

**PEACE  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**

91 WERNEX LOOP  
SELAH, WA 98942  
509-697-4353

**Pastor  
Mark Griesse**

**Office Hours**  
9:00-12:00

Tue & Wed @  
Bethlehem

Mon & Thu @ Peace  
Afternoons by Appointment

**Secretary  
Tammy Peterson**

9:00-1:00  
Mon-Fri

**Sunday Worship**  
9:00 a.m.

**Sunday Adult  
Bible Class**  
10:30 a.m.

**Website**  
peacelutheran-  
church.360unite.com

**Email**  
peacelutheranselah@gmail.com



# Messenger of Peace

Dear Friends in Christ,

May 20<sup>th</sup> was Pentecost Sunday. It was the celebration of the outpouring of the Spirit on God's people. The fantastic thing about it was that God's Spirit was poured out on all people. In the past, (Old Testament Times), the Spirit of God was poured out on the leaders of the people. They then were empowered to lead God's people, teach God's people, and strengthen God's people with God's word.



Pentecost is the beginning of something very new. God's Spirit falls on all people. This then empowered not just the leaders but all to give a witness to the hope and joy they had within them and the Church began to grow in leaps and bounds. It spread from Jerusalem, to Judea, to Samaria, and to the ends of the Roman Empire. In a matter of just a few years the message of God's love for us in Christ Jesus had covered the civilized world. This was because ordinary people like you and me were empowered by God and as they moved about the Roman Empire, they shared the great joy they had in Christ. They invited others into their fellowship and where there were no churches, people gathered and made them.

From now until Thanksgiving we are in the Pentecost Season. We call it the long green season because the colors in the church are green. During this season we seek to mature in our Christian faith, grow in service to others, and reach out with the gospel to our community and to the people that God has placed around us. We gather around His word and sacraments to be strengthened and filled with God's grace so that when we go out we will have something to share.

May God bless you this summer as you seek to grow in Christ.

In Christ's Name,

~~Pastor Griesse

## Pastor at Conference...

Pastor Griesse will be attending the N.W. District Convention June 21-23. If you need pastoral assistance during his absence please contact a Lay Minister. Call the church office for contact information.

## Ladies Spring Tea...

This year's Ladies Tea was held on May 23rd. There were 22 ladies who attended the tea, and fun was had by all! Thank you to Marcia Shotwell for hosting the event at her home.

## Father's Day Brunch...

Father's Day is Sunday, June 17th and the ladies of Peace will be hosting a Brunch to honor all Peace Lutheran's Dads! We invite everyone to stay following the Worship Service that Sunday to enjoy good food and fellowship!



The next **Men's Night Out** is scheduled for **Monday, June 18th**. All Peace Lutheran men are invited to meet at Tailgaters in Selah at 7:00 p.m. for an evening of relaxing and just shooting the breeze.

## June O.W.L.S. Lunch

This month O.W.L.S. will meet for lunch at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, **June 15th**, at Gold Creek. Please let Marcia Shotwell know if you plan to attend and if you would like to carpool ([shotwell@elltel.net](mailto:shotwell@elltel.net) or 697-4543). If you'd like to carpool be at the church at 10:30.



# Bible Study Classes...

**Sunday Adult Bible Study Class** - This class has stopped meeting for the summer.

**Wednesday Bible Study Class** - Pastor Griesse's Wednesday evening Bible Classes will break for the summer beginning June 20th. (Last class will be June 13th.)

**Women's Saturday Bible Study** - This class has stopped meeting for the summer. It will resume on September 8th.

"Let's  
study  
God's  
Word"

## Voters' Meeting...

There is a Voters' Meeting scheduled for Sunday, June 10th following the Worship Service. All Peace members are encouraged to attend.

## L.E.R.T. TRAINING...

Last month Peace Lutheran hosted a L.E.R.T. Training session to train volunteers on how to respond in the event of a disaster in our area. A total of 18 people (14 people from Peace, three from Bethlehem and one from Grand Coulee) attended the training. Thank you to the Fellowship Board for serving lunch at the Training.



**God's  
Work  
in  
Motion**

# News from Haiti...

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

As Rev. Paul and I talked this week, we noted the Day of Pentecost that is this Sunday. We then noted the ten unique days for those awaiting the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Jesus had promised to send His "Helper"; however, they did not know when this would take place, and He had already ascended. (Ascension Day this year was May 10th). The faithful continue to be comforted as we live in the promises of God.

I mentioned to Rev. Paul that I noticed they have continued to receive some rain. He replied, "Yes! We are very busy in the gardens. There is a lot to do with planting and harvesting." One of the crops they are now harvesting are mangos. My wife has found decent mangos in our local grocery store for the last two weeks. While it is a very healthy and tasty fruit, however, I find it also messy with that huge, hairy pit and thick skin. I have watched several Haitians throw a rock to get a mango off the tree, wipe it off, skin it by pulling with their teeth, and eat it with juices on the hands and around their mouths. This was followed with a splash of water on their face and hands. Very refreshing!

The early church realized that "the Word of the God continued to increase" (Acts 6:7). We are excited with Rev. Paul's proposed plans for a worship center. This worship area will have a high ceiling and other components that allow for air circulation as it will also seat over 300 people. Exciting plans. We look forward to seeing how God will work with these plans to reach more people.

Nord Est Haiti Lutheran Mission (NEHLM) has a board member travelling to be with the ministry in the month of June. Please pray for this trip and as NEHLM pursues having a board member on site at least once a year.

A Blessed Pentecost to you all,

Rev. Sam Wiseman  
NEHLM Pastoral Adviser  
[www.nehlm.org](http://www.nehlm.org)



Planting the garden!



Rev. Wiseman and Rev. Paul





Imagine that you're a child on your way to a Christian summer camp.

You're excited to learn more about Jesus and spend time with your friends.

But as you drive, you're suddenly pulled over by authorities. Instead of a life-changing experience growing in your Christian faith, you're detained by the police—all because you were going to learn about Jesus.

I wish I could say this was just a story. But unfortunately, it's exactly what happened to a group of children, pastors, and other church leaders in India last May in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh. All the pastors wanted to do was take the group of children to a Christian summer camp in the neighboring Indian state of Maharashtra.

But police officers surrounded the group of sixty children, along with ten pastors and co-workers, as they were about to board a train. There was no escape. The pastors had no idea why the police were trying to detain them. And the children—most of whom were no older than nine—obeyed the police.

It is common for Christians in some areas of India to experience mob violence and wrongful arrests due to pressure and false accusations of "forcible conversions" by radical Hindutva nationalists.

The adults were arrested on charges of kidnapping, cruelty, and forceful conversion. They were tossed into prison.

What's even more shocking? The children were forced to spend three days in a government run children's home and were refused access to their parents!

The children's families immediately protested the detention. They told authorities that their children had not been kidnapped—they wanted them to go to the camp.

### **The pastors needed help**

I don't know about you. But as a father with 10 children and 21 grandchildren, this story shook me.

Thankfully, your prayers and support allowed us to do something about it. ADF International, the global partner of Alliance Defending Freedom, and our allies jumped right in to help. Lawyers pressed to find out why the pastors and others were detained.

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It took weeks to get an answer. And it took three long months for the Christians to be temporarily released.

Their ordeal is still not over—their next hearing is scheduled for the first week of June. If convicted, the pastors and other adults face prison sentences of up to seven years for merely organizing a Christian church camp.

“Nobody should be persecuted because of their faith,” says Robin David, the ADF International allied lawyer defending the pastors in court. “In India, many citizens face fierce harassment because they belong to a religious minority.”

**These oppressed people of faith need your help.** And we will not stop fighting for them.

## **Persecution is common in India**

Sadly, incidents like this are shockingly common in India.

According to recent reports, Christians in India were targeted for their faith over 240 times in 2017.

Seven Indian states have adopted anti-conversion laws, which are used to discourage people from changing religions. Not only do these laws violate religious freedom, but they fuel discrimination, incite violence, and serve as a stepping stone for serious human rights violations against religious minorities like Christians.

Everyone who wants to change their religion is listed in a public registry. They become targets of violent extremist mobs who oppose religious conversions.

The anti-conversion laws are designed to close the door to the Gospel and restrict all people from freely exercising their faith. And the tragic treatment of the pastors and children you read about above is a perfect example of the effects of these harmful laws.

Thankfully, our allies in India have actively challenged anti-conversion laws in court. And because of God’s guidance and your support, we’ve been winning!

**Without your help, none of this would be possible.**

## **Stand with your brothers and sisters**

When you stand with ADF International, you are standing up for persecuted Christians in India and around the world. People like Donald Ossewaarde, an American missionary to Russia. Donald was convicted of “illegal missionary activity” under Russia’s “anti-terror” legislation. His crime? Hosting peaceful Sunday worship services in his home.

Or the 23 Catholic Bishops, currently under investigation in Mexico for defending the biblical definition of marriage as between one man and one woman. Or the pastor in

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Turkey, who simply sought to plant a church but has been denied permission for over a decade.

These trends should concern us all because fellow members of the Body of Christ are suffering. And they need your help.

**Your gift today allows ADF International to provide a strong defense for persecuted Christians around the world.**

A generous Christian family has given a \$1 million challenge grant to defend religious freedom around the world. Will you rise to the challenge and join them today?

**We must be free to follow Christ**

The pastors arrested last May should have the right to freely practice and share their faith. India's Constitution guarantees it. And allied lawyers with ADF International are defending that guarantee in court.

The terrible ordeal these Christians have endured is completely unacceptable. The Indian Constitution protects religious freedom. For that to be true, innocent children must not be thrown into a detention center for going to a Christian summer camp.

**Please help provide a strong legal defense for these Indian pastors and other persecuted Christians like them around the world today.** Their religious freedom depends on it.

**Remember, the \$1 million challenge grant furthers the impact of this crucial work. Will you rise to the challenge?**

It's my hope and prayer that you will stand with ADF International today. Because our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world are suffering at the hands of a host of horrendous anti-religious freedom laws. Your gift will provide a strong defense for someone whose religious freedom is being trampled.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Blessing and thanks,

Michael Farris  
President, CEO & General Counsel  
Alliance Defending Freedom

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