



Peace Lutheran Church

Messenger of Peace

"Where the Love of Christ is Shared"

January 2017

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

Sunday Worship

9:00 AM

Sunday Adult Bible Class

10:30 AM

Website

Peacelutheran-
church.360unite.com

Email

peacelutheranselah@gmail.com



ETERNITY ECHOES

As you look back over this past year, what do you see? Do you see only the times of pain, or do you celebrate the experiences and the people whom God has put into your life? If those many people could talk to us now, what would they say?

"Eternity Echoes" is in the form of a letter. It is a letter from the sainted of this congregation to us as we close out this year. It is a letter like we would write, or receive, except for the fact that the terminology will be somewhat different.

The month is ETERNITY, the day is FOREVER, and the year is AND EVER.

The city is NEW JERUSALEM, the state is HEAVEN, and the zip is 77777.

Dear Temporary Citizens,

Your remembrance of us, the sainted, is truly appreciated, but as Jesus told the women on His way to the cross, "do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and your children." Here in heaven there is neither 9/11 or San Bernardino, there is no ISIS. **"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus."** So also we say to you do not weep for us but rather weep for yourselves, for you are still in the flesh. You are the ones who must deal with social and political injustice. Weep for those who are in spiritual darkness, who have no John 3:16 in their hearts; weep for those who have no expectation after temporary life; weep for those who have expectations but whose god is false.

As you remember us, we remind you that we did not wake up this morning with a headache, nor a backache, nor a heartache. We did not have to fight the rush hour traffic on the way to work, or worry if we would get there to punch the clock at the right time. We do not suffer from hypertension, hyper-cholesterol or any other physical malady. We former mortals have put on immortality and we sing **"thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."** Unlike you who still have false TV Evangelists proclaiming lies and filling their pockets with money given to the church, we echo from eternity again the words of truth spoken by Truth Himself, **"in my Father's house are many mansions."** Yes Jesus did prepare a place for us and He is preparing a place for you as well as for others **"who are not of this fold."** Therefore, unitedly we say, continue your support for missions and missionaries because the fields are

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

ripe unto harvest. Support the outreach of your church locally by being involved in bringing your unchurched friends to church with you, to hear the good news that Jesus is their Savior.

Here in our permanent land and home we don't go by days, months, years, or 15 minute sermons. We go by the concept which is found in Revelation 1:6, **"And He hath made us kings and priests unto God His Father; to Him be glory and dominion FOR EVER AND EVER."** Revelation 5:13, **"...blessing and honor, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne and unto the Lamb FOR EVER AND EVER."**

Since we are on the subject of forever and ever, we remember that there is another forever and ever which is hell. By nature this is the forever for everybody. Hell has no mansions. There is nothing there prepared by Jesus, but prepared by Satan - **"a fire that shall not be quenched."** But He who had two natures, human and divine, took our sins to the cross and paid the price - death, so that we, by belief, have forgiveness and heaven forever and ever. We trust that you will join us, through your own regular worship, in our continual praise to Jesus for delivering us from the power of darkness and translating us into His marvelous light.

We are reminded of the expression sometimes used in your marriages. The expression is "the honeymoon is over." However, here, in eternity, we find that the Bride and the Bridegroom get along perfectly. There never is and never will be a time when the niceties wear down, wear thin, or wear out. There never is a time when we are caustic, insensitive or exhibit a better-than-you attitude. The old nature which we had, which you have, has been defeated. This is echoed in Revelation 21, **"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away... and I, John, saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband...God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes, there will be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying...for the former things have passed away."**

Finally, on our flight here there were no terrors or terrorists aboard. There were no disasters like the plane running out of fuel, or crashes as many of your aircraft seem to be prone to these days; all that was solved by Jesus Christ. How many times we quoted it and now we know it **"yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil, for THOU ARE WITH ME."** **"Death where is your victory; Death where is your sting? Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."** Our sins gave Christ the cross, the sting of death, and Christ gave us the empty, victorious grave, THE HIGHWAY TO HEAVEN. As we close this letter, all together we unite to share the bottom line... **"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved."**

God be with you till we see you face to face,
The Sainted

P.S. There is a Postscript, added by Jesus Christ: **"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."**

May this New Year be one in which you grow in your faith and witness as we all travel together the HIGHWAY TO HEAVEN. In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

* * * * *



The Saturday morning Women's Bible Study class will resume meeting on January 14th and run until February 11th. Class time will remain the same—11:00-12:30 (no class Feb. 4th). The class will be studying "*Women of the Bible—Part I*". If you have questions contact Shirleen Wilhelm.



O.W.L.S. will meet for lunch on Friday, January 13th at 11:30 at Kyoto Steakhouse & Sushi on Washington Ave., Yakima.

Please let Marcia Shotwell know if you plan to attend (697-4543 or email at shotwell@fairpoint.net).



Thank you to everyone who donated food and/or gifts to the veterans and their families that Peace adopted for Christmas. We will continue to supply monthly care packages throughout the upcoming year. Watch for notices of items needed for the packages.



The Staff at Peace Lutheran would like to thank the congregation for all the generous Christmas gifts and cards that we received. We truly appreciate our family here at Peace!

~Pastor Griesse, Tammy Peterson & John Skogen

The Fellowship Board will host another Game Night with Potluck on Tuesday, January 17th at 5:30 p.m. Bring a dish to share and stay for fun and games!



Steve Sinclair leads our Sunday Bible Class each Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. The class is currently studying "The Writings of Paul". After Sunday worship service grab a cup of coffee and consider joining them!

MEN'S NIGHT

January's "Men's Night Out" will be held Monday, Jan. 16th at 7:00 p.m. at Tailgaters in Selah. The men of Peace are invited to get together and enjoy some fellowship and "man talk"!

We continue with the participants in the Reformation of 1517



Johannes Tetzel 1465-1519

Johannes Tetzel was born on an unknown date around 1465 in Pirna, Saxony. He joined the Dominican Order in 1489. His superior, Cardinal Cajetan, named him inquisitor in Poland responsible for enforcing church doctrine in that area. As a priest, Tetzel had been selling indulgences since 1502. In 1517 Albrecht appointed him subcommissioner of indulgences and he proceeded to Albrecht's territories of Magdeburg and Halberstadt. The closest Tetzel could get to Wittenberg was St. Peter's in Juterbog because Frederick the Wise, Albrecht's rival Elector, would not permit him to enter Saxon lands, probably to preserve the income from Frederick's profitable relics business.

Tetzel made outlandish claims. He claimed that no confession or repentance was necessary on the part of the buyer in order to obtain the benefit of the plenary indulgence. So Tetzel worked across the river from Wittenberg. Among his customers were some of Luther's parishioners. Luther, the parish priest, noticed fewer people coming to confession. Some members brought their indulgences to him, asking him to confirm that these certificates would perform as Tetzel had promised. When Luther learned of the extravagant claims Tetzel made about these indulgences—he was incensed.

These are three of the 12 people who were key to the development of the Reformation: Albrecht's desire to add the diocese of Mainz to that of Magdeburg; Pope Leo X's extravagant lifestyle and his desire to splendidly rebuild St. Peter's Basilica; and Johann Tetzel's outlandish claims regarding the indulgences he was selling to raise money for Albrecht and the Pope. These three alone were enough to outrage Luther and prompt a response that would change history.

95 THESES

On October 31, 1517, Luther posted his "Disputation on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences," or the *95 Theses*, on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. He never intended them to be read by the general population; instead, he was only looking to debate the practice of indulgences within the faculty at Wittenberg. That is the reason he wrote them in Latin rather than German. He also sent a copy to Albrecht, who ordered the sale of the indulgences. Luther hoped Albrecht would restrain the wild claims of Johannes Tetzel.

Instead, Albrecht submitted the *95 Theses* to the faculty of the University of Mainz. After receiving its opinion, Albrecht filed charges against Luther with Rome. Pope Leo X began an investigation of Luther's teachings.

While these events unfolded in Mainz and Rome, back in Wittenberg something was taking place that Luther never intended: his *95 Theses* were being read by the general population. This spreading of Luther's thought among lay people was essential for the Reformation to take hold and gain traction in Germany. But this dissemination of ideas never would have happened without the invention by another figure of the Reformation Twelve—a man who never even heard of Martin Luther - Johannes Gutenberg

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) has provided a Legal Guide for LCMS congregations regarding same-sex marriage and gender identity. The Church Council and Lay Ministers have discussed the Guide and below is the final statement that, if voter-approved, would be added to Peace Lutheran's By-Laws. There is a Voters' Meeting scheduled at Peace on January 10th at which time a vote will be taken as to whether to accept the below statement as part of our By-Laws. Please read through this statement and be prepared to cast your vote on January 10th.

STATEMENT OF BELIEF

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Gen. 1:26-27). Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

We believe that the term marriage has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture (Gen. 2:18-25). We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other (1 Cor. 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb. 13:4). We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God (Matt. 15:18-20; 1 Cor. 6:9-10).

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Peace Lutheran Church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the Peace Lutheran members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by Peace Lutheran Church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality (Matt. 5:16; Phil. 2:14-16; 1 Thess. 5:22).

The marriage policy of Peace Lutheran Church, a member congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, is and always has been consistent with the Synod's beliefs on marriage. We believe that marriage is a sacred union of one man and one woman (Gen. 2:24-25), and that God gave marriage as a picture of the relationship between Christ and His bride the Church (Eph. 5:32). Our pastors will not officiate over any marriages inconsistent with these beliefs, and our church property may not be used for any marriage ceremony, reception or other activity that would be inconsistent with our beliefs and this policy.

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (Acts 3:19-21; Rom. 10:9; 1 Cor. 6:9-11).

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31). Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of Peace Lutheran Church.