NEWSLETTER

September 2019

Peace Talk

House of Prayer on Parker and Main

"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

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

According to studies, a child's spiritual and moral foundation is established before the age of fifteen, in many cases by the age of nine years old. Unlike adults, every new piece of information that a child learns cause the child to completely re-evaluate what the child learned in the past. These findings focus us as Christians on how important it is for our children and indeed all children to learn the one true faith and what constitutes a God pleasing life. Often we expect that the majority of this teaching will occur in the home. However, this may not be the case either because of the home in which they grow up or because of the ignorance of the parents regarding spiritual matters.

An interesting study conducted by the University of Nebraska (2010) suggests that the Gen-Xers (b. 1965-1980) though largely raised in un-religious homes were more loyal to their religious affiliation. It was suggested by those who interpreted the data that the Gen-X generation might be the one to stem the tide of the secularization in our nation and stabilize the religious scene in our society as they grow older. Even as that generation was entering adulthood (c. 1990) the percentage of Americans claiming to be non-religious doubled. This number was believed to be reflective, to a large extent, of the baby-boomers tendency to disconnect themselves with religion.

Despite this increase what the study determined was that Gen-Xers raised with a religious affiliation were very unlikely to separate from it. As the verse in Proverbs testifies. That might not be your experience. You might be able to think of many a child that has departed from their faith. People who have fallen away at this point in their life because of what they learned in college. Studies suggest they can be reached. And now there are two more generations that have come after the Gen-Xers. Two generations who are looking at the Church. Generations that want change.

What are the two most recent generations looking for in church?

- They want to see the congregation reflect the diversity of the community around it.
- They want to see the church members applying what they say and hear at worship to their daily lives in their work place and places they play.

How do we show them Peace Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Academy can walk the talk?

- We need to assume nothing which may be the most difficult task of all. Though they are some of the most tech savvy and well educated generations in our country's history, they only have a vague knowledge of Jesus, Mohammed, Ghandi, and Moses.
- Though they are among the most educated generations, they do not know what the difference is in many cases between Christian, Muslim, Mormon, Jevohah Witness, Branch Davidian, or Jim Jones.
- We need to be sensitive to the fact that they won't know common church language – justified, sanctified, sacristy, narthex, etc. or church practices.
- We can't assume that they have a "faith" or have faith and if they do it may be fragmented.
- We need to teach the value of scripture and prayer.
- We need to increase our encounters with them digitally but more important physically being present among them.

We are in an exciting time! A time when the Lord is calling to us to share the faith that we have the privilege of knowing so well! That message that Christ died once for all! We have to be the church!

God is working in these three latest generations. Gen-Xers to stem the tide and bring balance back and the Millennials and Gen Z to push the church into action and to the forefront of our community! So that the generations to come will be raised in the way in which they should GO! The latest generations want to see change, we know only God can truly change their lives by the power of the Holy Spirit! Time for us to Go and Baptize!

May God give us the zeal to do His work, walk the walk and talk the talk and bring all those in need to the knowledge of Him fulfilling our purpose in life. Amen

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!

ACADEMY NEEDS

Do you, or someone you know, have two hours a week they can volunteer to teach gym at the Lutheran Academy? If so please speak to Pastor, Amy Betts, or Jan Wells.

Enrollment Update:

We are so pleased to share we began the school year with 32 students enrolled in Kindergarten through 8th grade. This is a 35% increase in enrollment. We praise God for this increase and continue to pray for the opportunity to reach more families this coming school year. We ask you to join us in this prayer as well.

First day of school picture following the chapel service led by Pastor Kim Bode and Carsten Bjornstad.

Boscov's FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS

Wednesday, October 16th
8am-11pm

Buy your $5 shopping pass from The Lutheran Academy and receive:

* 25% off Discount Shopping Pass
* Refreshments
* Register to win prizes

ALL proceeds from the purchase of your shopping pass benefit The Lutheran Academy. Spread the word and help us sell at least 100 passes!

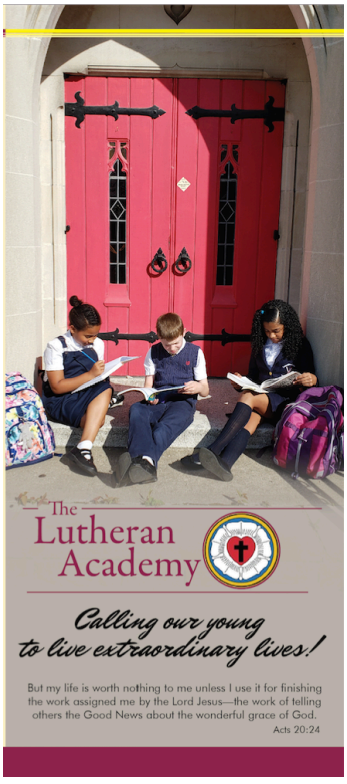
We praise God for the dedication of our volunteer classroom instructional aides. Statistics are in from the 2018-2019 school year and our instructional aides gave over 726 hours of time to The Lutheran Academy! When multiplied by the national value of a volunteer hour, we praise God for over $18,000 in lovingly given time and talent. Thank you to all who give, and will give so selflessly!

The Academy can always benefit from donations not just monetary, but also consumable supplies like those listed below:

Toilet Paper	Paper Towels
Clorox Wipes	Tissues

If you are interested in donating one of these items, please let Amy Betts know and she can arrange pick up.

The Academy is also looking for a moveable basketball hoop on a stand for outdoor recess time if you know of anyone looking to rehome one.



The school brochure was redesigned this summer and we have LOTS of copies to distribute. Please help us spread the word of our school with this professional publicity tool. Copies available at the back of the church.

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

Pray without ceasing - 1 Thes. 5:17

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

CHURCH NEWS AND NOTES:

+ SPECIAL PRAYERS & PRAISE

For **Frank Schulze** who is scheduled to be released from prison and return to his family this month.

For **Joann Roberts** recovering from surgery.

+ COFFEE TIME

After the 10:30am service, we have been enjoying a time of sweets and fellowship. Consider staying a few minutes and fortify yourself and have some time to socialize before heading home.

All of us heard about the devastating floods that ravaged Nebraska this year. The state suffered the worst damage in Nebraska history. Good Shepard Lutheran Church helped in the aftermath but is now looking for volunteers ages 14 and up to help Nebraska rebuild. Project Restore which has received a $135,000 grant from LCMS World Relief is providing, tools, housing, training, and safety equipment for volunteers willing to come and help. In addition, the church says that most of the volunteers meals will be provided as well. The only cost to the volunteers is their transportation to and from the site.

Our congregation has a great record of helping communities that have suffered a loss. That is one tradition I am anxious to continue. Project Restore will be continuing for at least a year. I have contacted Pastor Ryan and he said they need help in every season, yet the majority of volunteers come in the summer. If you would be interested in going out to Nebraska sometime in February or March and helping the good people there to recover please let Pastor or Amy know!

+ HYMN OF THE MONTH:

Earth and All Stars (LSB 817)

This hymn was written by a Lutheran Pastor that served in NY, PA, and TX. The author, Herbert Brokering, served as the head of Parish education for the American Lutheran Church and wrote over 30 books and fifteen hymns. The phrase "Sing to the Lord a new song" which is featured prominently in the hymn can be found in Psalm 33:3; Psalm 40:3; Psalm 96:1; Psalm 98:1; Psalm 149:1; Isaiah 42:10; and references to God's people singing a new song in Psalm 144:9; Revelation 5:9; and Revelation 14:3. It is often sung at the beginning of a new school year.

+ PLARN

Our plarn workers are hard at work every Monday evening. One mat has been completed and two more are in the works. If you have never attended, please consider stopping in and learning about the process and how you can help. Thank you to those who faithfully come and work together for those less fortunate. Additional PLARN times can be added to the calendar, just let Amy in the church office know you preference.

Looking Ahead . . .

September 7 Ladies Luncheon for the women of Peace and The Lutheran Academy held at the Lutheran Ministry Center

September 27 Family Game Night held at the Academy

September 28 Block Party - come meet the neighbors!

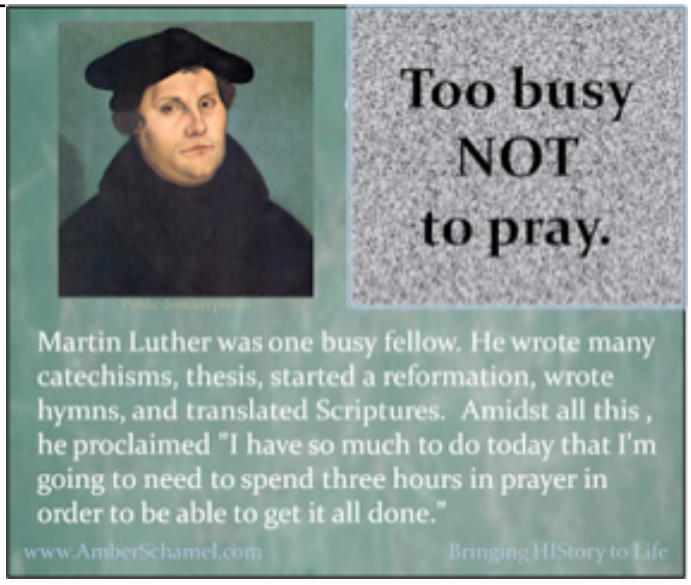
October 5 Blessing of the Animals - Plan to bring your pet!

October 26 Rev. Dr. Anthony Steinbronn, President of the LCMS New Jersey District presentation on the Parables of Jesus.

I can't tell you how wonderful it is each Sunday to have so many prayers being lifted up by the members of the congregation that did not make the bulletin!

I once took a class in Criminal Investigation. The professor was a retired Police Chief of Detectives who served in Newark, New Jersey. During one of his lectures he told us that the more effective the police force the higher the number of reported crimes. People don't report a crime if they feel the police will do nothing about it. That we are lifting up additional prayers every week is a great witness of our knowledge that God does act on everything we ask and a great reflection of the prayers he has answered of whom we are all witnesses. Keep those prayer requests coming and please keep using the prayer calendar for an additional daily prayer opportunity and strengthening of those in our church. To God alone be the glory!

Pastor



September

Birthdays		Baptism Birthdays	
Terry Kramer	8	Faith Babbitts	24
Isabelle Kramer	10		
Chuck Mercer	14		
Titus Black	15		
Ali Kramer	20		
Ramona Brown	22		
Grace Babbitts	25		

THE PARABLES OF JESUS

Rev. Dr. Anthony Steinbronn, President of the LCMS New Jersey District and Author of the book "Worldviews: A Christian Response to Pluralism," will be giving a presentation on the Parables of Jesus.

Saturday, October 26th
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The agenda will include lunch and breaks and there is a $5 per person suggested offering to cover lunch.

PASTOR BODE'S RETIREMENT PARTY

After 29 years serving the Lord at Grace Lutheran Church, Pastor Kim Bode has retired. All are invited to his retirement party. Here are the details.

Saturday, September 21, 2019
5:00-8:00pm
Heart Lake Lodge
1598 Heart Lake Rd Jermyn (Scott TWP), PA 18433

Buffet dinner with soda/coffee/tea, and cake
$24.95 for adults
$12.95 for Children under 10 (chicken fingers or Mac & Cheese)
Cash Bar: $3 Beer, $5 Wine and Mixed Drinks

RSVP and send payment by Sept 6th to
Lorraine Stanton
Grace Lutheran Church
351 Greenwood St Hop Bottom, PA 18824
Indicate on check how many adults and how many children will be attending.

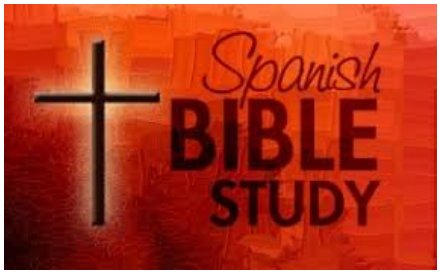
Two calendars? On the back of the church event calendar, you will see every month a prayer calendar. Please pray for the person that appears on that day.

Pray for them to filled with the knowledge of God's will with all spiritual wisdom and understanding to help them walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to God, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. That they would be strengthened by God with all power according to his glorious might for all endurance patience with joy; giving thanks to the Father that they have qualified that person and us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light and that He has delivered that person and us from the domain of darkness and transferred them to the kingdom of his beloved Son in whom that person and us have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

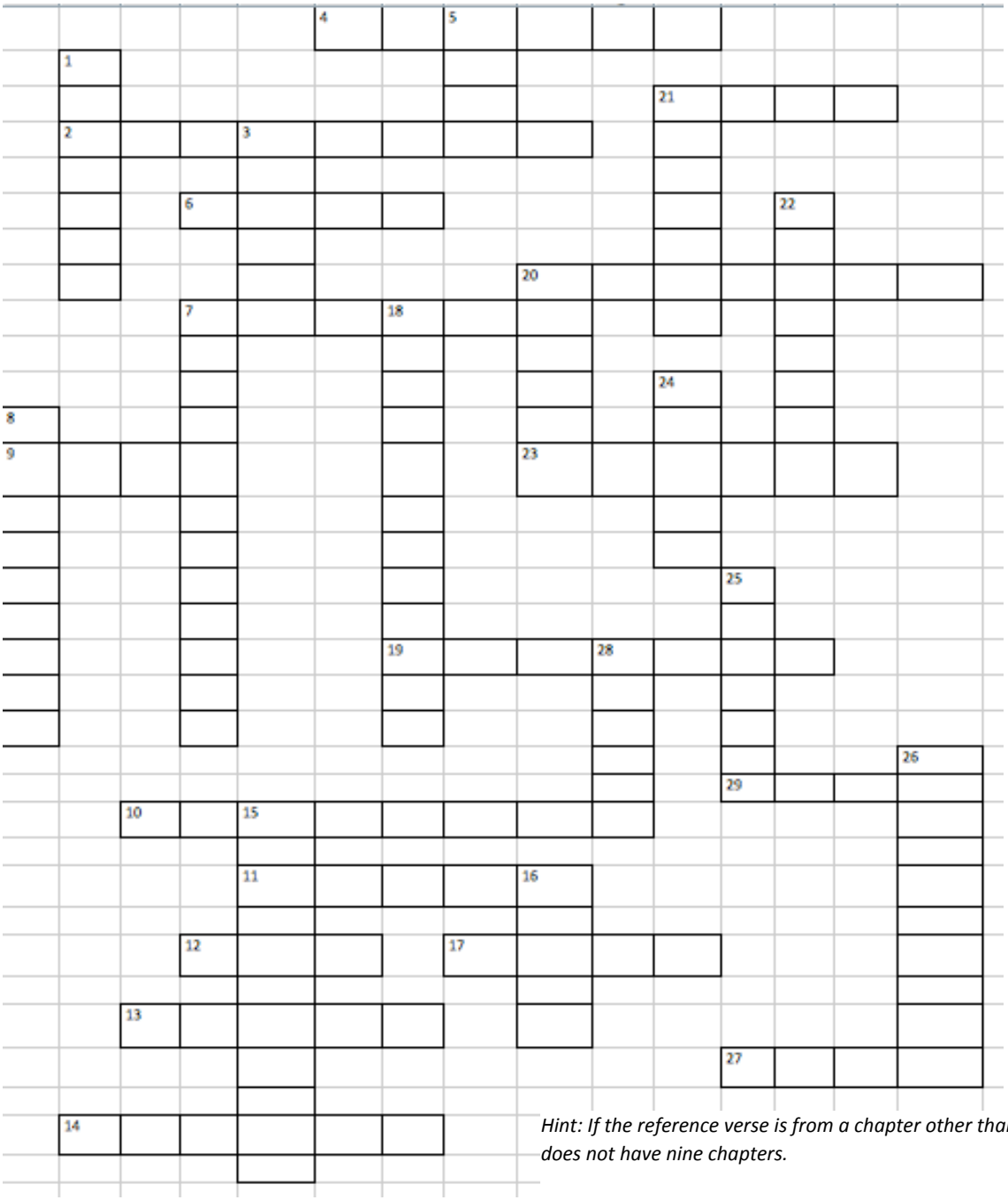
This is the prayer of St. Paul for the Colossians. We will then send that person a note letting them know that as a congregation we have lifted them up in prayer. For the first few days of September, we will be praying for the District Presidents of our Synod and ending the month praying for Students and Staff of Concordia University, Seward Nebraska.

Did you know? Of non-English speakers in Scranton almost 5,700 speak Spanish or Spanish Creole.

Estudio de la Biblia…On Saturday, September 14th we will begin a bible study of the parables of Jesus for people who find it easier to communicate and understand in Spanish. If you know anyone who would be interested in joining us please let them and Pastor or Amy know!!



BOOKS OF THE BIBLE



Hint: If the reference verse is from a chapter other than nine then the book does not have nine chapters.

DOWN

1. The rainbow shall be in the cloud (9:16)
3. For this purpose I raised you up (9:16)
5. For we were slaves (9:9)
7. let us walk by the same rule (3:16)
9. Author of 13 epistles
15. Another name for the Song of Solomon
16. Zion shall be plowed like a field (3:12)
18. He has also broken my teeth with gravel (3:16)
20. the decree was proclaimed in Shusahan (3:15)
21. Gospel written by a former tax collector
22. no longer as a slave but more than a slave (v 16)
24. For where envy and selfseeking exist (3:16)
25. you shall anoint him commander (9:16)
26. the army of the horsemen (9:16)
28. I pray let your anger and fury (9:16)

ACROSS

2. But They and Our Fathers Acted (9:16)
4. having a good conscience (3:16)
6. The Lord also will roar (3:16)
7. The Lord is known by the judgment (9:16)
8. according to the riches of His glory (3:16)
10. So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem (9:13)
11. You have multiplied (3:16)
12. If I called and He answered me (9:16)
13. Ephraim is stricken (9:16)
14. one came to the wine vat (2:16)
17. he must suffer for My name's sake (9:16)
19. You drank from my Holy Mountain (v. 16)
21. Author of the Shortest Gospel
23. nor of him who runs (9:16)
27. Gospel written by a son of zebedee
29. Gospel written by a physician

SEPTEMBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:18am Worship Service with Communion	2 6:00-7:00pm PLARN at Peace	3	4 1:00-2:00pm PLARN @ Peace	5 6:00pm Hymn Sing at Nursing Home 6:30pm Council Meeting	6	7 Noon-2pm Ladies Luncheon held at LMC 5:00pm Worship with Holy Communion
8 **RALLY DAY** 8:15am Worship Service 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service	9 6:00-7:00pm PLARN at Peace	10 3pm Academy Board Meeting	11	12 6:00pm Hymn Sing at Nursing Home	13	14 5:00pm Worship with Holy Communion
15 8:15am Worship Service 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service with Communion	16 6:00-7:00pm PLARN at Peace	17	18 1:00-2:00pm PLARN @ Peace	19 6:00pm Hymn Sing at Nursing Home	20	21 5:00pm Worship with Holy Communion 5:00-8:00 Pastor Bode Retirement Dinner
22 8:15am Worship Service 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service	23 6:00-7:00pm PLARN at Peace	24	25 1:00-2:00pm PLARN @ Peace	26 6:00pm Hymn Sing at Nursing Home	27 7-9pm Game Night at the LMC	28 Noon-2pm Block Party at Grace Street Park 5:00pm Worship with Holy Communion
29 8:15am Worship Service 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service with Communion	30 6:00-7:00pm PLARN at Peace					

Save the Date
October 5th - Blessing of the Animals

SEPTEMBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Rev. Timothy Scharr -Southern Illinois district	2 Rev Michael Newman - Texas District	3 Rev John Hill - Wyoming District	4 Rev. Chris Wicher Eastern District	5 Rev. Matthew Harrison President LCMS	6 Grace Weber	7 Dr. Tririzia York
8 Laura VonKampen	9 Emma Holthus	10 Grace Jones	11 Rose Nigh	12 Dr. Jennifer Janousek	13 Avery Kesar	14 Elisa Kurth
15 Professor Bryan Moore	16 RJ Acomb	17 Professor Nicole Briggs Jacobs	18 Aimee Howe	19 Hayley Steinbauer	20 Allison Brooks	21 Professor Aaron Nix
22 Kacy Meyer	23 Hannah Cmeyla	24 Stephanie Barry	25 Grace Babbitts	26 Dr. Lisa Ashby	27 Bethany Schilling	28 Jenna Frederickson
29 Naomy Snider	30 Sarah Warneke					

PRAYER CALENDAR

September 6-30: Students and Staff of Concordia University, Seward Nebraska