

**PEACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

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

**Pastor
Mark Griesse**

Office Hours
9:00-12:00

Mon. & Thu. @ Peace

Tue. & Wed. @
Bethlehem

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

Welcome

November

Messenger of Peace

Dear Members and Friends

We continue our series on the Ten Commandments written by Herb Hoeffler.

The 1st Commandment (Continued)

Exodus 20:4

"You shall not make for yourself a carved image" (Ex 20:4). Is this the Second Commandment? It has been a matter of dispute over the centuries. Luther accepted the Roman Catholic numbering of his day and included this prohibition of carved idols with the First Commandment from the previous verse: "You shall have no other gods before me" (v 3). The earliest Hebrew traditions also had that numbering. However, later Jewish traditions made this the Second Commandment and combined the Ninth and Tenth Commandments as one commandment against coveting to maintain the total of ten. During the first millennium, Christians also used this numbering. At the time of the Reformation, non-Lutheran Protestants adopted this numbering.

This commandment, whatever its number, is why you will not see banners, symbols, or even crosses in many Protestant churches. The walls will be bare—because there should be no idol, or, as the King James Version and Revised Standard Version of the Bible say, no graven image. This is also true of Jewish synagogues and Muslim mosques, where only phrases and verses from the Torah or the Koran adorn the walls.

Luther was against this movement in the Reformation. In fact, he risked his life to preach against it. When Prince Frederick hid him in the castle at Wartburg because he was banned by the emperor, Luther heard that the reformers left in Wittenberg were preaching against graven images. They advocated removing and destroying all statues of saints and all crucifixes in churches because they were objects of superstition and would cause people to trust in the image instead of in God.

Luther's reaction was immediate and fierce. Despite the ban that allowed anyone to kill him as an outlaw, he bolted from the Wartburg Castle and stormed to the pulpit in Wittenberg. He said the Reformation was not about changing church architecture. He said, "There is only one idol that must be broken. That is the idol in the human heart. Once that idol is broken, the statues will be seen for what they are—remembrances of inspiring saints from the past. If we destroy those statues, though, we'll think that is the Reformation, and we'll never get to the point of it—a change of heart."

That raises the real issue involved with graven images. You may recall that the Israelites had disobeyed God, and he sent a plague of poisonous snakes to chastise them. God told Moses to make a bronze serpent and erect it in the center of the camp. (That, by the way, is the origin of the snake as a

Continued next page...

Continued from page 1...

medical symbol.) If the people looked at the serpent, they would be healed. God used the serpent to remind people to look to God's power for healing.

Four centuries later, however, we read that King Hezekiah (2 Kings 18) was reforming pagan practices in Israel. One of the images people were worshiping was a bronze serpent! He had it smashed. What began as a useful reminder of God's power became an idol to replace God.

This still happens today. Psalm 19 says, "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork" (v 1). Nature is a reminder of God's great power and goodness. But people today, especially in New Age religions, turn nature into a replacement for God. Nature is God's handiwork, not nature's fluke of evolution. People stand in awe before the handiwork instead of giving glory to the Maker. Nature becomes a graven image, an idol, a replacement for God, instead of a glorious reminder of God's beauty and goodness.

We also idolize our superstitions. Often there is no thirteenth floor in skyscrapers. Friday the 13th, horoscopes, and rabbit's feet are other superstitions. Are these forces greater than God? No, they are figments of our imagination—graven images and replacements of God. Even good things can become graven images replacing God. A child is a great blessing from God, but that child should not be the center, the be-all and end-all, of our life. A child should remind us of God's goodness, not become our god. This is true also for our devotion to our spouse, our country, our job, or a cause or recreational activity. We are to devote ourselves to good things, but never at the cost of our devotion to God.

God says, "You shall not make for yourself a carved image." Why? Because an idol cannot do for you what God can, does, and will. No idol created you with a vision for your life. No idol took the punishment of your sins upon himself. No idol can do these things. Only God himself is the Creator and that perfect sacrifice for sin.

No idol has risen from the dead and ascended to heaven to prepare a place for you for all eternity. No idol has promised to return and take you to be with him. No idol could fill you with his Spirit to inspire and direct your life—to fill it with "the fruit of the Spirit . . . love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, [and] self-control" (Gal 5:22–23).

Idols are things or, perhaps, creatures like you and me—God's creations, not God. They are not what we "fear, love, and trust above all things." "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away," Jesus tells us (Mt 24:35). This eternal, never-failing Word tells us, "You are mine; I will never let you go; be not afraid; I am with you; for I am your God. Will you let me be your God?"

~~Pastor Griesse



November O.W.L.S. Lunch

O.W.L.S. will meet for lunch at 11:30 a.m. on **Friday, November 8th at Gold Creek (weather permitting)**. If you plan to attend please let Marcia know at 697-4543 or shotwell@elltel.net.



Church Bazaar Time...

It's time for the annual Our Lady of Lourdes Bazaar and Craft Show. It's scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 9th from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Peace collected items for theme baskets this year, and will sell homemade baked goods and crafts as well. If you have any questions contact Teri Sanchez.



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

Thanksgiving Service...

We will have a joint Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service at Bethlehem Lutheran on Wednesday, November 27th at 7:00 p.m.



Dual Parish Council...

Our Dual Parish Council meets semi-annually to share status reports and discuss the joint business of Peace and Bethlehem. Members of the Council are our Pastor and the two presidents, two head elders and treasurers from each congregation. Our last meeting was held on October 17th. At this meeting we agreed to again submit a vicar request and to make our application more timely than our last one. We plan to apply by no later than the end of this year. Pastor Griesse will coordinate the application. We have gathered the necessary funds and Bethlehem has previously agreed that enough funds are in their savings to provide its share. The Council also continued discussions of the potential establishment of a mission church in Ellensburg. Such an undertaking will involve a lot of dedication, planning, a certain amount of ongoing funding from our two congregations and a leadership step-up from members of the "Ellensburg group". We will not take any immediate action as we wait the outcome of our vicar request.

Bible Study Classes...

- All Peace Bible Study classes are in full swing. We have a Sunday Bible Study at approximately 10:30, Wednesday Bible Study at 6:30 p.m. (11:00 at Bethlehem), and our Women's Friday Bible Study at 1:00. Please join us in a Bible Study class!
- **FYI: The last Wednesday classes before the start of Advent is November 20th.**



Daylight Savings Time Ends...

It's that time again! Be sure to set your clocks BACK one hour before going to bed on Saturday, November 2nd. (Daylight Savings Time ends Sunday, November 3rd.)

Biff: Why did the turkey cross the road?

Bob: I don't know.

Biff: It was Thanksgiving Day, and he wanted people to think he was a chicken!

Joke submitted by Rachy Y., Waianae, Hawaii

Spotlight on Peace Member Lois Green...

Lois Green, a long time member of Peace Lutheran Church, was born in Rolette Co. North Dakota in February, 1932. She grew up on a farm that was located about twenty miles south of the Canadian border in the upper middle portion of North Dakota. She said the winters were very cold. There were few trees and no fruit orchards like here in the Selah-Yakima area. The only things they could pick locally were some berries that grew wild across the prairie.



GREEN, Lois

Their farm was about eight miles outside of a small town. They either had to walk to school or ride on a two horse wagon to get into town for school in the winter time. On Saturdays their father, along with the whole family, took the cream from the milk cows into town which was sold to buy a few groceries or other items they needed. It was like a "family outing."

Their initial house was a small log cabin, but later they moved into another wood frame home on the farm that came with the barn and a few other outbuildings. Her older sister, who is now 93, still lives on the family farm today, and in the winter Lois says this sister still shovels snow.

Lois's family farm was only a half mile from the rural Lutheran Church. At that time a Rev. Braun both baptized and later confirmed Lois. She attended the Rolla, N.D. school system and graduated in 1951 from Rolla High School. She then went on to work at a bank and a drug store in Rolla. In 1953, Lois moved to White Center, WA and got married. She was blessed with six children. Three of her children, Scott, Terry and Joni live in Western Washington, while Becky (Ron), Lisa (a school teacher in Selah) and Chris (Randy) all live in the Selah-Yakima area. Lois is blessed with 13 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

During her time in White Center she started working at a post office in Bellevue, WA. There was a marriage separation during that time, and she later remarried and moved to a small farm in Selah. It was during this time she joined Peace Lutheran Church. She was then able to be employed at the Yakima Post Office, which was located in the Yakima County Court House. Her children were able to go to the Selah Public Schools.

Lois was one of four children, one of whom has passed away while the others, one a boy and the other a girl, remain in North Dakota. She has returned often to North Dakota for visits.

Lois is a regular attendee at Peace Lutheran Church. She was a Peace Quilter for many years. Lois still enjoys having a monthly lunch with other ladies of Peace. Recently she moved to Orchard Park Retirement Home in Yakima for the added safety and security. Although she still drives her car, she feels this will eventually end as she gets to that point in life that for her own safety she needs to quit. As a joyful person, she loves visitors and the fellowship of the members of Peace and others at the home.

How To Observe Thanksgiving

Count your blessings instead of your crosses;
Count your gains instead of your losses.
Count your joys instead of your woes;
Count your friends instead of your foes.
Count your smiles instead of your tears;
Count your courage instead of your fears.
Count your full years instead of your lean;
Count your kind deeds instead of your mean.
Count your health instead of your wealth;
Count on God instead of yourself.



***⁴ ENTER HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING
AND HIS COURTS WITH PRAISE;
GIVE THANKS TO HIM AND PRAISE HIS NAME.***

~~PSALM 100:4 (NIV)