



Prints of Peace

August 2025



Pastor's Message

This may be an unnecessary article, since its impetus came from the need for a congregational *Vision Statement*. Hopefully, after giving it some thought, you have already handed in your questionnaire, so that the first steps in developing a statement have been taken. But if it is to be a congregational vision statement, we all need to think about its purpose and wording.

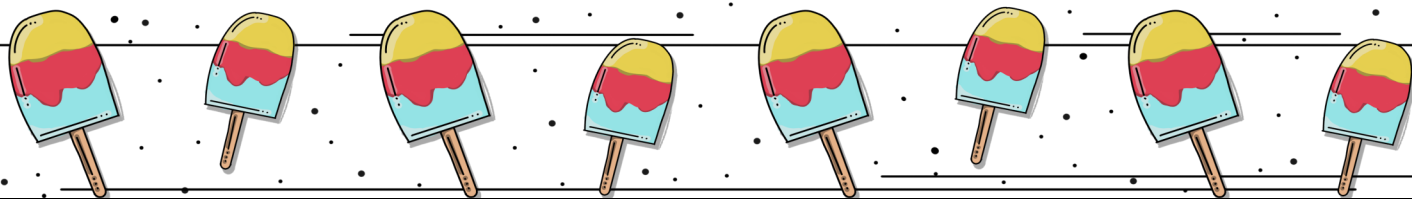
To understand what a vision statement is, we may distinguish it by saying what it is not. It is not a creedal summary statement of what we believe. It is a statement that calls for faith to be sure but without defining or describing it. For instance, to the mother who asks Jesus to come heal her demonic-possessed daughter, Jesus gives her a vision statement, "*You may go—the demon has left your daughter.*" That statement called for a course of action, a journey back home without Jesus. But she ran in faith, fully expecting to see her daughter well.

A Vision Statement is not simply a personal wish-dream, such as an athlete's hope of winning the race. While such a dream might instill fierce determination within him, it can too quickly evaporate when he falls behind. For the rich young man who asked Jesus how he might gain eternal life, Jesus refers him back to the commandments. Expecting to be congratulated he answers confidently that he has kept them from his youth. But Jesus pops his bubble of a wish-dream, by pointing out where he was lacking, that was, with his love of riches. Yet Jesus still invites him to come and be one of his disciples. The young man went away sad, in part because his vision of the future was a wish-dream of his own making.

A Vision Statement is often developed when we first consider our basic call from God. For instance, when Jesus called the disciples to follow him, he said to those who were fishermen, "*From now on you will be fishing for people.*" That became their way of visualizing their ministry. Later when a stranger on the shore told them to cast their nets on the other side of the boat, Peter recognized the risen Jesus, who had said the same thing to him when he was first called. I wonder how many times Peter remembered those words, when the Lord led him to, as it were, "*cast his net on the other side,*" in bringing to the Gospel to pagans.

Perhaps the place to start is to revisit those Bible stories which most speak to our hearts. Ask yourself if something about a story keeps coming to mind as you go about your life. If you were to briefly explain to another person how it guides and influences your thinking, you are well on your way to developing a personal vision statement.

~ Rev. Keith Eilers, Interim Pastor



Elder's Article

Technology can be a wonderful tool. It has allowed us to access information instantly. It has enabled me to carry the entire bible in my pocket. I can look up verses way faster than thumbing through pages. If I remember a few lines of a passage, the internet will tell me where to find it in the bible. I can shop from home and have it delivered to me for the same price a brick and mortar store will charge. I can reserve passage on the ferries without waiting for hours in line. I can listen to any music that I like with no interruptions, and I don't even have to battle for control of stereo in the car. Technology has certainly made life easier.

However, with all of this instant gratification, human patience has gone out the window. Our ability to endure difficult circumstances, delays, or provocation without becoming upset or annoyed is certainly tested. We start questioning ourselves on why a pastor hasn't accepted a call. When church attendance starts to fall, we start placing blame on others. We insist that we need to take action.

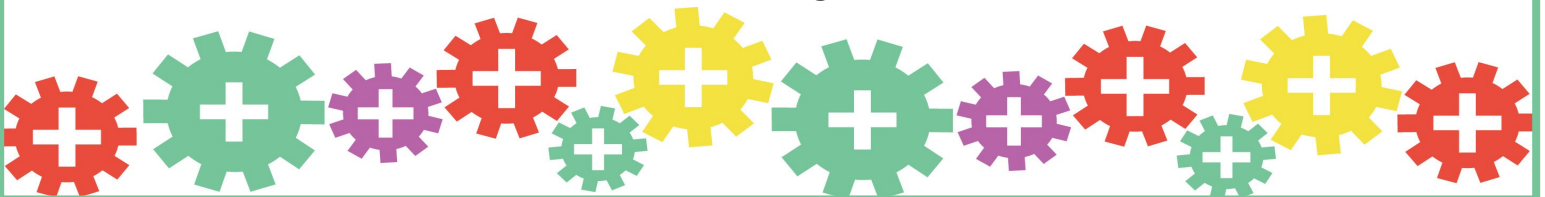
Now the bible is pretty clear. Faith is a gift of God and does not come from us. (Eph 2:8-9, Heb 12:2). It "is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (Heb 11:1) It is trusting that God will provide for us just as he did for Abraham (Genesis 22:8). It is realizing that God's thoughts are not our thoughts and our ways are not his ways. (Isaiah 55:8-9) It is coming to the realization that we are not in control, God is.

So what can we do? In the words of the apostle Paul, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1Thess 5:16-18) Just as God "gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have," (Small Catechism) he certainly will provide a shepherd for his flock. He will not let his flock go astray.

~ Mr. Dan Wolber, Elder

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus,
Trusting only Thee;
Trusting Thee for full salvation,
Great and free.

(Frances R. Havergal, TLH 428)



Classroom Chronicles from Peace Lutheran School

Dear Parents & PLC Members,

Thank you for your interest in Peace Lutheran School. We are delighted that you and your family are interested in what a Christian-centered education can do for your child. We are proud of our school and feel we provide an outstanding academic foundation for our students. More importantly, we want to work with you so that together, as parents and educators, we can share the Christian faith upon the next generation. Our faculty is devoted to each child's development building the necessary skills that will secure a successful experience in our learning community and beyond. Our purpose is simple: We are God's family united to equip students, promote excellence, and build faith in a Christ-centered environment.

THEME

Let's make a joyful noise unto the Lord. Psalm 98:4

SCHOOL CALENDAR & SUPPLY LIST

Rita has emailed out a calendar and supply list to all enrolled families for the upcoming school year. Please note these important dates on your home calendar as well. First day of school for grades PS (T-TH)-8th begins August 28th. First day of PS (M-W-F) will be August 29th. Please contact the school office obtain a calendar and supply list if you need another copy.

OPEN HOUSE

Your family is invited to attend our back-to-school open house event on Tuesday, August 26th. The purpose of this event is to give families an opportunity to come and meet with their child's homeroom teacher to go over schedules, learning expectations, and drop off school supplies. There are two formats to consider depending on the age of your child.

Grades PS-2nd Families may sign up for an individual (20 minute) conference time on Sign Up Genius between 8am to Noon or 3pm-7pm. Grades 3rd-8th Families may choose from five individual time blocks on Sign Up Genius. There will be a brief orientation meeting with the principal in the school commons area at the beginning of each session followed by breakout with the teachers in the classrooms. Sign up options are for 8am, 9am, 4pm, 5pm, and 6pm.

~Article continues on the next page.



Classroom Chronicles from Peace Lutheran School

WELCOME TO NEW STAFF MEMBERS

- ♦ Robin McMillien
Education: MA from Concordia University Wisconsin (19 yrs of experience)
Assignment: Middle School Science & Math
- ♦ Kelly Souza
Education: BA from Northwest College-Orange City, IA (15 yrs of experience)
Assignment: Middle School ELA & Resource
- ♦ Colleen Carpenter
Education: MA from Shenandoah University-Winchester, VA (3 yrs of Sub. Experience)
Assignment: K-8 Music

MATERNITY LEAVE

Our new teacher Robin McMillien is expecting to give birth to her first child in early August. Therefore a familiar teacher (Sheri Jusczac) has agreed to fill in for Mrs. McMillien until she is able to join our staff in mid-October.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS

It is recommended that students entering grades 7th & 8th that plan on participating in sports get a sports check physical prior to the start of school.

ENROLLING NOW

A favorite part of my job is sharing with others what goes on at PLS. I am confident that the teachers and curriculum at Peace Lutheran offers every child the opportunity to learn. If you feel PLS has been a good educational fit for your child, please take a moment in the next few weeks to share your story with someone else. New student discounts are available to assist families wishing to explore what a high quality Christian education is all about. Thank you for considering Peace Lutheran School. If you have any questions feel free to call me at (360)-373-2116 or email at deisele@plsbremerton.org and I will be glad to assist you.

In Christ,
Mr. Doug Eisele
PLS Principal



Stewardship Message from the Synod

Jesus' Transforming Presence

"But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, 'Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.' Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost'" (Luke 19:8-10 NIV).

Who knew, all those kids sitting in Sunday school were getting a lesson in stewardship! Generations of children have very often heard lessons based on the familiar account of Zacchaeus. The diminutive tax collector's curiosity surrounding the person and ministry of Jesus is what the Holy Spirit used to set him on a collision course for a total stewardship transformation. This transformation, according to the text of Luke 19, is not just about this life. This stewardship transformation is about eternity as well!

Remember the story: Zacchaeus was a tax collector. Do not think of friendly neighborhood IRS agents. This was more like a toll booth operator, but the governing authorities did not set the toll. They would contract men to staff roadside booths and tax the commerce that was passing along the road. This was an enterprise full of greed and graft. The tax collectors would take as much as they could and only pass on a portion to the government. The rest did not go into the community chest either! It went into the pocket of the tax collector.

This is why the people had such disdain for Jewish tax collectors. They were seen as both crooks and traitors. They were crooks in that they extorted their compatriots and others in the toll process. But worse, they were seen as traitors because their efforts supported the occupying Roman authorities. That is the real reason that the people would not make way so that short Zacchaeus could see Jesus.

For this reason, he runs ahead and climbs a tree. He had heard all the stories. He wanted to see this Jesus with his own eyes. Mercy is on display. This hated crook and traitor gets a direct audience with Jesus — at Jesus' own request! Jesus invites Himself to Zacchaeus' house. This is where the transformation is about to take place!

~Article continues on the next page.



Stewardship Message from the Synod

Jesus' Transforming Presence, Continued

Notice how Jesus does it. He does not preach a three-week sermon series, nor does He ask Zacchaeus to make a pledge. There is nothing programmatic about Jesus' approach. But Zacchaeus is completely transformed! The transforming force is the very presence of Jesus!

Direct time with Jesus takes a crooked, selfish, criminal and makes him the most faithful steward.

This new life of stewardship is marked by the promises made. First, he gives half of his ill-gotten gains to the poor. These are people whom he would not have defrauded at all! Yet, after spending time with Jesus, they are His first concern. Only after this does he double the requirement of the Levitical law on fraud. And what does Jesus say is the result? Salvation!

Doing the acts of stewardship does not save. Rather, the faith in Jesus that is created by the Holy Spirit is what saves! This is critical for us to confess. Failed stewardship can and will cut you off from God. The only antidote for failed stewardship is the presence of Jesus.

We do not need to run ahead and climb a tree for this presence of Jesus. He makes Himself available to us every week in the Divine Service. He speaks His Word of invitation to us in the pages of Holy Scripture. This, and this alone, transforms us from sinner to saint, from owner to steward of all that belongs to the Lord.

Do you want to become a more faithful steward? Spend more time with Jesus. Make the Divine Service a weekly priority. Feast on Christ's body and blood weekly! This is the great gift that brings salvation from God's House to yours!





*Bringing Christ to the
Nations and the
Nations to the Church*

*"Ask the Lord of the har-
vest to send out workers
into his harvest field"*

WA-AK DISTRICT



**AUGUST
2024**

The Lutheran Hour

Speaker:

Dr. Michael Zeigler

REGIONAL BROADCASTS

All American Christian
Network (ACN)

stations air at 8:00 am
on Sundays in
eastern Washington.

Spokane stations KTRW

630 AM and 96.5 FM

Yakima stations KYAK 930 AM

and 96.1 FM

NATIONAL OUTLETS

SiriusXM

Sundays, 10 am. EST

Family Talk channel 131

iHeartRadio/Spotify/Apple/

Google have podcast on
demand

Classic Broadcast

lhm.org/sentradio

LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES DISTRICT FESTIVAL

MAKE CHRIST KNOWN!

FRIDAY-SATURDAY, AUGUST 16-17, 2024

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH in EAST WENATCHEE, WA

LUTHERAN HOUR SPEAKER

Dr. Michael Zeigler

"Energizing the Mission"

"Hopeful Neighborhood Project"

"Picnic in the Park" Friday, August 16, 4:30 pm

Eastmont Community Park in East Wenatchee

Meet and greet Dr. Zeigler

and NOW District President Rev. Von Behren

Enjoy a picnic supper, games for the kids!



Saturday, August 17, Faith Lutheran Church

Doors open at 9:00 am.

Continental breakfast and exhibits

Program begins at 9:30 am - concludes at 5:00 pm

Registration cost: \$30/single and \$45/couple

Children/\$10.00 (age 6 & older, 5 & younger free)

Registration deadline is August 9, 2024

and is \$5 more at the door.

Registration and more info at lhmdist33.org

Come, enjoy Wenatchee/Leavenworth!

"CALLED TO SERVE"

Pastors and lay leaders will want to check out LHM's newest Bible Study video and guide for engaging military veterans in your congregation and community. Veterans themselves helped to create this new resource. Find it at lhm.org.