Peace Progress

Editor, Kay Glathar

January 2016

A Word from Our Pastor:

Dear Peace Family,

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit.

By our back patio we have two honeysuckle plants growing. They have greatly benefited from the rain this last month. Both plants are growing wildly in ways that I would not have expected. It brings me joy to look out the window and see new growth flourishing.

As we turn the corner to 2016 and consider the ministry opportunities at Peace, I would like for us to consider Jesus' words from John 15:5, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit." Jesus is the one who feeds us and gives us what we need in this life. God's Word encourages us. The sacraments Jesus instituted strengthen us for each day. Our fellowship together keeps us productive.

Connecting to the Vine. There was a small part of the one of the honeysuckles that broke off from the vine when I was first planting. Little could be done. It is vital that we not allow a similar thing to happen to us in our connection to Jesus. Jesus is what makes Peace what it is! Jesus holds us all together and provides for each one of us in unique ways. Jesus' presence in our worship, prayers and conversations forms us into the people we need to be.

Working together. Someone recently said in a meeting, "Peace has been growing too fast!" We have seen an increase in worship attendance. New members have joined. More people are willing to volunteer and contribute their time. Each week I am surprised by the spiritual growth of new and old alike. Growth has come because you have been willing to extend the Peace family out into the community. Praise the Lord!
But with growth comes new challenges. It can be more challenging to experience the close knit family. It can feel awkward walking into the sanctuary and someone has taken your spot! It can be little more challenging connecting with everyone that we normally do.

If you are feeling awkward, I would encourage you to find a small group. We are going to work on making small groups more of an emphasis this year. Also, commit to working together. Find someone that you can connect with and enjoy a project together.

Bearing Fruit. Nothing gives me more joy than seeing fruit produced. Fruit is not necessary for someone's salvation, but it is a sign of a person's connection to Jesus. The generosity and connection to the community showed a tight connection to Jesus last year. Highlights include food to the Food Bank, hygiene donated for Holiday Cheer, our very first blood drive, gifts purchased for Vina Moses, special chairs for the Philomath Schools, and increased giving for our partner ministries! It will be important to maintain and improve this next year!

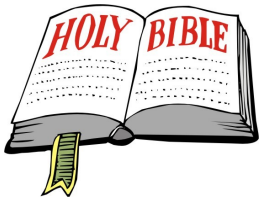
I enjoy the close connection I can have with you. Know that I am available. You can find me in my office Tuesday through Friday each week from 9:00 to 12:00. If that doesn't work for you, call me up and we can schedule a time for me to come to you.

God's blessings in the New Year! Thank you for calling me to be your pastor! May the Lord continue to bless our growing together.

In Jesus,

Pastor Lucke

Preparing for Worship



Scripture lessons for January:

January 3:
1 Kings 2:1-4
Luke 3:1-3

Read the Chapter "The King Who Had It All" of **The Story** (Chapter 14). As you read…….This chapter is full of stories of conflict. Do you tend to avoid conflict, provoke it, or address it head on? What lessons about conflict and conflict resolution can you learn from the stories of this chapter?

January 10:
1 Kings 12:1-11
Luke 2:25-35

Read the Chapter "A Kingdom Torn in Two" of **The Story** (Chapter 15). As you read……When Elijah fled from Jezebel, he prayed, "I have had enough Lord. Take my life." Who do you know that could be experiencing similar despair? What can you do to help? Or what can you do to seek help if this person is you?

January 17:
1 Kings 17:8-16
Luke 9:18-20

Read the Chapter "God's Messengers" of **The Story** (Chapter 16). As you read…….The reigns of King Hezekiah and Hoshea overlapped for about six years. Which King trusted God to be provider and protector for him and his people? Which king was stuck in the ways of the world? What was the result?

January 24:
Isaiah 53:6-11
John 1:29-34

As you read…….God told Ezekiel: "You must speak my words to them, whether they listen or fail to listen, for they are rebellious." Have you ever been fearful to speak the truth, but felt compelled to do so? Did you follow through? What were the results?

January 31:
Jeremiah 21:8-14
Matthew 23:37

Read the Chapter "The Kingdom's Fall" of **The Story** (Chapter 18). As you read……Compare the life of Daniel with Joseph. Do you view difficulties the way they did? Why or why not? When have you grown stronger in faith during a time of trial?

Men's Breakfast:

Start the New Year by joining the men for Saturday Men's Breakfast, January 2, 2016. Join us at 8:15 for bacon, eggs, toast, coffee and fellowship.

Tables of Peace

Tables of Peace groups have been formed. Group hosts will be contacting group members about a gathering time and meal assignments. Please be patient as the leaders check their schedules.

Attendance and Grace of Giving

DATE	COUNT	GRACE OF GIVING	
11/22/2015	117	Offering	$2,138
11/29/2015	112	Offering	$1,881
12/06/2015	115	Offering	$4,658
12/13/2015	139	Offering	$2,758
12/20/2015	106	Offering	$1,644

Birthday/Anniversary Updates

As the New Year begins, I would like to update my records for birthdays and anniversaries. I have posted a list of all the birthdays and anniversaries that I have on the bulletin board in the hallway on the way to the Fellowship Hall. Please check the list and see if your birthday/anniversary is there and if it is correct. If you have corrections, please send me an email at kayglathar@comcast.net or put a note in my box and I will try and update my list. If you just tell me, I probably won't remember, so please put it in writing.

Additionally, if you only want your newsletter online (not a printed copy), and are still getting a printed copy, let me know and I will change my spreadsheet. Thank you for your patience with me.

Kay Glathar

Bazaar Was a Success!

We would like to thank everyone who helped with the Ladies Guild Bazaar from donations to all of the people who helped set up, take down, and work during the day. Our new feature, The Cookie Corner, was very popular with all of the cookies getting sold. To our pleasant surprise, the Fellowship Hall was packed by about 9:05! It appeared that all who attended had a wonderful time and we had many repeat customers from the year before. What a great opportunity to bring our members together with our community!

We took in over $5,000. These monies will help us provide for Feed My Starving Children and other local charities as well as helping our Seminarian.

Again, thank you to every single person that helped make this event a success. We couldn't have done it without so many people contributing their time and talents.

Sincerely,

Kay Glathar and Elaine Schwartz, co-chairs

GOSPEL & PIZZA

- Date: Friday, January 8th, 2016
- Location: At Peace Lutheran Church in Philomath
- Time: Pizza starts at 6pm, the singing starts at 6:30

All are welcome! Come and join us for some old-time hymn singing, food and fel-

FAMILYLIFE® presents- - - -

I still Do®

A SIMULCAST EVENT

JOIN US FOR A ONE-DAY MARRIAGE-CHANGING EVENT

- Peace Lutheran Church
- Saturday, Feb. 13, 2016
- 9:00-5:00
- Open to all community couples