



PRINTS OF PEACE

Peace Lutheran Church and School



December 2018

Our Mission ...God's family united to... Preach God's Word ...Teach God's Grace ...Reach God's World



Dear Saints Who are Gathered at Peace Lutheran Church,

Happy New Year! Can you believe it? **It's already December and the beginning of the new year...**in the church! Advent (four weeks prior to December 25th) begins the new church year. At Peace it also means we begin looking at the life of Christ through the eyes of a different Apostle. Starting this month we are in series C where the majority of the Gospel readings come from, the Gospel according to St. Luke. A little background on Luke. He was a well-educated and traveled gentile physician. He was also a very close friend of the Apostle Paul. His purpose of writing what turned out to be the Gospel is summed up in the **first few verses**, *"Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught"*(Luke 1:1-4).

Because Dr. Luke is a Greek and a physician, he gives a linear and detailed account of the life of the Lord Christ. **He gives insights which the other Gospel writers don't give.**In his Christmas narrative one sees many oddities. An old man and his wife have a baby. A royal decree requiring people to return to the city of family origin. A virgin has a baby in Bethlehem. A heavenly host of angels sing to lowly shepherds. The Savior of the world is born in a stable. This royal savior is wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a feeding trough because there were no hotel rooms. **The virgins' son is named Jesus which means "the Lord is Salvation."**

Martin Luther saw this story filled with unique paradoxes. Mary, though poor and rather socially "insignificant," was chosen. Bethlehem, "The City of David," belonged to Christ, but there was no room for him to be found anywhere in it. The announcement of Christ's birth came not to the noble and elite, as we might expect, but to the shepherds. He said in 1530, "Is it not strange that the birth of Christ occurs in cold winter, in a strange land, and in such a poor and despicable manner?" Luther adds "How could God have shown his goodness in a more sublime manner than by humbling himself to partake of flesh and blood?"

This narrative of Christ's birth brings much comfort to all of us. Jesus came to where you and I live! **He wasn't born in the finest hospital. His attending servants weren't the finest in the land. His home wasn't a palace. His parents weren't royalty. He wasn't dressed in the finest clothes. His crib wasn't gold plated.** There were no silver spoon in his mouth! *The Lord Christ* came to where we are. His parents were common, hardworking folks. His first home was below poverty level. He was rejoiced over by lowly shepherds. In a sense Jesus came only to you and me but to all those of humble estate. In his commonness he lived like one of us. It was for the dirty, the lowly, the debtors, and the broken that he came. It was

Special points of interest:

- Because Dr. Luke is a ...
- During Advent, we anticipate...
- He gave thanks for...
- First grade is off to a...
- Some exciting news...
- A young man stood at the door...



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for you and me that he died. It was for you and me that he rose and lives to all eternity! It is for you and me that he intercedes to the Father. It is also for you and me that he will return!

During this New Year with Dr. Luke, continue to be amazed that the Son of God does all these wonderful things FOR YOU!

In Christ,
Pastor Brynestad

Elders Corner

Through the Long Winter

It's the time of year for bringing in the flower pots, the planters, and the lawn furniture. Time for breaking out the blankets, stocking up on firewood, and hunkering down for the long, dark nights of winter. It's the time of the winter solstice, with its short, weakly-lit days, and long, frigid nights.

The retreat of the light, and the threat of starvation over the winter months, probably would have weighed heavily on people in early societies. Our distant ancestors held various solstice celebrations and rites, meant to coax back the sun and provide hope for new life. And though we're well past dancing around bonfires, and sacrificing animals, as symbolic means of trying to bring back the light, there is still an age-old gloominess that comes with the creeping darkness.

Darkness is, in one sense, the enemy of God, and of Christ who embodies light, But let us not forget that darkness can also be a hidden blessing from God. With it, we come to know that light, not darkness, has positive substance...a substance that we must not take for granted. These dark nights of the soul are from the Holy Spirit, not from the enemy. During Advent, we anticipate the coming birth of Christ, and we pray for the renewal of our faith. We reflect on the coming of God's kingdom at the end of our time. But there are also more solemn themes, such as repentance, darkness, hope, and watchfulness, which find their way into our Advent worship. The mood for the season is one of expectancy, forbearance, and self-discipline.

We know that the triune God is at work in our daily lives...in ways that we rarely, if ever, see clearly, much less comprehend. No matter how much the short days and the never-ending drizzle may get to us, 1 John tells us:

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

Next time you're basking in the glow of that sun lamp in your living room, trying to get that Seasonal Affective Disorder under control, use this dark Advent season for introspection and hope about God's coming gift to us: His Son Jesus Christ.

In Christ's Service
Board of Elders



GIVE THANKS FOR ALL THINGS

Throughout his epistles and his preaching recorded in the Book of Acts, St. Paul refers, in one way or another, to thanksgiving and thankfulness nearly 50 times. Whether vertically toward God, or horizontally **toward the neighbor, thanksgiving is a major theme within St. Paul's body of work.**

What does this mean? It means thankfulness is intrinsic to the life of those baptized into Christ. In other words, giving thanks is what Christians do as they live out their lives in this world.

The problem is that we often forget this. Consider your average, run-of-the-mill, normal day. When you get home, and your parents, your spouse or your children ask about your day, what first comes to your mind? After 99 percent of things went right, went exactly as planned, were enjoyable and blessings, we tend to **focus on and remember the 1 percent of things that went poorly, that didn't go as planned, and that were nuisances.**

We remember the bad things. We focus on discontent. And we fail to give thanks in all circumstances for everything (Eph. 5:20) and to rejoice in the Lord always (Phil. 4:4).

Thankfulness and contentment go together. We are content with things for which we are thankful. St. Paul could be content with having plenty or when in need because He gave thanks to the Lord for all things. He thanked the Lord for those who had prayed for him and listened to his proclamation of the Gospel. He gave thanks for their good works in and for the Church of Christ. He gave thanks for the **grace of God in Christ Jesus and found that God's grace was sufficient for him.**

So, give thanks for all things and in all circumstances dear brothers and sisters in Christ. For you have been saved from sin, death, and hell by the death and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. You have been added to the very family of God in an adoption of grace through Holy Baptism. God is your Father. Our Lord, Jesus Christ is your brother.

But He not only provides for your spiritual well-being, He cares also for this body and life. Your Father in heaven provides food and clothes, house and home, husband, wife, and children. He gives you reason and all your senses. He has given you the raw talents that you have developed into careers. Everything you are and everything that you have is a gift from His fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in you.

Give thanks for these things. Make a list – every morning if you must. Say them out loud. Sing about them within the congregation of the saints. And remember this: God has given you these things so that you may be of service to those around you – your family, your neighbors, your brothers and sisters in Christ. For to whom much is given; much shall be required (Luke 12:48).



A Blessed Christmas

may you know
the comfort & joy
of God's
presence this
Christmas
season & always!
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First grade is off to a great start this year! We've studied plants, addition and subtraction strategies, the story of Noah, and so much more. We will soon be hard at work on our Christmas around the world unit. We will be learning about how people from other cultures and countries celebrate the birth of Christ. We hope you and yours have a blessed Thanksgiving and Christmas. Thank you for your continued support.



Blessings,
Catherine



4506

Pack 4506

We have started to collect food for the pack food drive in conjunction with the church food drive. Arrow of Light scouts are also collecting canned goods and small paperback books as part of their Duty to God In Action requirement. They have continued troop visits as part of their Scouting Adventure Requirement in preparation for crossing over into Boy Scouts. They are learning how scouts in the troop provide their leadership, describing the four steps of Boy Scout advancement, describing ranks in Boy Scouting and how they are earned, and describing what merit badges are and how they are earned. Webelos and the Arrow of Light Den worked together on their Art Explosion requirements. We visited a local Art Gallery and made some self-portraits using watercolor.

Webelos started their Stronger, Faster, Higher adventure which focuses on personal fitness. After their initial testing, each scout is working on improving their own personal fitness scores.

Some of our scouts visited Ivy Green Cemetery where we cleaned up the leaves and gravestones, and we also planted flags. We are also getting ready for Church cleanup on Saturday November 17th here at Peace Lutheran Church.

Some exciting news about our popcorn sales! Our pack is a top 10 popcorn seller in the Chief Seattle Council with over \$25,000 in sales. Six scouts earned college scholarships from Trails End (popcorn company)! **We are very proud of all of our boys in helping make this year's popcorn sales a huge success.**

Take my Son.....

A wealthy man and his son loved to collect rare works of art. They had everything in their collection, from Picasso to Raphael. They would often sit together and admire the great works of art. When the Vietnam conflict broke out, the son went to war. He was very courageous and died in battle while rescuing another soldier. The father was notified and grieved deeply for his only son.

About a month later, just before Christmas, there was a knock at the door. A young man stood at the door with a large package in his hands. He said, 'Sir, you don't know me, but I am the soldier for whom your son gave his life. He saved many lives that day, and he was carrying me to safety when a bullet struck him in the heart and he died instantly. He often talked about you, and your love for art.' The young man held out this package. 'I know this isn't much. I'm not really a great artist, but I think your son would have wanted you to have this.'

The father, opened the package. It was a portrait of his son, painted by the young man. He stared in awe at the way the soldier had captured the personality of his son in the painting. The father was so drawn to the eyes that his own eyes welled up with tears. He thanked the young man and offered to pay him for the picture. 'Oh, no sir, I could never repay what your son did for me. It's a gift.' The father hung the portrait over his mantle. Every time visitors came to his home he took them to see the portrait of his son before

he showed them any of the other great works he had collected.

The man died a few months later. There was to be a great auction of his paintings. Many influential people gathered, excited over seeing the great paintings and having an opportunity to purchase one for their collection.

On the platform sat the painting of the son. The auctioneer pounded his gavel. 'We will start the bidding with this picture of the son. Who will bid for this picture?'

There was silence. Then a voice in the back of the room shouted, 'We want to see the famous paintings. Skip this one.' But the auctioneer persisted. 'Will somebody bid for this painting? Who will start the bidding? \$100, \$200?'

Another voice angrily. 'We didn't come to see this painting. We came to see the Van Gogh's, the Rembrandts. Get on with the Real bids!' But still the auctioneer continued. 'The son! The son! Who'll take the son?'

Finally, a voice came from the very back of the room. It was the longtime gardener of the man and his son. 'I'll give \$10 for the painting. ' Being a poor man, it was all he could afford. 'We have \$10, who will bid \$20?'

'Give it to him for \$10. Let's see the masters.' The crowd was becoming angry. They didn't want the picture of the son. They wanted the more worthy investments for their collections. The auctioneer pounded the gavel. 'Going once, twice, SOLD for \$10!' A man sitting on the second row shouted, 'Now let's get on with the collection!' The auctioneer laid down his gavel. 'I'm sorry, the auction is over.' 'What about the paintings?' 'I am sorry. When I was called to conduct this auction, I was told of a secret stipulation in the will. I was not allowed to reveal that stipulation until this time. Only the painting of the son would be auctioned. Whoever bought that painting would inherit the entire estate, including the paintings.

The man who took the son gets everything! God gave His son over 2,000 years ago to die on the Cross. Much like the auctioneer, His message today is: 'The Son, the Son, who'll take the Son?' Because, you see, whoever takes the Son gets everything!

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON,
WHO SO EVER BELIEVETH, SHALL HAVE ETERNAL LIFE...THAT'S LOVE

TATER TOTS CASSEROLE

INGREDIENTS

- 1 (32 ounce) package frozen bite-size potato nuggets (such as Tater Tots®), divided
- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 2 tsps Worcestershire sauce
- 2 tsps Montreal-style steak seasoning (optional)
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 2 (10.75 ounce) can's condensed cream of mushroom soup
- 1 cup milk
- 1 cup grated Cheddar cheese

STEPS

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Prepare a 13x9-inch casserole dish with cooking spray. Spread 20 potato nuggets in the casserole dish.
- Bake in preheated oven until warmed through, about 10 minutes.

Heat a large skillet over medium-high heat. Cook and stir beef and onion in the hot skillet until beef is completely browned, 5 to 7 minutes; drain and discard grease. Season beef mixture with 2 tsps Worcestershire sauce, steak seasoning, garlic powder, and black pepper.

Stir cream of mushroom soup, milk, 1/2 cup Cheddar cheese, and 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce together in a bowl.

Smash the warmed potato nuggets in the casserole dish to cover the bottom completely. Spread ground beef mixture over the mashed potato nuggets. Pour soup mixture evenly over the beef layer. Top with remaining potato nuggets and sprinkle 1 cup Cheddar cheese evenly over the nuggets.

Bake in preheated oven until casserole is bubbly and potatoes golden brown, 30 to 40 minutes.



Advent Calendar



EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.

ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A FOOD BANK

December 1	Box of Cereal
December 2	Peanut Butter
December 3	Stuffing Mix
December 4	Boxed Potatoes
December 5	Macaroni and Cheese
December 6	Canned Fruit
December 7	Canned Tomatoes
December 8	Canned Tuna
December 9	Dessert Mix
December 10	Jar of Applesauce
December 11	Canned Sweet Potatoes
December 12	Cranberry Sauce
December 13	Canned Beans
December 14	Box of Crackers
December 15	Package of Rice
December 16	Package of Oatmeal
December 17	Package Pasta
December 18	Spaghetti Sauce
December 19	Chicken Noodle Soup
December 20	Tomato Soup
December 21	Can Corn
December 22	Can Mixed Vegetables
December 23	Can Carrots
December 24	Can Green Beans



