

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Grace, Mercy and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

“and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things.” Luke 24:47-48

Well, we're four for four. Four Gospels written about Christ's life and every one of them has verses that tell us we are Christ's witnesses to preach to all nations in His name.

During this time of year, we focus on the time when Christ will return. That is of course until the end of the month which is when we remember and celebrate Jesus' first coming. I'm envisioning two slices of bread without any meat or fixings in between. What's in between should look like a Dagwood sandwich with layer after layer of good stuff between the slices. But what is supposed to be in-between?

Let's keep the spirit of Christmas going all year long by giving someone the gift of Jesus everyday.

God tells us the same thing in Acts (1:8) “You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth.” If God takes time to tell us “Go tell the people,” after He himself has just finished telling the life of Jesus through the inspired pens of the Gospel writers. Then in the very next book it starts with Go, tell the world about Jesus. This should convince us that God wants us to do this.

This Christmas, Go tell people about Jesus. As we explore the scriptures concerning Jesus' life from now until the ascension, Go tell people about Jesus. Then when we read about the growth of the church and Jesus' teachings until He returns....Ummmm Go tell people about Jesus. Because that's what He tells us to do.

John the Baptist said “Behold the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world.” (John 1:29). Andrew was one of the two disciples that heard John the Baptist. Andrew then ran and told his brother Peter. “We have found the Messiah.” (John 1:41) and Peter was then brought to Jesus. The next day Philip ran to Nathaniel. “We have found Him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth...Come and see.” Nathaniel met Jesus and became one of His disciples.

Paul tells us (Romans 1:11) “For I long to see you that I may impart to you some spiritual gift....I am ready to preach the Gospel to you in Rome also. “(Romans 1:15b)

John writes to us (I John 1:2-3) “the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us - that which we have seen and heard we declared to you...”

It would seem there are many passages, Old and New Testament, that tell us what God wants us to do as His ambassadors to the world.

As the new year of the church has started, let us fill out the year with bearing witness to those around us. Telling them what we know, and carry out the mission He gave us throughout the year.

Merry Christmas! Amen.

SDG,

Pastor

News of Lutheran Education!

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

Family Game Night

December 10th

6:00-8:00pm

Held at the academy building.

1546 Monsey Ave, Scranton

ALL invited to attend.



This month will be a special Gingerbread House building/decorating event. If your family would like to attend and build a house, please RSVP by December 3rd so your kit can be reserved.

A "family" in this case could be parents and their children, or perhaps a "Peace Family" unit of 2-5 members who want to work together. All houses will be on display at the Academy and voting for prizes will take place through Mid-December. Call Amy Betts in the church office for more information or to RSVP.

A Holiday History Showcase and Open House

Tuesday, December 14th*

10:00am- 2:00pm

and

5:00-7:00pm

- * Come see all we are learning at The Lutheran Academy.
- * Enjoy and vote on the best class-decorated, themed Christmas Tree.
- * View art and classroom projects completed so far this year.
- * Take home a gift from the students.

Thank you for your support of our school and we pray God's blessings over you in the year to come. This is a drop-in event, so feel free to stop at the academy during the event hours listed above. Let your favorite student or staff member know you are coming to enjoy a guided tour of the exhibits.

For more information or to RSVP for a specific time to attend, call the school at 570-507-9108.

We are in need of 2 artificial Christmas trees at the Academy. We have one and are seeking a donation or a short term borrow of 2 trees for our December 14th event. Please share this need with those you know.
Thank you

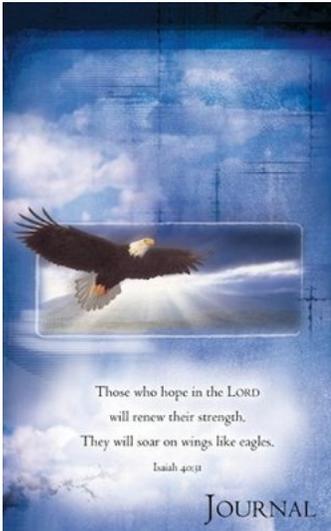


**Snow date is Thursday,
December 16th*

The Lutheran Academy offers open enrollment, which means as long as a spot is available in a classroom, a family can apply at any time during the year. Please continue to spread the word of our school.

Pray without ceasing - I Thes. 5:17

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



Last month you were asked to think about the question: **Does God exist?**

How did you answer the question? Did you surprise yourself with what you wrote? Was it a response you were proud of? Does the way you live reflect how you responded or was how you answered very different from how you live?

Your question for December is: **Does your life conform to what you said you believe?**

Make sure to place the date and your thoughts on the page. If you would like to discuss them with Pastor that would be great! If you want to keep them to yourselves that is fine as well. You may also want to note whether you prayed for anyone that day and whether you read the Bible at all that day. Don't worry about how few or how many pages you use each day. At the end of the challenge, Pastor will ask you to share some insights from the challenge anonymously for inclusion in the newsletter.

(The questions I am asking you are inspired by Questions on the website of the New Jersey District of The LCMS written by Rev. Dr. Anthony Steinbronn, author of a book on worldview.)

DECEMBER

Birthdays

Alexis Cherney	10
Tina Brernardi	14
Jim Praefke	31

Baptism Birthdays

Ed Smith	9
Joy Babbitts	24

+ HYMN OF THE MONTH: **I Lay my Sins on Jesus #606**

For over two centuries, the author of the hymn "I lay my sins on Jesus," had a family member in the clergy up to his service in the Church of Scotland. Born in 1808 on the 19th of December, Horatius Bonar was educated at the High School and the University of Edinburgh. At the present time, close to one hundred hymns of his are in current use. Among those hymns is the one highlighted here "I lay my sins on Jesus," written in 1843.

As we sing the hymn we sing that we lay our sins on Jesus so we may be freed from sin by Christ. We lay our guilt on Jesus that it may be washed away. We lay our wants on Jesus that our diseases may be healed and our souls redeemed. Then there is a shift. We want to be with Jesus and be called God's child. We want to be with Jesus in His heavenly home.

People, since the fall, have struggled with sin, want, disease and death. At times it may seem these things have us surrounded. As we sing this hymn together, may God hear our individual prayer to keep us as His child and in His care and give us comfort until we see hlm face to face. Amen.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School classes are offered for children ages 4 through adult. Sunday School begins at 9:30am. Hope to see you there.

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

Worship Schedule - December

Advent worship services will be held at 7pm on Wednesday December 1st, 15th, 22nd

Advent services each week will be preceded by a potluck dinner which will begin at 6 p.m. A sheet will be available to RSVP for the service and to sign up to bring a dish for dinner.

Christmas Eve

5:30pm Family Worship Service

8:00pm Candle Light Worship Service

Christmas Day

NO Saturday Service

Sunday, December 26

Regular 8:15 and 10:30am Services

January 1, 2022

NO Saturday Service

Sunday, January 2, 2022

Regular 8:15 and 10:30am Services



Life at Peace



**Ladies
Christmas
Tea**

*Saturday, December 11th
Noon-2:00pm
Peace Lutheran Church*

*RSVP to Amy in the church office at
570-703-0607.*

ALL ladies young and young-at-heart are invited to an afternoon of food, games, and lots of fellowship.

The coloring page in the newsletter each month can be turned in and we will send them to the residents at The Gardens at Greenridge where our beloved Audrey Russell lives.

DECEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6pm Potluck Meal 7pm Advent Worship Service	2	3	4 No 5pm Worship
5 8:15am Worship Service 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30am - Worship Service	6	7	8 7pm Advent Worship Service at Immanuel Lutheran Church	9	10 6pm -Family Night @ TLA - Gingerbread Houses	11 Noon-2pm Ladies Luncheon No 5pm Worship
12 8:15am Worship Service 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30am - Worship Service	13	14 10-2 and 5-7pm Academy Holiday History Showcase and Open House	15 6pm Potluck Meal 7pm Advent Worship Service	16 <i>Snow date for Academy Holiday History Showcase and Open House</i>	17	18 5:00pm Worship with Holy Communion
19 8:15am Worship Service with communion 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30am - Worship Service with communion	20	21	22 6pm Potluck Meal 7pm Advent Worship Service	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 5:30pm Family Worship Service 8pm Candle Light Worship Service	25 CHRISTMAS
26 8:15am Worship Service with communion 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30am - Worship Service with communion	27	28	29	30	31	

DECEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
PRAYER CALENDAR Students, staff, and board of The Lutheran Academy and the members of the Peace Church Council and support staff						
5 Mrs Sharyn Martucci and her family	6 Xzavier and his family	7 Evan & Blake and their family	8 Caeden and his family	9 Alfred and his family	10 Malia & Nathan and their family	11 Charlie and his family
12 Marques and his family	13 Shaun & Olivia and their family	14 Essance and her family	15 Aliyah and her family	16 Mrs Mary Chache and her family	17 Marcellus and his family	18 Mr Kinsley Black and his family
19 Pastor Kim Bode and his family	20 Pastor John Babbitts and his family	21 Mr David Haines and his family	22 Mrs Jan Wells and her family	23 Miss Mary Ann McGuire and her family	24 Jason Sauter and his family	25 Ed Smith and his family
26 Tom Jones and his family	27 Adirce Fornaszewski and her family	28 Frank Schulze and his family	29 Michele Wilson and her family	30 Judy Evans and her family	31 John Schultz and his family	