



Peace Progress

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Editor, Kay Glathar

November 2013

A Word from Our Pastor:

Dear Family of Peace,

I came upon a quote recently that struck me. The quote was from an early Christian named Augustine, "Thou has made us for Thyself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in Thee." The quote struck me for its boldness.

If what Augustine is saying is true, then it means that everyone has a need for God that nothing and no one else can fill in life. That is really a bold, exclusive and absolute thing to say.

It has often been said that people come closer to God through crisis. From my few years of experience as a pastor, I would have to say that this is true. It is the person who experiences deep grief that often wants to know more about God's love. It is the person going through a divorce that wants to know if God really cares. It is the person who has always shouted, "No!" to God, who all of a sudden says, "Maybe" or "Yes" to Him when tragedy strikes.

As Christians, we believe that the God described in the Bible is the only One who can fill the deep felt voids existing in people's lives. Yet, the truth is this: we cannot effectively share this truth until others see the depth of their own need. Until they see that need, they will likely never appreciate what God

has done for them in Jesus.

The parable of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15 bears this truth. The Prodigal Son does not realize how far he has fallen in life once he receives the huge inheritance and makes plans for vacation away from home! No.....Jesus says that the Prodigal finally figures out just how far he's fallen only when he comes to his senses in the lowliest of places: a pig pen!

In light of this, the first thing we can do as Christians is RECOGNIZE. By recognize, I mean that we look for signs of crisis in others. Some of the signs may be social: withdrawal from relationships or poor performance at school. Some may be physical: headaches, upset stomachs, drug abuse. And some may be emotional: anxiety and anger.

We can also LISTEN. Typically someone who is experiencing crisis will make statements about their loss of self-esteem. I can remember receiving an email from a friend who was experiencing divorce. His basic statement to me about the situation was this, "Am I a loveable person?" As soon as I read that part in the email, I knew that my friend had a great need.

And lastly, we can SHARE. We can share Bible Verses—that is always helpful. We can share Biblical Teachings—sometimes people are persuaded or made more open to something by debate. But most of all, we can share our own experience when

God reached out and filled our personal voids and holes.

The beauty of RECOGNIZE, LISTEN, and SHARE is that everyone in our Peace Family can do this. We all have the ability. Let's keep our eyes and ears open to the opportunities that we can put these simple practices into action.

Alicia and I are blessed to be with you. Thank you for making Peace a home for us!

In Peace,
Pastor Lucke

Preparing for Worship

Scripture lessons for November:

November 3:

Revelation 7:9-17
1 John 3:1-3
Matthew 5:1-12

November 10:

Exodus 3:1-15
2 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Luke 20:27-40

November 17:

Malachi 4:1-6
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13
Luke 21:5-28

November 24:

Malachi 3:13-18
Colossians 1:13-20
Luke 23:27-43



November 27-Thanksgiving Eve:

Deuteronomy 8:1-10
Philippians 4:6-20
Luke 17:11-19



Healthy Families



Prior to the 1950s most American children grew up without many of the things they wanted. Because of this, most imagined what it might be like to someday struggle above their meager circumstances and "arrive" at a more comfortable standard of living. Getting a good education was seen as the primary vehicle for attaining this dream. Over the last five decades, the amount of unneeded stuff possessed by many American children has dramatically squelched this dreaming process. There's no need to dream or work toward things you already have.

In my book, *From Bad Grades to a Great Life*, I share the most important things we can do to prevent Affluence Distraction Disorder:

- Spend as much time as possible with our kids.
- Play with them.
- Listen to them.
- Comfort them when they are hurting.
- Rejoice with them when they are glad.
- Enjoy them with all of our hearts.
- Teach them to spend less than they make.
- Show them how to base their happiness on relationships not retail goods.



When children have parents who give the greatest gifts... their love and their time... they don't care as much about having lots of expensive stuff.

Church Bazaar!

Last chance to contribute to the church bazaar on November 9th! It's not too late to bake and/or make items for the bazaar. We need everyone to contribute so let's get busy and make it a success.

Attendance and Grace of Giving

DATE	COUNT	GRACE OF GIVING	
9/29/2013	88	General Fund	\$924.00
		Rental Fee	\$100.00
10/6/2013	89	General Fund	\$3533.00
		Relocation	\$10.00
10/13/2013	96	General Fund	\$2837.50
		Building Fund	250.00
		Relocation	\$10.00
10/20/2013	85	General Fund	\$1625.00

Family Night on Friday, November 15th



An "old" Peace tradition will be brought back to life. A Family/Game Night will be held at Peace on November 15th beginning at 6:00 pm. This will be an opportunity to get reacquainted with old friends and maybe make some new ones. Also.....we may be able to see just how good Wally is at pinochle. It will also be an opportunity to see how lucky your new pastor, Pastor Lucke, is at Yahtzee and other games. Be prepared to have fun! If you are planning on coming, please contact Pastor Lucke so that a fairly accurate count can be made for food. Pizza and beverage are provided. We hope to see you there!



Humor Corner

"Do you believe in life after death?" the boss asked one of his new employees.

"Yes, sir," the new employee replied.

"Well, then, that makes everything just fine," the boss went on. "After you left yesterday to go to your grandmother's funeral, she stopped in to see you!"



The Hand of God

Everyone needs someone to look up to, someone who lives the Christian life without drawing attention to themselves. That person for me was my dad. My grandmother taught him at a very young age to “walk the talk.” As a young boy, 12 or so, he would spend each night with an elderly woman down the street because she was widowed and afraid to sleep in an empty house. That kind of behavior continued throughout his life.

When I was growing up, his secretary at school had a husband who was completely paralyzed, but still had a sharp mind. My dad would do odd jobs for them as well as read to him for hours and help her lift him in and out of the bathtub. This went on for many years. After he died she became a part of our family, even opening Christmas gifts with us each year. My sister and I never thought much about it. It was just what he did. Throughout his life he devoted much of his free time to helping at the church and helping others.

He always taught my sister and I to “do the right thing” by example. One time he left a restaurant and got home and realized that the waitress had given him \$10 too much change. As he made ready to head back to the restaurant, my sister commented that it probably wouldn't hurt the restaurant to be out \$10. He proceeded to tell her that it was wrong to keep it and that the waitress would probably have that money taken from her earnings. He reminded her that the girl worked hard for very little wages. My sister never forgot the lesson.

When my dad began to have difficulties with his memory he went right in to the doctor to discover a diagnosis of Alzheimer's. He was devastated but faced it bravely. He got all of his affairs in order early on and made sure that I knew where everything was. As his disease progressed and I told him I thought he needed to stop driving, he stopped. People he had known for years would come to visit and he would tell them that he didn't have a clue who they were, but they sure seemed like a

nice person. Then he would laugh to put them at ease.

Toward the end of his life, when my mom could no longer care for him, he moved to a foster home with no distress. It was like he knew that he needed to be there for Mom.

My father was always very clear with Mom, my sister and I about what his wishes were about his end of life. He didn't want anything medically to prolong his life, and always communicated that to us long before his Alzheimer's diagnosis. When we could see that his quality of life was gone we met with his doctor and removed him from all medications except for those that would keep him comfortable. He deteriorated quickly, and within a couple of weeks went on hospice. When hospice came in and helped make him comfortable he quit eating and drinking.

I spent his last night with him and he was so peaceful. I prayed with him, read him the 23rd Psalm, and gave him permission to leave us. The next morning with all of my immediate family, his Pastor and assistant Pastor, we prayed over him thanking God for his life. As the prayer ended, he slipped away to join our Heavenly Father.

As soon as he died I felt an overwhelming sense that God had been leading us along this path to a peaceful ending. It had been nine years since his diagnosis but most of that time was good. It was only about two months that my mom was not able to care for him. He died on his 87th birthday and he and Mom had been married for 66 years. What a blessing to Mom to have him leave her in such a peaceful way with all of her family surrounding her! Once again he seemed to work with God and help orchestrate his passing in a way that would leave us feeling blessed.

I miss him everyday but I am thankful for the wonderful life he lived and the blessings and teachings that he brought to my life. I couldn't have had a better dad.

Thank you to all of you that have prayed, sent cards, and given me support over the last few weeks.

Sincerely, Kay Glathar