

NEWS & EVENTS

at Petersburg Lutheran Church

“To Know Christ, to Grow in Christ, and to Show the Love of Christ”



July 2022



Council Highlights

The Church Council met on Wednesday, June 15th and discussed the following:

- Scholarship Committee has awarded \$400 each to Leiah Kittams, Evelyn Anderson, and Kara Newman
- Sue Flint has offered to make a children’s patterned quilt for a raffle fundraiser for the Good Beginnings’ 25th Anniversary. Council will allow a raffle fundraiser if someone volunteers to organize it by November’s anniversary celebration.
- Council approved a motion to encourage people to wear a mask for church functions.
- Roxie Lee has agreed to write and send acknowledgements for memorial fund donations. Thanks to Roxy for volunteering!
- Council continues to discuss the many maintenance needs of the parsonage – some current and some to be done before a new pastoral family arrives. Costs associated with all the various parsonage needs – including exterior painting, carpet replacement, furnace repair or replacement will require a special funding request to the congregation, and congregational approval.

Next Church Council Meeting: Wednesday, July 20th at 6:00pm. Meetings are open to all Congregation members.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

President – [Bev Siercks](#)
(907-772-4330)

Vice President – [Bill Moulton](#) (907-518-1485)

Treasurer - [Robin Roberts](#)
(907-518-0052)

Secretary – [Ginger Evens](#) (907-772-4392)

[Nancy Berg](#) (907-518-1098)

[Desi Burrell](#) (907-772-3665)

[John Small](#) (907-772-2718)

[Chris van Ettinger](#)

[Bridgett Wittstock](#)
(907-518-1413)

Newsletter Editor:
Robin Roberts

Reminder: If you want to reach Pastor Zach, please use his cell phone: **540-288-4337 or email: plcakpastor@gmail.com, or the Office: **907-772-3114****

Please do not use the Parsonage number.

Pray for our Transition Team!



Don Bieber, Kathy Emmenegger, Jim Engell, Sue Flint, Jim Roberts, and Lauren Thain have stepped up to serve as our Transition Team – to define the *requirements* for Calling a new Pastor. Please pray for our Transition Team for direction and discernment, and be sure to respond to the Transition survey sent out via email a few weeks ago. Let's embrace the process – it's a great opportunity for us to lay the groundwork to find a new Pastor!



Pastor Zach's weekly articles "Through a Lutheran Lens" will be taking a little summer vacation, and will come out intermittently in the warm months. Stay tuned for more insights into our Transition and Call process!

Devotion - Peace and Patience

by Don Cornelius

Peace and patience – those are the last things I have tonight as I sit down to write on those same subjects. I have searched for the information I am to write about for exactly 51 minutes. I am steaming! I have prayed – the kind of prayer for lost items that the Lord can answer so quickly. I have seen Him do it over and over in my life. But tonight, he seems to have looked away. He knows how little time I have to work on this devotion. Can't He see I've got to get this rolling. Why must I be tested at this critical hour? God, I want my timetable, not Yours. Patience? No, I am no patient tonight, and my impatient state of mind gives me no peace.

It is now 11:30 PM and I have awakened my wife to enlist her in my search. She is quiet and understanding. She gets up and gently offers suggestions, patiently joins my search and at last we find the material. At least I was correct. The theme is peace and patience. Thank you, God for Karen's loving calm that brought fruition to our search.

How ironic that I should find so little of these gifts as I prepare to write about them during the same Lenten season when we are told to be patient and prepare for Easter. We are an impatient people because we expect good "fruit" from God and we have little tolerance for obstacles in our path.

Why does God put those obstacles in our way and let bad things of any kind happen? We as a people often ask that question – though we never seem to ask the reverse question – why does He let good things

happen? We spend most of our energy on the bad and we want resolution NOW. Tomorrow is too far away. Life is falling apart; people are hurting and we want immediate healing.

But in reality, there is instant healing available if we turn to the Lord. Yes, the world is crashing around our ears, but if we can step aside and take the time to go to God for help, we are deeply comforted. That means absolutely turning away from the problem in your heart, no matter how all-consuming it may be, and focusing entirely on God. If you can put your problems in His hands, you can feel the yoke peel from your shoulders like rain off a roof. You can feel it wash away as it is replaced with a peace welling from within – a peace the only God can bestow upon us. It is as if we were a little child running to our parents for support after one of life’s traumatic experiences. Remember when you clung to your mother or father pouring out those gut-wrenching sobs in response to some calamity? There, surrounded by loving arms you found solace. Slowly those tears would subside as you were miraculously healed.

As adults we do not lose that source of comfort as many in this world would tell us. We do not have to be strong as Sitka spruce trees standing up to a society that constantly buffets us with 70 knot winds. Rather, we can nestle down amongst the roots under that tree, comforted by a Loving Father who can give us a peace that enables us to withstand the blows and rise again on the other side – which He always does bring to us – be it on this earth or in Heaven.

We, by our nature always want a path around, or at worst, a short path through, any painful experience. We don’t have the patience to endure the lessons that give life character. But, have you ever noticed how much brighter the other side feels after you’ve weathered the worst storms? If God puts a one-foot swell in front of us, the top of the next wave will only be a gentle roll. But when God sends a 24-foot sea crashing over us, the crests of the waves are as awesome as the summit of Crystal Mountain, and the calm on the other side as serene as a spring flower unfolding after a gentle rain.

It seems only right to bring prayer into this equation of patience and peace. Because, despite my description of the night I began this meditation, prayer is the best vehicle I have found to capture the patience and peace the Lord offers us. My opening experience is an excellent example of how not to pray. I totally lacked the patience to wait for God to answer my prayer. He had to meet my schedule and when He did not respond to my pleas for what “I knew was best,” all semblances of peace departed. But, did you notice he did answer my prayer, but not the way I expected. And He even gave me an introduction to this meditation in the process, plus an idea for a Sunday school lesson. Two for one, and I thought I had none.

But I was following my sinful human nature. Have you noticed how often when we plunge into suffering, we refuse to let go – hanging, instead, on two little words – “if only.” Rather than accepting God’s gift of healing, we cling to our pain, staying in the storm rather than moving into sheltered waters. How many of us have chosen that path, needlessly punishing ourselves, sometimes for years or even a lifetime? Isn’t some of the baggage we carry from our childhood an example of that? I know if I hadn’t fumbled that football when I was in 6th grade my life would have been a lot smoother.

God does not always answer our prayers when and how we want. Think of the times you had a vision of where you were headed with your life, only to be thwarted by an unexpected barrier. Yes – this is the job made for me and when I get it, I will live happily ever after! I may even pray and experience an inner calm, a confidence that God is in control and He will take care of me. But then, oh no, they hire somebody else – less qualified no less. How can God let this happen? How could He betray me?

Have you ever fallen into that trap? Sure, because you and I can't see the whole picture. We only have a tiny porthole from which to view the entire creation. God may have other plans for you. Maybe life isn't going to be so easy after all. Maybe you're going to have to suffer a bit or even a lot. Life may not seem fair. It sure doesn't seem fair that Jesus was crucified at such a young age. Couldn't God have arranged a long life for His own Son with a spectacular ascension into Heaven witnessed by all humankind?

No, we are not assured an easy passage through this life. But let go of our selfish worldly view and we see a far more glorious hope for the future.

As a child you wondered what you were going to be when you grew up. Although you may not have been sure what that was, you were certain the path would be a straight line. Now many of us have found we ended up wearing many different shoes and the path was anything but straight. This can be hard to accept, especially when we are mired in an unfulfilling job working for someone who has no appreciation for our worth. But again, I say, pray and find the peace of the Lord. He will reward you with the patience to endure. And when you are safely on the other side of these trials, reflect back on what He has taught you. And then take that peace and pass it on.

When Peter scolded Jesus for describing the awful death He was soon to face, Peter was anything but patient and he sure wasn't feeling at peace. Peter responded just as you or I would. "Stop it, Jesus. Don't talk like that." But how did Jesus respond to Peter's very human upset?

"Get behind me Satan. You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."

A mighty powerful response to someone who was showing his love for his Lord – his desire to spare Jesus from this seemingly horrible fate. But Jesus alone knew the futility of Peter's wishes to take the shortcut around the hard lumps in life. He alone knew that the only route to proclaim God's victory over death was through His own pain and suffering. Patience and peace. Jesus needed both to steer His course so that He could hand those life-saving gifts to you and to me.

So, take them. They're yours, free for the asking. Just take them. Patience and Peace, from God to you.

Dear Lord, We all have unmet needs, unfulfilled expectations and desires that seem to dominate our lives. Give each of us the patience to wait for your answers and the peace from knowing you will attend to our needs. Amen.

“Life is for Service”

- Fred Rogers, “Mister Roger’s Neighborhood”

Financial Report

PLC continues this year “in the red,” – spending more than we receive. *Please give prayerful thought to increasing your support of the Church and its missions.*

Giving minus Expenses for the month of May were: **-\$1,914.05.**

The total for the year so far is -\$34,721.27.

Thank you for continuing to bring your offering to church or mailing it in. You can also contribute electronically by giving from a checking account or a credit card. **You can access the secure giving site through our web page - [PLC GIVING.](#)**



July 3%

Every month, 3% of our General Giving goes to a different outreach ministry. As a congregation, we vote on the list of ministries for the upcoming year during our Annual Meeting each year. If you have suggestions for other ministries that we should consider, please give that information to a Council member.

The recipient of our 3% giving for July is [Lutheran Disaster Response](#), sharing God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. You can [give directly](#) to them, or through our church and indicate the recipient.

- [U.S. Tornadoes](#)
- [Horn of Africa Drought](#)
- [Eastern Europe Crisis Response](#)
- [U.S. Wildfires](#)
- [Hurricane Response](#)
- [Haiti Crisis](#)
- [Afghan Humanitarian Crisis](#)
- [U.S. Severe Storms](#)
- [Middle East Crisis](#)
- [South Sudan Relief](#)
- [Middle East and Europe Refugee Crisis](#)
- [AMMPARO: Protecting Migrant Minors](#)



Prayer Partner

July's Prayer Partner is [Resurrection Lutheran Church](#), Juneau, AK, led by Pastor Karen Perkins. They run Juneau's largest Food Pantry that serves 150 to 200 individuals and families each week.

Worship Bulletins

If anyone needs large print Bulletins on Sundays, please let the church office know by Thursday each week so we know how many to print.

Newsletter Feedback

We would like to receive some feedback and suggestions for improving the Church Newsletter. You can share your thoughts with the office, and Joy will pass them along without attribution – so they will be anonymous. What would you like to see included? What do you like and don't like about it? How can we make it better? Would you like to submit a guest editorial or article or devotion? Please contribute!!



Petersburg Lutheran Church
406 Excel Street, PO Box 709, Petersburg, AK 99833
Pastor Zachariah Harris III, 540-288-4337 plcakpastor@gmail.com
www.petersburglutheran.com
Office: 907-772-3114 plcakoffice@gmail.com
