

August 2015



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <div> <p>Rev. Mark Griesse: Cell: (509) 594-6866 Office Number: 697-4353 E-mail: peacelutheran@fairpoint.net Website: peacelutheranchurch@360unite.com</p> <p>Altar Guild: Linda Smith</p> <p>Trustee: Randy Bicsak</p> </div>						1 8:00-AA Mtg. Ed Unit
2 (C) Elder: Jim Lewis 9:00 a.m. Worship w/ Children's Church (Groth Baptisms) 1:00 Hispanic Worship	3 Pastor @ Peace	4 Pastor @ BLC	5 Pastor @ BLC 7 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast @ Denny's	6 Pastor @ Peace 10:00 a.m. Stewardship Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Lay Ministers Mtg.	7 Pastor's Day Off Hispanic Worship 7:00	8 8:00-AA Mtg. Ed Unit
9 9:00 a.m. Worship w/ Children's Church 'IJenNeh' Performs following Service 1:00 Hispanic Worship	10 Pastor @ Peace 6:30 p.m. Stephen Min. Supervision	11 Pastor @ BLC	12 Pastor @ BLC 7 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast @ Denny's	13 Pastor @ Peace	14 Pastor's Day Off OWLS Lunch 11:30 @ Palace Café in Ellensburg Hispanic Worship 7:00	15 8:00-AA Mtg. Ed Unit
16 (C) Elder: Jim Lewis 9:00 a.m. Worship w/ Children's Church 1:00 Hispanic Worship	17 Pastor @ Peace (Tammy on Vacation till 7/26) 7:00 p.m. Voter's Mtg.	18 Pastor @ BLC *Deadline for Newsletter articles	19 Pastor @ BLC 7 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast @ Denny's	20 Pastor @ Peace 10:00 Stephen Leaders Mtg.	21 Pastor's Day Off Hispanic Worship 7:00	22 8:00-AA Mtg. Ed Unit
23 9:00 a.m. Worship w/ Children's Church 1:00 Hispanic Worship	24 Pastor @ Peace	25 Pastor @ BLC	26 Pastor @ BLC 7 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast @ Denny's	27 Pastor @ Peace	28 Pastor's Day Off	29 Macy's "Shop for a Cause" Day 8:00-AA Mtg. Ed Unit
30 (C) Elder: Jim Lewis 9:00 a.m. Worship w/ Children's Church (Wheeler Baptism/New Member Service) 1:00 Western Days @ Lyso's House	31 Pastor @ Peace				Hispanic Worship 7:00	8:00-AA Mtg. Ed Unit

Serving Peace in August 2015



August 2

9:00 a.m.

Elder:	Jim Lewis
Ushers:	Bruce & Jane Williams
Acolyte:	Bruce Williams
Reader:	Bruce Williams
Counter:	Randy Bicsak

August 9

9:00 a.m.

Ushers:	Cal & Crystal West
Acolyte:	Cal West
Reader:	Ralph Miles
Counter:	Jody Hert

August 16

9:00 a.m.

Elder:	Jim Lewis
Ushers:	Randy & Sara Bicsak
Acolyte:	Randy Bicsak
Reader:	Teri Sanchez
Counter:	Carol Heidt

August 23

9:00 a.m.

Ushers:	Dick & Judy Jacobson
Acolyte:	Dick Jacobson
Reader:	Mike Phelps
Counter:	Jane Williams

August 30

9:00 a.m.

Elder:	Jim Lewis
Ushers:	Steve & Marcia Shotwell
Acolyte:	Steve Shotwell
Reader:	Steve Shotwell
Counter:	Carol Heidt

If you cannot serve on your scheduled Sunday, please trade with someone else or call the church office, 697-4353, before Friday (if no one answers please leave a message). Thank you.

Peace Lutheran Church



Messenger of Peace

"Where the Love of Christ is Shared"

August 2015

**Peace Lutheran
Church**

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

**Pastor
Mark Griesse**

Office Hours
9:00 - 12:00

Tues - Wed. - Bethlehem
Mon. & Thu. - Peace
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

peacelutheranchurch
@360unite.com

Email

peacelutheran@fairpoint.net



[http://Facebook.com/
peacelutheranselah](http://Facebook.com/peacelutheranselah)

Word from Our Pastor

Dear Friends,

In September a new Bible Class will begin entitled "*I Have Good News for You.*" This in-depth study reveals God's answers on subjects like Marriage, Divorce, Baptism, Communion, the Holy Spirit, the Person of Christ, Death, Hell, Heaven and many others. Above all it answers two important questions:

Does God really care about me?

How can I know the way to heaven and be sure about it?

If you are not a Christian you can come to know Jesus in a very personal way by the time the course is finished. If you are a Christian you can become more aware of how close Christ is to you and better understand His will for your life. We believe that God has a special plan for each of His children. That plan will be revealed to the child of God as he or she searches the Scriptures, begins to understand the plan and then joyfully becomes obedient to it. This joy and new life can be yours in greater measure – it is God's promise.

We will meet on **Wednesdays at 11:00 am at Bethlehem Lutheran Church and at 6:30 pm at Peace Lutheran Church. It is a ten week course beginning September 9.** There are CD's available if you miss a class. You can listen, ask questions, and learn more about your relationship with God through our Savior Jesus Christ.

We are living in very difficult times, and indications are that they will become even more trying. Surely we need a Savior for our sins and an Almighty God who loves us. Our God is one who forgives us, strengthens and guides us, and finally, when life is over, takes us to His home in heaven forever. That is really what this Bible Study course is all about. I hope you can attend, bring a friend, share this letter with them and look forward to an exciting study of God's Word.

Yours In Christ,

Pastor Griesse



Baptisms & New Members

Samantha and Tenley Groth were Baptized on August 2nd during the worship service. Samantha is married to Carsten Groth, and Tenley is their baby girl.

Allyson Wheeler was Baptized and brought in as a new member of Peace by Adult Confirmation on August 16th.

Also brought in as a new member on Aug. 16th by Affirmation of Faith was Arnie Wheeler, Allyson's brother.

Welcome to God's family and Peace Lutheran Allyson, Arnie, Samantha & Tenley!



Church Lawn

Thanks to all who have volunteered to mow the church lawn so far this season! If you haven't signed up for a mowing date yet, please consider it.

Voters' Meeting

There will be a Voters' Meeting on **Monday, August 17th at 7:00.**

All Board Chairpersons (or a representative from the Board) are asked to attend.

Office Closure

Tammy will be on vacation August 17-25. The Church office will be open on the days that Pastor is in the office at Peace (Aug. 17, 20 & 24). It will be closed on Aug. 18, 19, 21 & 25. It will reopen August 26.



O.W.L.S.

OWLS will meet for lunch at The Palace Café in Ellensburg on Friday, August 14th at 11:30. If you'd like to carpool, meet at the Church between 10:30-10:45.

Please let Marcia know if you plan to attend, 697-4543 or shotwell@elltel.net.



Peace men are invited to join the men of Bethlehem Lutheran for Men's Breakfast. They meet each Wednesday morning at 7 a.m. at Denny's in Union Gap. Join them for Bible Study and Fellowship!

**Selah Schools start
August 31st!**



IJenNeh to Perform



A few years ago Lasana Kanneh brought his African Gospel music to Peace Lutheran. On Sunday, August 9th, following the worship service, we will have another opportunity to listen to the music of *IJenNeh* (pronounced 'eye-gin-nay').

Lasana Kanneh comes from Liberia. He was born blind and ostracized by his community for this disability. He was eventually abandoned at the school for the blind in Monrovia. God intervened and an evangelist took him home and preached the good news to him. He readily believed the Word of God and could not return to his home due to his conversion. He escaped war, persecution, poverty, abuse and personal failure to bring you these beautiful songs of faith, hope, and restoration.

Lasana has sung in various groups over the years, all singing acappella-style music. Lasana has added instruments to his new music creating a totally unique and original style of African Gospel.

We invite you to stay after our Worship Service on August 9th and listen to the music of IJenNeh. (Free will offering will be taken.)

Who likes to shop? Who would like to "Shop For A Cause"?

On August 29th, Macy's Department Store will host its 10th Annual *Shop For A Cause* event. Eligible non-profits are able to sell shopping passes for \$5.00 each and keep all the proceeds from the sale of the passes. Those who buy a pass can receive 25% off* at Macy's on Saturday, August 29th, (*Exclusions and restrictions apply. See shopping passes for details.) AND, they can enter to win a \$500 gift card, no purchase necessary.



So if you like to shop (while saving some money) and help Peace raise a little money in the process, see Tammy Peterson or Jean Sinclair to purchase a \$5 shopping pass!



June 30, 2015

To the Congregations and Ministers of the Northwest District

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Much has already been written and said regarding the Supreme Court's decision about same sex marriage. The speed at which these responses were posted indicated the result many were expecting. At this point, I would encourage you, as leaders of the Lord's church, to be careful and thoughtful in your response to this situation. I would also encourage you to be as intentional and as proactive as you can be as you seek to be a blessing to the people of your community.

As you do so, keep in mind a few things...

- Jesus came into this world to save people from their sin and its consequence, death. His purpose is to be our purpose, too. I appreciated President Harrison's thought in his pastoral letter that "the life-giving sacrifice of Christ on the cross is for all." This is true for every person regardless of their position on this issue.
- The heart of the Gospel message is God's unconditional love of all people – even when He knows them better than they know themselves. The justification of a sinner happens first, then comes sanctification. If we reverse this order, placing priority on the person's behavior, then unconditional love becomes conditional, which speaks contrary to the Gospel.
- I'd encourage you to speak forthrightly with one another as leaders of the church about how you can be God's ambassadors for the Gospel in this situation. It may take on different expressions from congregation to congregation, but the heart must be the same. As we respond to challenges in the culture, we need leaders who are not just looking to fortify existing barriers. We need people who have the ability to take the Gospel message across those barriers without sacrificing their identity as God's people.
- The enemy of the Gospel has succeeded in creating a climate that those who seek to point to God's loving design for life are themselves targeted as "intolerant" or "haters." It's on us to respond with loving patience in the absence of defensiveness or animosity, providing an opportunity for dialogue about the real issue.
- Congregational leaders should anticipate their response to being asked to participate in the wedding of a same sex couple. They should consider formulating a congregational policy. A document on the LCMS website, "Information on Marriage Policies for Member Congregations," could be helpful here. (<https://www.lcms.org/sslpage.aspx?pid=726&DocID=2640>)
- LCMS leadership is working on formulating a recommendation on whether LCMS pastors should serve as agents of the state in performing marriages with legal implications. As of the writing of this letter, they have not issued a recommendation. I would encourage congregations to consider this option. In effect, couples would be legally married by another agent of the state (justice of the peace, judge, etc.) and then have their marriage blessed in a worship setting in the congregation.

- Congregations and pastors should cease publicizing fees associated with weddings. Donations may be given, but fees should not be charged. Continuing this practice may identify the congregation and pastor as being in the "marriage business" and may require equal access.

Three years ago when the state of Washington made same sex marriages legal, I wrote the following:

"The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod's Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) published a report on the subject of human sexuality in September 1981. While CTCR reports are not doctrinal statements that are binding on the congregations of the Synod, they are intended to provide instruction and input on various issues such as this one. The report points out the Biblical prohibitions against homosexual behavior, but at the same time highlights the concern the church must have for those who are confronted with this issue.

As a part of the Lord's church in the world, we are primarily called upon to witness to His love in Jesus Christ. As congregations and church workers wrestle with this issue, it is important to keep this focus in mind. When we deal with the issue as an abstraction, apart from the effect on the people in the community around us, we place the ministry of the Gospel at risk. Congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod have the right and responsibility of self-governance, and it is my counsel as District President that each one takes this role seriously, determining how best to be a blessing to the people God has given them to love and care for in their particular community.

When I served in the parish and a couple I didn't know would ask if I could perform their wedding, my standard response was, "My church doesn't do weddings. We want to help make marriages." This was lived out in our not having fees set for weddings. We would accept donations, but did not require a fee. It would be my counsel that congregations of the Northwest District (in the state of Washington) would examine their present policy regarding performing weddings for those outside the congregational membership in the light of this new legislation. As you do so, think carefully about the ministry aspect of performing weddings and its effect upon your overall ministry in the community. Perhaps the elimination of required fees for weddings in favor of accepting donations would be a wise decision."

I believe these words still speak to the situation today. Above all, remember that we represent the Lord and His mission of bringing His love into the world. As we seek to do so, Paul's words to the Ephesians directly apply - *"Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love."* (Ephesians 4:15-16) May it be said of us that we seek to be that kind of blessing to one another and to the world.

In Jesus,



Rev. Paul Linnemann, President
Northwest District - LCMS