

Reaching an Ever-Changing World With God's Never-Changing Word

Church Office:	churchoffice@princeofpeacebeulah.org	701-873-5650
Pastor: Kent Sperry	ksperry@princeofpeacebeulah.org	815-501-9629
Youth Ministry: Jordan Langness	jlangness@princeofpeacebeulah.org	701-880-0115
Church Website	www.princeofpeacebeulah.org	

December, 2015



Pastor Kent

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us..." (John 1:14 ESV)

I always remember how, after Easter one year, I received one of those anonymous notes that every pastor loves to receive (note my sarcasm). I assume it was anonymous because the person didn't want to raise this issue with me directly. In fact, they didn't even want me to know who they were. But they wanted to make their feelings known.

In this note, I was asked why we talk about the same thing every year. The implication was that this person wanted to hear something different on Easter Sunday. Now, obviously, I didn't preach the same sermon every year. But every year, on Easter, I did talk about the resurrection.

And why wouldn't I. Easter is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. Christ's resurrection is the entire reason for the holiday. But this does bring up a good point that we should consider.

It's important that we're reminded on a regular basis of what God has done for us. This is the entire point of our holidays in the church. This is the entire point of the church year. It's a continual reminder to us of the fact that God sent his Son into the world to redeem us from sin and death.

The church year begins with Advent, when we're reminded of the promised coming of Jesus. We remember how the people waited for the coming of the Savior. Then, on Christmas, we're reminded of his birth. In between the major holidays, there are remembrances of Jesus' life and ministry. During Lent, we're reminded of the events leading up to Jesus' sacrifice. We remember his suffering. On Maundy Thursday, we remember the Last Supper. On Good Friday, we remember Jesus' death. And on Easter, we remember how we rose from the dead. We then

come to Pentecost, when we remember the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the church, empowering them to carry out the call Jesus had given them. Throughout the summer and early fall, we remember the life of Christ and his teachings. And, at the end of the church year, we remember the promise of Jesus' return.

You may have noticed that, throughout the Old Testament, the Jews had a series of holidays as well. And each of these holidays were a reminder to the people of what God had done for them. They were a reminder of how he'd redeemed them from slavery in Egypt and brought them into the Promised Land.

When you look at their lives, it seems that this reminder was important. Even with the holidays, and even with the constant reminders, they continued to drift away from the Lord. They continued to place their faith in other gods or even in men.

The same thing is true for us. It's easy enough for us to get so caught up in our day to day life that we forget the Lord and what he's done for us. We forget to look to him as new needs arise. It's also easy for us to begin trusting in other sources for the blessings we need.

These annual reminders pull us back. As we celebrate, the Lord's salvation is brought back into our mind. And we're encouraged, once again, to trust in him and to look to him as our source of blessing.

It's hard to believe, but here we are at the beginning of Advent. Our Thanksgiving celebration is behind us and we're looking forward to Christmas. And, as we see in the above verse, we're reminded of the fact that the Word became flesh. We're reminded of the fact that the Son of God took on flesh and that he was born as a baby. We're reminded of the fact that he was born to save us from our sin.

We often hear the phrase repeated, this time of year, that Jesus is the reason for the season. This will be our focus at Prince of Peace throughout the season of Advent. Each Sunday, we'll look at a different aspect of the Christmas message. And we'll be reminded of the great

blessing of his coming into the world. I hope that you'll worship regularly with us and receive this reminder of the great hope we've been given.



Community Meal

December's community meal at Prince of Peace will be Saturday, November 14 from 11am to 2pm. POP youth will be hosting/serving this meal.



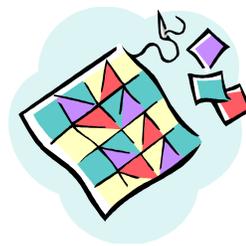
RADIO BROADCAST

Please Contact the office if you are interested in sponsoring a radio broadcast. The cost is \$35. The Radio Broadcast is heard on Sundays at 11:30 AM on KDKT, 1410 AM. Available Sundays to sponsor are December 6, 13, 20 & 27 and January 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31. The radio broadcast is a very important ministry to those that are home bound. Please consider sponsoring/funding this ministry.



Prayer Request

Prince of Peace is part of a community wide prayer chain. If you have something you would like added to the email prayer chain or would like to receive the prayer emails – please email the church office. If it is after office hours, please email Margie Lee at lee@beu.midco.net or text Darcee @ 870-2122.



Threads of Love

Quilting will resume in January 2016.



Prince of Peace
Women's Missionary
Federation (WMF)

*The Mission of the WMF of Prince of Peace
is to study and share the Good News of Jesus, through
word and deed, at home, in our community and
throughout the world.*

We will finish out the year on December 7,
at 7:00pm. WMF Coffee House will meet to
conduct a little business; we will do lesson
11 of this years WMF Bible Study on
Ephesians (this means no 3rd Monday of the
month session); and we will celebrate the
birth of our Savior in Christian fellowship
and share some Christmas goodies. Come
one; come all!

During the business meeting we will make
some plans for future Coffee House
gatherings. If you have something you
would like seen done that would be a good
time to bring it to our attention.

Have a Blessed, Holy Christmas with Christ
at the center of your celebrations!
Happy New Year to you all.

Judy Tolosky

[NEWSLETTER INFORMATION](#)

If you would like to receive the monthly
Newsletter by email, please email the church
office at churchoffice@princeofpeacebeulah.org
with your email address. The newsletter is printed
and ready by the fourth Sunday of the month. The
newsletter is also available on our website. If you
have anything you would like put in the newsletter,
please email or call the office at
873-5650.



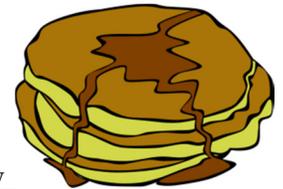
Christmas Eve Candle

Light service will be
Thursday, December 24 at
4:30pm.



Chairman's Thoughts...

No Article submitted.



Men's Breakfast/Bible Study

Is Saturday December 19 @ 7:00am

Missed a Sunday church service?



or



Did you know that each Sunday's Sermons are
recorded? If you would like a CD copy, the cost
is \$1.00. You may have the entire service or just
sermon recorded onto the CD. You can get up to
2 sermons on one CD. Please call or email the
office and we will get one to you! The sermon is
also available on our website by the following
Monday!



Library news...

Check out all the new books in our library!
Lots to read while snuggled up this winter.



Sunday School Corner

December is always a busy month for our Sunday School Students and this year will be no different. Our Christmas Program is December 13th during the worship service. In order to get ready for it there are a few important dates to remember.

- December 6th the students will spend the entire Sunday School class hour practicing.
- December 12th there will be a morning practice. Grades 3rd-6th should be at the church by 9:00 A.M. with PreK-2nd arriving at church at 10:00 A.M. The practice will be a full dress rehearsal and last until noon.
- On day of the program (13th) all Sunday School students should be at church by 8:40 in order to get ready for the program.

It is important that all students attend these practices. Practice time is very limited! Another note for parents of 3 year olds-they will not be participating in the Christmas program. After the Christmas Program Sunday School will be on break until January 10th.

Operation Christmas Child was a huge success and we are already looking forward to next year. There is a special section this month in the Newsletter devoted to it. A special thank you to all those who participated. I know that our youth loved to do it. Starting in January look for a special section detailing kits and different ideas for OCC Boxes next year.



Sunday School Christmas Program will be December 13 during the worship service.



Thank you so much to each and every one of you who donated items for Operation Christmas Child this past year! To us, items such as pencil sharpeners, candy, toothbrushes, washcloths and stuffed animals seem so simple. And yet, to the children who receive these shoeboxes – some of them for the first time seeing bubble gum or candy canes and having their very own washcloth – these simple shoebox gifts plant a seed of faith that forever changes them. The Lord uses these simple, ordinary gifts to open a door to the Gospel and to bring children and their families to faith in Jesus.

This year, as in years past, we collected items through the year for Operation Christmas Child. But this year, there was a twist – a good twist! When Sunday School started up, children and adults were challenged each Sunday to bring specific items to fill shoeboxes. As a church family, we packed boxes together during the Sunday School hour on November 8. The result was 132 shoeboxes packed! Combine that with boxes that member of the congregation packed *outside* the packing party and we had 145 shoebox gifts this year! That means 145 children will receive a shoebox gift, be blessed by the simple yet loving contents, hear the good news of Jesus Christ, and have an opportunity to be trained further in His Word!

Please keep these boxes and the children who will receive them in your prayers in the days and weeks and months to come. It is easy for us to get excited about the packing and the sending and then go on with everyday life. But these boxes will make an eternal impact and plant seeds that need our prayers to grow and bear fruit.

At our packing party, it was wonderful to see the older kids paired up with younger ones, helping them to assemble their boxes; as well as adults walking side by side with children helping them pick items to fill their shoebox. My hope is to see even more adult involvement in the packing next year. (Yes that means you, even though you may not attend Sunday School!) The bar has been set high – do you think we can do MORE boxes next year?

Lord willing, I say absolutely!

Sarah Langness

Worship Attendance

10-18 - 199
 10-25 - 186
 10-25 - 85 SLM
 10-26 - 74 SLM
 10-27 - 70 SLM
 10-28 - 70 SLM
 11-1 - 217
 11-8 - 166
 11-11 - 70 Abel presentation
 11-15 - 172
 11-22 - 191



December Birthdays!!!

Arlo Sailer	12/3
Jacey Duttenhefner	12/4
Angie Faut	12/5
Briella Schmit	12/5
Chris Iverson	12/6
Logan Behm	12/7
Sharon Schneider	12/9
Savannah Johnson	12/11
Brooklyn Keller	12/12
Judah Novak	12/13
Linda Schnaidt	12/15
Nicole Behm	12/16
Charlie Wanzek	12/16
Shaylyn Gunsch	12/17
Zachary Neuberger	12/17
Morgan Mattheis	12/18
Lynell Renner	12/19
Lisa Pederson	12/20
Aiden Green	12/22
Coleton Littig	12/22
Jeff Gemmill	12/23
Simon Novak	12/25
Holly Doe	12/26
Sandy Weigel	12/27
Haven Weltikol	12/29
Cheri Sperry	12/30
Rebecca Alt	12/31
Deb Kasanke	12/31
Willis Kasanke	12/31

Ushers for December

12-06-15 Mark Gerde*, Kenny Klein, Don Buck, Robert Buck, David Hottman, Walter Wagner
 12-13-15 Brad* & Teresa Klipfel, Gene & Dara Hausauer, John & Carmen Mohl
 12-20-15 Marvin* & Janice Sigman, Bill Keller family, Karen Knell, Tia Horning
 12-27-15 Jerry* & Marlys Reichenberg, Kacey Klautdt family, Stan Miller
 *denotes Head Usher

Fellowship service for Dec.

12-06-15 Wayne & Shawn Hoffner, Kevin & Margie Lee
 12-13-15 Ron & Milda Frei, Gary & Marj Murray
 12-20-15 Marie Kemmet, Dena Kemmet, Vern & Karla Boehm
 12-27-15 LaRue Schwarz, Kacey & Michelle Klautdt, Shane & Amy Hagen

Tis the time of the year to work on our service lists - Ushers, fellowship, Service leaders, Scripture readers, Sound System, Serving groups. If you want to get on one of these lists, or make changes to the list you are already on - please let me know in the office and I will get your recommendations to the people who actually generate those lists. Please note that these lists are created for the entire year.



Youth

“Perseverance”

By Jordan Langness

“And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.” –Romans 5:3-5

Over the past week (at the time of my writing of this article), youtube, Do it best, and I have become very good friends. Over this time frame, I embarked on a journey that ended up being much more involved than I anticipated; I began a plumbing project. All I had to do was to switch out a leaky drain from the bathtub with a new non-leaky drain. Simple right? That is what youtube showed me anyways. So, with my confidence quite high, I marched into my bathroom on Monday afternoon with Ezekiel, my helper for the day, right behind. After watching how simple this project was, even seeing how easy the next step could be if the all-important cross bars in the bottom of the drain broke during the first attempt, I was thinking we could be done in 30 minutes or so. Not too bad.

I gathered the tools in the tub, Zeke bringing his own to assist with as well, and started to attempt to unscrew the drain. To no real surprise to me, the cross bars did indeed break apart and I began attempting the other methods I had observed to loosen the drain. So, bringing out my hacksaw, screwdriver, and hammer, I donned my ear muffs and began the second method. It wasn't as quick as the first method would have been, but I started to make some progress as the drain slowly but surely began to turn. By this point, I could tell that it was going to be a much longer endeavor than 30

minutes, so I sent Zeke to play with Micaiah and mommy in the living room.

I'm not sure how long I pounded, but I fairly quickly became aware of another problem. The drain was turning, but it wasn't unthreading at all. It turns out that there was a nut below the tub keeping it in place. This was discovered later in the evening over a video chat with my brother Jeremy who has some experience with construction and plumbing. Armed with this new information, I began again the important work of fixing that drain. However, that new knowledge wasn't immediately fruitful. I soon discovered that my tools were not very adequate to the task, but still I persevered and muscled through it. Finally, the old drain was off.

Before I was able to cheer, I did a quick survey of the damage that was done to the existing plumbing and realized that I needed some new parts. This part of the job is called “back and forth” and is when Do it Best and I became friends. I got what I thought I needed, put the drain together, turned on the water, and found a leak. That was when I discovered that some of the internal parts were not sufficient. I purchased new parts, got back to work, and soon decided that having the appropriate tools would be a good idea...off to the store again. Once back, I threw things back together and was finally met with some initial success. At this point, most of the water was staying in the drain. Tonight, I hope to make my final adjustment and be done with it. In hindsight, maybe the slow leak from the stopper wasn't so bad.

I'm not going to say otherwise, this project was a hassle. But in that hassle, I learned some things, grew, and discovered that I am slowly becoming more handy around the house. In a spiritual sense, I think we may also be guilty of avoiding some of the trials, upsets, and seeming failures in our walk of faith. We feel like we may not know exactly what we are doing when we embark on the life of doing the works God has made us for, and therefore we leave it up to the “experts” to do it. Friends, when we do that, we don't grow. In the passage from Romans, we see that trials that are worked through lead to great things. Let us not too hastily take a pass on doing the work of the Lord; we

don't want to pass up those opportunities to grow and be blessed.

Upcoming Youth Events

December 12: Youth serving the Community meal
December 13-19: Jordan on vacation (No Bible Study or Youth Group this week)
December 29: High School Movie Night
December 30: Middle School Movie Night

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Pastor's Report – Pastor Kent Sperry

Attended deacon's meeting, Christian Ed meeting, trustee's meeting, youth committee meeting, Alaska mission meeting, and staff meetings each week

Attended the meeting of the Beulah ministerial and AFLC district pastors.

Confirmation classes – Going well. The kids just took their first quiz and are moving into the second half of the Ten Commandments.

Adult Sunday School – We're working our way through the AIG curriculum. We're a bit behind with the several missionary presentations in recent weeks.

Visiting and keeping up with members who are ill and shut-in.

Wednesday Bible study – We're continuing in our look at the book of 1 Corinthians.

Led worship at KRCC.

Writing Plug Into Life articles for the Beacon (I did this each week throughout the month of Oct).

Upcoming:

I'll be attending meetings for the AFLC World Missions Committee in the Twin Cities on December 4-5. I'll be leaving on the 3rd to drive to the cities and coming back on the evening of the 5th.

Youth Director's Report – Jordan Langness

Events: Parent's seminar on youth and media, youth pheasant hunt, High School and Middle School Game days, Marshmallow war

Sunday School: The month has gone well when we have had Sunday School. I really enjoyed this past week's opportunity for the entire church to serve together working on OCC Shoeboxes. I would ask that we all try to remember to lift up our high school students in prayer; pray for the Lord to preserve them as they navigate this confusing world and pray that they would have a hunger, desire, and commitment to studying His word.

Middle School: We have had some interesting classes as of late talking about the church and its functions. If you ever have a Thursday free and want to be rejuvenated by the spunk of these young ones, you are always welcome to sit in or participate.

Youth Group: We have been across the board this month with Youth group. We have had no students to 4 students, but I am anticipating some settling down happening soon. Our material has been good so far, and the students that have come lately have seemed to be willing to wrestle with it, so that is good.

Relational Ministry: I have been attending sporting events pretty regularly this past month as well as having several relational opportunities for students. Again, any of you who would wish to participate are more than welcome! I know that I am the youth director, but the growth in the students is something that happens because of the influence of the whole congregation...not just me.

Treasurers Report – Margie Lee

General Fund	\$ 60,977.30
Building Fund	\$ 9,306.52
Debt Reduction Fund	\$ 100.00
Intern Fund	\$ 10,297.37
New Altar Fund	\$ 7,264.02
Total Bank Acct	\$ 95,166.80

Loan Borrowed 4/2015	\$ 250,000.00
Loan Balance 10/2015	\$ 231,214.93

Deacon's Report – Del Schnaidt

Alaska Mission Trip: A meeting was held this past Wednesday for those who had signed up for this mission trip. The dates for the trip will be the end of June through the first week in July 2016.

Visitation: Pastor asked if anyone knows of someone who would like a pastoral visit, or if there are other needs that he can address. The deacons don't know of any, but if anyone from the congregation knows otherwise they should contact Pastor Kent or one of the deacons.

Thanksgiving worship: Pastor Kent would like to invite anyone to share a short testimony of how the Lord has been working in their life (maybe 1 to 2 minutes or less) The testimony could be similar to the popcorn type prayers we occasionally pray in a group setting. Anyone interested to share at our Thanksgiving worship service on Wednesday November 25? Maybe something where God's hand was revealed in a personal or unexpected situation.

Trustee's Report – Jason Mohl

OLD BUSINESS

1. Outdoor Bell Ringing System. We as the trustees feel the bell ringing is for the whole community and traditionally for the LORD! And people outside the church to hear. Marvin provided some information regarding the bell.

2. Furnaces were checked out. Some bolts were stripped, we high temp ART'd them for now. *no stink*!!

NEW BUSINESS

1. Project lists and timeframes that the trustees can do – occasional work days? Install hand rail and raise stained glass up 3”.

2. Baseboards to finish rooms behind altar were delivered by the Schumaiers and need to be installed. We looked at the trim and there is not enough of any style for it to match and a lot of it is window and door trim.

Christian Ed Report – Michelle Klaudt

Sunday School: Going to KRCC on Oct 18. Craft is ready. Angie will check with Donna about playing piano that day.

Puppets: Will perform at the Trunk or Treat every half hour.

Old Business:

1. Christmas program - "A Christmas to Believe In" 5th and 6th grade will have speaking parts. Perform during service on Dec 13th.

New Business:

1. Trunk or Treat: Oct 31 in the parking lot. In the fellowship hall will be craft table, food, photo booth, and games. Margaret will make pies. Angie will help set up. Advertising on Community channel and in paper.

2. Bells: Bells were distracting in the library. Angie will check w/ Twyla about having bells behind the altar at 11:00-11:15.

OLD BUSINESS

Building Project Update – Discussed patching cracks during the winter or summer and wondering what time would be best. Heater needs to be installed in the room behind the altar. Our number one priority is still to get the altar railing done ASAP for safety reasons.

NEW BUSINESS

Church wide mission fund – Discussion having a special fund titled “Congregation Mission Trip” so people could donate to support members who are going on Mission Trips.

Battery Candles – Discussion about candles dripping wax and fire hazard on Christmas Eve. We will purchase 50 battery operated candles to give to younger children at Christmas Eve to use instead of the real candles

Youth Pastor/Worker – Will discuss at the Annual Meeting changing Jordan's job title to Youth Pastor. His job duties and responsibilities would stay the same.

5. **Tithe** – Our Tithe was split:
\$1,000 to Congregational Mission Fund
\$500 to John & Ruby Abel
\$988.40 to All Ministries