



# Messenger of Peace

*"Where the Love of Christ is Shared"*

November 2014

## **Peace Lutheran Church**

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

### **Pastor**

#### **Mark Griesse**

Office Hours

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Tues. & Wed. - Bethlehem

Mon. & Thur. - Peace

Afternoons by Appointment

### **Secretary**

#### **Tammy Peterson**

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Mon.-Fri.

### **Sunday Worship**

9:00 a.m.

### **Sunday Bible Study**

10:30 a.m.

### **Website**

[Peacelutheranchurch.  
360unite.com](http://Peacelutheranchurch.360unite.com)

### **Email**

[peacelutheran@fairpoint.net](mailto:peacelutheran@fairpoint.net)



## **A THANKSGIVING PRAYER**

Lord, we celebrate Thanksgiving this month. I should thank you for this past year, but I don't know how. To be honest, I'm a little ashamed to talk to you. You see, I have to confess that I generally let everyday go by without telling you thanks. And that's not right, is it?

On this day of thanks, what should I thank you for? Well, there's my work, health, family, and... Wait a minute! I work hard for my paycheck. I've taken control of my diet and started to exercise regularly. And I sure have put plenty of time and effort into making my home what it is! Come to think of it, would my life be any different if you weren't in it? After all, I'll bet there are many successful businessmen, athletes, and families who have what they have because of their own hard work (or at least think that is the reason).

It's true, of course, I can't do the "big" things in life: cause the sun to rise, make it rain, or help a tree to grow. It's true, also, that my heart pumps and my eyes see without any special effort on my part. In fact, so much of my life, my work, my health, my family, comes as a gift. And daily blessings? Through the good and bad times there has always been a roof over our heads and food on the table, even when I was so worried. Those are things to think about...and reasons to be grateful.

Father, I have sinned against you with my thoughtlessness toward your daily goodness. How can I thank you for everyday blessings, miracles, such as health and work and family? I remember the words of Luther that my dad taught be a long time ago:

I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

Yes, Lord, thank you for loving me so much. I have heard some Christians say that God's love for me is special because I am special. I have always tried to be a good person. I surely don't do a lot of things, other people do! I don't gossip like everybody in the neighborhood. I don't steal or waste time like some people at work. I'm not as much of a

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hypocrite as a lot of people. I do the best I can to please you, and I void temptation like greed and lust and pride,--well, maybe I am proud. I recall the story of the Pharisee who went to the temple and prayed, "I thank you, God, that I am not like other people..." He was a proud man, too proud to admit his deep need before God. He thought he was better than others, but in truth he was just as sinful. Like me! I do gossip, but I justify it by saying, "It's probably true." I often neglect my work. I fail as a husband, a father, a neighbor. What the whole congregation confesses in worship is true about me in particular: "I have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed" -- many times this past year, this month, this week, this day... why even in this hour!

Lord, what can be done about my sin? I can't do anything about it! But you can. You did. You sent your Son, Jesus, into our world. He paid the penalty for my sins, not with silver or gold but with his life. That reminds me of Luther's words again...

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in his Kingdom and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

Lord, when I began my prayer, I didn't know how to thank you or what to thank you for; but now, here in this church, I can't stop thanking you for everything. Have I ever thanked you for my church? It isn't always perfect. Yes, there are problems and personality conflicts. But still, my church is a priceless gift from you.

Oh I don't mean the building. I mean the Gospel of your love in Jesus Christ, which created the church; your gift of Holy Baptism, which brought me into the church; your gift of Holy Communion, which forgives my sins and sustains my faith. I thank you for the Divine Service, through which you speak to us and we answer with prayers, petitions, and praise. And I thank you for the people whom you gather together in this church.

We are people who come here to confess that we are sinners in need of your forgiveness. We come here again and again to hear that we are forgiven on account of what Jesus did for us on the cross. We are people who come here to receive your forgiveness through the water and the Word of Baptism and through the body and the blood of our Savior in the Lord's supper.

But why do we believe and do all this? I know it's nothing I've done and nothing I am doing right now. That sounds familiar. It's from the Catechism again.

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

Oh Lord, how much there is to thank you for! I have everything that I need for this life: food, clothing, family, and a Father in heaven who loves me! And I am saved! I belong to you, because you have given to me Jesus as my Savior from sin. And to think that you have also given me your Spirit through whom I believe and trust in Jesus! Your Spirit is now my Comforter in life. He lives in me and makes me a temple of God! Thank you, Father, for life and everything in it; for forgiveness, for peace, for this church; and for the assurance of life with you--life that will never end. In every situation, you give me abundant reasons to give you thanks. Amen.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Mark Griesse



**The Church office  
will be closed  
Thursday and Friday,  
November 27 & 28  
in observance of the  
Thanksgiving  
Holiday**

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**O.W.L.S.**

Meet for lunch

**Friday, Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>**

**11:30 at Gold Creek.**

If you would like to carpool  
meet at the church at 11:15.

Please let Marcia Shotwell  
know if you will be  
attending so she can let the  
restaurant know how many  
people to expect. Contact  
her at 697-4543.

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**WOMEN'S  
BIBLE STUDY**

Wednesday mornings

10:30-11:30 a.m. at

Peace Lutheran

It's not too late to join!

**(\*\*NO Bible Study  
November 26<sup>th</sup>)**

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**MEN'S PRAYER  
BREAKFAST**

8 – 10 a.m., Saturday,

November 15<sup>th</sup> at

Peace Lutheran.

All Lutheran men and  
their guests are welcome  
to attend. Enjoy a good  
breakfast, fellowship and  
Bible study.

**HOLIDAY BAZAAR**

It's coming fast! Our Lady of Lourdes in Selah is having their annual bazaar on Sat., November 8<sup>th</sup>. Peace has tables reserved and will need lots of items to sell (crafts, gift baskets, home baked goods, etc.). If you have questions, contact Teri Sanchez, (509)469-4338.

also . . .

Mt. Olive LWML would like to welcome everyone to the Holiday Bazaar Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, from 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. Many different vendors will be selling home-crafted items, gift baskets, etc. Baked items will also be sold and a luncheon will be served.



Thank you to Carol Heidt, Teri Sanchez, Sandy Phelps, Louise Schneider and Jean Sinclair for volunteering to coordinate the Thanksgiving Baskets! (They have also volunteered to do the Christmas Baskets!)  
**THANK YOU, LADIES!!**

Life Choices of Yakima invites you to their Annual Benefit Dinner, Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, at the Yakima Convention Center. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., with the dinner and program 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. An opportunity to make a financial gift will be extended; dinner is complimentary. The Yakima County Thrivent Chapter is matching up to \$1000 of the funds raised. Peace Lutheran has been asked to usher at this event, so if you can assist with ushering please call Carol Heidt at 697-4191.



**Baptisms**

On October 19<sup>th</sup>, Stephanie Scheiderer and her two daughters, Autumn and Hailey, were baptized into God's family. Stephanie and her husband, Josh, were also brought in as new members to Peace. We welcome the Scheiderer family to our Peace Lutheran family and ask God's blessings upon them.



## Could Stephen Ministry Be Right for You?

*"My Stephen Minister listened to me as no one else could at that point in my life. He was always there—listening, sharing Scriptures, praying with me. That was when I realized that God was still working in my life, Jesus was still saying 'yes' to me, and I was going to be okay."*

These are the actual words of Scott Robeson, who received care from a Stephen Minister when he was going through a divorce and who gave us permission to quote him by name. He resisted asking for help at first, but "a voice deep inside" challenged him to ask others for help.

- ♥ Do you feel a loss of God's presence?
- ♥ Do you question how God is working in your life?
- ♥ Are you experiencing a life situation that leads you to question whether or not you'll be okay?

Could you benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister?

Contact: Pastor Griesse



Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
for his steadfast love endures forever!

(Ps. 118:1 ESV)



This November, learn how Christ sustains His Church and cares for the world through our stewardship of His kingdom. With all God has entrusted to His people, the Gospel goes out as we serve our Lord and love our neighbor. Thanks be to God for all His good gifts to us!

## **Yours? Mine? It's all His!**

Christian stewardship begins with the understanding that all we have is God's and that "we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world" (1 Tim. 6:7 ESV). Since all we have is God's, we should use it for His purposes. God's purpose for us in our lives is expressed in the various vocations, or callings, that we have.

Our vocation as Christians, and as members of a particular Christian congregation where we receive the Word of God and His Sacraments, makes a claim on us: on our presence on Sunday morning and on our support for the work of the Gospel. Likewise, our callings in the home make a claim on us. In society at large our vocations are varied, but they all boil down to being a good neighbor no matter where we are. In each place, we are to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. That means being a faithful friend and worker, a kind and generous neighbor and so on.

In one sense, all there is to say about stewardship is this: Live a godly, generous life in your vocations in church, home and society. Love God and serve your neighbor. That's the whole Law. But we are still left with the details. What does loving my neighbor and being faithful to God look like in my life? What does a generous life of stewardship look like?

For believers in Christ, the Law serves as a guide to how to live a life of thanksgiving for the wonderful gift of eternal life in Christ Jesus.

God's Law on supporting the Church calls us to support it faithfully from our firstfruits, to do it voluntarily and cheerfully, and to do it proportionally. Does that convict you? Does this Law show your sin? I know it convicts me. I have certainly not been as cheerful or faithful a giver as I should be. That is the bad news of our sinfulness against God's Law. But the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is that we are forgiven by Christ's work on the cross. God loves us and has made us His children in Baptism. He feeds us with His very body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. We are His and no one can snatch us out of His hands. And that's the motivation for cheerful, generous giving to the Lord's work.

Please join us in sharing with others our true motivation for cheerful, generous giving to the Lord's work! To learn more and find stewardship resources, visit [www.lcms.org/themes/november](http://www.lcms.org/themes/november).

In His name,

Rev. Heath Curtis, coordinator, LCMS Stewardship Ministry

# EBOLA EPIDEMIC

Grace to you and peace from God  
our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

As Ebola continues its deadly sweep  
across West Africa, the people of the  
LCMS continue to respond with  
prayer and support for our relief efforts.

Through your generosity we have given mercy grants  
totaling \$67,729 to help our brothers and sisters in  
the most afflicted nations — Liberia, Sierra Leone  
and Guinea. These grants provide food, sanitation  
and cleaning supplies, and Ebola prevention education.

Christ's love for the whole person, body and soul, is our model as we battle  
against Ebola. Christian service of our neighbor finds its source, motivation and  
example in Christ's incarnate, redeeming, atoning and active love (Phil. 2:1-11).  
Every aspect of the faith drives us outside ourselves to care for our neighbor  
next door and across the world in Africa.

The effort to save lives from Ebola will be a long fight, some saying up to two  
years. We will be in this for the long haul — that is a hallmark of our LCMS  
mercy work. As Lutherans, we stay until the job is done, bringing physical aid  
and comfort even as we proclaim the lifesaving Gospel.

I ask you to pray for all who are affected by Ebola: the victims, families, health  
care workers, governments and others whose vocation brings them into contact  
with this disease.

We've set up a special way to provide support through the LCMS at  
[www.lcms.org/givenow/epidemics](http://www.lcms.org/givenow/epidemics).

Yours in Christ,

Matthew C. Harrison, President  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

