and more). Take advantage of opportunities to minimize income taxes for your beneficiaries; and MORE!

Presented By: Jerry Shiles is a co-author of the book, Estate Planning Basics: A Crash Course in Safeguarding Your Legacy and Guiding Those Left Behind in Oklahoma: Settling the Affairs of Your Loved One; a frequently featured speaker on Estate Planning on television, radio, newspapers, and for associations, non-profits, civic groups, attorneys and companies; and a Member of the American Academy of Estate Planning Attorneys and the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys. Mr. Shiles is an Attorney with the Estate Planning and Elder Law Firm of Parman & Easterday.

“Priceless...”

“Having peace of mind in knowing your estate plans are both legally correct and personal wishes are in order is priceless. Parman & Easterday provides the help to make Peace of Mind possible.”

–Sharon W.; Stillwater, OK



LOFT continues with a bible study of the book of Judges. We are looking at the Heroes of the faith. Ordinary people God used to lead Israel. LOFT and LUFF will meet from 6-8pm on Wednesday nights until March 1st, Ash Wednesday(the first Wednesday in Lent), when we will meet from 7:30-8:30pm until April 12th, when we go back to 6-8pm on Wednesdays.



L.U.C.K. Lifting Up Christ King

LUCK is using the Holy Moly curriculum. It is a great DVD series that we are basing our schedule on. Each week we watch a short video on a story from the Bible and then do activities and play games based on that story. We will continue to meet from 5:30-7pm each Wednesday until March 1st. That is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent when we will switch to meeting from 7:15-8pm through Easter. Join us at 5:30pm to eat dinner and then stay for the fun!

L.U.F.F. Letting Us Find Faith

LUFF is journeying through the bible with the CONNECT curriculum. We are currently learning about the early life of Jesus. We have a great video series that goes with our lesson so that we can connect to God's word! All 6th-8th graders are invited to join us on Wednesday night, from 6-8pm.

Confirmation



Please place your completed Worship Notes in the clear plastic box on the bulletin board across from Scott's office.

LOFT-Letting Our Faith Thrive . .

is the High School (9-12 grade) youth group that meets Wednesday nights for food, Fun, Fellowship and Faith Formation. We look forward to seeing all of you high school youth at LOFT!!

LUFF-Letting Us Find Faith. . .

is the 6-8th grade youth group that also meets on Wednesday nights from 6-8pm. See you there, in the Yellow Room!!.

LUCK-Lifting Up Christ King...

is the K-5th grade youth group that meets on Wednesday nights from 5:30-7pm in the KMotion Room. Join us for dinner and fun!

Can you Sponsor pizza for LOFT???

If you are interested in sponsoring one of the LOFT Wednesday night pizza meals, please see Scott Saxton.

Can you Sponsor a LUCK dinner?

If you are interested in sponsoring one of the Wednesday evening meals for newest youth group, please see Scott Saxton or Elena Falk.



Journey in January 2017!



What a wonderful way to kick off 2017 ! Several of our youth met with about a hundred other Lutheran youth at Camp Lutherhoma for Journey in January 2017 over the weekend of January 13-15. This was the 28th year for Journey. It is a youth retreat that is designed, organized and led by youth for youth. Bible study, fun activities, singing, fellowship and worship was the order of the weekend. Thanks to Courtney Coghill and David Ezersky for volunteering your time with us. They were our gracious adult sponsors for the trip!



A note to the congregation of Peace from the HOPE Center of Edmond:

Dear People of Peace Lutheran Church,

We are blessed with your generosity!

The HOPE Center of Edmond would like to extend our thanks to you for your participation in the 2016 Christmas Adopt a Family Program. We sincerely appreciate your contribution to our work in the community. Because of the continued caring support of people like you, we are able to help many families in need.

Sincerely,
J. Chrislyn Sperry MBA
Executive Director



Parents and Youth!

Would you like to get the latest news on what is happening with Peace Lutheran Church Youth Group and Youth and Family Ministry? Then...

text @33218 to 81010

You will get the latest info on LOFT and LUFF events and time changes, weather notifications that impact this ministry, and more!

81010 is the **Remind** short code we created so people can join this group without seeing your personal information.

LOFT and LUFF are Youth Ministries of Peace Lutheran Church.

Remind is a free communication platform built for students which allows us to safely and efficiently communicate with students & parents about important classroom information and church activities. Participants sign up as a student or parent and choose to receive messages by text.

Peace Lutheran Youth Mission Trip 2017

Covington, Tennessee

June 25th-July 1st

The 2017 PLC Youth Mission trip is scheduled for June 25th, 2017. All youth that will be entering the 9-12th grades or are entering their 1st year in college in the 2017-18 school year are eligible to attend.

This year the trip will be to the semi-rural community of Covington, TN.

The drive is considerably shorter than some of the past trips.

This will allow for options on our trip:

1.) getting straight there and straight back,

OR

2.) being able to take time either on the way there or on the way back to do something fun!

Because it takes quite a bit of planning, we need to know rather early in the year if you want your child to attend. If your child is interested in attending with us, PLEASE take time to contact me at

scott@peace-lutheran.net

There is a 2017 Mission Trip Meeting following the 10:45am service on Sunday, February 12th. Please make plans to be there if you are planning on attending the youth mission trip to Covington, Tennessee.



We've had many changes and improvements made outside AND inside of the church building. The Faith Builders group and Al Reml worked very hard on improvements outside from the newly painted and fixed sign to a new mailbox and flag on our flag-pole. Al Reml has headed up the renovations to what is now the Music Suite (Tony's office and rehearsal space) with Harold Phillips's painting expertise. There have been many hands and volunteers working on that move of office space. Scott Saxton has made lots of improvements to the new Youth and Family office spaces. Thank you to all of our tireless volunteers and staff!



Thank you to Mary Kay Schroeder, Christy Cole, and Julie Hostetler who represented Peace Lutheran at the Veraden Open House last week. They did a wonderful job, and we have had some visitors already from The Veraden on Sunday mornings. **Thank You!**

Pastor Keith met with the Activities Coordinator on Tuesday, and Peace Lutheran will be leading worship services every Sunday at 2pm starting February 12th with the assisted living residents. Every Tuesday and Friday we will host a Bible Study; independent living on Tuesdays and assisted living on Fridays. Those will start Tuesday, February 7th.

If you are interested in helping with these ministries, please let Pastor Keith know via e-mail, text, or putting a note in his mailbox at church. You do not have to commit to attending every single week; even if you are only able to help once in a while, please let him know. Please let him know what your interests are and your availability. We are looking to follow Ephesians 4 and equip the saints (you!) for ministry at The Veraden. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of how you can serve!

January 26, 2017

Reverend Keith Falk
Peace Lutheran Church
2600 F. Danforth Rd.
Edmond, OK 73034

Dear Rev. Falk;

We wanted to take the time to show our appreciation for your generosity in sharing your church home with us. We look forward to continuing our partnership with Peace Lutheran Church and growing the opportunities together to make a lasting impression on the residents of Edmond. We are thankful to be working alongside an organization with which we share a common goal of enriching lives and building a strong community.

We would like to present you with this plaque as a token of our gratitude for your goodwill towards us. As we move forward together, the people who benefit from our respective programs will reap the reward of a purposeful and fulfilling journey through life.

May God continue to bless your ministry as you have been a blessing to Sagora Senior Living and The Veraden.

Sincerely,

Bryan McCaleb
President

Dara Brown
Vice President Operations

Sagora Senior Living and The Veraden presented Peace Lutheran Church with a plaque in appreciation of our ministry together. The plaque is hanging up in the Narthex by the work room. We look forward to continuing our relationship with The Veraden.

February **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

| | |
|------------------------|------|
| Cindy Houghton | 2/1 |
| Jacque Flesner | 2/4 |
| Phil Miller | 2/5 |
| Patrick Pflaum | 2/5 |
| Carissa Candler | 2/7 |
| Karen Klinka | 2/8 |
| Arline Hansen | 2/9 |
| Seth Ratke | 2/9 |
| Will Schroeder | 2/9 |
| Keifer McMullin | 2/10 |
| Stephen Reinholtz | 2/10 |
| Connie Weis | 2/11 |
| Haylie Naegeli | 2/17 |
| Erica Price | 2/17 |
| Brent White | 2/17 |
| Haley Clark | 2/19 |
| Mike Freeman | 2/19 |
| Jennifer Maynord | 2/20 |
| Cathy McVay | 2/20 |
| Kyle Bunas | 2/21 |
| Carrie Funderburk | 2/21 |
| Nicolas Goforth Easley | 2/21 |
| Billie Miller | 2/21 |
| Gaylan Bunas | 2/22 |
| Conner Naegeli | 2/23 |
| Steve Wackerly | 2/24 |
| Emily Kamphuis | 2/25 |
| Alison Prater | 2/25 |
| Maddie Klinka | 2/28 |
| Janet Lovelle | 2/28 |
| Della Wehrenberg | 2/29 |

Small Groups and Classes

MONDAYS

Faith Builders Christ Care ~ 2nd & 4th Monday, 9:00 am, Parish Hall at Peace (Arlen Rewerts - 282-3774). Study: *Lectio-ary*; (repair, maintenance, cleanup projects on the 3rd Monday, 8:30 am at Peace).

TUESDAYS

Prime Time (for Senior Adults) ~ 1st Tuesday of the month (Sept.—May) at Noon, Parish Hall. Education, fellowship and activities for seniors, but all are welcome. Mission: support senior ministries and outreach in the community.

Women Growing in Grace ~ 2nd & 4th Tuesday evenings (Cynthia Baim 348-2925). Mission: Edmond Mobile Meals, Citizens Caring for Children, and school supplies.

WEDNESDAYS

Women Exploring the Bible (WEB) ~ Wednesdays, 9:15am, Parish Hall at Peace (Jane Ratke 478-8524). Childcare is provided.

THURSDAYS

Men's Fellowship & Study ~ Thursdays, 6:00 am at Denny's on 2nd Street in Edmond. (Paul Ratke 359-9267). Join in at any time!

Women of Peace ~ 1st Thursday of the month, 9:30 am, conference room at Peace (Jan Collins 341-9390).

SATURDAYS

Men's Fellowship Breakfast ~ First Saturday of each month, 7:00 am in the Parish Hall at Peace. Breakfast, fellowship in one hour or less! (Paul Ratke 359-9267).

Wall of Crosses

Please remember to bring a cross to hang on our Wall of Crosses that represents your family. Submit your cross to the front office with your name on it so that it can be hung with the other crosses. We would like a cross to represent each household in our church.

If your birthday or anniversary has been left out, please notify the church office of the dates.
elena@peace-lutheran.net or 405-341-3205

ANNIVERSARIES

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|------|------------------------------|------|
| Scott & Kathy Saxton 28 years | 2/4 | Jim & Pam Haskin 23 years | 2/14 |
| Louie & Sandy Schwan 37 years | 2/16 | | |

PEACE PIECES

Interested in joining Peace?

Interested in learning more about Peace Lutheran Church or even joining? Please contact Pastor Keith at pastorkeith@peace-lutheran.net or 405-341-3205.

Peace Lutheran Core Values

The Core Values have been put into a booklet form and placed in the bookcase in the Narthex. Please use them to show visitors who we are at Peace Lutheran Church and what we are about. Feel free to take them home to show neighbors, family, and friends.

Prayer Chains Link us to God

PRAYER IS POWERFUL

The Peace WEB Group (Women Exploring the Bible) maintains a prayer chain ministry (via e-mail) for those having special needs. If you would like to join the chain or add someone to the Prayer List, contact Mary Hendrickson at mhend@cox.net.

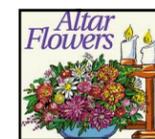
Wall of Crosses



Please continue to bring in a cross to represent your family to add to our Wall of Crosses display. They are being arranged and hung on or about the first of every month. Bring your cross with name on it to the front office.

Flowers for the Altar

The **2017 Flower Chart** is posted on the bulletin board across from the Parish Hall. To donate flowers, write your name on a date line of the chart. The office will send a reminder postcard and to ask if your flowers will honor an event or celebration. Check the bulletin board for the Guidelines for Altar Flowers.



Let's make 2016 a year of beautiful flowers for our Sanctuary!

Check your mailbox in the Parish Hall!

Wear your nametags!

Parables Deadline: 20th of the month

Bulletin insert deadline: Tuesday by noon (very brief information for the Sunday Insert)

Please forward your article to elena@peace-lutheran.net or drop off a copy at the front office by the appropriate date. Include your photos or graphics for the *Parables*.

Peace Calendar

A copy of the church calendar for the next 3 months can be found outside the office workroom for your reference.

TO SCHEDULE AN EVENT AT PEACE

Please contact the church office during work hours to schedule an event or request a room. A Calendar Event Request form must be completed. If you wish to reschedule or cancel an event, please remember to contact the church office.

A Simple and Convenient Way to Give

Consider signing up for electronic giving. Peace relies on the financial support of the congregation and electronic giving offers an easy way to give on a recurring basis. Contact Phil Miller, Financial Coordinator, for details.



Check Request Policy

All check requests for reimbursement must be approved before a check can be cut. Checks take about 7-10 days to be processed. Please see Donna Pflaum, bookkeeper, or Phil Miller, Finance Coordinator, if you have any questions.

Security at Peace

Security is everyone's concern and responsibility. If you have a meeting or event at Peace and are the last one to leave, please be sure that all doors are locked when you depart the premises. **Keep the doors locked while inside.** Encourage your meeting participants to use the doorbell instead of keeping the door unlocked.

www.peace-lutheran.net