



Peace Lutheran Church

# Messenger of Peace

*"Where the Love of Christ is Shared"*

June 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**

(No class during  
summer)

**Website**

peacelutheran-  
church@360unite.com

**Email**

peacelutheran@fairpoint.net



Dear Friends in Christ,

Many of us have our thoughts on summer. We are honoring our graduates and celebrating the milestone achievements they have accomplished. We are thinking about summer camps, vacation bible school, our own vacations. We are hoping for good sunny weather, and planning summer vacations, perhaps to visit family, or just as a getaway, or perhaps a motorcycle trip.

What a blessing we have been given in the Northwest, where the rainy weather gives way to glorious flowers and heart stopping beauty. It reminds one of Psalm 8.

<sup>1</sup> O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.

<sup>2</sup> From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise  
because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.

<sup>3</sup> When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,

<sup>4</sup> what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care  
for him?

<sup>5</sup> You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings  
and crowned him with glory and honor.

<sup>6</sup> You made him ruler over the works of your hands;  
you put everything under his feet:

<sup>7</sup> all flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field,

<sup>8</sup> the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,  
all that swim the paths of the seas.

<sup>9</sup> O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Have a great summer, enjoy the outdoors, your family gatherings, graduation celebrations and all the other gifts God has given you. Join us on Sundays to give Him Glory and Honor.

**O LORD, our Lord how majestic is your name in all the earth.**

Pastor Griesse



Pastor Griesse will be attending the Northwest District Convention in Portland June 11-13. If you are in need of pastoral assistance during his absence, please contact a Lay Minister. (You can call the church office for contact information.)

*Happy  
Father's  
Day!*

*Sunday, June 21st*



**The next Men's Breakfast is  
scheduled for Saturday,  
June 20th 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.)  
All Lutheran men (& women) and  
their guest(s) are invited to attend.**



The Call Committee has finalized the list of people who were nominated or volunteered to serve on the various Boards. They will present those names to the Voters for approval at the Voters' Meeting on June 15th.

Thank you to all who accepted the nominations or volunteered to serve on a Board. It is with everyone's participation that we can keep our church running smoothly and looking great!

Russell & Hilde Hibdon were received as new members by  
Affirmation of Faith on Sunday, May 24th.  
Welcome to Peace, Russell & Hilde!





The 2nd Harvest/Thrivent Food Distribution truck will be at Peace on Tuesday, June 16th, 11:00-1:00. We will need volunteers to help with the distribution. There is a volunteer sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall at church. If you would like to help please sign your name on the list.

### OWLS

**O.W.L.S. luncheon Friday, June 12th,  
11:30 a.m. at Red Lobster in Yakima.**

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](mailto:shotwell@elltel.net).



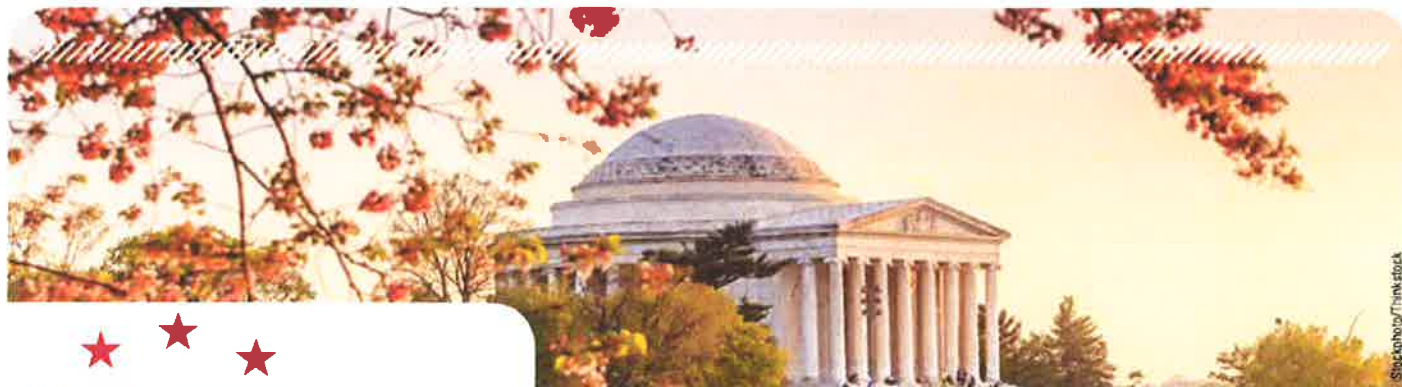
There will be a **Voter's Meeting** on **Monday, June 15th** at **7:00 p.m.** All members are urged to attend this meeting. We will be voting to approve Board nominations for the upcoming 2015-2017 term.

### A Note from the Contributions Secretary:

Our Contributions Secretary, Jane Williams, will no longer be running quarterly contributions reports unless you specifically request one. If you would like to have a June summary of your contributions to-date, please contact Jane at 697-5789 (leave a message if no answer) or email her at [brucew@elltel.net](mailto:brucew@elltel.net) and she will be happy to run a report for you. Also, if you would like an update on your contributions at any time during the year, Jane would be happy to run a report for you. As in the past she will supply end-of-year contributions reports for all contributors. If you have any questions regarding the reports contact Jane.



The kids are getting out of school for the summer so please be extra careful when driving.



# Update

Spring 2015

## Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty

**“W**hat are we supposed to do?” For the past few years, this question has been discussed by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod among its leadership, pastors and congregational members as we witness changing cultural values and increased incidents of threats to our religious freedoms. Years of effort and much prayer

### Taking Us Seriously



If we want anyone to take us seriously when we argue for religious freedom, we also must show why it is important to us. At the very least we should be active in our own churches, and our churches should be active in the world through us. ... But whether or not our nation remains a blessing to us and a beacon of religious freedom to the world (and it won't forever), we citizens of an eternal kingdom have nothing to lose and nothing to fear, as we witness to Christ in whatever context we find ourselves. We are always free to be faithful.

— Rev. Peter Speckhard

lead to one pivotal day in February 2015. The LCMS Board of Directors gathered in their regular meeting to adopt a resolution approving the establishment of a separately incorporated 501(c)(3) legal entity. This corporation — the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty — will be established in Washington, D.C., to offer information, input, advice, education and resources regarding the sanctity of life, the defense of marriage between one man and one woman, and the protection of religious freedom.

In the coming months, the new corporation's own board of directors will identify and bring together a small staff that will open an office near Capitol Hill. The Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty will actively engage

in discussions, establish partnerships and work collaboratively, as appropriate, with individuals and groups in Washington, D.C., on public policy related to the three areas of focus: marriage, life and religious freedom.

We will no longer be silent. We will stand, and we will speak. We will no longer sit quietly while others speak on our behalf. We will have a chair at the table, and we are anxious to join others — in a more robust way than ever — to make a difference in tomorrow. Are you interested in making an investment in the future through the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty in Washington, D.C., alongside your fellow Lutherans? Email [freetobefaitful@lcms.org](mailto:freetobefaitful@lcms.org) to make an investment in protecting these values.

From time to time, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod signs on to amicus briefs for legal cases in which the outcome is likely to affect the church. Learn more about what amicus briefs are and which ones the LCMS has joined at [lcms.org/board/amicus-briefs](http://lcms.org/board/amicus-briefs).





# SUPREME COURT SET TO RULE ON Marriage

**What's coming next:** This month, the Supreme Court is hearing oral arguments on same-sex marriage as it pertains to states' rights. The court is set to announce its decision in June.

**What the ruling could mean for you:** The Court could:

- (1) leave the issue of same-sex marriage up to individual states;
- (2) rule that individual states must issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples, or that states must recognize the same-sex marriages of out-of-state couples.

**What you can say:**

- (1) I will continue to stand up for marriage as the union of one man and one woman because of the reality that children thrive best under the care of a mom and a dad.
- (2) The Book of Ephesians says that it is the union of a man and woman that best serves to illustrate the mystery of Christ and His Church. Man and woman remain distinct and complementary, yet they are one: so also Christ and His Church (John 17:22-23). In preserving the institution of marriage, the Church also preserves a vital illustration of Christ and His Church — and thus the Gospel!
- (3) Redefining marriage would put a new principle into the law: that marriage is whatever emotional bond the government says it is.

**What you can do:** Go to [lcms.org/freetobefaithful](http://lcms.org/freetobefaithful) for resources to:

- Download life-, marriage- and religious-liberty-related Bible studies for use at church.

- Share bulletin inserts on the same topics.
- Find prayers for the Supreme Court, United States and those struggling

with same-sex attraction;

- Utilize policies that define the use of church property to marriages consistent with LCMS beliefs.



**Are you a young Lutheran?** Would you like help engaging your friends and teachers on the topics of life, marriage and religious liberty? Can you be a voice of truth in your high school or on your college campus? Email [freetobefaithful@lcms.org](mailto:freetobefaithful@lcms.org) for more information.

Interested in helping to establish the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty or supporting the work of Free to Be Faithful? Contact Martha Mitkos at [martha.mitkos@lcms.org](mailto:martha.mitkos@lcms.org) or give her a call at 314-966-1322.



Free to Be Faithful Update | [www.lcms.org/freetobefaithful](http://www.lcms.org/freetobefaithful)

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May 2015

Office of the President  
The Reverend Doctor Matthew C. Harrison  
President of the Synod

Dear brothers,

In the face of another radical cultural shift — a denial of God and His creation, a rejection of Christ, the Ten Commandments and God-given natural law (Romans 1) — a great Lutheran responded with truths that are also true for our times:

*The lie is the death of man, his temporal and his eternal death. The lie kills nations. The most powerful nations of the world have been laid waste because of their lies. History knows of no more unsettling sight than the judgment rendered upon the people of an advanced culture who have rejected the truth and are swallowed upon in a sea of lies. Where this happens, as in the case of declining pagan antiquity, religion and law, poetry and philosophy, life in marriage and family, in the state and society — in short, one sphere of life after another falls sacrifice to the power and curse of the lie. Where man can no longer bear the truth, he cannot live without the lie. Where man denies that he and others are dying, the terrible dissolution [of his culture] is held up as a glorious ascent, and decline is viewed as an advance, the likes of which has never been experienced. (Hermann Sasse, *Union and Confession*, 1936)*

In just a few weeks, the Supreme Court is expected to rule on the legality of same-sex marriage in America and roll out the implications of that ruling for individual states. I expect the ruling to create an alleged constitutional right to same-sex marriage, contrary to God's created orders, natural law and the inerrant Scriptures. This will be the earnest beginning of a very long struggle for faithful Christians who will, more and more, be driven from participation in the culture. We shall come to know and understand parts of the Word of God like never before. "But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Phil. 3:20).

Brothers, the battle has already been won. Our Lord, Jesus Christ, has already defeated the foe. Satan surrendered at Golgotha. It is finished.

But what do we do? If the Supreme Court rules that same-sex marriage is legal in every state or must be recognized in every state, what is our response?

We stand fast (2 Thess. 2:15). We live in and by our Savior, who calls us to stay the course, to repent of our sin, to be in the Word of God and in prayer. We redouble our teaching on God's gift of marriage. And we show love and mercy to those harmed by the dissolution of God's ordering of marriage and family, intended for protection for all. We take legal action where absolutely necessary. "Public remedy, made through the office of the public official, is not condemned, but is commanded and is God's work, according to Paul (Romans 13)" (Apology XVI 59).

The plan fits the nature of the Church: she is enduring and eternal. She speaks Christ's forgiveness and peace to men and women struggling with same-sex attraction and heterosexual attraction alike, in and out of season. She doesn't do flash-in-the-pan or drive-by ministry. She works in the world for the long haul. She doesn't change her tune or stop her singing. She keeps telling real people about a real Jesus, from black-robed Supreme Court justices to the protestors on the steps of that building to the young people in college watching the ruling unfold to those of us who never imagined we would see this seismic shift in our lifetime. And she lives to demonstrate the mercy and love of Christ (1 John 3:15ff).

Most importantly, she speaks of the One who came for sinners — all sinners — and of the One who showed His love for us by dying for us. She simply stays the course.



That's why you, dear brothers in the Office, will need our prayers in the days ahead. And you will have them. Legal marriage may be redefined, and outcomes we never imagined will occur. But these don't surprise or alarm us. The crumbling culture merely proves that what began in the Garden of Eden is still prevalent today, that we are sinners among sinners, that we are all in need of Christ's mercy and grace. This world is wending its way toward the end (Matthew 25). The story ends well (Revelation 7). That is what those in the pew and those disenchanted by the people in the pew need to hear, and will always need to hear, the most.

Beyond the theological consequences of this ruling, however, there are also practical implications, and I urge you to consider the following:

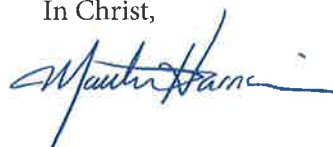
- (1) The Synod's legal team is carefully examining the potential ramifications of this case. It will likely be a messy ruling that will require time to unpack. We may discover that there is ultimately no constitutional protection for the Synod, its institutions, you or your congregation. We don't know, but we will be reporting back to you with our findings.
- (2) Your congregation should give serious thought to obtaining counsel from your own attorney. Also consider utilizing the Synod's document on marriage policies for member congregations, which offers sample provisions limiting the use of church property to marriages that are consistent with LCMS beliefs. The day may come when even this legal protection will not be enough, but it may assist you and your congregational leadership in forestalling issues as long as possible.
- (3) Be prepared to discuss what marriage will look like in the future. Will LCMS pastors eventually be forced, as agents of the state, to perform same-sex marriages? If that happens, will we be prepared to let the state perform the legal marriage ceremony, while we as pastors provide a religious ceremony for those marriages that are in keeping with our confession of faith as Lutheran Christians? We must have these discussions as pastors and as a Synod, and we may even need to make decisions at the next Synod convention in the summer of 2016.
- (4) Know that I, as Synod president, stand with you. What protections will the Synod or even the Constitution offer you? I don't know. But here is what I am personally sure of: The Gospel is enduring. It never changes. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. We as pastors are called to repent and to be faithful to Him — and to His Gospel — alone. Will we be fined for not performing same-sex marriages? Potentially. Will we be thrown in jail? Maybe. A recently deceased Catholic bishop (Cardinal George) described what I believe we shall now begin to face: "I expect to die in bed, my successor will die in prison and his successor will die a martyr in the public square. His successor will pick up the shards of a ruined society and slowly help rebuild civilization, as the church has done so often in human history."

Make no mistake, the battle has been won. The devil has been defeated. The Victor reigns triumphant in mercy, love and truth. The Gospel knows no limits, but proclaims the gracious kingdom of our Lord to all, through Christ's Word and Sacraments.

The temptation will be to run out into the melee, to abandon the home front or to give up all together. But we are called instead to repent, to be ready, to move confidently into the future, come what may. We speak the truth in love to all. We share Christ's forgiveness with each person He sets in our path.

And the Lord will work all things for good, even these trying times. He is faithful, brothers. He will do it.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matthew Harrison", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison

PRESIDENT, THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD