



Peace Progress

Editor, Kay Glathar

February 2016

A Word from Our Pastor:

Dear Peace Family,

What are some of the great works of literature? I can remember one of my elementary school teachers arguing quite persuasively, "To Kill a Mockingbird!" One of my high school teachers would join in this debate. He would get so excited talking about Shakespeare's Othello that he would jump up onto student's desks during intense moments in the book. Maybe you know someone who would argue for War and Peace.....Little Women.....The Iliad.

There is one book from the Bible, maybe more than all the others, that could be included in this list: Job. Martin Luther once said of Job, "Job is magnificent and sublime as no other book of Scripture." Some have titled Job, "The Shakespeare of the Bible." What makes Job impactful is its down to earth approach as it observes the topic of suffering. And for this reason, we are going to be taking an in depth look into Job during the season of Lent on Wednesday nights.

Suffering touches everyone. A beloved pet is put down to sleep. A forced transition makes us change our goals. A broken relationship weighs us down. A child gets divorced. Due to the advancements of media, we are now more able to see and experience the world's catastrophes and suffering. Perhaps more than ever do we need the message of Job.

Come for Soup Supper each Wednesday and read ahead as will be unpacking these important lessons:

February 10 th (Ash Wednesday)	Learning to Lament	Job 3:1-16
February 17 th	Flying Blind	Job 1:1-12
February 24 th	Sweet Surrender	Job 1:13-21
March 2 nd	God Speaks in the Storm	Job 38:1-11
March 9 th	It Is Enough	Job 14:1-14
March 16 th	Understanding How It All Works	Job 23:1-17
March 24 th (Maundy Thursday, worship at 7)	On Earth Is Not His Equal!	Job 41:20-34
March 25 th (Good Friday, worship at 7)	Tearing Down the Spite House	Job 42:7-9
March 27 th (Easter, worship at 10 am)	I Know That My Redeemer Lives!	Job 19:23-26

I pray that our conversation about Job will lead us to an important discovery: God's grace is enough. Job experienced loss at a level that few can comprehend. He did ask the question—"Why would God allow this to happen?!" But in the end, Job never renounced his belief in God's grace and mercy. Following Job's example, we too can experience deep loss and even doubt, yet firmly holding onto God's grace, we can trust in God's big plan.

This series will be even more special as we will partner with Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church (Corvallis) and Immanuel Lutheran Church (Albany). Pastor Joe Hughes, Deacon Larry Oliver and I will be rotating each week as we celebrate our unity and variety of gifts.

I look forward to our Lenten journey together. Our last stop on Easter Sunday will be joining with Job in saying, "I know that my redeemer lives!"

In His Peace,
Pastor Lucke



Preparing for Worship

Scripture lessons for February:

February 7: (Transfiguration Sunday)

Daniel 3:19-27
Luke 9:28-36

Read the Chapter "Daniel in Exile" of **The Story** (Chapter 18, pages 249-261). Questions to considerJerusalem and God's temple were in ruins, and most of the Jews were living in exile during Daniel's time. It is easy to see how someone could lose faith. What helped them hold on to their faith? What helps you to hold on to your faith when you face difficulties?

February 14:

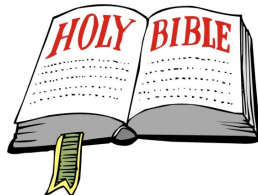
Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Romans 10:8-13
Luke 4:1-13

February 21:

Jeremiah 26:8-15
Philippians 3:17-4:1
Luke 13:31-35

February 28:

Ezekiel 33:7-20
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9



New and Re-plated Communion Ware

Thank you to all who have contributed in the process of obtaining the new pitcher and re-plating the old common cup! As some of you may know, the silversmith concluded that our pitcher could not be re-plated because the opening on the top was too narrow. A generous donor has gifted us a new pitcher for our use during communion—thank you!



The silversmith, however, did agree to re-plate our common cup. It will be back in use soon! Thank you to the person who researched the different silversmiths and donated a pottery communion cup while the old one was getting re-plated. Thank you too for those who travelled to Portland dropping off and picking up the common cup from the silversmith. And finally, thanks to all for your patience throughout this process—communion is a very meaningful part of our life together as a church family!

Attendance and Grace of Giving

DATE	COUNT	GRACE OF GIVING	
12/20/2015	106	Offering	\$1,660
12/27/2015	73	Offering	\$1,711
1/03/2016	76	Offering	\$2,946
1/10/2016	125	Offering	\$3,890
1/17/2016	86	Offering	\$770
1/24/2016	116	Offering	\$1,768

Lucke Family Thank You

Alicia, Kaia, Claire and I want to thank you all for the gift you presented to us at the Christmas Eve worship service. Your generosity is another expression of the many thoughtful ways in which you care for us. We are very blessed!

We will be sure to use the gift in a way that will honor your friendship and love. Thank you for the joy it is to serve you!

In thanks,
Pastor





Local Donation Updates

This past couple of years our congregation has made extra contributions to a couple of our local charities. The Philomath Food Bank has received 932 pounds of food from May through December of 2014. The year end total for 2015 was 636 pounds of food. Our community continues to be in need of food, so let's remember those who are hungry and continue to contribute to our local food bank.



June's Kids Klostet is our local charity to clothe our needy children. Our congregation contributed 56 bags of clothes in the year 2014. This past year the total was 78 bags.

When you shop, remember those who are less fortunate and buy extra. There are baskets in the narthex for your donations.

Why Do We Do That?

Someone said to me recently, "I don't quite understand why you do the things you do in your worship service—it seems so routine, so structured." I can completely understand why someone might feel this way, we do have certain components of our worship that do not change from week to week and our worship does have structure.

Perhaps the challenge is not so much that we have routine and structure, but that we (the pastor!) need to better explain why we do the things that we do. Behind each component of our worship is intention, deep meaning and most important—God's Word! This year in our newsletter I will be explaining the reason for worshiping the way that we do. If there is a part of the service that baffles you, please ask me and I would greatly enjoy discussing the why behind it all.

Let us start with the Invocation—sometimes we call it in our order of worship: Calling on God. This is nothing more than the words, "In the name of

the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen." These words come directly from Scripture, actually directly from Jesus in Matthew 28:20.

It is significant that we start our worship with a promise from God. These words cheer us reminding us of God's forever promise to be with us. We do not worship by ourselves or with just our fellow Christian friends—God joins us in our worship! I'd like to challenge you to start every day with these words. Invite God to be with you at all times. Call upon God in the day of trouble. Use God's name when you need it.

One more important note—the wording of the Invocation is the exact wording that was used at your baptism. Isn't it comforting to be reminded of the time God called you into His kingdom as you begin worship? I think it is.

When we say "Amen" after the Invocation we are essentially saying this, "We believe that there is no doubt of God's presence or intent, to call us into a closer relationship with Him today."

I actually cannot imagine starting a worship service any other way.

Pastor

Birthday/Anniversary Updates

I am continuing to update my records for birthdays and anniversaries. I have posted a list of all the birthdays and anniversaries that I have on the bulletin board in the hallway on the way to the Fellowship Hall. Please check the list and see if your birthday/anniversary is there and if it is correct. If you have corrections, please send me an email at kayglathar@comcast.net or put a note in my box and I will try and update my list. If you just tell me, I probably won't remember, so please put it in writing. Additionally, if you only want your newsletter online (not a printed copy), and are still getting a printed copy, let me know and I will make that update. Thank you for your patience with me.

Kay Glathar