



Peace Progress

Peace Progress
Editor, Kay Glathar

March 2014

A Word from Our Pastor:

Dear Family of Peace,

Where does the Church go from here?

For a long time the Christian Church operated on “home turf”. It had the advantage of privileged status as large crowds would fill pews and take part in potlucks and Bible Studies. The Church stood as the center of the community. Even church activities like prayer and the reading of the Bible took center stage at civic events. Trust was given to the institution. Perhaps you remember these days.

Times have changed. The church seems to have lost its home-field advantage. The United States is now more known for its diversity than it is for its Christian heritage. The religious experience of many is varied today as Muslims roll out prayer mats, Buddhists engage in conversation and Atheists grab bestseller status. Trust in the institution has greatly been eroded. The Church is known more for its foibles and missteps than it is for its teachings or even its founder—Jesus. So.....I ask again, where does the Church go from here?

In this unsettling time, one strategy would be for the Church to separate itself from the world. It would probably be more comfortable to put on the “ear-

phones” and disengage from the noise going on around us. It would be equally comfortable too, to shout louder our message in hopes that it drowns out all the voices around. Under this strategy, the Church could be known for its critique of the world as it points out all the mistakes and problems of society. But....as comforting as that strategy may seem, it would fail to recognize the truth that God loves the world—sin, mistakes, corruption included. If God loves this world, the Church can’t simply write it off and position itself in an isolationist sort of way.

Another strategy would be for the Church to merge with the world. There is comfort here in this strategy too. Trying not to be seen as fanatical and sheltered, it would make sense for the Church and its members to intermingle with the world. Recent research has shown that perhaps many Christians have indeed taken the merger tactic. Non-Christians were recently asked how they perceived the lifestyles of their Christian friends. Only 15% of those surveyed saw any kind of difference in the way their Christian friends behaved or acted. Chances are—these Christian friends desired to be seen as normal. But as promising as this strategy seems to be, it fails to live up to the strong and repeated emphasis by Jesus that his followers

are “called out”, “the light of the world”, and “the salt of the earth”.

Where does the Church go from here?

I think there could be a third strategy. One in which the Church is both engaged with the world, yet faithful. The Church could be in the business of restoration—seeing the world not as it is, but rather, as it should be. With this understanding, the Church engages in building up community, bringing peace to broken relationships, giving hope to people who don’t see a future, and sharing that the world has value.

Don’t get me wrong—I would love to go back to the days when the Church had home-field advantage. But, the reality is that God has placed us in His beloved world for “such a time as this”. His desire is that we “bloom right where we are planted”.

I would like to hear from you about where you see the Church going from here. Your insights are always much appreciated and give me new perspective. Undoubtedly, this is a conversation that will continue for some time ahead.

A good place to continue this conversation will be during the Adult Bible Study lessons in Lent (Lent begins March 6 with Ash Wednes-



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day, first study will be March 9). We will be taking a look at the seven letters written to the seven churches in the book of Revelation. All of the churches mentioned in Revelation were real operating churches. None of these churches were perfect. God's challenge to each of them was to bloom even though they faced challenges. I think we will find some excellent guidance and hope as we study these churches and think about our own challenges and opportunities at Peace! The future looks great.

It is a great pleasure serving you at Peace. Know that I am available.

In Peace,
Pastor Lucke

Preparing for Worship

Scripture lessons for March:

March 2:

Exodus 24:8-18
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9

March 9:

Genesis 3:1-21
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

March 16:

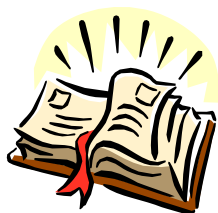
Genesis 12:1-9
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

March 23:

Exodus 17:1-7
Romans 5:1-8
John 4:5-26

March 30:

Isaiah 42:14-21
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39



Attendance and Grace of Giving

DATE	COUNT	GRACE OF GIVING	
1/26/2014	97	General Fund	\$1797.47
		Relocation	\$10.00
		Building	\$100.00
2/2/2014	77	General Fund	\$4646.66
2/9/2014	30	Snow Day ,No offering taken	
2/16/2014	88	General Fund	\$3447.68
		Building	\$100.00

Mustard Seed Devotions

If you have internet access and haven't signed up for the Mustard Seed Daily Devotions, you should try it. You can go to the LWML website and sign up to receive short devotions in your email box every morning. It's the way I start my day. Even if I don't have time to read all of my other email, I read it first. It is a great way to begin the day. You should try it!

Kay Glathar

Soup, Bread & Worship

As the season of Lent begins on March 5th, Ash Wednesday, so we begin our Lenten services beginning with a soup and bread dinner and fellowship at 6:00pm. Whether you bring soup or bread or not, all are welcome. It's a great way to have dinner, fellowship and then worship at 7:00pm.



If you would like to participate and don't drive at night or need a ride, please contact Pastor Lucke or one of the elders.

Ladies Guild

After being snowed out last meeting, Ladies Guild will be back in business on March 6th at 1:00. We look forward to helping with the community outreach that Pastor has been exploring. **ALL** women of the church are welcome to join us as we work toward sharing God's love in our community.



Healthy Families What's More Important: GPA or Character? *By Jim Fay*

Are you more interested in your child's grade point average or his or her character and sense of personal responsibility?

Give yourself a big pat on the back if you answered character and responsibility! Children who grow up in a home where character and responsibility are modeled, valued, and enforced often have little trouble being successful in school and in their adult lives.

Even so, many parents find themselves in situations where the answer seems less than obvious. I recently had a call from a parent who was concerned about her teenager's behavior. After some discussion, mom admitted the teen had stolen a credit card and purchased items through the Internet. However, mom's major concern was about her daughter lying about the purchases, not the criminal behavior itself.

Several times the mother said, "I just don't want her to have a record." In desperation, I finally asked, "Are you saying you don't mind that she is a criminal, as long as she doesn't look like a criminal?"

"Well, no," she replied. "But this is going to be so hard for her. What do I do?"

After spending more than 30 years as an educator and a parent, it was clear to me this mother needed to treat her teenager's mistake as an opportunity for her daughter to learn how to face the consequences of her choices. While it will cause some short-term pain, the long-term benefits will be a stronger, healthier sense of personal responsibility, the foundation of a solid character.

Of course, it's much easier to know what other parents should do about their misbehaving children. This mother is struggling with a trap many of us have fallen into. We love our children. When they are uncomfortable or hurting, we hurt even more. We want to protect them; it's only natural. However, our attempts to save children from the consequences of their mistakes have a great deal to do with comforting ourselves, instead of solving the problem.

Mom has fallen into another trap. She has bought into the belief that a child's self-concept is damaged when kids experience the consequences of their mistakes. Nothing could be further from reality. In fact, the opposite is true: Self-concept is reduced every time a parent excuses bad behavior.

The Love and Logic® philosophy gives us a great solution for this dilemma. There is a way of holding kids responsible for their actions without appearing mean or authoritarian. This wonderful technique leaves kids thinking, "My parent is not the problem. My problem is my bad decision."

Give children a heavy dose of empathy or compassion before laying down any punishment or logical consequences. This opens their minds and hearts to learn from their mistakes without blaming you. Then hold the line in a loving way to allow the consequences to teach an important life lesson.

In the case of the stolen credit cards, let's see how this teenager's mom might help her daughter face the natural consequences of making illegal purchases. Mom needs to resist the temptation to react in anger, which will only make her youngster defensive.

A Heavy Dose of Empathy

Mom: "Oh, sweetie, what a bummer. My heart goes out to you. What a problem. I bet you feel awful. Would it help if I went to the police with you and held your hand while you explain this?"

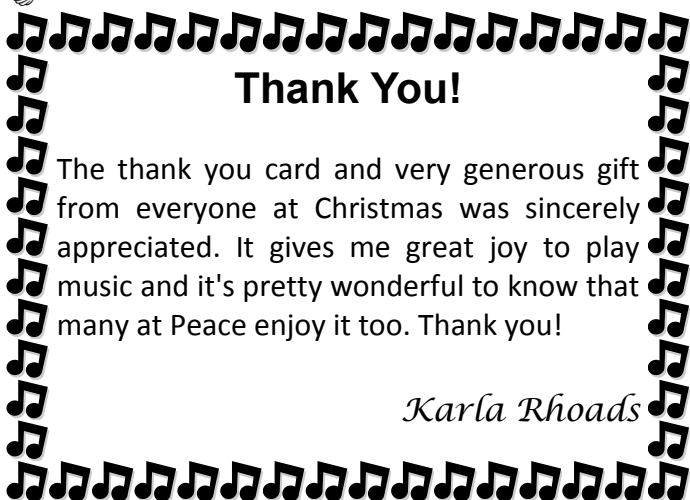
Daughter: "But, mom, it's not fair! Can't you just get me a lawyer?"

Hold the Line In a Loving Way

Mom: "Sweetie, I love you too much to let you pass up this opportunity to learn about how the real world works." (Mom needs to repeat this statement for each new argument the child tries.)

This is a sad story about a mother and a daughter who are paying a huge price. Neither of these people would be in this situation had mom started early handling the little problems and misbehaviors in this way.

Life provides a limited number of opportunities for children to build character and learn how the real world works. Make the most of them!



Thank You!

The thank you card and very generous gift from everyone at Christmas was sincerely appreciated. It gives me great joy to play music and it's pretty wonderful to know that many at Peace enjoy it too. Thank you!

Karla Rhoads

Men's Breakfast

March 1st is once again time for the First Saturday Men's Breakfast. Mark your calendar, and plan to attend. We begin at 8:15 with coffee and time to visit and then breakfast is served at 8:30. No special topic planned for this month. Bring your questions to stump the Pastor. The menu will be biscuits and gravy, with scramble eggs, bacon on the side. Please let Oscar Gutbrod know if you plan to attend so enough eggs are purchased! Do plan to come for breakfast and see whether we can break the attendance average of 16.



Phone Tree

Much of the daily correspondence of the church happens through email. Not all of our members have email, Facebook or smart phones. In order to keep everyone informed, a phone tree is being set up. If you would like to be on the list for a phone tree, please contact Elaine Schwartz.

With a phone tree, you usually only need to call one person. If you can't get in touch with the person that you are supposed to call, then you just leave a message and call the next person on the list. That way the tree keeps going and doesn't stop and everyone is informed. Please let Elaine know if you would like to be included ASAP. Thank you!

Humor Corner

Senior Version of Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me, this I know,
Though my hair is white as snow
Though my sight is growing dim,
Still He bids me trust in Him.
(CHORUS)

YES, JESUS LOVES ME
YES, JESUS LOVES ME
YES, JESUS LOVES ME
THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO.

Though my steps are oh, so slow,
With my hand in His I'll go
On through life, let come what may,
He'll be there to lead the way.

(CHORUS)

When the nights are dark and long,
In my heart He puts a song.
Telling me in words so clear,
"Have no fear, for I am near."

(CHORUS)

When my work on earth is done,
And life's victories have been won.
He will take me home above,
Then I'll understand His love.

(CHORUS)

I love Jesus, does He know?
Have I ever told Him so?
Jesus loves to hear me say,
That I love Him every day.

(CHORUS)

God Bless Us All!!!