



Messenger of Peace

"Where the Love of Christ is Shared"

November 2016

**Peace Lutheran
Church**

91 Wernex Loop
Selah, WA 98942
Phone: 697-4353

**Pastor
Mark Griesse**

Office Hours

9:00 - 12:00

Mon & Thu - Peace
Tues & Wed-Bethlehem
Afternoons by Appointment

Secretary

Tammy Peterson

9:00 - 1:00

Mon-Fri

Sunday Worship

9:00 AM

Sunday Adult

Bible Class

10:30 AM

Website

Peacelutheran-
church.360unite.com

Email

peacelutheranselah@gmail.com



Dear Members and Friends,

Let's Review where we have been and where we are going. As we wrap up the church year it would be a good thing to review what we have participated in through our worship this year. Every reading and every hymn was chosen to point to Jesus Christ as the One to be crowned Lord of all. You will notice "royal" words occurring frequently -- not just king and kingdom, but words like throne, crown, dominion, authority, rule, reign. As the church year comes to a close the emphasis is on CHRIST THE KING; but not just today. And that is the reason for the review.

ADVENT

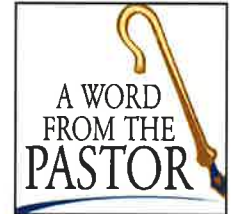
The surrounding were simple and unassuming -- sleepy Nazareth at first, then bustling Bethlehem; later humble Galilee, eventually Mount Calvary. The folks we meet as the story of our salvation begins again each year are simple and unassuming as well -- Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary and Joseph, John the Baptist. But the message of the season is profound: the One for whom the world prepares is the One for whom the world has waited. Already the anticipations of Advent proclaim him CHRIST THE KING.

CHRISTMAS

Christmas calls us to look into the manger, and to see there -- a child. Again, we are dealing with humble beginnings. But again, the Word of God will not let us forget what it is we are beholding here: "a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." "Glory to the new-born King," the church replies, joining the praises of the angels. A baby? Yes, but so much more -- Immanuel, God with us -- whose coming heralds in person God's royal promise of peace.

EPIPHANY

"The King of Israel," true, but more, much more. The beginnings may have been humble, but the season of Epiphany continues to unfold the grand scale on which the story of our salvation is told. "The King of the Jews" is sought out by Gentiles following a star; he is proclaimed at his baptism God's own beloved Son, revealed then in word and deed as the One who wields "all authority in heaven and on earth." CHRIST THE KING, the ruler of everything everywhere --here, among us, aware of our needs, concerned for our welfare, exercising his royal power with divine and saving love.



Continued on page 2

Pastor's Letter continued from page 1

LENT

And so he dies, but dies a King. His crown may be thorns, his throne a tree, his scepter and footstool nails--but he dies a King, with royal gifts to bestow on all who hear his voice. His death bears witness to **the truth**, the truth that "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son"--the Son proclaimed during Epiphany as God's Beloved, with whom God was well pleased. Why then did he die? To bear witness to **the truth**--the one thing that will remain true for each of us even when nothing else matters, when the closing grave will have rendered everything else irrelevant--**the truth** that "whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life."

EASTER

Yes he suffered. And yes, he died. And yes, he rose again on the third day and ascended into heaven, where he reigns as CHRIST THE KING. With cascading Alleluias the season of Easter proclaims that the sufferings of Lent really worked, that the blood of Jesus Christ (who came among us flesh-and-blood at Christmas), God's Son (revealed throughout Epiphany as God's beloved Son), truly does make us clean from every sin.

PENTECOST

At Pentecost the story comes full circle. With the sending of the Holy Spirit, CHRIST THE KING anoints us members of the Royal Family, ambassadors of the Crown, engaged in the King's business. The long green season of Sundays after Pentecost may well represent time, the time we have been given to serve and represent our King. Week by week throughout the Church Year we spend at least a portion of our time here in the house of God, engaged in prayer for all in need and in giving of our means even as we give daily of ourselves, and being inspired and equipped for royal service until our Savior who once came to make us members of the Royal Family comes again, this time in reigning glory, the final Advent of our King.

Blessings,
Pastor Griesse

Pope Leo X 1475-1521



This is the second of twelve characters who had a great influence on the Reformation. Each month we are including a person without whom the Reformation might not have happened as it did.

Giovannie di Lorenzo de' Medici was born in Florence, Italy, on December 11, 1475. HE was the second son of Lorenzo the Magnificent—head of the powerful Italian merchant family, the Medicis. At an early age his father set him on a path of church service. Between 1489 and 1492 he lived as a Cardinal in Rome—even though he had not yet become a priest or a bishop.

Continued on page 3

Pastor's Letter continued from page 2

On March 9, 1513, he was elected Pope. The cardinals selected him for two reasons: he had recurrent health problems which they thought would make his Papacy shorter rather than longer, and they believed his political knowledge would help enhance Rome. He took the title of Pope Leo X. He was elected Pope on March 9, ordained as priest March 15, consecrated as a bishop March 17, and crowned Pope on March 19. He was the last non-priest to be elected pope. Leo was accustomed to a luxurious lifestyle which did not end when he became Pope. He quickly exhausted the papal budget. That left a huge problem. After all, where would he find the money to maintain his lifestyle and complete the lavish rebuilding of St. Peter's Basilica, which Pope Julius II had begun in 1507?

O.W.L.S. Lunch

The OWLS will meet for lunch on **Friday, November 11th** at **11:30 a.m.** at **Olive Garden.**

Since Marcia is out of town, please let Hilde Hibdon know if you plan to attend the lunch (509) 961-1793 or email at hilde_88@yahoo.com.



Game Night and Potluck

The next Game Night and Potluck is scheduled for **Tuesday, November 1st** at **5:30**. Everyone is invited to attend. Bring a food dish to share and stay for the fun after the meal!



Bethlehem Lutheran Church will be holding their **Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, November 12th, 9:00-3:00**. Stop by and see all the holiday goodies that are dying to go home with you!

Thank You!

A big thank you to all who mowed the church lawn this season. We appreciate the time you volunteered to help keep our church looking nice.



Please do not leave important messages on the church answering machine on a Friday evening, Saturday or Sunday as there is no one in the church office to retrieve them until Monday morning.



The **LifeChoices of Yakima Fall Banquet and Silent Auction** is scheduled for Thursday, November 10th at the Convention Center. Registration is free. Auction begins at 5:30 with dinner and program from 6:00 to 8:00. You can sign up at friendsofley.com or call Joan Stocker at 697-5022. Peace Lutheran members will once again be working as a Thrivent Action Team and ushering at the event.

There is a Voters' Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 21st at 7:00. All board Chairpersons (or a board representative) are asked to attend.



Holly Jolly Bazaar

Our Lady of Lourdes' **Holiday Bazaar** is **November 12** and is approaching fast! Peace has reserved tables to participate in the bazaar but we need items to sell. Now is the time to get those fingers moving and begin making items that can be sold at the bazaar. Also, we need volunteers to man the tables. There will be two shifts: 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. You can sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions contact Teri Sanchez at (509) 728-4710.

Change of Address

Georgia Reyer
101 N. 48th Ave. #33A
Yakima, WA 98908
Hm. (509) 902-1065 Cell (509) 949-6697



Women's Bible Study

The Women of Peace Bible Study meets each Saturday through November 19th at Peace Lutheran, 11:00 to 2:30, **(no class Thanksgiving weekend)** to study the *Golden Fruit: Lessons about the Fruit of the Spirit*. All women are welcome to attend.

For more information contact Shirleen Wilhelm at 966-0544.

Peace Lutheran will be supplying Thanksgiving Food Baskets for two needy families again this year.

Watch for the food lists to be on the table in the Fellowship Hall. For those who sign up to bring food, please have your items at the church no later than November 21st. Watch church bulletins and webpage for more information.



Dear Peace Family,

I want to thank you all, so much, for the many expressions of love, comfort and concern at the loss of my Dad.

I also want to thank those of you for your thoughtfulness in helping provide food at the reception.

Your love and support have meant so much to me and my family. I'm so thankful to belong to this beautiful "family".

With gratitude and love,

Carmen Lowrie

Happy Thanksgiving!



Reconciliation – Peacemaking Message



relational
wisdom360

Relational Wisdom 360 is a regular 3-mail that is published by Ken Sande. We hope you enjoy this month's excerpt. For more information on *Relational Wisdom 360* please visit their website or subscribe to the e-mail at www.RW360.org.

Three Ways to Multiply Kindness

This true story from an airline pilot about a fallen soldier's journey home illustrates a fundamental fact about human nature: ***since we are all made in the image of God, we are designed to be kind to one another.*** Here is what the pilot wrote.

My lead flight attendant came to me and said, "We have a fallen soldier on this flight."

"Is there an escort?" I asked.

"Yes, I've already assigned him a seat".

"Please tell him to come to the Flight Deck." I responded. "You can board him early."

A short while later a young army sergeant entered the flight deck. The first officer and I got up to shake his hand and thank him for his service.

About 30 minutes into our flight, I received a call from the flight attendant.

"I just learned that the family of the soldier we are carrying is also on board," she said. His father, mother, wife and daughter were escorting their son, husband, and father home.

The flight attendant told me that the family was grieving because they had not been able to see the container that the soldier was in before we left. They had asked if there was any way they could be outside by the cargo door to watch the soldier being taken off the airplane.

I could hear the desperation in the flight attendant's voice when she asked me if there was anything I could do. "I'm on it," I responded.

I contacted my flight dispatcher on a secondary radio and explained the situation. He said he understood and he would get back to me. Shortly before we landed, he sent the following message via an onboard email system:

"Captain, sorry it has taken so long to get back to you. I had to confirm some details. Upon your arrival a dedicated escort team will meet the aircraft. The team will escort the family to the

ramp and plane side. A van will be used to load the remains with a secondary van for the family.

"The family will then be escorted into the terminal where the remains can be seen on the ramp. It is a private area for the family only. When the connecting aircraft arrives, they will be escorted onto the ramp to watch the remains being loaded for the final leg home.

Captain, most of us here in flight control are veterans. Please pass our condolences on to the family. Thanks."

I sent a message back, thanking flight control for a good job. I printed out the message and gave it to the flight attendant to pass on to the family. She was very thankful and told me, "You have no idea how much this will mean to them."

After landing, we cleared the runway and taxied to the ramp area. The ramp is always a busy area with aircraft maneuvering every which way to enter and exit, but the ramp controller told me that all traffic was being held for us.

It looked like it was all coming together, but then I realized that once we turned the seat belt sign off, everyone would stand up at once and delay the family from getting off the airplane. So I stopped the aircraft short of the gate and pushed the public address button.

"Ladies and gentleman, this is your Captain speaking. I have stopped short of our gate to make a special announcement. We have a



passenger on board who deserves our honor and respect. His name is Private xxxxx, a soldier who recently lost his life. Private xxxxx is under your feet in the cargo hold. Escorting him today is Army Sergeant yyyyy. Also on board are his father, mother, wife and daughter. Your entire flight crew is asking for all passengers to remain in their seats to allow the family to exit the aircraft first. Thank you."

We continued to the gate, came to a stop and started our shutdown procedures. A couple of minutes later I opened the cockpit door. I found the two forward flight attendants crying, something you just do not see. I was told that after we came to a stop, every passenger on the aircraft stayed in their seats, waiting for the family to exit the aircraft.

When the family got up, a passenger started to clap his hands. More passengers joined in and soon the entire aircraft was clapping. "God Bless you," "I'm so sorry," "Thank you" and other kind words were uttered to the family as they made their way down the aisle and out of the airplane. They were escorted down to the ramp to finally be reunited with their loved one.

Many of the disembarking passengers had tears as well and thanked me for the announcement I had made. "They were just words," I told them. "I could say them over and over again, but nothing I say will bring back that brave soldier."

As this story illustrates, because all people are made in the image of God ([Gen. 1:27](#)), we are inherently designed to feel empathy and show kindness when we see others' suffering ... just as Jesus did when Mary and Martha lost their brother ([John 11:32-35](#)).

Sadly, we miss countless opportunities to fulfill this God-given calling.

Sometimes it's because we don't notice or understand what's going on right in front of our eyes. ***We can counter this weakness by improving our ability to "read" the words, tone of voice, facial expressions and body language of other people*** ... just as the pilot in this story "read" the desperation in the flight attendant's voice when she asked him to help this grieving family.

Another reason we fail to show kindness is that we don't understand how other people are feeling as they face difficult life experiences. ***We can counter this weakness by deliberately cultivating and practicing our God-given capacity for empathy and compassion***

... just as the flight attendant and pilot did when they felt the grief of this family and moved to console them.

A third reason we fail to show kindness is that we are simply not aware of hidden opportunities to do so because we don't have the information we need. ***We can help one another in this area by learning when and how to appropriately share information about other people's struggles*** ... just as this flight attendant and pilot did. They thoughtfully informed a widening circle of people of their opportunity to join together in showing kindness. That circle grew to include the team at flight control and all of the passengers on the aircraft, who rose to the occasion to do whatever they could to comfort and encourage this family.

God commands us to deliberately develop our capacity for kindness ([Col. 3:12](#)). Therefore, I pray that you will join me in cultivating these relational qualities that enhance kindness: other-awareness, empathy and compassion, and wisdom to know when and how to inform others of opportunities to join together to multiply the gift of comfort and kindness.

At the same time, please join me in praying for the thousands of people in our armed forces who serve us so sacrificially every day, and for the many families who have lost loved ones in service to our country.

— Ken Sande

Reflection Questions

- How do you think the flight attendant, pilot, flight control and passengers felt later in the day because of this experience?
- Describe a time when you received kindness from a group of strangers or had the opportunity to show kindness to a stranger. How did that experience make you feel? What impact did it have on how you treat others today?
- Can you think of someone who is struggling with a personal challenge and would probably be encouraged if others knew of their situation and showed them kindness? Keeping this pilot's sensitivity in mind and being careful not to disclose confidential information, think of appropriate people to inform and invite them to join you in encouraging this person.

Permission to distribute: Please feel free to download, print, or electronically share this message in its entirety for non-commercial purposes with as many people as you like.

By Ken Sande | August 14th, 2016