



Peace Progress

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Editor, Kay Glathar

April 2015

A Word from Our Pastor:

Dear Family of Peace,

For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.

Living through times of transition is a part of life. Transition touches every age. The senior in high school cannot avoid it as adjustments and plans must be made. The young parent lives through change just barely hanging on for balance. Those in their golden years too are not immune to the changes that come.

Transitions can really be unsettling and therefore, cause us to overreact. The good Lutheran light bulb joke bears this out. How many Lutherans does it take to change a light bulb? Well..... first we need a committee to decide whether or not to change the light bulb. Then we need a committee to decide the process of changing the light bulb. And finally we need a committee to select the number of people to carry out said process of changing the light bulb. You get the picture.

Although unsettling, times of transition, when managed well, can be moments of great growth and transformation.

The Israelites were a people struggling with their present circumstances and the changes that

were coming their way in Jeremiah 29. Their present reality was Babylon. This was the place they were taken 70 years before by King Nebuchadnezzar. Having been forced from their homes, it would be easy to surmise that life was not all that great for the Israelites. But, actually it was. Babylon was a place that the Israelites prospered. Food was plenty. Safety was ensured. The city had infrastructure. The future was Jerusalem. God was promising to take the Israelites back to where they had come. Knowing that Jerusalem had been the home of their ancestors and cherished heritage, one might conclude that the people were excited. But, they actually were not. Jerusalem as they knew it was no more. Food was scarce. The walls had been torn down. Leadership certainly was not in place. Chaos would soon be greeting them.

At the point of transition, God spoke these words through Jeremiah to the people: "For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future." And God was truly with the Israelites as provisions were made, leadership was given and the walls were put back together.

From Jeremiah, we learn some helpful hints about how to manage our own transitions. It is so important to begin any transition

by **LETTING GO**. Letting go is not the same thing as forgetting—memories should be cherished. Letting go means loosening our grip on what was formerly very important. For Israel this meant letting go of the comfort and security that Babylon offered. For us it may mean that we need place to the side a time in our life, a relationship we highly prized, an object of our affection.

PRAYER through transition is also helpful. It is instructive to hear of Nehemiah's reaction to the transition back to Jerusalem. Receiving a dreadful report about the state of Jerusalem and the tiny remnant living in its shambles, Nehemiah was moved to prayer. His first reaction was to sit down, fast, and face the reality of the situation. One of our tendencies in the midst of transition is to hurry up the process and just simply move it along. I wonder how much more helpful would it be if time were given to face the realities of our circumstance and to cover the moment in prayer?

Transition can be an excellent time to ask the Lord for **NEW VISION**. God saw the potential of Jerusalem in the midst of the rubble. God knew that new leaders would rise up to the occasion. Unfortunately, it is not always clear for us to see the good that can come out of our messes. We simply must ask for that new vision



that understands that God's desire is always to prosper us.

It is a great joy of mine to pray for you. It is also a privilege to walk with you through your transitions. All can be managed—God is big enough. Let's talk. I am available.

In Peace,
Pastor Lucke

Family Game Night

This month we will be bringing back trivia for Game Night on Friday, April 17th at 6 pm. This time it will be team trivia. Come and enjoy time with your family at Peace and see if you can meet the challenge. Dinner will begin at 6 pm, pizza will be provided. Bring a side to share and a drink for yourself.



Easter Requests

In order to make our Easter worship more meaningful please assist with the following:

- Bring lilies for the altar on Easter Sunday
- Bring fresh flowers for the outside cross on Good Friday
- Bring plastic filled eggs for the Easter egg hunt
- Bring finger foods for fellowship after service

Preparing for Worship



Scripture lessons for April:

April 5:

Isaiah 25:6-9
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Mark 16:1-8

April 19:

Acts 3:11-21
1 John 3:1-7
Luke 24:36-49

April 12:

Acts 4:32-35
1 John 1:1-2:2
John 20:19-31

April 26:

Acts 4:1-12
1 John 3:16-24
John 10-18

Camp Lutherwood Fundraiser

The baked potato bar fundraiser for Camp Lutherwood was a success. Donations of \$421.00 were collected and sent to the camp. A big thank you to everyone who helped fund this worthy cause.

If you have never looked at the camp's website, take a look at www.lutherwoodoregon.org. There are many church camp opportunities for this summer as well as leadership positions.

There are also spring volunteer work day opportunities available for anyone wanting to help get the camp ready for the summer. The next ones coming up are May 2, May 23 and June 6. See Pastor Lucke or Kay Glathar for more information.

To Our Wonderful Church Family - THANK YOU!

Garth and I have been so blessed to be among you. You took us in from our first "visit" with you and have never let go. You have held our family up through two broken hips as well as many other crises, disasters, and blessings. We have been privileged to celebrate anniversaries and birthdays as well as tears and laughter.

Thank you so much for all the prayers, the cards, the visits, and calls through all our years here and especially now. Your friendship, care, and support have been, and remain, a blessing to me and all the family. Thank you for truly representing the hands of Christ.

Jan Skaar, Brian Skaar, Vicki Guenther and families

Attendance and Grace of Giving

DATE	COUNT	GRACE OF GIVING	
02/22/2015	113	Offering	\$1,542.00
03/01/2015	104	Offering	\$5,836.00
03/08/2015	110	Offering	\$4,470.00
03/15/2015	103	Offering	\$3,189.00
03/22/2015	100	Offering	\$1,324.00



Teach Your Kids to Handle Life's Conflicts *By Jim Fay*

With some simple tips from the Love and Logic Institute, parents can give their kids powerful skills for turning disagreements and conflicts into win-win solutions. All relationships experience conflict. People who understand this...and know how to maintain friendships in the face of friction...enjoy a lifetime of happiness. Those who lack these skills struggle through a life filled with broken relationships and divorce. Apply the following tips, and give your kids the skills they deserve:

Tip #1: Remember that children learn the most about relationships by observing how we handle ours.

How parents handle conflicts in their marriage is typically how their children will handle conflicts in their friendships and future marriages. What we do in front of our kids is far more powerful than how we tell them to live their lives.

Tip #2: Don't make the mistake of trying to create a conflict-free family.

There's no doubt that kids suffer tremendously when they see their parents yell, argue and fight. It's never helpful for children to witness this type of behavior.

It's also unhealthy for kids to see their parents stuff their emotions and try to pretend that nothing is wrong. This sends the unhealthy message that problems are to be avoided rather than solved. Children are incredibly sensitive to unspoken tension, and they suffer great anxiety when their parents try to hide conflicts that need to be addressed.

Tip #3: Have some healthy disagreements or conflicts in front of your kids.

Children need to see their parents disagreeing, expressing their emotions in assertive ways, and tackling conflicts head on. It's healthy for kids to hear parents say things like, "It makes me mad when I try to use the car and it has no gas" or "It's frustrating to me when it doesn't seem like you are listening to me."

Tip #4: Use the lingo of problem-solving and compromise.

Children also need to hear us saying things like, "How can we solve this problem?" "Let's compromise." "I'm sorry that I hurt your feelings" "Here are some possible solutions..."

Tip #5: Use commonsense about what you discuss in front of your kids.

Wise parents discuss very sensitive topics only when and their children cannot hear. One mother remarked, "I realize now that my husband and I were actually making it harder for our kids to have happy relationships. By trying to keep all of our disagreements a secret, we were robbing them of opportunities to see how problems can be solved. We were also creating a lot of unspoken tension that was draining the life out of our marriage."

She continued, "After following the tips you suggested, I witnessed our six-year-old arguing over a toy. I could hardly stop giggling when I heard him say, 'How can we solve this problem? Let's play something else.' That sure beats the whining contests I used to hear!"

Get started with Love and Logic today...and enjoy happier and more responsible kids tomorrow!

No Men's Breakfast this Month

Men's Alert!! **No men's breakfast in April** due to Easter Week. Plan to attend, and invite others to attend the seminar, Resolving Conflicts God's Way, next Saturday given by Bill Graybill, 9:00 - noon.

Thank You!

Thank you so very much for the gift certificate to Shonnards; I love gardening, so your gift is perfect! It has been my pleasure to serve you as Sunday School Superintendent for many years, and it has been my way to serve our Lord and Savior. The members of Peace are truly a family, and the support of each of you to me personally and as Sunday School Superintendent has made a huge difference. Every time I asked, you were all willing to help; so thank you for making my job easy!

Sincerely, Sally Stouder