



Messenger of Peace

"Where the Love of Christ is Shared"

April 2015

**Peace Lutheran
Church**

91 Wernex Loop
Selah, WA 98942
Phone: 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 AM**

**Sunday Adult
Bible Class
10:30 AM**

Website

peacelutheran-
church@360unite.com

Email

peacelutheran@fairpoint.net



Dear Friends in Christ,



Although the society in which we live makes much more of Christmas than it does of Easter and manages to compromise both events in the process, the bible does exactly the opposite. Easter is the defining moment in our Lord's life and in our lives as Christians. "If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. (1 Corinthians 15:14)

On Good Friday we hear how God's Son who had no sin became sin for us. We beheld him on the tree of the cross, where he took our guilt and our punishment and died for our sins. We beheld from afar as he was buried.

If that is all there is to the story, we have been taken, our faith is useless, those believers who have died are lost, and we are to be pitied more than all men. (1 Corinthians 15:12-39). But there is more to the story, much more. On that first Sunday after Good Friday, our Savior defeated death and rose from his grave. The tomb was found empty. Jesus lives. Christ is risen!

In the Apostles' Creed we confess that Jesus Christ died and rose again. Instead of focusing on the story of the resurrection of Jesus, I would like to focus on the implications of Christ's resurrection.

1. Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, you are a new person, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.
2. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.
3. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
4. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

Paul says in Colossians 3:1-4 that you have been raised with Christ. "I died and was buried. I rose again from the dead." Sounds heretical, doesn't it? And yet this is exactly what the apostle Paul is saying in our text.

The Christ who was delivered to death for our sins was raised to life for our salvation. Paul connects all this to your baptism. He said in the previous chapter: "Having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

This brings us great joy, for it means that God has accepted the atoning sacrifice of his Son. We have been forgiven. We are all the children of God by faith in Jesus Christ. We have joy because Jesus has destroyed the power of death over us.

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There is a story of a family who within two weeks lost three of its four children from disease. Only a four-year-old was left. The third child had been buried two weeks before Easter. On Easter the parents and remaining child went to church. The mother told her Sunday school class about the resurrection of Christ. The father read the Easter story as he led devotions.

People who knew of their great loss wondered how they could do it. On the way home from church a 16-year-old asked his father, "Dad that couple must really believe everything about the Easter story, don't they?" "Of course they believe it," responded his father. "All Christians do." "But not like they do," said the boy.

Easter means that we are forgiven. Easter means the assurance of God's love and the certainty of eternal life in heaven. Easter means wearing the forgiveness and grace we have been gifted with, that others might see our new set of clothes and praise our Father who is in heaven for raising Jesus from the dead. Oh, the joy! He is risen! He is risen, indeed!

- - Pastor Mark Griesse

OWLS April Lunch



The O.W.L.S. will meet for their April luncheon on **Friday, April 10** at **11:30 a.m.** at the **Drift Inn in Naches.**

We will need a headcount so please let Marcia Shotwell know if you plan to attend the luncheon. You can call her at **697-4543** or email her at shotwell@elltel.net.

Our New Stephen Ministers

Our newest group of Stephen Ministers were commissioned during the Worship Service on Sunday, March 15th. Sara Bicsak, Cameren Menzel, Alexis Pitcher and Carmen Lowrie joined our current Stephen Ministers at Peace. We pray for God's guidance as they embark on this ministry.

Baptisms

We welcome these new members of God's family:

Dylan Duane Worley was baptized by Pastor Griesse March 21st. Dylan is the son of former members of Peace, Heidi & Seth Worley.

Emersyn Viola Wilhelm was baptized during Worship Service on March 22nd. Emersyn is the daughter of Darren & Dena Wilhelm and granddaughter of Larry & Shirleen Wilhelm.



Easter Breakfast at Peace



Steve Sinclair and his family have once again offered to prepare Easter Breakfast at Peace. There is a food sign-up sheet on the table in the Fellowship Hall. Breakfast will be served between services at 8:00 on Easter morning. If you sign up to bring food, please be sure to have it here by April 3rd or 4th. (The hams need to be warmed, pre-sliced and at the church before the 7 a.m. Sunrise Service.) Thank you Sinclair Family for your service to Peace Lutheran!



2nd Harvest

Thank you volunteers!!

Last Tuesday 29 volunteers helped distribute 8375 pounds of fresh food and produce to 102 families. Peace volunteers also distributed bags of items from the Life Gate warehouse. Only because Peace folks are such willing volunteers can we share God's love with people in our community. Volunteers you are loved!!



HOLY WEEK

Maundy Thursday April 2nd

7:00 p.m. **Worship at Bethlehem** for both churches

Good Friday April 3rd

7:00 p.m. **Worship at Peace** for both churches

Easter April 5th

7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service

8:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast

9:30 a.m. Worship II



Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's,
and to God the things that are God's.

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We are citizens of the United States. But more importantly, we are citizens of heaven. This April, we seek to revitalize our congregations, schools and all the places where our Lord has put us.

The LCMS speaks the truth in love in the public square

"The Church doesn't get involved in politics!" At least, that's what we tell ourselves. It's often easier to focus on the separation of church and state than to admit that the two intersect and, increasingly, collide.

But Easter is coming, and with Easter comes a reminder that we live in and by our Lord, Jesus Christ; when church and state tangle, we are given to abide by Him alone.



That's why, when the latter inserts itself unjustifiably into the former, when the government intrudes in the realm of the Church, when consciences are bound and the culture makes demands contrary to Scripture, we — baptized children certain of Christ's resurrection promises — speak.

Our servicemen and women, for example, are being told how and when they are able to confess the faith. Our university students are required to undergo training that affirms same-sex relationships and marriage. Our mercy organizations may soon be forced to choose between closing their doors and placing children in same-sex parent households.

In the coming Easter joy, let's remember our brothers and sisters, both in prayer and in the public square. Let's encourage our military personnel to be bold in the faith! Let's hearten our young men and women to speak the truth in love regarding God's design for marriage! Let's support our adoption agencies in their efforts to place children in homes where they will be loved by both a mom and a dad!

And this April, this Easter, let's not forget that while the task may seem daunting, we are marked with Christ's cross in Baptism. He is raised from the dead! We are His! Jesus lives. We have nothing — no one, no government, no law — to fear.

To learn more, go to lcms.org/themes/april.

Under the cross,

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

Walking Together - Intentional Interim Ministry

[Most Requested Resources](#)

[Events](#)

[Classifieds](#)

[LCMS Locator](#)

[Pray!](#)

Walking Together in Ministry

From District President Paul Linnemann

What does the District do for you and what can you expect?

The District staff have made a series of brief videos in an effort to answer some of the questions you have about how we walk with you and help you in your ministry.

We are now featuring a video titled: [Intentional-Interim-Ministry-Transitioning Congregations](#).

Rev. David Reinke, Intentional Interim Ministry Coordinator for the Northwest District shares his insights into the "intentionality" of pastoral leadership during times of transition and healing which are a focus of Intentional Interim Ministry.

It is our intent that these videos will provide you with some answers and help to stimulate your thinking as to what God is calling you toward in your area of ministry. We see this as a way to start an important conversation with you. Please take a few minutes to watch them.

Previously shared videos are available for your use at the following links:

[Intro - The Why of Ministry](#) - District President Paul Linnemann

[Holding Up Your Hands](#) - District President Paul Linnemann

[Connecting Hands](#) - Executive Assistant to the President Dust Kunkel

[The Why of Education Services at the NOW District](#) - Executive Director of Education Services - Bob Fowls

[If Anything is Excellent or Praiseworthy](#) - Director of Family Ministry Bob Fossum

[Building Bridges](#) - Robin Fossum, Director of Early Childhood Education

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