



Peace Lutheran Church

Messenger of Peace

"Where the Love of Christ is Shared"

July 2016

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
(currently on summer break)

Website
peacelutheran-church@360unite.com

Email
peacelutheranselah@gmail.com



Thank God for America

"Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the LORD say this--those he redeemed from the hand of the foe, those he gathered from the lands, from east and west, from north and south" (Ps 107:1-3).

Can we, as Christians, thank God for the United States of America? After all, we recognize many flaws in our nation. We remember the flaws of the past, such as the inhumane treatment of Native Americans, slavery, abuse of immigrant workers, and denial of civil rights to various groups. We can easily cite sins of our own age: the lack of protection for the life of the unborn child, the violence and illicit sex promoted through our mass media, the encouragement of materialism by Wall Street and Main Street. In the future, there will continue to be flaws in the leadership, the institutions, and the people of this land. Can we, as Christians, give thanks for the United States of America?

A CHRISTIAN CAN GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR HIS COUNTRY.

As Americans, we can give thanks to God for a heritage of faith that has been passed down through the generations. We can read about the faith of godly men and women in the history of our country. Of the 250 people we call Founding Fathers, the vast majority, by their own testimony, were Christians. They believed in the Good News of Jesus Christ. They confessed that he died on the cross for our sins and rose again for our justification. These men and women, and millions of their fellow citizens, prayed for their nation and the future of their country. They witnessed to the next generation. We are the recipients of those answered prayers, and their witness of faith uplifts us.

We who have been blessed in the United States with the Good News of Christ must confess to the Lord that we have often not been faithful in sharing that Good News. For this, repent. At the same time we give thanks to God for the Good News of his forgiveness, which is ours through faith in Jesus. Through his Holy Spirit we can be renewed to the task of spreading the Gospel right here in the United States. In our prayers we can ask God graciously to allow our Christian heritage to be transmitted to the next generation.

A Christian can thank God for a bountiful land.

Place a picture in your mind of our country. In Maine there is the rugged Arcadia National Park; in Florida, the glorious stretch of the Florida Keys. In California there is the beauty of San Diego Bay; in Washington, majestic Mount Rainier. Throughout our country we can witness God's creation of a glorious land.

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Travel anywhere from Alaska to Hawaii and you'll see constant visions of wonder! God commanded the people of Israel to give thanks to him for the land the Lord gave them. Surely we in America also need to give thanks for the land the Lord has entrusted to our care.

Not only is our nation beautiful, it is also bountiful. Throughout the land we are inheritors of a rich bounty of crops, industry, and natural resources. The standard of living of the average citizen is far above that of people in other parts of the world. Most people in the world are poor. Our temptation is often to hoard these bounties for ourselves. But here we are reminded of God's salvation. We give thanks to Jesus, **"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich" (2 Cor 8:9).** Through the poverty of his incarnation, life, and death, we are spiritually rich beyond measure.

As followers of Jesus, we seek to share the material bounty that God has bestowed upon us. We are called also as citizens to use our freedoms to promote the welfare of those who are in need, within our borders as well as throughout the world. Our Savior multiplied the food for the hungry. He has multiplied the food for us, and with thankful hearts we share the blessings of this bountiful land.

A Christian can thank God for freedom.

In Deut 8:11-14 the people of Israel were commanded by God to remember that they were set free from slavery in Egypt. The freedoms that we celebrate this Fourth of July were never free. Many of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were hounded and persecuted, and some died for their beliefs. This Independence Day, we give thanks to God for those who gave their lives so that we may live in a free land. We give thanks to God for those who risked their lives to protect our freedoms. We also give thanks to God for those in the armed forces who are in harm's way so that we enjoy the freedoms of this day. As a free people, we have a God-given responsibility to pray for our nation and leaders. We have the responsibility and calling to participate as citizens at the local, state, and national levels. As a free people, we have the responsibility to exercise the freedom of worship that God has blessed us with in the United States. So often we have neglected these responsibilities. We give thanks to the Savior, who paid for our sin of irresponsible citizenship. We remember with joy that he has made us citizens of heaven, yet with important responsibility on earth.

A Christian can thank God for an alive church.

St. Paul wrote to the Christians at Rome, "First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world" (Rom 1:8). Would Paul make this statement today to the Christian church in America? Would Paul make this statement to our congregation? In spite of our weaknesses as a Christian church and as individual congregations, I believe Paul would thank God for the church in America. And I believe that we, too, can thank God for a church in America that is spiritually alive.

The early church spread to the eastern regions around the Mediterranean Sea--regions that are no longer primarily populated by peoples of the Christian faith. For centuries, Christianity found a place of growth in Europe. State-dominated churches, wars, communism, and secularism have taken a severe toll on the faith in Europe. Sadly, much of Europe is Christian in name only.

Here in the United States the Gospel of forgiveness and salvation through Christ alone has been deeply planted. Under the freedoms that we have experienced over the last two centuries and more, the faith has grown and spread. The church in the United States has taken that faith and seeded many a land with the Word of God through mission work. We in our day have a great opportunity not only to keep that faith alive, but also to help other nations and nationalities have the opportunity to receive the Good News of forgiveness and salvation through Christ alone.

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On this Fourth of July we give thanks to God for the many blessings of body and soul that he has showered upon us through our fatherland, the United States of America. We pray to God for our nation, our leaders, and our fellow citizens. And we pray to God for ourselves, that he would keep us faithful to our Savior always.

Pastor Griesse



O.W.L.S./Congregation

The O.W.L.S. would like to invite the congregation of Peace to a barbeque at the

Shotwell's house on Friday, July 8th at 11:30 in honor of Jim & Leota Lewis.

Jim & Leota are moving to Oregon the middle of July and we would like to give them a nice "send-off". Please be sure to let Marcia know if you will be attending so they know how many burgers to cook, etc.



Council Meeting

There is a Council Meeting scheduled for Monday, July 18th at 7:00 p.m. All Board Chairpersons or a representative are asked to attend.

New Addresses:

Jean Sinclair

618 N. 42nd Ave.

Yakima, WA 98908

Mert & Karen Lehman

212-A N. 41st St.

Yakima, WA 98901

Baptism

Randy Treddenbarger was baptized into God's family on Sunday, June 19. Randy is married to Peace member Christie Treddenbarger (Lois Green's daughter). Welcome to Peace, Randy!

With all thanks and praise to God, Trinity/Messiah, Pasco/Basin City announce that they have received a candidate from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, to be pastor of the dual parish. He is Nathan Scheck, who, along with his family, wife Kendra and children Cedric, Marek, and Eloise, will move to the Tri-Cities in late June. His ordination/installation will take place **July 3rd at 4 p.m. at Messiah Lutheran Church, 291 Loen Drive, Basin City, WA.** (For map to: <https://goo.gl/oZduvA>) A meal is being planned following the service.

Second Harvest/Thrivent Food Distribution

Thank you to all who volunteered at the June Food Distribution. We had 22 Mobile Food Bank volunteers who helped distribute 7,318 pounds of fresh produce, food and gift bags to 108 families. Without volunteers we would not be able to offer this ministry to the community.



Remember...

We are still needing volunteers to mow the church lawn. If you would like to volunteer there is a sign-up calendar on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Just pick a weekend and write your name on it. (Mower, trimmer & blower provided by church.)

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the food distribution on June 21st. We had 22 Mobile Food Bank volunteers who helped distribute 7,318 pounds of fresh produce, food and gift bags to 108 families. Without volunteers we would not be able to offer this ministry to the community.



Glenn Stocker will be attending the **66th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod** on July 9-14 in Milwaukee, WI. We pray for safe travels.

Here is just one of the many projects that two men from our congregation quietly did without very many people knowing that they even did it! Jim Lewis and Paul Rath put new siding on the pump house awhile back. It was an ugly, worn-out wooden structure and they 'spruced' it up with new siding. Jim & Paul do all kinds of projects here at Peace. Thanks you, guys, for all you do for our church!



Most of us are familiar with the first verse of the Star Spangled Banner, but how many have heard the other verses? Below are the first & last verses.

Star Spangled Banner

By Francis Scott Key, 1814

Oh, say can you see by the dawn's early light
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
Oh, say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

Oh! thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand
Between their loved home and the war's desolation!
Blessed with victory and peace, may the heaven rescued land
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation.
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto: "In God is our trust."
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

