

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Grace, Mercy and Peace to you from God Our Father and Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

“And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” Matthew 10:28

During this time of pandemic panic, the search for someone or something to trust is simply amazing. Every viewpoint has experts that support it. One view contradicts the next, the “facts” of one news report is the opposite of the “facts” given by the next expert five minutes later. People grasp at anything that supports their own personal opinion. Hard cold facts are dismissed for an emotion based response. Fear sells. Frenzied human reason substitutes for calm deliberation.

This crazy amount of conjecture and discussion makes sense if nothing is certain. It makes sense if no God exists. It makes sense if our God is fickle or constantly changing like the momentary fads of our society. Perhaps, if as some suggest, the creator has nothing further to do with His creation or uses us to experiment on like lab rats it may make sense. But if all these statements are false, which they are, then we have something more to hold on to. Our God is never changing. He never slumbers nor sleeps. His watchful eye is over each and every one of us and we are held safe in the palm of His hand.

What then should we fear? We need to fear only those things that can destroy body and soul. Those things to which we are susceptible that can turn us from God and lead us down a spiritual path and possibly a life's path of self-destruction.

We should never assume our faith is strong enough to take on everything. Our personal faith is not what does the work. We don't produce our faith. We don't give it its strength. It can be used for defense or attack. Faith is a shield. It says nothing original, EVER. Faith only says back to God what God says to it. God says this is my beloved son and faith responds, this is your beloved Son. God says never will I abandon or forsake you, faith responds never will you forsake me. Faith is a gift from God worked in our hearts by the power of the Holy Spirit. We cannot by our own reason come to God on our own. At times we grasp for things we cannot handle.

If this sounds shocking perhaps we should ask Joshua who went on an attack because the enemy was weak and so he did not think He had to bother God with it. We could ask Peter who was willing to die with Christ at the last supper and yet denied knowing Him three times only hours later. Both of those men had great faith but met challenges they couldn't handle.

As you hear the deafening sound of voices crying out in panic, contradicting each other, don't worry. Keep watch for those words or actions that lead you from God, that you do not put yourselves in harm's way. God is with you. If this earthly life ends, as one day it will, you are certain of the resurrection of life eternal with Him in that you may be sure.

SDG,
Pastor

If you have a prayer need or praise to share, please contact
Pastor or Amy Betts in the church office anytime at
570-703-0607.

News of The Lutheran Academy!

Working in partnership with God's people to raise up a new generation of faithful Christian men and women!

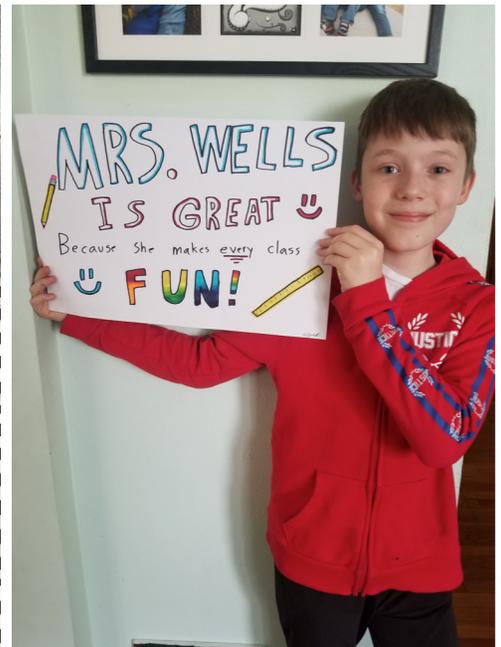
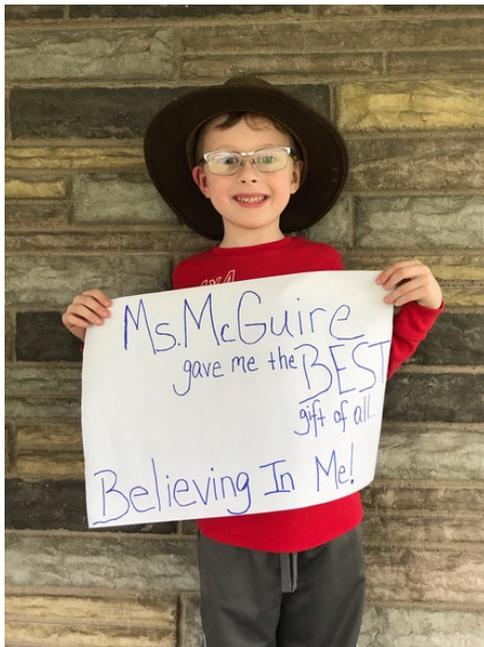
Remember that
schools are not closed.
School buildings are closed,
but educators are working
HARDER THAN EVER.

In the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, all school buildings were closed by PA Governor Wolf for the remainder of the school year. How our teachers have stepped up to instruct during this time of great uncertainty illustrates so perfectly their commitment to the students, and this level of excellence we aim to attain.

Teacher Appreciation Week is May 4-8

We don't want to spoil all the surprises here, so be sure to follow The Lutheran Academy on Facebook and our website to see the unique ways the students, parents, and school board plan to honor and appreciate our staff during Teacher Appreciation Week.

A few students got the ball rolling with their messages of love you can see below.



Many are asking how they can help The Lutheran Academy.

First and foremost, Pray! Take a moment and lift our **teachers** in praise to God for their dedication. Pray for their strength to maintain the workload of preparing, posting, and correcting the assignments for our students. Pray for our **students** and their families who have embraced a new way of learning, while aching to be with their classmates and mourning the loss of actually coming to school.

Second, Share! Share the excellence of The Lutheran Academy and encourage families you know to consider our school for the Fall. While we can't host an in-person Open House right now, we are able to virtually meet with potential students.

Finally, with your financial support! Our final two fundraisers have been put on indefinite hold. Any financial support you can give is greatly appreciated. If you prefer your contribution assist a family directly pay down their tuition balance, we do have a couple families who are having a challenging time with the loss of work due to the corona virus.

Thank you is not really a big enough statement as we close out a school year with graduation on June 4th. Please know YOUR prayers and support make all the difference!

CHICKEN BBQ DINNER FUNDRAISER

The Academy Board met this past week and decided to postpone the Chicken BBQ dinner till later this summer or early fall. As soon as a new date is scheduled we will be sure to let the congregation know. We look forward to fellowship and great food together real soon!

Visit and share the Academy website at anytime at www.thelutheranacademyscranton.org

Pray without ceasing - I Thes. 5:17

Remember to ask: "How can I pray for you?"

CHURCH NEWS AND NOTES:

Here are a couple responses we received recently from people we have been praying for on our Monthly Prayer Calendar. For the month of May, we pray for Concordia Seminary Professors from both St Louis, Missouri and Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Pastor Babbitts,
Thanks for the kind note you sent from the people at Peace, Scranton, which I received in the mail yesterday. I appreciate your prayers and your encouragement. Please convey greetings to your flock on my behalf and on behalf of the seminary community. Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed. Alleluia! God grant you peace and joy in this good news of our Risen Savior. Every blessing in Christ,
Tom Egger

Dear Pastor Babbitts,
I received a very nice note from you last week saying that your church prayed for me. Thank you very much for that! I don't doubt that such prayers keep me going every day. I see that you are in the Eastern District. My home congregation is in that district—Trinity in Lockport, New York. Thanks for giving me a piece of home. Meanwhile, if you have any high school students interested in studying music, church music, music education, or music therapy in college, I would love to talk to them.
I wish you blessings on your work in this difficult time.
Yours,
Joe Herl

+ HYMN OF THE MONTH:
Today Your Mercy Calls Us #915

As we sing the words to this hymn, we are reminded that God's grace and mercy does not have an expiration date on it. It is always there waiting for us regardless of our past sins and mistakes. God is always calling to us through His word and His servants by the power of the Holy Spirit. God calls that we may enter the gates of Heaven where He waits for us to come home. On that day to be embraced by Him and His love forever. The text was written by Oswald Allen. He was the son of a banker who later in life became a banker himself. In 1861, at approximately the age of forty-five, he published a hymnal containing 148 hymns entitled "Hymns of the Christian Life." Among those hymns was our hymn of the month "Today Your Mercy Calls Us."



Thank you to all who sponsored Easter Lillies. They adorned the altar beautifully on Easter Sunday.

May

Birthdays

Michele Cherney	2
John Babbitts III	17
Frank Schulze	20

Baptism Birthdays

Amy Betts	4
Emiline Black	29
Titus Black	29
Levi Black	29



Thank you to the many who have continued to send in their offerings even while choosing to stay at home during this time in self-quarantine.

If you chose not to attend services for the near future, we ask that if you are able, please continue to send in your offerings. Below are some options for getting them to the church.

- 1) **Mail** your contribution by check right to Peace Lutheran Church
2506 N Main Ave Scranton, PA 18508
- 2) Another way to contribute is to use your **bank's** bill-pay service. You can have this set up automatically (with your bank) so that you don't even have to think about it. The bank just needs the name and address of the church and the amount you wish to give. Most banks offer this as a free service, and the church pays no fees.
- 3) Submit an **online** offering through the church website at www.yourpeace.org. Scroll to the bottom of the homepage for the button to give your offering. You can set up a one-time or recurring tithe.

Thank you and may God continue to bless you and keep you safe.

MISSION FESTIVAL

On May 30th Peace will be hosting the Mission Festival for the Circuit over at the Lutheran Ministry Center! The event will run from 8:00am till 5:00pm. Lunch will be provided.

We will need volunteers to cook, show people how to plann, set-up, take down, assist with worship, help participants find good places nearby to conduct surveys, depending on the turn-out possibly direct traffic, and be a learner/participant. We have four guest speakers coming in including Rev. Dr. Tony Steinbronn to speak about the role of the Christian In Society. A very hot topic!! Please look in the narthex for a sign-up sheet or call the church office to volunteer.



HOLY COW!! There's a lot of finger pointing going on these days of who is to blame. But for some unknown reason, the Cincinnati Reds never showed up on April 18th (some bug going around I heard). Once Major League baseball decides this extended spring training season is over, we'll let you know if we have a new date for this year or if we will be planning a trip for next year to Yankee Stadium.



Meet graduating 8th Grader Lara!

Lara spent the last 4 years at The Lutheran Academy. She will be attending Abington Heights High School next year.

While at The Lutheran Academy, Lara participated in Piano, Travel Choir, Bell Choir, Advanced Recorder, Alto Recorder, and Drama.

Although all of my teachers had an impact on me during my time at TLA, Mrs Wells always encouraged me to express myself. This sparked a love for writing. Art and Writing are my favorite subjects. They are both fun ways I can express myself.

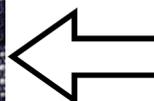
What are your long range goals?
I would like to attend Bible school to prepare me for my future in ministry.

What will you miss the most as you graduate from The Lutheran Academy?
I will miss being in a Christian environment.

The Lutheran Academy will always be special to me because of the friends that I made there and opportunities to grow closer to the Lord.

What advice do you have for the younger students?

I would challenge them with Colossians 3:17, "And whatever you do whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus giving thanks to God the Father through him." No matter what you do whether sports, schoolwork, homework, or music, do it to the best of your ability.



Hey coloring experts of all ages. Please color this and bring or send it to Peace so that we can drop a bunch of them off at the local nursing home.



GOD BLESS YOU! FROM YOUR FRIEND
_____ AT

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, SCRANTON

MAY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 5pm Holy Saturday Service
3 8:15am Worship Service 10:30 Worship Service with Communion	4 [----- Teacher Appreciation Week -----]	5	6	7	8	9 5pm Holy Saturday Service
10 MOTHER'S DAY 8:15am Worship Service 10:30 Worship Service	11	12	13	14	15	16 5pm Holy Saturday Service
17 8:15am Worship Service 10:30 Worship Service with Communion	18	19	20	21	22	23 1:30pm Council Meeting 5:00pm Worship with Holy Communion
24 8:15am Worship Service 10:30 Worship Service	25 MEMORIAL DAY	26	27	28 6:30pm Academy Awards Night (virtually)	29	30 8am - 5pm Mission Festival 5:00pm Worship with Holy Communion
31 8:15am Worship Service 10:30 Worship Service with Communion						

