



Peace Progress

Editor, Kay Glathar

March 2017

A Word from Our Pastor:

Dear Family of Peace,

We are quickly approaching the beginning of the Lent season. Ash Wednesday is March 1 marking the start of an over forty day journey to Easter. Some of you may be asking, "What is Lent?" Others, may be wondering, "Why do we still observe this season at Peace?"

Lent has been a special time of preparation for Christians. In the times of the early church, Lent was a time of teaching those who would soon be baptized. The teaching would conclude shortly before Easter and then the students would be baptized during the Easter Vigil service. For those already baptized, Lent served as a time of faith strengthening. The time for prayer and meditation became more focused on the passion of Jesus and the forgiveness it offered.

As you well know, times of preparation tend to be a little more serious. This last summer Alicia and I participated in a fast-like experience. For twenty-four days we became very serious about the food and drink we consumed. No sugar. Little bread. No red meat. No coffee. No soda. And worst of all, no ice cream. As you read this list, you might be thinking and be wanting to add, "No fun!" The twenty-four days was undoubtedly upsetting and challenging. On day twenty-five, however, having gone through this serious time of preparation, we felt much better and thankful for the good health the Lord had blessed us with.

Lent has a sense of seriousness. We want to end up on Easter morning, after our over forty day journey, saying, "Thank you, Lord, for Your sacrifice and the eternal life it offers me!"

Consider some of these common traditions practiced in the Christian Church during Lent:

- The word "Alleluia" is not to be sung or spoken in worship.
- Many churches observe the custom of not placing flowers on the altar (or anywhere in the church).
- Musical instruments are used in a limited fashion. Some churches even refrain from the ringing of the bell to begin worship.

Peace does not observe all of the common practices associated with Lent. Yet, we do observe some of them and we do observe Lent as a vital time for individual faith strengthening and growth. Each Wednesday night (beginning March 1) we will gather for soup supper (6 PM) with a brief worship service to follow at 7 PM. Set this time aside to grow and reflect upon the miracle of Jesus' work for you. Use the schedule below as you prepare for each evening.

- Ash Wednesday, March 1: The Miraculous Darkness (Matthew 27:45)
- March 8: The Miraculous Tearing of the Temple Curtain (Matthew 27:51a)
- March 15: The Miraculous Earthquake (Matthew 27:51b)
- March 22: The Miracle of the Splitting Rocks (Matthew 27:51c)
- March 29: The Miraculous Raising of the Saints from Death (Matthew 27:52-53)
- April 5: The Miraculous Faith of the Roman Soldiers (Matthew 27:54)
- Maundy Thursday, April 13: The Miraculous in Holy Communion (I Corinthians 11:23-29)
- Good Friday, April 14: The Miracle of Good Friday (I Peter 3:18)
- Easter Sunday, April 16: The Miracle of Easter (Matthew 28:1-10)

Lent is serious. It should be. We had a Savior who was very serious about our eternal destiny. His sacrifice has made all the difference in the world for our future.

Keep looking to Jesus and His work for you,

Pastor Lucke



**Preparing for Worship**

The scripture lessons for the month of March:

March 5:

Genesis 3:1-21

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

March 19:

Exodus 17:1-7

Romans 5:1-8

John 4:5-26

March 12:

Genesis 12:1-9

Romans 4:1-8, 13-17

John 3:1-17

March 26:

Isaiah 42:14-21

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

Attendance and Grace of Giving

DATE	COUNT	GRACE OF GIVING	
1/22/2017	104	Offering	\$2,669
1/29/2017	116	Offering	\$1,911
2/5/2017	109	Offering	\$4,891
2/12/2017	107	Offering	\$3,009
2/19/2017	103	Offering	\$1,821

Men's Breakfast

Mark your calendar for March 4th. Once again it is time for the First Saturday Men's Breakfast. The topic will come from the Wired Word - "New Law in France Guarantees Workers "Right to Disconnect." Social media has brought us to a new awareness as to how we live our lives; come join in the discussion. Coffee will be on at 8:15 or before and breakfast is served at 8:30. Discussion is from at 9 – 10. If you have questions about the breakfast contact Oscar Gutbrod, 541-231-3954.

Easter Celebration**Important Information**

Although Easter isn't until April 16th there is planning going on already to ensure this important date is an uplifting celebration. Here are some important reminders:

- ✝ Palm Sunday is April 9. It is the first day of Holy Week. Everyone will receive a palm. The palms are placed in vases at the front of the church during the first hymn. This tradition commemorates the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem in the days before his suffering and death on the cross.
- ✝ Easter is April 16th. Church will begin at 10:00 that day with no Sunday school. An Easter egg hunt will follow at 11:15 for all of the children.
- ✝ Each year a wooden cross is placed at the entrance to the church and it is decorated with cut flowers. We request people to bring cut flowers to help decorate the cross prior to Easter Sunday. Be looking in your yard and think about contributing flowers.
- ✝ The altar and the area in front of the altar are also decorated, only with Easter lilies. If you have an Easter lily, please bring it to help fill the front of the church with beautiful lilies.
- ✝ Plastic eggs will be available for people to take home and fill with goodies for the Easter egg hunt. Candy, stickers, money, anything fun that can fit in an egg.
- ✝ If you contribute to Fellowship Easter Sunday, please bring finger foods only as everyone wants to get home that day to be with family and friends. We try to make it an easy cleanup day.
- ✝ Last, and very important, is our church cleanup day. That day will be **April 8th**. We will be cleaning the church inside and out. There will be a list of jobs that need to be done and you can choose where you would like to work and what you would like to do. Many hands make light work!



Listening Prayer Essentials Workshop Saturday, March 4th, 2017 9am-4pm

Do you desire more intimacy with God and deeper levels of healing and freedom in your life?

This one-day workshop will cover essential elements of listening prayer for transformation. Come enjoy a combination of teaching, individual time with the Lord, and small group sharing/prayer. Class facilitator, Jennifer Hanson, will also bring a variety of recommended resources for further study.

College United Methodist Church

1123 Main Street, Philomath, OR

\$25 per person, includes lunch of soup, salad, bread & dessert. Coffee, tea and water are provided
Bring: Bible, journal or notebook, pen

Jennifer Hanson attends Calvary Chapel Corvallis and coordinates the Church of the Valley Listening Prayer Network.

Pre-registration is required by March 1, 2017

To register or request more information, please send an email to: philomathprayer@gmail.com



ReligionQuotes.info

Humor Corner

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday.

He wrote: "I've gone for 30 years now, and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them.

So, I think I'm wasting my time, the preachers and priests are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column.

Much to the delight of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now.

In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals.

But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals.

But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work.

If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today.

Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

When you are DOWN to nothing, God is UP to something!

Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible & receives the impossible!

Thank God for our physical and our spiritual nourishment!

Submitted by *Jim Holroyd*