

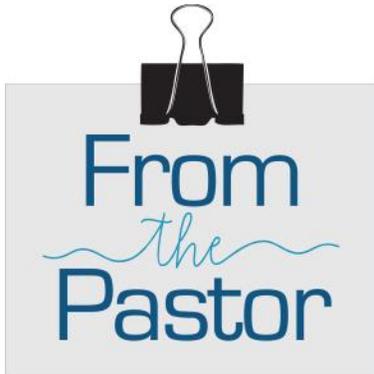


Prints of Peace

Peace Lutheran Church and School



God's family united to: Preach God's Word, Teach God's Grace, Reach God's World



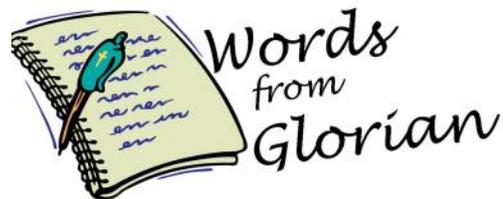
We just had Thanksgiving Day! So be thankful for what? St. Paul taught that the whole life of the Christian should be a song of praise to God. ³¹ **Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.** 1 Corinthians 10:31 (NKJV). Why? Because of His love, God has redeemed us to be His children. All of creation praises God because He is their Creator. ¹⁹ **The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.** Psalm 19:1 (NKJV). Man, the foremost visible creature, too often ignores God and glorifies himself. Most people eat and drink to satisfy themselves. And God, who supplies those gifts is forgotten. Many people work and toil monotonously to get a paycheck, but God, who gives health and strength is completely ignored.

Yet God, as creator, would place a halo over the routine of life. The work in the house can often be pure drudgery. The work in the office, factory, farm, or shop can be an exhausting grind. Life for many is drab, dull and meaningless. When God is not in our daily life, life has missed its real purpose. But Paul says, **"do all to the glory of God."**

When we by faith belong to Jesus Christ, we are totally His. By the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit, we have been grafted into Christ. As the flower on the shrub glorifies the shrub, and the shrub in the garden beautifies the garden, so also the Christian grafted into Christ will

bring praise and glory to Christ. By every act, in all I do I will glorify God, who made me and keeps me His own. This is the will of God. The Apostle Paul said in 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NKJV), ¹⁸ **in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.** So let us give God glory with thanksgiving!

Pastor Mick



It seemed the trend when I grew up was, "If you love me, you will worry about me." Love was equated with worry, and worry was showing love.

There are two things one cannot do at the same time, that is worry and trust. When we worry, we are taking the problem into our own hands. When we trust the Lord, we take our hands off the problem and let the Lord work it out.

I love what Naomi said to Ruth after she had gleaned and visited Boaz on the threshing floor, she said, *"Sit still, my daughter, until you know how the matter will turn out; for the man will not rest until he has concluded the matter this day."* When we rest the Lord works the matter out. St Paul did say to labor to enter into His rest (Hebrews 4:11). The labor is dying to our flesh, our ways of doing things and entering into His rest, knowing He will work it out in His way. As we enter this New Year, let us labor to enter into His rest.

Glorian

From the Elders

WATCHING THE BALL DROP

As you read this, you're probably not more than a day or two removed from watching another New Year's Eve ball drop on TV. I've never been quite sure where this goofy ritual came from, but as a kid, the New Year always gave me a great sense of wonder...what cool things are going to happen this year? As I got to my high school and college years, I remember thinking what an incredible experience the year 2000 was going to be, even as I wondered impatiently if it would ever get here. When New Year's Eve 1999 finally arrived, I felt equal parts wonder and trepidation, hoping the country's banking systems and power grids wouldn't go on the fritz because of that looming Y2K thing.

Now as an "adult," the ritual doesn't give me as much wonder as it does awe, for the inevitable passing of time, and an uneasy resignation to it. The awe comes in the realization that there are now probably more years behind me than there are ahead of me. The awe comes in the knowledge that my kids are already at least half-way through their arc out of my life. The resignation

comes in that feeling that the New Year's Days just seem to keep coming faster as I get older. Seems like we barely catch our breath from the last New Year's Day, and suddenly, another one is here. Like so many of them now, I watch the ball drop in New York, turn off the TV, roll over, and go to sleep. I usually don't make it to the Pacific Time ball drop any more.

It all reminds us that our lives are but a flicker of light, compared to God's wise and timeless watch over us. *"I am the Alpha and the Omega, says the Lord God, who is and who was, and who is to come. The Almighty."* (Revelation 1:8). It is also a comeuppance of sorts, showing us that, no matter how much we plan, save, build, and wish during our lives, it is ultimately He who decides how long our lives last, and in what direction they go. He is in charge for us, and He has a place for us in the vast time and expanse of heaven.

And as every New Year is a new start, our life in Christ gives us a new start every day. *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."* (2 Corinthians 5:17). We get a chance to erase the blackboard of our sins clean every day, if that's what we sincerely want. What a comfort for us to know that we can begin our own New Year any time we are ready.

In Christ's Service,

Ross Lytle

Board of Elders



REUNION TRANSITION NOTES

Many members of Peace are already aware that we have invited the members of Community of Christ at Memorial (CCM) to join our congregation when they close their doors in 2018.

The congregations share a common history. CCM is the "mother church" of the LCMS congregations spread throughout Kitsap County. She started Peace Lutheran

over fifty years ago, and it is fitting that as Community of Christ at Memorial ends its distinguished, Gospel-centered ministry, that its current members reunite with their sisters and brothers here at Peace.

The Council has placed Pastor Stroud at the head of a Reunion Transition Committee, to ensure that the transition goes smoothly. You'll be hearing more about the gradual process, which will come to fullness no later than June.

In the meantime, some of the "new" faces you see at church may be those of future members coming from CCM. Their congregation may no longer be as large as it once was (with over 300 in Sunday School!), but each and every person who will be joining us brings their own wisdom, talents and energy as we seek to fulfill Christ's Great Commission and share his Gospel with our increasingly secular world.

Pastor Stroud



It's a new year. It's a time when we take stock of the year past in order to improve the year to come. It's a time when we sit down to plan and implement what we want to accomplish and even change. Part of that is planning our stewardship for the coming year.

Often we find this difficult and daunting and even joyless. But it doesn't have to be. In fact, it is really quite simple and full of joy. So here are some tips to make that planning less stressful. You begin by answering these three questions: Who are you? To whom do I give? And how much?

So, who are you? The Table of Duties in the Small Catechism informs us. Are you a hearer of God's Word? Are you a citizen of society? Are you a member of a family? Stewardship covers these three estates: church, society, family. We don't particularly struggle to give to society or family. Our struggles, our difficulties and our questions arise in giving to the church.

So, what is our duty as members of the church with regard to giving? The Table of Duties, again, gives us a guide. If you are a hearer, a member of the church who receives instruction, St. Paul taught: *Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor* (Galatians 6:6). This means the local congregation is primary.

Your pastor is the one called to preach the Gospel to you and administer the Lord's blessed sacraments to you. Your congregation is the place where those things happen. Thus, when God calls us to give to the church, He has the local congregation in mind. For *the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel* (1 Corinthians 9:14).

How much do we give to the local congregation? Our only instructions are these: to give regularly (1 Corinthians 6:1-2), proportionally (1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Co-

rinthians 8:12), and generously (2 Corinthians 8:20) of our first fruits (Genesis 4:4; Proverbs 3:9; Leviticus 27:30) with a spirit of eagerness (2 Corinthians 9:2), earnestness (2 Corinthians 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Corinthians 9:7), and love (2 Corinthians 8:23).

In other words, giving to the church is not to be an afterthought, given after everything else is spent. In this way, it is deliberate. We give regularly – weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, quarterly, or yearly – keeping in mind our own strengths, weaknesses, and limitations. We set it aside beforehand – before anything else is spent.

From those first fruits, we set aside a proportionate and generous amount. Ten percent was the standard for the Israelites. This was a command for the ancient Israelites. We can give as much as we want, but ask yourself: do we really want to be less generous than was commanded of the Israelites? Is the job of the New Testament Church bigger or smaller than the job given to Israel?

And how are we to give it? We give it with eagerness and earnestness. We give it cheerfully and with love, not out of compulsion. For through the preaching of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments, God has made us His children, forgiven us all our sins, given us grace upon grace, promised us life everlasting with Him in His kingdom, and filled us with His own Spirit, the Holy Spirit. This makes giving a joy, as Jesus said, *"it is more blessed to give than to receive"* (Acts 20:35).

It's that easy. And it is joyful. For in stewardship, our gracious and giving Lord invites us to take part in the work that He accomplishes here on earth, providing for the ongoing preaching of the gospel as well as those who are in need. Taking part in that makes all our work holy – work that is done in service to the Lord as priestly members of His kingdom.





LCMS NYG 2019

July 11-15th

Youth & Parent Information

What Is The NYG?

The NYG or National Youth Gathering is an event held by the LCMS every three years since 1980. During the NYG, teens and adult leaders will gather with thousands of other LCMS Christians from all around the world to worship and praise God, study His Word, hear dynamic speakers, serve others, and more. This is an amazing experience that will have a lasting impact in their lives.

When & Where?

The next NYG will be held July 11-15th 2019 in Minneapolis, MN

Who Can Go?

Any Teen entering the 9th grade Fall 2019 up through Graduating Seniors June 2019

What Is It About?

The 2019 gathering theme is Real. Present. God. based on Psalm 46.
Psalm 46:1 *God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*

Why Go?

- Time away gives opportunities to encounter God in new ways
- Concentrated time building relationships with God and each other
- An expanded view of the church affirms youth in their faith journey
- Numerous opportunities to serve others both locally and across the globe
- Return home strengthened in their faith and equipped to face life challenges

Questions?

Interested in attending? Have more questions about the trip?

Parents and Youth please plan to attend the preliminary information meeting:

Sunday, January 7, 2018

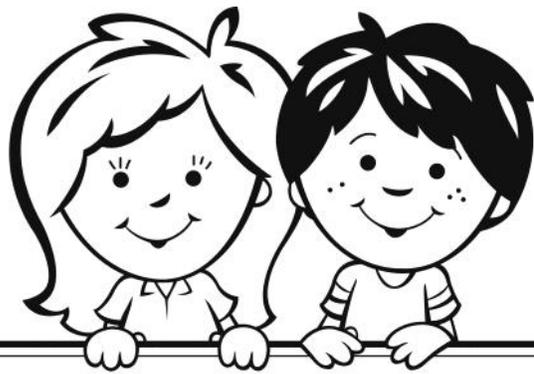
10 AM, during the Sunday School Hour

Youth Sunday School Room

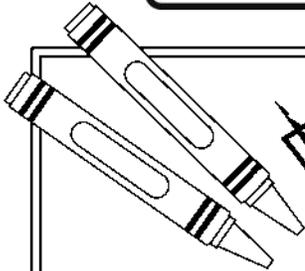
Organizers:

Eric & Mari Bouma 253-948-2329 or mebouma@gmail.com

Amanda Wolber 360-204-6490 Amanda.Wolber@gmail.com



KIDS PAGE



PUZZLE

A NEW CREATION

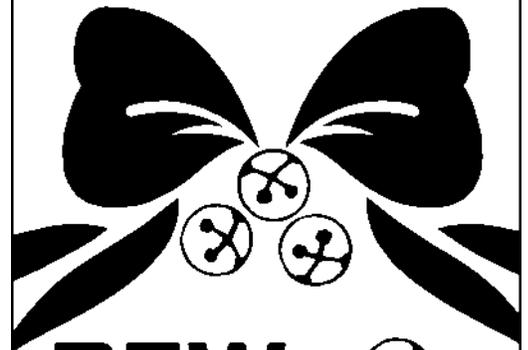
The apostle Paul says everyone who believes in Jesus becomes brand new.

Directions: Cross out every third letter. Then write the remaining letters in the blanks to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.

T H I E R O E F Q O R X E I D F A M N Y A O N
 S E I L S I T N C V H R K I S D T T B H E W N E
 Q W C D R E Y A T M I O C N H F A S W C O R
 M E G T H W E O F L D X H A S S G Z O N L
 E T J H E W N E Q W I D S H R E R O E

! 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

Answer: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV



NEW YEAR'S NOISE-MAKERS

Ring in the New Year with these fun noisemakers!



What you need:

- Wooden craft sticks
- Metallic paint (gold and silver)
- Paint brushes
- Jingle bells (gold and silver)
- Hot glue gun
- Metallic ribbon
- Scissors
- Adult help

What you do:

1. Paint half the sticks gold and half silver. Let dry.
2. Glue three bells to each stick.
3. Cut a six-inch piece of ribbon for each stick. Tie a bow and glue it to the noisemaker. Celebrate!