



Peace Lutheran Church

Messenger of Peace

"Where the Love of Christ is Shared"

May 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



WHAT'S THE SPIRIT GOT TO DO WITH IT?

May 24th is Pentecost, the day when we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on God's church. Pentecost is one of the major festivals of the Christian church.

What's the Spirit got to do with it? Everything! We don't become Christians by our own power. No one can say, "It's my decision. I can make myself a believer in Christ." Only the Holy Spirit gives faith in Christ. Jesus died and rose in our place to secure for each of us forgiveness and eternal life. The redemption Christ accomplished for all is applied to us individually when the Spirit brings us to faith. The Spirit who is "the Lord and giver of life," works to give us new life as we die to sin and rise to life with him.

We can't live as Christians by our own power. No one can say, "Now that I've become a Christian, I'll just do this Christian life thing by myself. Jesus leave me alone, and let me be a Christian in my own way." Apparently, many think they can remain Christian apart from God. But Luther in his explanation to the third article of the creed makes clear that we are entirely dependent on the Holy Spirit. He says: "I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him." Some may say, "Well, those are just Luther's words, show me in scripture." Well, St. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 2:14-16:

The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment: "For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

We need the spirit not only to begin our life with God in Baptism but throughout our life. God promises in his word to give us the Spirit through his word and through the sacraments. He does not promise to give us the Spirit in any other way. Therefore, for the Christian to remain strong in the Spirit he or she must continually be renewed by the Spirit through the only ways that God promises to give the Spirit: His Word and His Sacraments.

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Listen to the Spirit when he prods you. He enables you to be more like Christ every day. Let him fill you up with the good things of God. Follow his direction and leading. And let him use you so that your life becomes exciting work for God.

The Holy Spirit is important in our lives. The church wouldn't be here and we wouldn't be here today without the Holy Spirit. It is only by the Spirit that we will be able to remain close to God throughout life; that we may be close to him forever in heaven.

Pastor Mark Griesse



OWLS

O.W.L.S. luncheon
Friday, May 8th
11:30 a.m. at
Gold Creek.

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



**It's time
to mow the
church lawn!**

There is a calendar on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall for those who would like to volunteer to mow. Write your name on one of the weekends and mow either Friday or Saturday of that weekend. All mowing equipment is provided. For questions contact Cal West 697-6075, Mike Phelps 698-3080 or Randy Bicsak 697-3862.



The next Men's Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, May 30th at 8:00 a.m. at Howard Johnson Plaza in Yakima (9 N. 9th St.). Women are also invited to attend. (Buffet costs approx. \$5.00 per person.)

**The Church Office will be closed
in observance of
Memorial Day
Monday, May 25th**

Have a safe Memorial Weekend!



LUTHERAN
HOUR MINISTRIES
NEWS...

In February 2013, a ten-member Lutheran Hour Ministries' team from Saint Paul Lutheran Church in Mt. Prospect, IL, visited Prich Lutheran Church in a remote village of Kompot Province, Cambodia. During their time in Cambodia, they

helped build two Sunday school classrooms for the church.

Now, two years later, nearly 50 children are studying Khmer and English languages in these two classrooms. The facilities have made it possible for LH—Cambodia's staff to work with the church's pastor to help local children learn about Jesus through Bible Correspondence Courses. Through this ministry, 29 children were led to be baptized in November 2014!



John & Susan Cox were received
as new members by Affirmation of
Faith on Sunday, April 12, 2015.

John & Susan come to us
from LaPine, Oregon.
Welcome to Peace, John & Susan!

Mt. Olive LWML will hold a yard
sale on May 29th & 30th, 8 a.m.-
3 p.m., in their Fellowship Hall.
Donations will be accepted the
week of May 25th. All proceeds
go to missions.



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER -- MAY 7, 2015



Bethlehem Lutheran invites you to join them for their annual Prayer Service at 7:00 p.m. The service is conducted by the LWML. The theme title is *"God-Given Hats: A Vocational Prayer Service."* Enjoy dessert, coffee, and fellowship in the lounge after the service. LWML ladies will provide the goodies. PLEASE COME!!

Memorial Day
Monday, May 25th



With Honor & Gratitude
We Remember

Mother's Day
Sunday, May 10th





The current term for Board officers and members comes to an end in June of this year. We will elect Board Chairpersons and members for the next two-year term soon. We will be putting together a Call Committee and once the Committee is established they will contact people to see if they would be interested in serving on a Board. Below are the different Boards that serve Peace.

- Board of Lay Ministry
- Board of Christian Education/Young People's Work
- Board of Stewardship
- Board of Parish Fellowship
- Board of Public Relations

Please consider and pray about serving on an Administrative Board here at Peace.



This year Peace Lutheran will celebrate Mother's Day a little differently. Instead of getting flowers **the ladies will get treated to brunch by the men of Peace!** Following the worship service on Sunday, May 10th, the men will prepare a delicious brunch. The ladies will not have to do ANYTHING except eat! So be sure to join us for Mother's Day Brunch.

"Thank You!"

On Palm Sunday 90 hats were collected for this year's "Hats for Missions" project. Thank you to all who knitted or crocheted hats for this mission project. All of the baby hats were donated to "Life Choices." See their thank you note posted on the bulletin board. Some of the hats will go with a medical mission team to Peru. Other hats have already been taken to an Orphan Grain Train distribution center in Wisconsin. The remaining hats will be taken to an Orphan Grain Train center in Nebraska this summer. You have shared God's love by using your talents on this mission project!"





Stephen Ministry

CareMail

Recently, I had the privilege of meeting Nancy, a woman fighting cancer. Nancy told me how much it means to her to have the ongoing support of a Stephen Minister:



"My Stephen Minister is more than a trusted friend. In her presence, I experience God's grace. I feel cared for, strengthened, and supported. She is truly a gift."

You can [watch Nancy tell her story](#) in a short video on our website.

Every day, Stephen Ministers make a profound difference in the lives of people diagnosed with cancer as well as their loved ones—just as they do for people experiencing grief, divorce, unemployment, infertility, and many other life difficulties.

If your congregation doesn't have Stephen Ministry and you're interested in learning how to get it started, call us at (314) 428-2600, and we'll send you a complete information packet. You can also learn more at www.stephenministries.org/begin.

May God bless you and your ministry.

In Christ,
Amity Haugk

P.S. [Visit our website](#) to read additional stories, hear what pastors have to say, and watch videos about Stephen Ministry in action.

>>CROSSROADS

Discover...

Helpful Resources,
Encouraging Conversations,
Focused Work Groups on
Specific Topics



Walking Together in Ministry

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.

Over the next few weeks we are sharing videos from LCEF Vice President, Rob Wickord; Business Manager, Marilyn Allen and IT Services-Communications Director, Vicki

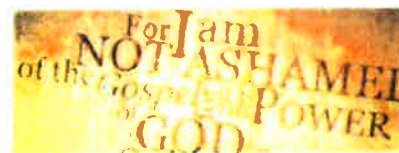
Knutsen, sharing insights about District Operations. [Click here](#) to watch these videos.

Installation - We Celebrate Together!

We Thank God for...

April 19, 2015

Christ Church, Coos Bay, Oregon will install Rev. Brandt Hoffman as Pastor.



NOW District Student Aid



Guidelines for Student Aid in the Northwest District are available on the District website: [NOW District Student Aid](#).

Graduating and placed in your first rostered Call? [Click here](#).

Mission Training Center

Equipping Apprentices of Jesus for Active Ministry in the Field!

Mission Training Center develops people for God's mission with training opportunities centered in the bible and taught through the lenses of God's mission. If you want to be better prepared to join God in His mission or if your congregation is in need of well-trained missional leaders or licensed deacons, consider what Mission Training Center has to offer.

MTC classes run for four (4) or eight (8) weeks. Each class meets for two hours per session each week. 4 week classes meet for 2hrs/week = 8 scheduled learning hours. 8 week classes meet for 2hrs/week = 16 scheduled learning hours. [Click here](#) to see a short description of each of our courses.



[Registration](#) is open for Spring Courses. Hurry, class sizes are limited!

MTC020 - Church Administration*

8 hrs. - April 9th thru April 30th, 2015 (Thursday) 6-8pm Pacific Time

MTC015 - Defining and Engaging Your Community*

8 hrs. April 27, thru May 18, 2015 (Monday) 6-8pm Pacific Time

MTC010 - Fundamental Pastoral Care

16 hrs. May 2 thru June 19, 2015 (Saturday) 8-10am Pacific Time

*These are great choices for continuing education for Licensed Deacons.

For more information, or to register online, go to www.missiontrainingcenter.com or, contact Renée Zollitsch at mtc@missiontrainingcenter.com or by phone 971-302-7595.

Lutheran Church Extension Fund



Lutheran Church Extension Fund

> where investments build ministry

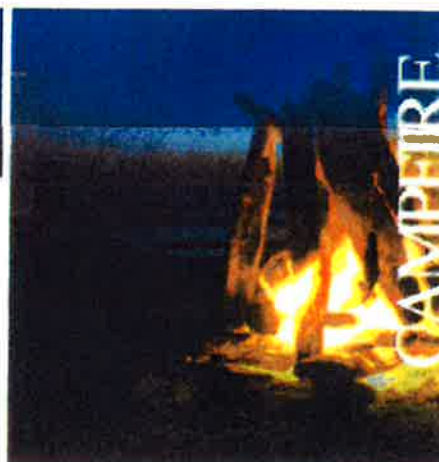
Want to see the monthly news and resources from LCEF in the Northwest District?

Go to lcef.org and check it out!



Share...

Good News Stories,
Listen and Connect in
Meaningful Ways



Northwest District Administrator Conference-

April 22-24, 2015

This year's conference is being held at the Shilo Inn, Airport Way in Portland. The online registration materials are now available on our website at:

<http://nowlcms.org/crossroads/events/2759>.



Registration is now closed. If you have questions about this conference, please email Laurieb@nowlcms.org

Northwest District Teacher's Conference October 28-30, 2015

"Good News Feet"



Planning has begun for the Northwest District Teacher's Conference that will be held at the Seaside Convention Center in Seaside, OR. The theme for this year will be "Good News Feet". We have again invited our schools to apply for the art grant to defray the costs in providing us with a backdrop for the convention based on our theme.

There will be an all day seminar for both the Administrators and the Early Childhood Directors on Wednesday.

Check-in for the Teacher's Conference will begin on Wednesday afternoon. Stay tuned as there will be more information available when the keynotes and presenters have been confirmed.

Licensed Deacons and Supervising Pastors

Many Thanks...

Thank you to all who completed and returned the annual review. The renewed deacon licenses are going out via USPS mail. The original license and a copy for the congregation will be mailed to the attention of the licensed deacon.



An Easter Message from President Linnemann

Why is Easter Such a Big Deal?

It was just a dusty old box that had been sitting in the corner of the basement for a long time. Everyone had forgotten about it. No one even noticed it when they happened to go downstairs to retrieve something. But one day it got in the way of a project, and they opened it up. What they found was a box full of treasure. There were photos and mementos from years long gone. As they examined each treasured item, there was laughter. There were tears. There were moments when eyes met and love was shared. They had rediscovered their history together.

[Read more >>](#)



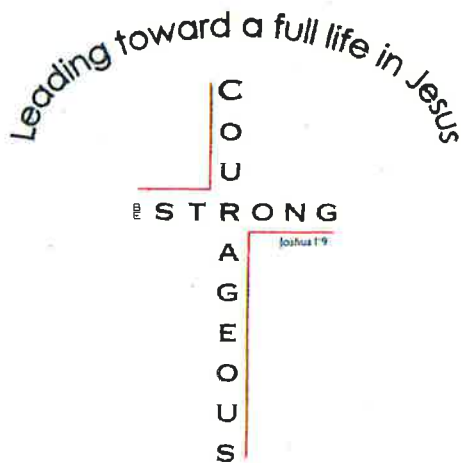
Join the Congregation Life Cycle Forum

Access the "Legacy Toolkit"!

Whether or not your congregation participated in the life-cycle survey, you are invited to join a new group on the Northwest District website called, "Congregation Life-Cycle Forum," a one-stop spot for leaders looking to network and access helpful resources. For many, the most helpful resource could be the Legacy Toolkit -- a folder with links to brief downloadable videos, accompanying discussion guides, and other resources. The Legacy Toolkit is an emerging set of resources to assist congregations who want to focus on moving from a survival mentality to one of legacy and community influence. [Click here](#) to join the forum!



2015 District Convention



*"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous,
Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed,
for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."*
Joshua 1:9 ESV

A convention attendance and hotel registration informational letter was e-mailed last week to all delegates and rostered workers in the Northwest District. Please read the materials carefully. Registration is online and the registration deadline is May 1st which will be here before we know it.

Delegates - you should have already sent in your signed delegate form to the District Office to be eligible to vote. NOW you need to register in a separate process to attend the convention and secure housing. [Click here to register!](#)

You can access online registration information, the convention workbook, and other convention information on the NOW Event Calendar. [Click here](#) for all the

information!

District Convention Assessment Invoices were mailed to congregations the third week of March with a due date of May 1st. Assessments were based on the most recent statistical information available to our office. We have not yet received updated information from just under 100 congregations in our District. If your congregation has not completed your online 2014 statistical reporting to the Synod, please do so as soon as possible.

An Inspirational Story...

From Student to Director



I was born and raised in a predominantly LDS community. When my parents were married, my mother was raised LDS and my father was raised Episcopalian. They were young parents, and neither really attended church after they were married. I was baptized Episcopalian when I was 1 and didn't attend church as a young child. When it came time for me to attend school, my parents decided to check out the local Lutheran school because we would be moving and because of the LDS influence in the public elementary schools. - [read more >>](#)

An Atheist's View on Life

I will live my life according to these beliefs

God does not exist

It is just foolish to think

That there is a God with a cosmic plan

That an all-powerful God brings redemption and healing to the pain and suffering in the world
Is a comforting thought, however

It

Is only wishful thinking

People can do as they please without eternal consequences

The idea that

I am deserving of Hell

Because of sin

Is a lie meant to make me a slave to those in power

"The more you have, the happier you will be"

Our existence has no grand meaning or purpose

In a world with no God

There is freedom to be who I want to be

But with God

Everything is fine

It is ridiculous to think

I am lost and in need of saving

A Christian's View on Life

(read this bottom to top)