



Peace Progress

Editor, Kay Glathar

November 2015

A Word from Our Pastor:

Dear Peace Family,

Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. Luke 2:19

Dear Peace family,

My favorite words of the Christmas story are these words that describe Mary's response when she first heard about God's plans. I imagine Mary was so captivated by the angel's words that she chose to look at the world in a whole new way. This would be the defining moment in Mary's life.

I would like for you to think about a few questions. Are Christmas and the Christmas story a defining moment for your life, like it was for Mary? Does Jesus' birth change how you see others? Is Christmas just one part of the year like all the others? Has Christmas become ordinary and routine?

I am sure that you have noticed the subtle and not so subtle changes that have happened during your life. Unfortunately, Christmas has become something that it was never meant to be. Shopping begins with a flurry on Black Friday. I stand correct—shopping begins on Thanksgiving Day night. The story of Christmas has much to do with elves,

boxes, flying reindeer and cookies than it does with wise men, shepherds, and Jesus' birth. It is unsettling to think about some of these changes.

I am proposing that we re-imagine Christmas. Advent is that special time in the church year that is set aside to do just that. My hope is that by the time Christmas comes, these words would be said about us: They treasured all these things and pondered them in their heart. Call it a conspiracy—the Advent Conspiracy. Each week leading up to Christmas we will be reimagining Christmas in new ways.

Week 1 November 29th Worship Fully

The Christmas story starts and ends with Jesus. This should be a season where we are called to put down our burdens and lift up a song to our God. This is a season where love wins, peace reigns and king is born. We enter the season with passion as we seek to worship Jesus to the fullest.

Week 2 December 6th Spend Less

Quick question: What was the one gift you remember getting for Christmas last year? Next question: What about the fourth gift? Do you remember that one? Spending less is not a call to stop giving gifts; it is a call to stop spending money on gifts we will not remember in less than a year.

By spending wisely we free ourselves from worry so that we can take the season in with a full heart.

Week 3 December 13th Children and Youth Christmas program and Give More

What gives.....you just said spend less, and now you're saying give more? The most powerful, memorable gift you can give someone else is yourself. Nobody modelled this better than Jesus. When it comes to spending time with those you love, it is about quality, not quantity.

Week 4 December 20th Love All

Love from a Savior empowers us to love all. It is not enough to say "no" to the way Christmas is celebrated by so many, we need to say "yes" to a new way. We celebrate by giving to those who really need our help.



May Jesus' birth bring you strength and joy this year. I look forward to walking with you through this Advent journey.

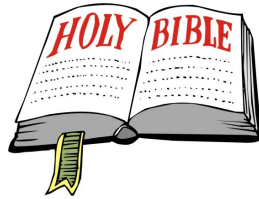
It is a great pleasure of mine to serve you as pastor!

In God's Peace,
Pastor Lucke



Preparing for Worship

Scripture lessons for November:



November 1:

Judges 4:4-9
Luke 8:1-3

Read the chapter "A Few Good Men....and Women" of **The Story** (pages 103-119). Question for consideration: Do you think the Israelites did a good job of passing on their faith to the next generation? How can we do this better in the church and in our own families?

November 8:

Ruth 1:6-18
John 9:1-3

Read the chapter "The Faith of a Foreign Woman" of **The Story** (pages 121-127). Question for consideration: Meanings of Biblical names are always significant. Elimilek's name meant "God is my king". Naomi's name meant "my pleasantness", but later asked to be called Mara, meaning "bitterness". Ruth's name meant "friendship". Boaz's name meant "swift strength". Who best lived up to their names and who did not?

November 15:

1 Samuel 12:20-25
Matthew 22:41-46

Read the chapter "Standing Tall Falling Hard" of **The Story** (pages 129-143). Question for consideration: The Israelites and Philistines both treated the Ark of the Covenant more like a good luck charm than the sacred presence of the Lord. How might people today try to manipulate God for similar gain?

November 22:

1 Samuel 17:41-50
John 14:9-14

Read the chapter "From Shepherd to King" of **The Story**. Question for consideration: In his battle with Goliath, "David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him". When have you had the courage to face down and impending conflict?

November 29: Advent 1: Worship Fully

Jeremiah 33:14-16
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 19:28-40

Men's Breakfast:

Mark your calendar for November 7th, time for the Men's First Saturday Breakfast. I see many new faces attending worship service lately. Let's extend an invitation to these new fellows to join our breakfast. Ellen Holroyd has agreed to prepare her famous and excellent biscuit and gravy for that morning. Remember coffee on at 8:15 and breakfast served at 8:30, with a discussion topic from 9 – 10. Questions check with Oscar Gutbrod 541-231-3954.

Thank You!

We are three weeks out and Jim continues to improve each day. This is a process of baby steps. Thank you for all the prayers, visits, and beautiful cards of encouragement. We are very "Blessed" to have such a special church family.

Thank you, Lynn & Jim Reams."

Attendance and Grace of Giving

DATE	COUNT	GRACE OF GIVING	
09/20/2015	120	Offering	\$1,895
09/27/2015	109	Offering	\$1,774
10/04/2015	111	Offering	\$4,792
10/11/2015	102	Offering	\$1,989



Patio Project

The patio project is off to a good start. With some pre-planning we were able to schedule work to be done in anticipation of a favorable vote to proceed with the project. Fortunately, we did not need to cancel these plans. We were able to beat the rain and get most of the heavy work done before things got too muddy. Posts for the gazebo have been placed and we plan to tie the posts together with top beams. The roof will have to wait until spring. We need to route some conduits for electrical and pipes for water but the gravel is compacted and in place and is ready for concrete. There are still a few design details to be worked out so the patio committee will continue to meet to work out more details. If you have feedback for the patio committee; Members include Walt Held, John Leach, Carole Gutbrod, Carla Rhodes, Karen Motlok, Jim Reams, Jan Lane, and Bob Glathar.



The Patio Project, October 18, 2015.

Thanksgiving Eve Service

Nothing we have is really ours. It is all a gift. In a world that tells us that we can provide for ourselves and challenges us to take control of our lives, it's humbling and difficult to grasp the truth that food, clothing, home, family, work and all that we need come to us as a gift. These gifts are given to those who say "thanks" and those who do not. We want to be a family of faith that says, "Yes, Lord, we are thankful for all that you have done for us!" Come and join your Peace family as we celebrate Thanksgiving together on Wednesday, November 25th at 7 pm. And as you plan for your Thanksgiving Day meal, buy extra food for the Philomath Food Bank. You can drop off your food in the bin located next to the sanctuary double doors.



Harvest Bazaar

Ladies Guild is looking forward to having everyone join us for a fun-filled harvest bazaar this year on November 14th from 9:00-3:00. There will be three main areas of opportunities to shop. The majority of the fellowship hall will be filled with crafts and baked goods; one area will be "The Cookie Jar" for choosing a selection of homemade cookies; and the third area will be "Grandma's Attic," a Sunday school room set aside for "gently used" items.

Here are some specifics:

- ◆ We **will** be taking credit cards this year.
- ◆ All items for sale (except for freshly baked items) should be delivered by Friday noon to allow for pricing.
- ◆ Baked items should be delivered on Saturday between 8:00 A.M. and 8:30 A.M.
- ◆ There will be **NO SALES BEFORE 9:00 A.M.** and that includes people working on the sale.
- ◆ All items will be marked full price on the Sunday following the bazaar. After that the donator can either allow the item to be sold for 1/2 price or choose to take it home.
- ◆ Proceeds will go to Feed My Starving Children and local charities.

Fall Bazaar, November 14, PLC Fellowship Hall



A Stubborn Calf's Psalm 23

The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall want my own way. He will make me lie down in green pastures, but I will keep getting up and wandering off to eat dead grass. He'll pull me to quiet waters, but I will refuse to drink. He ends up dragging me along right paths and I dig my heels in the whole way. So, when I end up in a dark valley, I am absolutely terrified because I am not sure He is with me. I think He is, but I am so self-absorbed that all I can see is the dark. His rod and staff don't comfort me; they drive me crazy



and I resent them. He prepares a table before me, but I clamp my jaws and refuse to eat. He anoints my head with oil and I buck and kick the whole time. My cup would overflow if I would just be still, but I am bent on my own way. Amazingly, His goodness and mercy still follow me all

the days of my stiff-necked life and despite myself, I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever...but, by golly, I will choose my own room!

From Jennifer Rothschild's Hosea bible study workbook.

Tables of Peace

Tables of Peace groups are being organized right now. The plan is to have them ready by the first Sunday in November. If you have signed up to be part of a group you will be notified by your group leader and your group will decide when you will meet. Each group is expected to meet for a potluck dinner once

within the next three months. If you forgot to sign up and still wish to join a group, see Kay Glathar or Pastor Lucke.



Christmas Program Practices Come One, Come All!

It's already that time of year! Time for all children to join together to begin practice for our Christmas Program at Peace. The Sunday School teachers are excited to get started and to assign each person their part in "The Christmas Story."

Practices are every Sunday during Sunday School except for the day of the program when practice starts at 9:30 a.m. sharp (in costume) with no opening that day.

Practices are as follows:

- Nov. 8
- Nov. 15
- Nov. 22
- Nov. 29
- Dec. 6--Costumes
- December 13--9:30 a.m. sharp!--Dress Rehearsal during Sunday School--Presentation of "The Christmas Story" at 11 a.m.

Each student needs to be at all the practices if possible as it leaves a big hole if someone is gone. Our program is always a highlight of the church year that everyone looks forward to. Join in!



Life After Death

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

"Yes, Sir," the new employee replied.

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