

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Grace, mercy and peace to you from God Our Father and Our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

“Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father’s will. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.” Matthew 10:29-31

I can’t remember what I had planned to write on this month. The story I’m about to write to you, however, demanded to take precedent.

Several Christmas’ ago, as a family gift, we purchased a canoe. Getting out on the river is something we enjoy. The canoe never touched the water though until this past Memorial Day 2020.

It was not only the canoes first time on the river it was also Faith’s first time on the river in a canoe. Grace, Faith, and I ventured out from the Lackawaxan landing near Zane Grey’s home. The plan was to canoe the 16.9 miles to the Mongaup landing.

Unlike most Memorial Days the river was pretty empty despite our late start of 1:30 p.m.

The water was moving at a good pace. Having an inexperienced canoeer is always a challenge since they are just learning to balance their weight, but we were navigating through the rapids just fine.

Grace was in the front, Faith in the middle, and I was steering as we began. It was a beautiful day. Grace spotted a Bald Eagle and pointed it out. They are such beautiful birds to behold.

The girls switched off, Faith taking the front position. After passing the Barryville Bridge we came upon a few more rapids. The person in front is the spotter looking for rocks and relaying what they see to the person steering so that the rocks can be avoided. Grace was looking passed Faith to help her out.

Then, as often happens, we didn’t see one. The right side of the canoe rode up on the rock and the canoe capsized. We held onto the canoe through the rapids pushing off the rocks with our feet, which is always a challenge because you don’t know when they are coming.

After exiting the rapids we tried to swim the canoe to shore so we could dump the water out but the current was proving to strong and kept pulling us back to the center of the river.

Unlike most people I don’t float, even with a life vest and so at one point the river was pulling me away from the girls and the canoe. I did manage to swim back up stream but to the canoe though. I’m sure we were a sorry sight to see.

It was at this point that we spotted two rafts that were off on the shore to the left starting to paddle back out into the river. Faith had a whistle at the ready and I told her to blow it and call for help.

She did and soon both rafts were on their way to us. One grabbed one of our paddles that was floating down stream. They got us out of the water and helped us get the canoe to shore on the New York side and dumped the water out.

We told them that we just needed to get to a place where we could carry our stuff to the road at which point we would call home to get picked up.

A few hundred feet down river, we saw what appeared to be homes near the river. It was the Tel Yahudah summer camp. Six men from the rafts carried our canoe up the embankment. After making sure we were alright they went back to enjoy the rest of their day.

Our dry bag did not stay dry. Grace’s cell phone and my camera had gotten wet and her phone would not turn on.

I carried the dry bag and the paddle up to the road. It wasn’t a long walk but a bit steep. Then Faith and I carried the canoe up. With Grace’s phone not working I told the girls I was going to walk to Barryville and find a place to call home.

I hadn’t taken three steps when a Kittatinny Canoe white pick-up truck and trailer pulled up and stopped by us. The man got out of his vehicle and asked “Did you call to get picked up?” I told him we hadn’t but... He said they received a call that a canoe had over turned just like we had described and needed a ride. I asked if he had a phone we could call home with since Grace’s wasn’t working. He said a Cell phone wouldn’t work there as there was no service in the area we were at. He drove me to Pond Eddy so that I could call from their landing area. (A half hour later they were still keeping an eye out for the ones who had called.) I called home and Tanya and the rest of the family picked us up. Grace has some bruises. I stubbed by big toe nail and Faith was fine. No other injuries.

The verses from Matthew 10:29-31 immediately come to mind when I saw those two rafts. His eye is on the sparrow and as the hymns says “and I know He watches me.” This is the God who watches over you too over all of us.

I’m starting to lose count of how many instances like this have occurred in my life. Where God already had in place what He knew we needed even before we did. This is the Lord everyone needs to know.

For you are worth more than many sparrows to the one true God who loves you. Be assured no matter what the danger, real or imagined, He watches over us.

SDG,

Pastor John

News of The Lutheran Academy!

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

AWARDS NIGHT - MAY 28th

On Thursday, May 28th the students, their families, our staff, school board, and special guests joined a virtual event via Zoom. While we would have clearly preferred to be together in person, this platform allowed the Academy to recognize the hard work and dedication of our students for the 2019-2020 year.

Character Awards and Subject Matter Awards were presented to each student, as well as Principal, Citizenship, and Presidential Awards to those who exemplified the requirements of those special awards.

We are so proud of all the students and staff for soldiering on despite the challenges of remote learning. All grades completed their curricula for the full year! We wish them all a safe and restful summer.



ELLA



ANONTIO



LARA



RACHEL



MELANIE

This year we end with an 8th Grade Graduation ceremony on Thursday, June 4th at 6:30 pm. We will host this graduation virtually via Zoom. All are welcome to attend from their home to support and encourage the five students who are graduating. Please lift these students in prayer as they transition from The Lutheran Academy into High School.

HOW TO ATTEND 8th Grade Graduation . . .

You are invited to a scheduled Zoom meeting :
2020 8th Grade Graduation
Thursday, June 4, 2020 6:30 PM

<https://zoom.us>

Click "Join a Meeting"

Enter the following information:

Meeting ID: 871 298 3907

Password: 422500

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?"

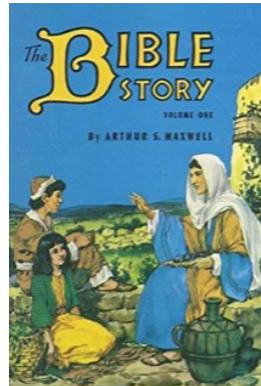
CHURCH NEWS AND NOTES:

What if you could listen to the Greatest Stories ever told in small clips of 4 to 7 minutes a day?

Well now you can! Though the stories are written to engage young children if you listen carefully

You will probably find something during this daily reading for you as an adult. 7 readers, 7 days, 7 stories a week.

The series will bring us through many of the Bible's Stories. They will be posted on Facebook and then on our YouTube channel. So tune in yourself or pass the info along to a family with young children so they too can enjoy these readings!



May Challenge Reminder

Pastor sent a letter with a few challenges for May. We are still collecting the video clips he encouraged you to make.

Video #1 Please video tape yourself and anyone in your household saying "Our God is an awesome God". We will splice these together to make a video for the Michael W Smith song. It can be silly, serious, yelled or however you want. Make it your own.

Video #2 with the letter you will find a figure of Jesus to color and put a Popsicle stick. You will also find a verse to hold up. The video is to be 10 seconds long no more. Have someone throw you the Popsicle stick figure from your left. Catch the figure and then hold it up with your right hand. Then hold your verse with your left hand so that we can read it with the Popsicle stick Jesus in your right hand. When you get to 10 seconds throw your Popsicle stick figure to your right. We will be splicing these together so that it looks like you are throwing the stick figure to one another.

Please email them to the office at amybetts@yourpeace.org, or pastor@yourpeace.org



+ HYMN OF THE MONTH:
Holy, Holy, Holy #507

Holy, Holy, Holy was written by Rev. Reginald



Heber born in 1783. He served as an Anglican Pastor for a small congregation in Hodnet, England. The purpose of his writing hymns was an attempt to help his congregation become better singers. This particular hymn was written for Trinity Sunday. In 1823 he was appointed Bishop of Calcutta, India. After three years of hard work, the travel and climate took its toll and he died at the age of 43. The composer of the hymn tune is John Dykes. Dykes became the church organist at St. John's in Hull, England at the age of ten. In 1847 he was ordained in the Church of England. During his life he wrote over 300 tunes calling the tune for "Holy, Holy, Holy," Nicea after the Nicean Council that had worked to faithfully communicate the doctrine of the Trinity.



On June 21, 2020 We will be going to one Sunday service at **9:18 a.m.**

The Saturday night service will remain at 5:00 p.m.

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.

June

Birthdays

Emiline Black	9
Tanya Babbitts	12
Ky Betts	26
Jim Calpin	29
Nicole Calpin	29

Baptism Birthdays

John Babbitts III	6
Alfred Betts	23



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.

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.

Prayer Coordinator

You may have seen in the bulletin (or maybe you didn't notice. Sorry Amy) that we have been looking for someone to serve as a Prayer coordinator. So what is a Prayer Coordinator? The prayer coordinator makes contact with people on the prayer concern list so that our prayers can be more timely and focused to what is going on currently in a person's life. If a person we were praying for has had their prayers answered, the prayer coordinator will let us know to change a prayer of need to a prayer of praise. As time progresses, the prayer coordinator helps to establish prayer walking, prayer partners, and prayer chains. The coordinator will also monitor an app that allows a visitor to our town to be directed to Peace Lutheran should they need prayers. The prayer coordinator works with the Pastor, Church Administrator, and Elders to help build on the existing prayer ministry. In the past we have had an annual prayer vigil on St. Patrick's. We have our prayer calendar and the note cards that go out, and last year we held a National Day of Prayer event at The Lutheran Academy. I am excited to let you know we now have a person to serve as our coordinator. Her name is Theresa Nichols. She is the wife of Brian who serves as a Chaplain to nursing homes. Her daughter Tess is an accomplished violinist and former student at The Lutheran Academy, who was confirmed in our congregation by Pastor Bjornstad. Brian & Theresa also have a son, Matthew. Theresa and her family had attended Peace before but have been coming to our face to face services faithfully since Ash Wednesday. So if you see her name on your caller ID you will know who she is and why she is calling. We thank God for providing a person to fulfill this role and for her enthusiasm that I am sure you will find contagious!



A couple responses received from those we lift on our Prayer Calendar

Dear Pastor Babbitts,
Greetings in the name of Jesus, whom God raised from the dead.

I received your note. It was kind and thoughtful and encouraging. Thank you and the disciples of Peace Lutheran for this, even as I praise God for you.

You graciously offer to receive a prayer request. I have one: Please pray for Concordia Seminary. The Covid-19 outbreak, which has brought sickness and death, fear and confusion, uncertainty and concern to so many around the world, has had its effect on students, staff, and faculty. As far as I know, no one in the seminary community has died from the disease. But all of us have been affected, especially students. On top of this, our President is retiring and a successor will soon be elected. What a time to start a new ministry! A prayer for wisdom for all who lead, and hope and patience to everyone would be appreciated. Thank you again!

Blessings and Peace,
Dr Okamoto

Dear Pastor Babbitts,
Greetings in Our Risen Lord!

I found a wonderful card from you and your congregation in my mailbox at Concordia Seminary. With the campus closed for the coronavirus pandemic, we do not get on campus as often - so my apologies for the delayed response.

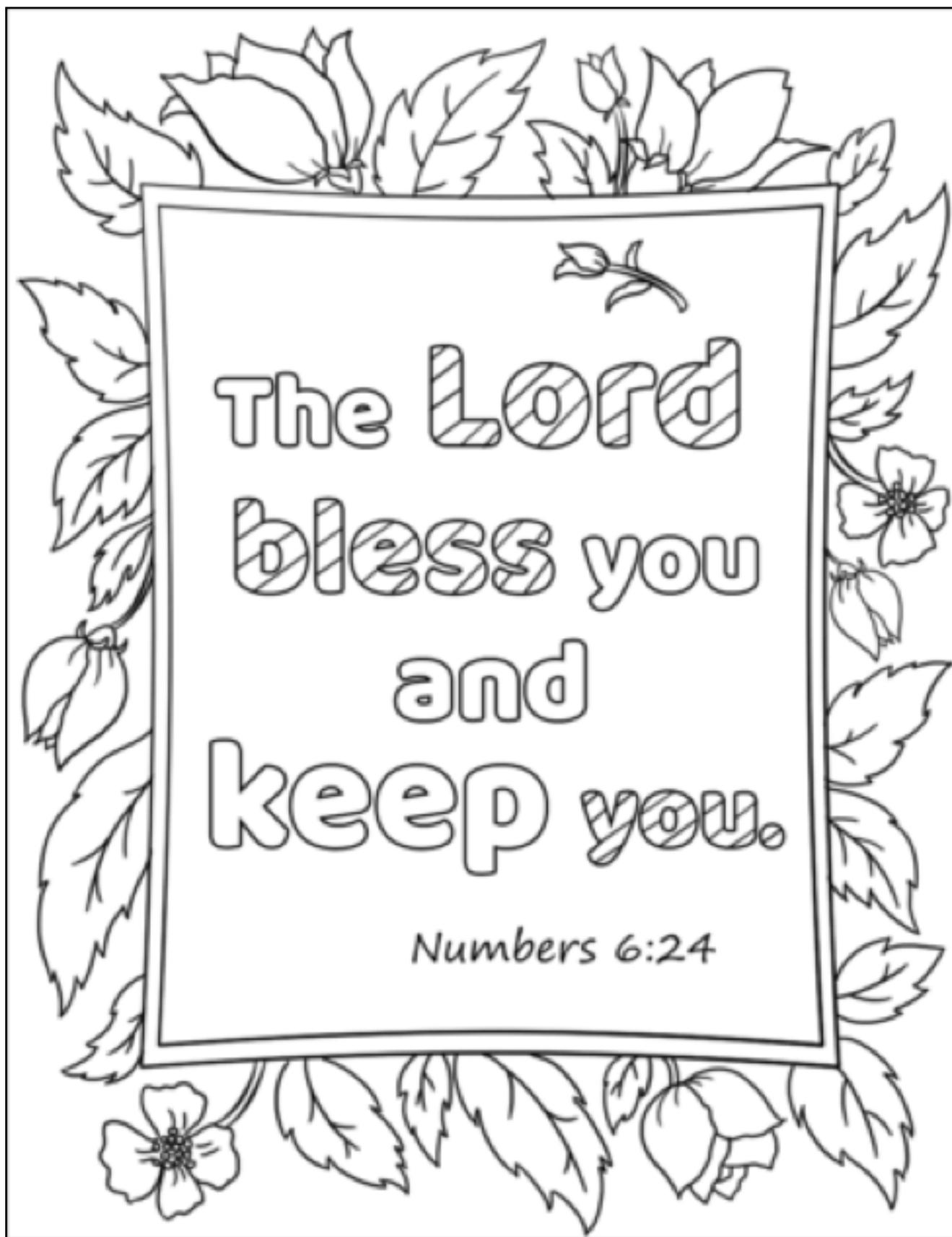
I want to thank you and your people for your prayers. It is a beautiful picture of the Body of Christ caring for one another. It was very kind of you to remember me in prayer. I would ask you and the saints there to remember my son Luke who will be receiving his vicarage assignment. We are very excited for him and the plans God has in store for him.

I drove through Scranton many times when I was a pastor in New Jersey on my way to visit family in the Midwest. It's nice to make that reconnection.

Thank you again for your prayers. I hope you are all staying safe and healthy, maintaining physical - but I hope not social distancing as you strengthen and build one another up in the Body of Christ.

With Thanks,
Rev Joel C Elowsky

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.

JUNE 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Last Day of School at The Lutheran Academy	4 6:30pm Academy 8th Grade Graduation (virtually)	5	6 5:00pm Worship with Holy Communion
7 8:15am Worship Service 10:30 Worship Service with Communion	8	9	10	11	12	13 5:00pm Worship with Holy Communion
14 8:15am Worship Service 10:30 Worship Service	15	16	17	18	19	20 First Day of Summer 5:00pm Worship with Holy Communion
21 FATHER'S DAY 9:18am Worship Service with Communion	22	23	24	25	26	27 5:00pm Worship with Holy Communion
28 9:18am Worship Service	29	30				

JUNE 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	1 Rev. Douglas Escue – Immanuel Lutheran Church, Santa Fe, NM	2 Rev Martin Schroeder Lee – Ascension Lutheran Church, Pittsburgh	3 Rev Arthur Litke - Bethel Lutheran Church, Glenshaw, PA	4 Rev William Dorow Jr – Calvary Lutheran Church, Waterloo, NY	5 Rev William Boymah – Christ Assembly Lutheran Church, Philadelphia, PA	6 Rev David Oester – Christ Lutheran Church, Oil City, PA	
7 Rev Frederick Hoover, Jr – Christ Memorial Lutheran Church, Malvern, PA	8 Rev. Robert McCanless – Concordia Lutheran Church, Pittsburgh, PA	9 Rev Clayton Zuber – Epiphany Lutheran Church, Avon, NY	10 Rev Benjamin Braun – Faith Lutheran Church, Rochester, NY	11 Dr Charles Whited Jr – First Trinity Lutheran Church, Tonawanda, NY	12 Rev Bryan Spang – Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, State College, PA	13 Rev Benjamin Bahr – Grace Lutheran Church, Niagara Falls, NY	
14 Rev Jeffrey Nickel – Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Clarence, NY	15 Rev Denton White – Holy Ghost Lutheran Church, Bergholtz, NY	16 Rev David Werly – Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Binghamton, NY	17 Rev Charles Madison – Holy Community Lutheran Church, Red Creek, NY	18 Rev John Zimmerman – Immanuel Lutheran Church, Scranton Pa	19 Rev Luis Florez – La Santa Cruz Lutheran Church, Buffalo, NY	20 Rev Peter Richert, Lutheran Church of Our Savior, Mount Pocono, PA	
21 Rev Scott Kuntz – Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, West View, PA	22 Rev James Zang, Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Lockport, NY	23 Rev Kurt Schultz – Our Savior Lutheran Church, Niagara Falls, NY	24 Rev Joseph Mazikas, Jr – Pinnacle Lutheran Church, Rochester, NY	25 Rev Domenick Lettieri – Redeemer Lutheran Church, Colden, NY	26 Dr. Arnold Deknatel – Risen Christ Lutheran Church, Fairport, NY	27 Rev Kurt Schultz – St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Sanborn, NY	
28 Rev James Oester – St. John Lutheran Church, Accident, MD	29 Rev Philip Schultz – St Luke Lutheran Church, Cheektowaga, NY	30 Rev Mark Brown – Saint Mark Lutheran Church, West Henrietta, NY	PRAYER CALENDAR				Sister Congregations in the Eastern District