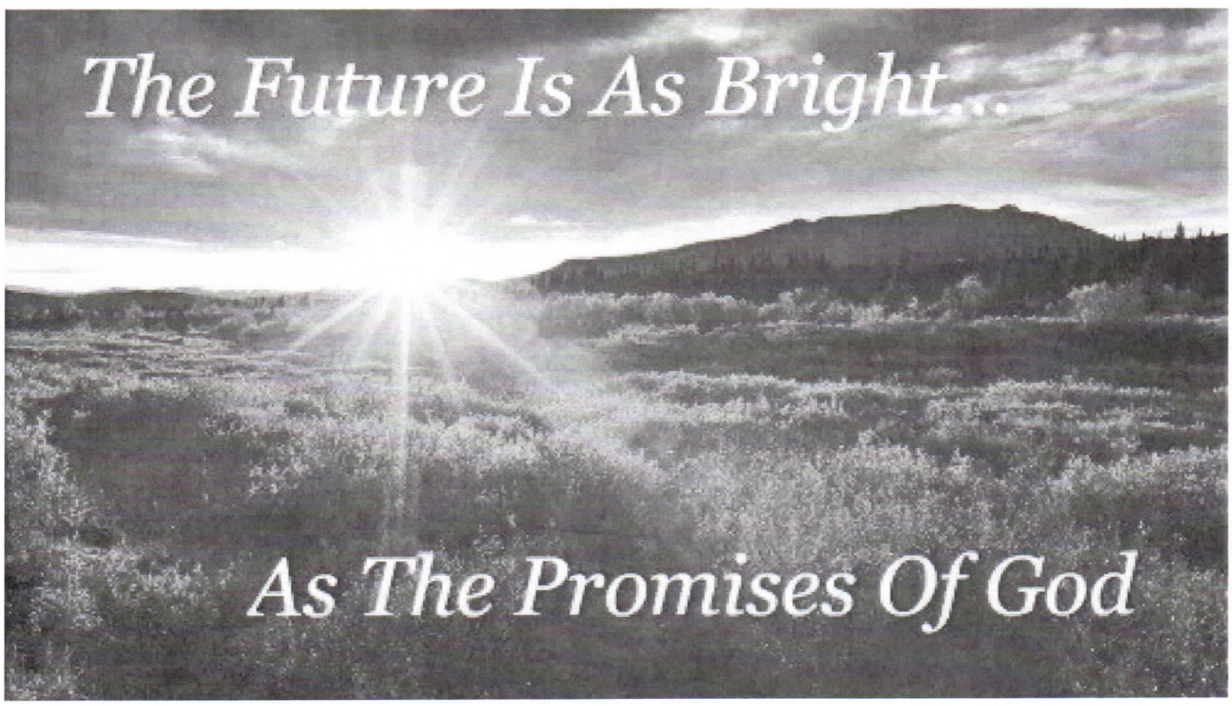
THE PULSE of Prince of Peace
January 2019



EDITORIAL STAFF
Editor Karen Range
Jennifer Davis
Dee Mueller
Pastor Gene

CHANGE

Wow, what a year we have had, and what a new year now! If we can sum it up simply, change! In general, we do not readily embrace change, as we are naturally creatures of habit. Change can be difficult within the church. Change will almost always come with stress. Why? Because with change we try to control what is happening around us.

Today we see increasing chaos, distrust, aggressiveness, and many other behavioral challenges in our world due to disconnection caused by excessive change. And in stressful times, more than peaceful ones, we ache to be seen, heard, acknowledged, we ache to belong. Change in our church causes us to ache all the more to belong and to be close to others!

"Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild beasts will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise." (Isaiah 43:18-21)

Sometimes (if not most of the time) our never changing God brings about changes in our lives to work out His purposes. In this particular passage, God was promising His people that He was going to do something new, in fact He had already begun! This work would be far greater than anything the LORD had previously done in the past.

Just as God had made a way for His people to deliver them from Egypt to Canaan by drying up the Red Sea, God would once again deliver His people from Babylon and bring them back to Judea, but this time He would give water in the wilderness and bring rivers in the desert. Not only was this pertaining to Israel's prophesied deliverance from Babylonian captivity, but it also ultimately speaks of the deliverance of all of God's people, both Jews and Gentiles alike.

So, what exactly was this "new thing"? It is the Gospel of Jesus Christ which has made its way throughout the world and continues to do so. All who have embraced this message have also embraced change. 2 Corinthians 5:17: *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come*".

Respond to change according to Scripture

The constant changes we face in this life should be met with the Word of God, whether it is change that brings comfort, or change that brings challenge, we should respond according to Scripture.

In the last fifty years not only has the standing of the church changed in America but our nation itself has change dramatically. We were once a nation that worked hard and tried to save as much as possible. Today that has all changed. America now lives on debt and credit, spending what it does not have. I ask you this simple direct question, "If we do not

CHANGE continued

like what is happening to our country, why would we want our own church to be living on debt and credit, spending what it does not have?"

Most of us know the saying, "Follow the money." Churchill called WWII the unnecessary war. He believed that the basic reason for the war was debt and the mismanagement of money. Most of us would love to have our church running on a good fiscal platform but, in order to do this, we will need to cut some of the services we have enjoyed. One such example is the Pulse itself. It costs about seven cents per copy to run. We simply can no longer run it. However, if some of you can possibly ask some of our businesses to run adds in it, we could keep it going. Now some of you may say that you will give the extra needed money for the Pulse. This is not a solution because that extra money should go toward meeting our monthly needs, not extras. We should find creative ways to work within our means!

Build the membership of the church

The most important thing we can and must do is to build up the membership of the church itself. That is something we all can be part of! I believe and invite you to the same, that God's work here at POP will be far greater than anything the LORD had previously done in the past.

In Christ all things are possible. Let us work together for the great work God has for us in the future!

Blessings, ***Pastor Gene Smith***

Merry Christmas Everyone!!!!

It's been a great year filled with God's unsurmountable blessings here at Prince of Peace, Hemet. We have enjoyed time of worship and the hearing of God's Word and partaken of the Holy Sacraments in the fellowship of brotherhood in love. We have studied God's Holy Inspired Word and fed our souls with His glorious message of Hope, Love, Peace and Joy, so that our faith may be completed in Him who brought us Good News of everlasting salvation in In His beloved Son, our LORD.

Our church has been blessed to have a place of worship where we can lift up prayers to our Father and rejoice with one another as we are refreshed with a message that is scarce in a world ravaged by the ever-damning consequences of our sin.

With angels rejoicing and hope renewed, we have entered the season of Advent and readied our spirits to roll in with the joyful celebrations of CHRISTmas — ***the most wonderful time of the year*** — bringing to memory that the good tidings of great joy that fill our hearts are God's message of Salvation to all men and women regardless of their place in our world today or their social standing.

In the spirit of this holyday season and the common unity we share in God's Son through the glorious Gospel we have heeded, we enter our New Christian Year, our strength having been renewed and our God's blessing extended to all.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year Everyone!!!

Rev. Luis Enrique Barreto Lugo

New Year's Resolutions

It's the time of year again when many people make New Year's resolutions. Typically, resolutions focus on personal improvements or desires (to lose weight, to make more money, to find a new job) or sometimes on more altruistic 'goals' (to be more patient, to make more time to visit aging parents). While there is nothing wrong with wanting to be or do better, as Christians we might want to consider a different type of resolution. This year let us focus our resolutions on things that honor God and enhance our relationship with Jesus Christ.

The dictionary defines resolution as "a firm decision to do or not to do something" and to resolve is to "decide firmly on a course of action". With firm determination then, let us undertake the following resolutions for 2019. These resolutions will not help you lose weight or increase your earnings, but they will improve your life in more important ways.

Resolution One: Resolve to not only read God's word but to study it. Joshua 1:8 says to meditate on the Book of Law, day and night, "*so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it*". Synonyms for mediate include reflection, deep thought and pondering. You can study scripture on your own, of course, using commentaries or a concordance, but there can be much value in attending a bible study class. I attended Pastor Gene's class on Isaiah and learned immensely more than I ever would have studying that book on my own due to his knowledge and the historical context he provided.

Resolution Two: Resolve to use your money, time and talents to support church, mission and community. Matthew 6:21 states "Where your treasure is, there your heart will also be". This verse speaks to the concept of tithing and the idea that when we give freely and generously, instead of keeping that money for other things, we are showing that our heart is not tied to money and that our love of God is greater than our love of money. And Malachi 3:10 exhorts us to "*bring the full tithe into the storehouse*". We can also show our love for God by utilizing our time and talents to help others by providing food, clothing, essential items, companionship. "*Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me*" (Matthew 25:40).

Resolution Three: Resolve to be a peacemaker. Even as Christians it can be easy to get upset over people who wrong us, family drama or church drama. When we disagree, even in the context of church meetings or in discussions with other Christians, it is not always done respectfully. But Matthew 5:9 calls us to be peacemakers: "*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God*". Peacemakers resolve disagreements respectfully, peacemakers do not gossip or make innuendos, peacemakers are not critical of others. Romans 12:18 states "*If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone*". As Christians, we should set the example of peace.

Wishing you a happy and peaceful New Year. ***Karen Range,*** Pulse Editor

PRESCHOOL NEWS

Happy New Year! We're ready to have a great one and wish the same for you.

Looking back, we had a great Christmas performance. The 10:00 a.m. program was well attended and the evening one was standing room only. The kids were troupers and very well behaved. Thanks for the wonderful costumes from all our families.

Our little store was lots of fun for families shopping at the Preschool Boutique.

In January we will have parent teacher conferences. Sign-up sheets will be available on teachers' doors. The conferences will let parents know what progress we see or if there are problems we need to address.

When your child is absent please call the office, so we know our class number and can prepare accordingly.

It's boot weather but children do not walk or run well in boots. So please just stick to the tennis shoes.

As children become more independent in the toilet, it helps to have pants with elastic for easy up and down. Tight jeans with snappers are difficult for most. Mark all clothing worn to school, especially those jackets. We have so many coats, sweaters and jackets in the lost and found that are never claimed.

We will be closed December 31st and January 1st for the New Year and then again on the 21st for Martin Luther King's birthday.

Let us know if you need anything or have questions. **Please watch for and read the notices sent home.** We try very hard to keep you informed by sending notes and newsletters home by way of the backpack or lunch box. We understand it might be hard to keep up with everything going on in life, but these are important events for your child.

Have a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!

Ms. Carolyn and Ms. Lilah

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Volunteer Sunday: Volunteer recognition is scheduled for Sunday, January 20th at 8:30 a.m. for the traditional service and 10:45 a.m. for the contemporary service. Boards and Committee Chairs, if you have not submitted your list of volunteers, please give to me by January 6th.

Candlelight Vigil Committee: A Candlelight Vigil Committee is being formed to assemble people carrying candles after sunset in order to show support for a specific cause. The day after the Borderline Bar and Grill shooting, Pastor Smith, his Thursday morning Bible class and preschool met by the three crosses in front of Prince of Peace for prayer. To date, we have six members of POP on this committee. If interested in joining the Candlelight Vigil Committee, please see Colleen Willard or Dee Mueller.

Worship Committee: A Worship Committee is being formed under the direction of Pastor Smith. A meeting will be scheduled sometime in January in the Behnke room. If interested, please see Pastor Smith or Dee Mueller.

Sound Board MediaShout: We are currently looking for adult to join the Sound Board and MediaShout team. If interested, please see or call Dee Mueller.

Dee Mueller, Volunteer Coordinator

THE BOARD OF SOCIAL MINISTRY

The generous members of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church who have donated so willingly to the Life Choice Services of Hemet organization using the baby bottles have made it possible to contribute $926.61 in 2018. With these monies Life Choice is able to counsel young women who find themselves in a situation where they need assistance. Life Choice has obtained an ultrasound machine which enables the mothers to see their babies. Oftentimes that will make the difference between a woman terminating her pregnancy, keeping her baby, or putting the baby up for adoption so that her baby will have a loving, caring home. Life Choice also offers their clients items that are necessary for everyday care for their babies. Clothes, diapers and equipment are all available if needed. Thank you for your continued compassion for these young women and their babies.

JANUARY EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

OK Club

Our regular meeting will be Thursday, January 17th at 12 noon. Meal will be provided for a donation. We will discuss plans for the Sweet Hear Luncheon that will be our February meeting, but on the 14th instead of the 21st.

LWML

Back to start a new year serving Him with gladness. Our January speaker will be Lilah Wheeler, our preschool Co-Director. Devotion will be by Cindy Tesar. Lunch provided by our hostesses Jeanne Porter and Ardy Powell.

NAPSACC Workshop

On Saturday, January 26th in the Family Life Center, a three-hour training on nutrition and physical activity will be conducted by First Five. This is mainly for childcare providers, but anyone may attend. Hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. There is no charge to attend. This training will be open to other preschools in the area as well.

Board Meetings

Due to the holidays, boards will meet on January 8th instead of the 1st. The evening meetings are at 6:30 p.m. Early Childhood Board meets at 4:00 p.m. and Outreach Board at 4:30 p.m.

Installation of Pastor Eugene Smith

The PSD President Mike Gibson will be here on January 20th for the installation of Pastor Smith as the Lead Pastor of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church.

At noon we will have a catered meal to celebrate this great day. Meat tickets may be purchased at the kiosk or the church office starting Sunday, January 6th. Cost is $11.50 for a complete meal.

Holidays — The office and preschool will be closed on the 1st & 2nd

Tuesday January 8th —	Boards meet at 6:30 p.m. LWML Officers meet at 12:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
Wednesday January 9th —	Valley Prolife will meet in the Behnke Room
Thursday January 10th —	Bereavement Group will meet at 10:30 a.m. in the Behnke Room
Friday January 11th —	POP WOW will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 a.m.
Tuesday January 15th —	Board of Early Childhood meets at 4:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center Elder's meet at 6:30 p.m. in the Behnke Room
Thursday January 17th —	Tabitha Group meets at 10:30 a.m. in the Behnke Room OK CLUB meets at 12:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
Sunday January 20th —	The installation of Pastor Gene by our District Pastor at the 8:30 a.m. service Installation of all Officers and Boards in both services and recognition of all volunteers Catered lunch at 12:00 p.m. in honor of Pastor Gene's installation as Lead Pastor
Monday January 21st —	The preschool will be closed for Martin Luther King Holiday
Tuesday January 22nd —	Church Council meets at 6:30 p.m. in the Behnke Room
Saturday January 26th —	Walk for Life at Gibble Park
Sunday January 27th —	Voter's meeting and potluck at 12:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

2019

Sunday Worship - Traditional, 8:30 a.m. & Contemporary Praise Service, 10:15 a.m.
Hispanic Service, 10:30 a.m. in the main Sanctuary
9:45 a.m. adult Bible class
Communion Sunday's 6th &20th
Non-Communion Sunday's 13th & 27th

Monday - Pot luck at 5:00 p.m. then follows Bible class at 6:00 p.m.
Pastor Luis "James, Introduction Part 2" in the Fellowship Hall
Home Bible study at 4:00 p.m. facilitated by Carolyn Williams

Tuesday - Sewing at 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
Staff Meeting at 9:00 a.m. in the Church Office
Pastors meeting at 10:00 a.m. in the Behnke Room
Confirmation Class, grades 6-8th church office at 5:30 p.m.
Youth meet in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30 p.m.
Braille 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Wednesday - Preschool Chapel, 9th & 23rd
Braille 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Thursday - Preschool Chapel, 3rd, 17th & 31st
9:00 a.m. Pastor Gene's Bible class in the Fellowship Hall
5:00 p.m. Pastor Gene's Bible class on "How to read the Bible"
Family Life center (will resume on January 3rd)
5:00 p.m. Pastor Luis, 1st Spanish Communion class in the Fellowship Hall
6:00 p.m. Pastor Gene's Spiritual Growth class in the Church Office
(will resume on January 3rd)
6:00 p.m. Pastor Luis's Spanish Bible study "The Gospel of John, Chapter 3"
6:30 p.m. choir practice

Friday – Braille 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall