

The Good News Of Peace

To live as God's family gathering around His Word and promises
to effectively share
The Good News of God's love in Christ with our neighbors.

Peace Lutheran Church and Preschool

Chehalis, Washington

October 2021

Reformation Service

On October 31, 1517 Martin Luther nailed 95 theses (proposed discussion topics) to the door of the castle church in Wittenberg. That act began the process that set the church free from the tyranny of false teachers and false teachings. Come celebrate the modern church's independence day and give thanks to God that He has liberated the Gospel from those who would hide it as we celebrate Reformation Day in worship of our Savior.

Sunday, October 31st at 9:00am and 3:00pm

From Your Board of Property

It appears some equipment has been borrowed from the shop building and has been missing for a few weeks. While most equipment is available for use by our members on a temporary basis, we ask that it be signed out using the sheet on the bulletin board at the church office door. In particular, we are looking for a sprayer which is used by the gentlemen who care for the grounds. If you have it and are finished, please return it. If you are not finished, please sign it out so that we know where it is.

On a personal note, I am finishing my second term as Coordinator of the Board of Property Management, and the church will be looking for a replacement. If you have an interest in this position, please contact Mr. Randy Short, Vice President, or myself (Roland Falb) by email at rolandfalb@gmail.com, home phone at 360-785-7503, or by phone or text at 360-219-8184.

Altar Guild


Our Altar Guild is in desperate need of volunteers. Please consider donating some of your time to this important job. Once a month you will be scheduled for approx. one hour on a Saturday morning and then half an hour that Sunday after the service. There will be a few extra week days during the Holy seasons. You are always paired with another person, so you are not alone and are not required to know anything or everything.

Contact Cheri Hill 360-748-9776, or email hillfamilyranch@gmail.com for more information. The more volunteers we have, the less often you will be called on.

Help Needed

Our treasurer is in need of approximately one half hour to an hour of weekly help with the filing. If you are able to help, please contact:

Shelly Stocker by phone 360-996-4774.

"I have
hidden 
in my heart
that I might
not sin
against you."

P s a l m 1 1 9 : 1 1

A Pastoral Letter

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

A member, for whose advice and counsel I have a lot of respect, recently suggested that more transparency on the part of the pastor and elders regarding our COVID response in the church is in order. What follows is an attempt at utter transparency.

I am weary (as, I'm sure, are you). I am weary of trying to respond to constantly moving targets from our government officials and from the medical and scientific community. I am weary of being refused the opportunity to fulfill my calling in visiting the sick, the homebound, and the hospitalized. I am weary of not seeing sheep of this flock whom I have not seen since early in 2020. I am weary of trying to figure out how to meet all the different expectations of all the different members of the congregation. I am weary, but I take heart in our Lord's promise through His prophet Jeremiah, "I will satisfy the weary soul, and every languishing soul I will replenish." (Jeremiah 31:25)

13:1 There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2 And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? 3 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. 4 Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? 5 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish." (Luke 13:1-5).

Our Lord's words in Luke chapter thirteen remind us that tragedy and loss always provide apt opportunities for repentance and faith in Him. The advent of COVID-19 has certainly caused tragedy and loss. What are we to do? Following our Lord's words, we repent.

Dr. Martin Luther, in His Small Catechism, writes on the Eighth Commandment: "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way." That last part, "defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way" tends to be the hardest part to keep. It requires thought and imagination.

If you have assumed that the only reason a person would not wear a mask is because he is selfish and doesn't care about protecting others, repent. If you have assumed that the only reason a person continues to wear a mask is because he is scared and blindly following the masses, repent. If you have thought that your pastor and the elders do not take this situation seriously, repent. My older brother is a registered nurse and hospital administrator at a hospital in a suburb of Portland, Oregon; I hear regularly (sometimes almost daily) how serious this is. One of my seminary classmates is now being made comfortable until the Lord takes him to Himself, and another of my colleagues has been on a ventilator since late July. We are fully aware of how serious this is.

In 2019, we had an average attendance of approximately 120 per Sunday. That means, we have approximately 150 opinions on how things should be handled. From the beginning, we have, in good faith, tried to use the best information available to us to put precautions into place in an attempt to foster the safest environment we can while still doing what Christ's Church does: gathering around His gifts of Word and Sacrament for forgiveness, life, and salvation. "24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." (Hebrews 10:24-25)

Early on, because we were forbidden by the governor from gathering, and in an effort to provide Christ's gifts in whatever way we could, we instituted a weekly time for family and small group access to Holy

Communion. This was done reluctantly in an attempt to abide by the mandates imposed by our governor. For the reasons articulated so well by pastor Peter Bender (see below), my pastoral conscience was never comfortable with the practice, but I salvaged my conscience with the notion that it was simply a temporary measure in an extreme circumstance.

In the liturgy, Holy Baptism and preaching precede the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is distributed only to those who have been baptized and brought to repentance and faith in Christ. This is why the sermon always precedes the celebration of the Lord's Supper and may never be omitted. The sermon prepares the baptized communicant to receive the Lord's Supper with renewed faith in the words of Christ's testament: "This is My body given for you. ... This is My blood shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." These words promise that "in the Sacrament, forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words" (The Small Catechism, "The Sacrament of the Altar"). [Bender, Peter C. Lutheran Catechesis, Catechumen Edition Second Edition (page 141). Concordia Catechetical Academy.]

The Divine Service is a unified whole, a divine feast to be received in total, not a buffet where some things can be taken while others are left.

Still, we are at a point where among our family of believers, we have widely varying opinions (many held quite firmly) as to how best to proceed at this time. The Eighth Commandment demands that, putting the best construction on everything, we assume that these opinions are held by our brothers and sisters in Christ, by men and women of good will, love, and charity.

In an effort to provide for these varying opinions, **the elders have decided that starting on Sunday, September 26th, we will return to having two services. They will be identical in content, but they will not be identical in regards to practice.**

At 9:00am, the service will proceed as we have been recently with many precautions still in place encouraging as much physical distancing as is practical and with the wearing of face coverings encouraged. Adult Bible class and Sunday school will follow at approximately 10:30.

At 3:00pm, we will have a service more similar to when we first returned to gathering in person. Ushers will help maintain greater personal distancing, and face coverings will be required. (Most, if not all, of the previous precautions will also return.)

In an effort to avoid any cross-contamination via hymnals, etc., a different set of pews will be used for each service.

It is not a perfect solution. There is no perfect solution. On the one hand, this solution further divides our family (which I hope we all agree is not a good thing). On the other hand, this solution allows individuals access to our Lord's gifts in the Divine Service in a manner according to their varying consciences.

According to our Lord's words in Luke chapter thirteen, times of tragedy and loss invite us to a posture of repentance and faith in Christ. Dr. Martin Luther, in His Small Catechism, writes on the First Commandment: "You shall have no other gods. What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things." In his Large Catechism he writes:

A god means that from which we are to expect all good and in which we are to take refuge in all distress. So, to have a God is nothing other than trusting and believing Him with the heart. I have often said that the confidence and faith of the heart alone make both God and an idol. If your faith and trust is right, then your god is also true. On the other hand, if your trust is false and wrong, then you do not have the true God. For these two belong together, faith and God. Now, I say that whatever you set your heart on and put your trust in is truly your god. (Concordia, The Lutheran Confessions pg. 359: 2-3)

See, here you have the meaning of the true honor and worship of God, which pleases God, and which He commands under penalty of eternal wrath. The heart knows no other comfort or confidence than in Him. It must not allow itself to be torn from Him. But, for Him, it must risk and disregard everything upon earth. (Concordia, The Lutheran Confessions pg. 360: 16)

The Rev. Dr. Kenneth Korby prepared these words to help us examine ourselves according to this commandment:

How Christians Should Be Taught to Confess from the First Commandment

My God is that which I love, trust, and fear most in my life. I expect my comfort, good, and delight from my God.

Have I loved, trusted, or feared other things or people more than I love, trust, and fear God? Have I committed idolatry by seeking comfort, good, and delight from my own efforts rather than from God?

Do I look to God my heavenly Father for all love, good, and joy? Is everything measured for me by what pleases me?

In all things am I self-centered and selfish?

Do I see my worry and fretting as sin against trusting God? On what things does my attention focus?

Do I complain about the troubles, people, work, and suffering God lays on me?

Do I love the things God gives more than I love Him? And do I cling to what God takes away, even though He gives me Himself?

There is more than enough here to drive us all to repentance, to drive us with confidence to the throne of grace where we receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:16) Repentance is fear of God's wrath for our sin and faith in the gracious giver God who did not spare His own Son, but gave him up for us all. How will he not also with him graciously give us all things? (Romans 8:32)

Take heart, dear brothers and sisters, in Christ. "Neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, [not even COVID-19] will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38-39)

Repent and believe. You are forgiven for all your sins.

Your servant in Christ,
Pastor Freeman

In Summary

Sunday Schedule Beginning Sunday, August 26:

9:00am—Divine Service with current precautions

10:30am—Adult Bible class and Sunday School

3:00pm—Divine Service with previous precautions

October Elder: Dick Piesch

Acolyte: Jonah Freeman

Altar Guild:

- 03)** Marlene Farrell & Chris Pfaff
- 10)** Cheri Hill & Rita Nay
- 17)** Sandy Lupo & Rachel Freeman
- 24)** Mary McHenry & Chris Pfaff
- 31)** Rachel Freeman & Abigail Freeman

Counters: **03)** Bryant **10)** Doench **17)** Falb & Farrell **24)** Dries **31)** Bryant

Flowers: **03)** Carlson **10)** Howsden **17)** Poppe **24)** Howsden **31)** OPEN

October Birthdays

- 2. Anna Souliere
Ronan Lupo
- 7. Judy Landsidel
- 9. Andy Angell
- 10. Linda Hardy
Karen Howsden
- 12. Anna DeTray
- 13. Jacqueline Meyers
- 14. Jodie DeTray
- 21. Doris Underhill
- 23. Sharon Harris
- 27. Shirley Bates
Tom DeTray
- 31. Emily Pfaff

October Anniversaries

- 1. Clinton & Kari Lupo
2011
- 2. David & Jenny Sund
2009
- 3. James & Linda Huyck
1969
- 13. Miguel & Hannah Dwyer
2006
- 15. Bruce & Lorelei Hood
1971
- 16. Tom & Karen Howsden
1993
- 16. Ron & Shelly Stocker
2002
- 19. Josh & Anna Souliere
2019

October 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 8:30am Matins 9:00am Divine Service 10:45am Sunday School Adult Bible Study 3:00pm Divine Service	4	5	15 10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Adult Catechesis	7 7:00pm Church Council	8	9
10 9:00am Divine Service 10:45am Sunday School Adult Bible Study 3:00pm Divine Service	11	12 6:30 pm Lutheran Confession Study @ Olympia	15 10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Adult Catechesis	14	15	16
17 9:00am Divine Service 10:45am Sunday School Adult Bible Study 3:00pm Divine Service	18	19	20	21 7:00pm Elders Meeting	22	23
24 9:00am Divine Service 10:45am Sunday School Adult Bible Study 3:00pm Divine Service	25	26 6:30 pm Lutheran Confession Study @ Peace	15 10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Adult Catechesis	28	29	30
31 9:00am Reformation Divine Service 10:45am Sunday School Adult Bible Study 3:00pm Reformation Divine Service						

Peace Lutheran Church
2071 Bishop Road
Chehalis WA 98532

Return Service Requested

The Good News of Peace is published monthly by Peace Lutheran Church, 2071 Bishop Road, Chehalis, Washington 98532. We are affiliated with the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS).

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Pastor Daniel L. Freeman
Email: pastor_freeman@juno.com

Sunday Worship at 9:00 am
First Sunday of Month, Matins at 8:30 am with Divine Service at 9:00 am
Sunday School – all ages – 10:45 am

We are located four miles south of Chehalis on the corner of Jackson Highway and Bishop Road.