



Peace Progress

Editor, Kay Glathar

May 2016

A Word from Our Pastor:

Dear Friends,

Your story matters and it is important to share.

I have found that one of the best opportunities to share our personal stories is at Tables of Peace. Tables of Peace is a gathering of six to nine members of the Peace family who enjoy a meal together and then share in a brief Bible study. By the end of the gathering it is not surprising that people say things like this: "I never knew that about her!" At the last gathering I attended, someone made the comment, "I am really going to have to get to know more about them."

The better we know each other, the more connected we become as a church family. For this reason, I am happy to share with you that Peace will be expanding Tables of Peace this summer. Instead of meeting once over the summer, we will be meeting once each month in an attempt to bind us together even more.

It is understandable why one would be so reticent to share of their past. Embarrassing mistakes. Shyness. A need to keep things private. Regrets about how things were handled. A desire to be anonymous. My guess is that more and more people today are bottling up what happened many, many years ago.

It was not this way with the Apostle Paul. Paul quickly related his past—both the good and the bad. He writes about his accomplished past: "I was circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless (Philippians 3:4-6)." With the same intensity, Paul shares his failures. In I Timothy he describes himself as chief of sinners: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst (I Timothy 1:15-16)."

Paul was able to do something that very few people practice today. He was able to look at all of his past—including the sins and failures—and see that God was at work in shaping him into the person he would become. He saw his past not as an excuse for fruitless living in the present. Rather, he was able to see God's hand at work in everything—even sins—so that he could live with a passion for today. When a person lives this way, there is no need to be shy! They share openly.

Every person's story—the accomplishments and the failures—is important. God is at work in both.

As we prepare for our first Tables of Peace gathering, I would like for you to think about these important aspects of your past:

- ◆ Family heritage and relatives
- ◆ Friends and associates
- ◆ Historical events surrounding the time of your life
- ◆ Personality traits
- ◆ Birth order and siblings
- ◆ Language and education
- ◆ Strengths and weaknesses
- ◆ Abilities and vulnerabilities
- ◆ Mistakes and failures

Could it be that God was at work shaping and forming you in your past? I think so. That is what makes you special! Keep sharing those stories.

I look forward to sharing time this summer! Be looking for the Tables of Peace sign up on the bulletin board in May and choose to participate.

God's Peace,

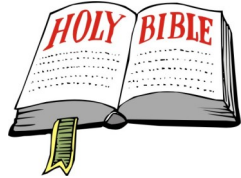


Pastor J



Preparing for Worship

Scripture lessons for May:



May 1:

1Corinthians 13:1-7 and Mark 1:9-22. Read Chapter 23 in **The Story**.

Thought for Worship: Nicodemus gets caught up in technical language, yet with very simple words Jesus unfolds to him the deep wonders of God’s Kingdom. What tiny technical religious things have been stumbling blocks to you experiencing the simple yet profound wonder of life with God?

May 8:

Psalms 100:1-5 and Mark 4:35-41. Read Chapter 24 in **The Story**.

Thought for Worship: Review the story of the soils (page 335-336). At what points in your life has your faith been each kind of soil?

May 15:

2 Peter 1:16-21 and John 8:51-59. Read Chapter 25 in **The Story**.

Thought for Worship: Why did Jesus delay in going to see Mary and Martha when Lazarus was sick? What does this tell you about God’s timing and our ability to understand it? Does this relieve or intensify your own anxieties and concerns?

May 22:

Lamentations 3:1-9 and John 19:38-42. Read Chapter 26 in **The Story**.

Thought for Worship: Describe Peter’s volatile relationship with Jesus. What lessons from him can you apply in your own relationship with the Lord?

May 29:

Exodus 12:1-14 and John 20:19-23. Read Chapter 27 from **The Story**.

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Thought for Worship: Thomas is frequently referred to as “doubting Thomas” because he refused to believe in his fellow disciples’ testimony. Then, a week after the resurrection, he confesses, “My Lord and my God!” Do you think Thomas’ reputation is justified, or do you think he has

Camp Lutherwood Cleanup

Come and spend a Saturday together in the sun! Peace is putting together a work crew to help at Camp Lutherwood on Saturday, May 14th from 9 am to 3 pm. Lunch and snacks are provided. What needs to be done? Piles of dirt need to be raked/planted with grass seed. Gutters cleaned out around the lodge. Tables and benches taken out of storage. Branch removal from trails. Plant flowers. All you need are clothes that you don’t mind getting dirty, sturdy work boots, and work gloves. Let Pastor or Art Labahn know if you would like to help.

Bring Your Bottles to Peace

Brian, Callie and Caleb Santora (members of Shepherd of the Valley, Corvallis) have announced that they have decided to extend their family by adopting an infant. With the high cost of adoption, the Santora’s are asking for our help. They are desiring our bottles and cans for recycling. Call Callie at 541-220-8425 if you have any questions. The bottles and cans can be placed behind the shed by the garbage cans.

Attendance and Grace of Giving

DATE	COUNT	GRACE OF GIVING	
3/20/2016	130	Offering	\$1,678
3/27/2016	168	Offering	\$1,829
4/03/2016	101	Offering	\$4,254
4/10/2016	117	Offering	\$2,372



Why Do We Do That?

Each week at Peace we say a creed. What exactly is a creed? Is this some weird practice used in the Lutheran Church? Why is this important?

A Creed is simply a statement of belief. The word creed comes from the Latin word *credo*, which literally translates into English, "I believe". Creeds are helpful because they clarify for everyone in attendance what the church holds dearest to its heart and believes.

It is becoming more and more difficult today to tell exactly what churches believe as creeds are rarely spoken. The pastor may make a point in his message. A song may make a statement. A bulletin may provide a clue about what is happening. But, in general, without a statement of belief, a visitor can have a difficult time understanding what exactly is believed.

The family of Peace has chosen to state one of the Christian Creeds (Apostles' and Nicene) each week for this reason: We desire to clearly state what we hold to be dear in our hearts. A creed does not have to exactly follow the formula of the Apostles' or Nicene Creeds, but it must be said that each does an excellent job in succinctly stating Christian belief. These Creeds were not developed by Lutherans, but were merely affirmed by them. Historical evidence shows that the Apostles' and Nicene Creed were spoken in worship settings in the fourth century AD. You can take comfort knowing that what you are believing and saying today in the creeds is exactly what Christians were believing and saying shortly after Jesus lived.

Let me know if you have specific questions about the wording of our creeds. Each word is carefully chosen and purposeful in relating who God is. To put it simply, God creates through the Father, God redeems through the Son, and God now guides us through the Holy Spirit.

Pastor

Our Parish Nurse

I am the volunteer parish nurse for Peace Lutheran Church. After having worked as a nurse in Home Care for many years, I moved to Corvallis. As I became acquainted with the people of the congregation, I heard of the occasional health problems people were experiencing. It became evident to me that a nurse might be of some help with these medical health issues, therefore, I volunteered to be that nurse. The experience has been, and is extremely rewarding, challenging and humbling. I thank God for allowing me to be of assistance and help to this congregation.

I am available for general medical questions, guidance and evaluations. Please feel free to contact me with your questions.



My phone number is: (542)207-3410.

Peace and good health to you,

Gayle Taylor

Facts About Feed My Starving Children

- More than 90% of total donations goes directly toward feeding kids. This ratio includes the value of volunteer labor.
- More than 99% of meals shipped reach their intended destination.
- Each meal costs less than 25 cents to make. Just \$80 feeds a child for a year.
- Feed My Starving Children is in the top 1% of over 8,000 nationally rated charities for integrity and trustworthiness.
- The scientifically developed and easy-to-prepare food blends are designed to meet the needs of severely malnourished children.

"The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor."

Proverbs 22:9