



Peace Progress

Editor, Kay Glathar

December 2015

A Word from Our Pastor:

Dear Peace Family,

I pray that God's peace be with you and your family this Christmas!

It is hard to believe that any kind of peace can come in light of the reports that we hear. As I am writing this newsletter article, news is being reported about the terrorist attacks in Paris. Can anyone feel safe and sure of their surroundings anymore? The conflict is not just located in Paris—it is here too. The front page article of the Gazette Times this morning (November 18th) relates that many people posted racially insensitive comments at a discussion at Oregon State. The sad reality is this: Those who harbor hatred and those who enjoy bullying others live in our own neighborhoods.

What are we to do? Here are some helpful suggestions as you look forward to Christmas.

Don't Panic. The truth is that our Lord Jesus was born into violent of times. Matthew's gospel captures the madness of the times well:

"An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child and kill him (Matthew 2:13-14)."

Insecurity and fear were prime motivators for Herod. Anyone who might have been a threat to his rule were dealt a harsh death sentence—including baby boys. What does it say to us that Jesus was born into such a situation?

Contribute Positively. The easy way to handle all of the negativity is to rant. I often like to rant myself because it takes little effort and brings such quick relief. But.....I challenge us to move beyond quick statements of anger and choose the narrow path of peacemaking. Few choose it. How can we contribute positively this Christmas to a conflict in life or in our community? Here are some suggestions:

- Intentionally connect with someone you are at odds with. Go to Imagine Coffee with them to listen to Bryson play on Monday nights and talk!
- Contribute to Holiday Cheer (see information in this newsletter). Serve at June's Kids Kloset. Work as a family to contribute for a needy family through Vina Moses. Find another opportunity in the community to use your energy for something positive!

Trust that it will be Fixed. It is a true story that many British and German soldiers ceased fire during the week leading up to the Christmas of 1914 in World War I. Some exchanged cigarettes, others

traded food—many sang Silent Night. These pleasantries, though, only lasted a year as in 1915 fraternizing with the enemy was forbidden. With increasing bitterness and human loss due to poison gas, the two sides never came back together for Christmas—a sad reminder that no human being or group of human beings can guarantee peace.

That is why we need Jesus. Jesus can and will bring peace. Only through Jesus will the craziness and madness end.

The baby born in the manger was born in somewhat similar circumstances to what many are experiencing today in the Middle East. Jesus was forced to flee his home. The important lesson to be learned is this: Jesus did not operate with negative energy and coercive power, he gently moved people forward toward peace with God.

Jesus will put things back together the way they should be. I hope this Christmas you are comforted by this truth!

I am thankful to be your pastor as we share this ministry together at Peace and in our community!

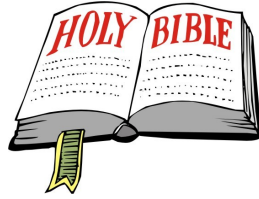
In the Peace of the Lord,

Pastor Lucke



Preparing for Worship

Scripture lessons for December:



December 6:

“Spend Less”

Malachi 3:1-7

Phillippians 1:2-11

Luke 3:1-14

December 13:

Christmas Program led by our Youth

December 20:

Micah 5:2-5

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-45

December 27:

Chapter 12 of **The Story**: “The Trials of a King”

Psalm 32

Matthew 23:8-12

As you prepare for worship this Sunday, read chapter 12 (pages 161 to 173) and consider these questions:

- Psalm 32 describes what David felt before and after his confession. If all our sins were forgiven by Christ dying on the cross, then what value does confession have today? Why is it so important?
- How did the people feel about giving to the work of the temple that Solomon would build? Why

Men’s Breakfast:

Mark your calendar for December 5th, time for the Men’s First Saturday Breakfast. There will be a special topic this time, with someone preparing to be a missionary to the Muslim population and a move to North Africa. Come and hear this talk, there will be time for questions. Remember coffee on at 8:15 and breakfast at 8:30. Topic and discussion begins at 9 – 10. Bring a friend. As usual the egg counter would appreciate whether you plan to attend. Thanks. Oscar Gutbrod



Tree Decorating

It is now a Peace family tradition! On Friday, December 11th we will be gathering together at Peace to decorate the Christmas tree. We will start with dinner at 6 pm—bring a side dish and a drink as pizza will be provided. After dinner, we will start on the tree. Many hands make light work. And the best news.....hot chocolate and cookies will be served as we work! Hope to see you there.



Bling Thanks!

Peace family:

A quick note of sparkling THANKS to those who contributed to the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program's Bling! fundraiser last month. We were able to sell the gently used jewelry, scarves and purses to raise over \$2200 for local senior programming! Your generosity and support to our communities is very appreciated!

Blessings, Alicia

Attendance and Grace of Giving

DATE	COUNT	GRACE OF GIVING	
10/18/2015	111	Offering	\$1,762
10/25/2015	120	Offering	\$1,580
11/01/2015	96	Offering	\$3,730
11/8/2015	119	Offering	\$3,361
11/15/2015	120	Offering	\$1,387



Philomath Community Services
P.O. Box 1334
360 S. 9th Street
Philomath, Oregon 97370
541-929-2499
www.philomathcommunityservices.org



October 15, 2015

Dear Church Leader,

Through its Holiday Cheer program, Philomath Community Services (PCS) provides hygiene baskets and gifts for children aged 0-18 years to families in need. We are asking if your congregation would be willing and able to 1) donate items to complete 1 or 2 hygiene baskets and or 2) “adopt” a family by purchasing gifts for children. Per child the gifts should total about \$75. We would provide a list of needs and wants – you would determine the number of children you would provide for. All items should be new and unwrapped. Someone from Holiday Cheer would collect the items from you the week of December 7.

Hygiene basket contents:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 – sturdy laundry basket | 1 – liquid laundry detergent |
| 1 – dish soap (sink not machine) | 2 – hand soap (bar) |
| 1 – hair shampoo | 1 – hair conditioner |
| 1 – hand lotion | 1 – toothpaste |
| 1 – dental floss | 4 – toothbrushes |
| 2 – men’s deodorant | 2 – women’s deodorant |
| 1 – pack razors (dozen) | 1 – pack toilet paper (6 rolls) |
| 2 – roll paper towels | |

Thank you for your consideration to this request. PCS is grateful for any donations your organization is able to provide.

Sincerely,
Chris Beeton
(541)929-7173 [home]
cenb@copper.net



Lucke Open House

All are welcome for the Lucke's open house on Saturday, December 19th from 3 to 6 pm. No need to bring any food, we just want you to come as you are! Our address is 6257 SW Trellis Dr., Corvallis, OR. The simplest way to our house is to go north on 53rd from Philomath Boulevard. Turn left at the roundabout onto West Hills Road. Take a right onto SW Grand Oaks Drive and then a right on SW Trellis Drive. We are on the left hand side just past the park.

Patio Project Update

Good news....E.D. Hughes construction has effectively donated half of their fee for the excavation and gravel. The bill was reduced by about \$5000. Even better news, we have a donor that has come forward and will match dollar for dollar all future donations to the patio fund. There is still a few more things to do before winter comes. The framing contractor has yet to place the beams. We also need to get water lines in place.



Tables of Peace

Although Tables of Peace groups are being organized right now, they won't start until January. With the holidays keeping us all busy, it seemed best to postpone them until the first of the year. You may still join a group if you so desire. Just sign up on the bulletin board as soon as possible. If you are willing to host a group please notify Pastor Lucke or Kay Glathar. This is a great way to get to know each other better.



Ladies Guild

What a busy time for the women of Peace. The Holiday Bazaar has been the focal point for the past few months. Much time and energy was put into making this a very successful community event. All proceeds from the bazaar are used to support various charitable organizations and community events. This year we will be donating money to Feed My Hungry Children, Philomath Youth Activity Club, June's Kids Klostet and Camp Lutherwood. We want to thank all of you for contributing to the success of this annual event and only fund-raiser for Guild. Thrivent supported our bazaar with seed money. We are hoping to purchase new tablecloths with some of our money.

This month, Guild was able to fund the purchase of a vacuum for a special needs class at Philomath Middle School and another Hoki chair for a high school student at Philomath High. We were happy to be a part of greeting New Members into our congregation with the giving of our cookbook and fellowship cake.

We are waiting for the selection of a "Shepherd in Training" student from Concordia. Guild supports this student with prayers and a monetary supplement.

Our December meeting is December 3 at 1:00-3:00pm. It will be a short meeting with a Christmas party and \$5.00 gift exchange following the meeting. Every woman at Peace is joyfully invited to join us. We look forward to seeing you.

Peggy Krueger, Guild President

