

August
2010



PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

August 2010 Congregational Update

Pastor Bater

Am I content to live with it ... or willing to fight against it?

Have you ever thought about all the things in life we simply have to “live with”: traffic; taxes; weather; disease? As much as we may hope and try to avoid or improve these things, ultimately, we just have to live with them. There’s going to be traffic on I-15 and probably when I’m in a hurry. Taxes will always be due on April 15th and that’s usually when I have no money. The weather can be miserable from time to time and probably when I’m planning to do something outside. Disease and illness will come to me sooner or later even though I’ve taken care of myself my whole life. We simply have no choice but to live with these burdens.

But what about when it comes to our spiritual life? Do such things exist? I received an email from a prospective member this week who had been attending BiC for a while until he informed me that he would no longer be coming because he wasn’t ready to “put forth the effort.” And it got me wondering – is this a feeling he simply has to live with or is it something worth fighting against? My first reaction was to chalk it up as a loss and allow him to “live with” these feelings of apathy. But I couldn’t. Instead this was my response:

“Has Jesus done enough to show you that he does in fact want a relationship with you? Has he done everything necessary to give you life, forgiveness, joy, and hope? If he has done all of this for you—going to the cross and grave—don’t you think he wants you to know this more and more and be confident of it? If you are the one who is not ready, or willing to put forth the effort to make sure this happens.....where do you think those thoughts/feelings come from? From Jesus? Or someone/place else? And if they aren’t from Jesus.....are they feelings worth living with or fighting against?”

I think far too often our apathy toward Jesus is something we just put on par with traffic, taxes, weather, and disease. And it shows itself in many ways here at Prince of Peace.

Family Bible Hour

I cannot speak from experience, but I have to imagine that getting the kids up and ready to come to church is no simple task. Bringing them to FBH means doing it at least an hour earlier! Not easy. To keep little ones under control for an hour in church is challenging enough. Bringing them to FBH means doing it for two! Not easy. But read those words above again and now apply them to bringing your kids to learn more about their Savior. Would you ever let your kids drop out of school; stop brushing their teeth; stop eating food? Obviously not. But even more insane would be if you made those decisions for them by refusing to drive them to school; refusing to buy them a toothbrush; or by no longer feeding them. Speaking spiritually, Jesus said, *“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these”* (Luke 18:16). If your kids don’t want to come to FBH, that’s one thing (even though I would still encourage you to bring them as you would not allow them to quit school, brushing, or eating). But if they don’t come because we have actually hindered them, perhaps we should ask ourselves some questions: Does Jesus want you to bring your little children to him so that they can learn who he is; into whose name they have been baptized; what he has done to save them? If so, do the feelings of apathy that you have come from Jesus or from someone/place else? And if they aren’t from Jesus, are they feelings worth living with or fighting against?

Worship/Bible Study

It has been said to me, in many ways, by not a few people, that worship attendance is not necessary to be saved/be a Christian. Fair enough. Going to church is not what we do to earn our salvation – we still and will always recognize salvation as a gift brought purely by God’s grace through faith in Jesus. Then what does God’s Word say about worship? What purpose does it serve? Is it optional? Somewhere along the line, someone equated the one-time act of Jesus dying on the cross for my sins with a one-time act of me learning that fact. “I know what Jesus did; I’m good to go. I don’t need to go to church or Bible study to hear again what I already know.” But where does that attitude come from?

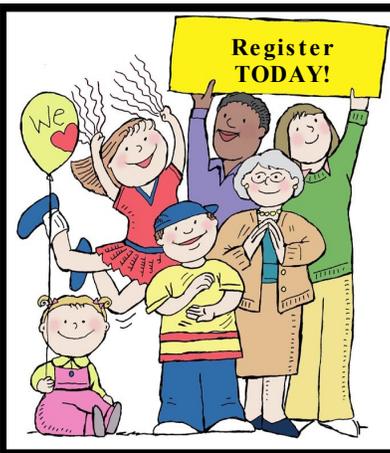
St. Paul’s prayer for the Ephesians was, *“I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better”* (1:17). The Apostle Peter’s encouragement for Christians is to: *“Grow in the grace and”* (continued on top of page 2)

(continued from page one)

knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen" (2 Peter 3:18). As he was being tempted in the wilderness, Jesus reminded Satan that we are to: "Worship the Lord, your God, and serve him only" (Matthew 4:10). In worshiping God, you show that the "word of Christ dwells in you richly as we teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God" (Colossians 3:16). All of this is what happens when we hear again and again what Jesus has done for us either in worship or Bible class. So.....does Jesus want us to gather and worship him as God? Does he want us to come to his house and be spiritually fed with his love and forgiveness by his very own words, body and blood? Does he want us to continue growing stronger in the knowledge we already have of him? If Jesus does, do our feelings of apathy or "don't have to" toward public worship come from him or someone/place else? If those feelings don't come from Jesus, are they feelings you want to live with or fight against?

There is already enough stuff we simply have to "live with" in this life. Don't let living without Jesus become or continue to be something you simply have to live with. Because, ultimately, living without Jesus, means no life at all. Fight against those temptations to be apathetic toward your relationship with Jesus. You know everything he did to make you his own. You know the pain he endured in your place. You know the punishment he suffered on your behalf. You know that all he wants to do is serve you with his love and forgiveness. You know how much he loves and lives to be near you. Fight. Fight again.....and again some more. Knowing all of this - if my attitude or feeling is one of apathy toward Jesus, it can't be from him. And if it ain't from Jesus, why would you want it? When it comes to our spiritual life, there is really only one thing we have to live with: **Jesus**. And thankfully, we have him! Rejoice in this and I'll see you on Sunday.

In Christ,
Pastor Bater



**Our 2, 3 and 5 day
Preschool programs
still have opening for
3-4 year olds!**

**Share information
about our K-8 school**

**For questions
801-261-3808,
www.popscl.org
or e-mail
jeff.sell@popscl.org**

Board for Spiritual Welfare

It's a Matter of Life and Death

We've all heard the saying and probably have ideas about its meaning or application. We might picture a movie scene where someone hangs by a thread or an outreached arm, like the movie "Cliffhanger" as Stalone loses his girlfriend's grip and she falls to her death. Or as in "True Lies" where a bird lands on the van's hood and tips the balance so the terrorists crash into the ocean in a ball of flames. Those scenes are a matter of "life and death"—in movies at least.

Well, that isn't what I had in mind. Rather, the idea is more about everyday lives, like yours and mine. The existence we have is very much like one of hanging by a thread. Our lives are filled with what truly are real lies. Do we picture ourselves on the edge of living and dying? Do we actually consider the fact that tomorrow we may become just a statistic, fading into history, in human terms? Maybe Life becomes more precious and Death becomes a greater fear when we see it that way. If we really hang by a thread, surely we must find someone or something to save us? As Christians do we see it that way, or do we have the knowledge of "The Truth"?

Paul in his Letter to the Galatians, 2:19 & 20 states: "For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." It is truly a matter of Life and Death, but not the way our sinful self and the rest of the world sees it. This concept of dying to the law and no longer living a life bound by the law, but living by faith in Christ can be an easy one to grasp, by faith, or a difficult one our sinful nature would reject. We just might be tested and in some cases have already faced a test pertaining to Life and Death.

As with some in our family of believers, the loss of a mother, father, sister, brother, son, daughter or someone dear to us brings the reality of life and death up close and personal. When the person we love is indeed hanging by a thread and facing death's door, do we think about our own lives? Do we question the destiny of those dying or facing death? We are God's children and he knows we grieve for those we lose to death at least for this lifetime. But just as Paul points out for all believers as we Live we shall live by "...faith in the Son of God, ...". Death shall be the death of sin because that condemns us under the law so we have "... died to the law...", but we live through Christ. Coming face to face with death need not be a fear, but rather a triumph. Those we love who have faced death and conquered it in Christ are a testament of the power of God through his Son, Jesus Christ.

Cherish the time we have together as human families and especially as a family of believers here at Prince of Peace. Praise God for sending His Son to save those who have died before us and let each of us face death in our own time knowing that we have triumphed over death by the blood of Christ. Faith is our creed and faith is our banner and faith is what defines Christians from all others to God's glory.

Larry Steinbach - Chairman

Congregational President—*Eric Myers*

Fellow Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is time to start winding it up again. I know, kids are wondering where the summer went and how can they stretch the next three or four weeks further. Traditionally, the school year is when we focus most of our activity around Prince of Peace because everyone is on a “regular” schedule. We have done a lot in the past several years and God is showing us the fruit with the increase in numbers and new faces. We have a lot to get done and we have a pinpoint focus for this year:

Mission: “Prince of Peace Lutheran Church and School members believe and teach the Bible as the inerrant Word of God. We exist because of the love God showed the world through Christ’s death and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins. We seek to grow in His love and to share it with as many people as possible, all to the glory of God.”

Vision: Come and Hear ☩ Grow and Tell.

2010 – 2011 Goals

Implement Stewardship Program involving every member for the individual and congregational improvement of attendance, offerings and involvement.

Implement an Outreach Training Program so members have the tools to discuss our faith and bring more souls to the knowledge of Christ’s forgiveness.

These are the areas on which our boards and committees are going to focus. I thank you for your assistance and involvement.

Yours in Christ,
Eric Myers 801-842-2735

Treasurer’s Report *by Mel Steiger*

Cash in Bank (as of 7-30-10)	\$11,652
July Remaining bills to be paid	
• CMO for 25 July	479
• Pension	2,052
• NPH	25
• Taylorsville Dayz Expenses	438
• Reimbursement	25
August	
01 Mortgage	6,907
03 Payroll	10,383
05 Copier Rental and Taxes	599
05 Health Insurance	3,244
09 Electric Church & Parsonage	1,168
11 Waxie-Janitorial supplies	440
15 Scholarships	4,700
15 Fed Withholding Taxes	2,545
Water church and Parsonage	495
Questar Gas	~200
CMO	~1,700
18 Payroll	~10,900
	<u>Total</u>
	\$46,300
Other Liabilities --Personal Loan (due 7-31) 3 yrs overdue	2,812
Pension Fund due (\$2052 above not included)	<u>7,592</u>
	\$56,704

New Member Welcome & Barbecue



On Sunday, August 15th in our 10:45AM worship service, we will publicly recognize our newest members of PoP. After the service, everyone is invited to Pastor & Missy Bater’s house (the parsonage) for a barbecue ... we’re calling it “parsonage-fest.” Watch your inbox for an email giving all the details. Come and get to know the new members of our PoP family.

Trustees Report—*Kent Carbon, Chairman*

Regularly scheduled work continues on our facilities but it’s been a bit of a struggle. Great thanks to many people who helped get our lawn tractors back up and running: Kelly and Chris Vail put in a lot of hours and finally Mr. Sell, with the help of his on-line blog friends, managed to track down the specific issue and get our big “Green Machine” mowing again! We have had sprinkler problems that brought a little water to our preschool. We appreciate all their patience as it took a few tries to figure out that problem.

We are looking at shingle repairs on our church roof. Insurance is going to be covering a portion of what needs to be done, but there will be some costs to the congregation to get the job done completely. Bids are being gathered and decisions are being made so we can get it fixed this summer before the weather begins to turn. If anyone in the congregation is a roofer or works for a roofer, please let the Trustees know. We are always willing to give our own member professionals at least a shot at bidding any work that needs to be done on our property.

Finally, we are working with the school on the addition of a swing set to update some of our aging playground equipment. Watch the back field as we plan and hopefully finish what needs to be done before school starts.

Always lots going on and we are always happy to get input **and** assistance. Feel free to join us on work Saturdays (usually the 2nd Saturday of each month from 9-12) or if you have a special project of interest, let us know.

All thanks to the Lord for providing us our wonderful church home away from home.

**ATTENTION: Late note to newsletter!
We had flooding at church this Monday.
There will be a Congregational Work Day
THIS Saturday, August 7th beginning at
9AM to help with repairs! Please come!**

Principal's Update — A Cavity-Free Ministry

I, like many people, cherish my visits to the dentist about as much as coming home from a long vacation and finding that the hose on the washing machine burst and now there's 4 feet of water in the basement. On my most recent visit to the necessary evil profession--about a week ago--I was given the joyous news that I had 14 cavities. Yes, I know what you are thinking, how does one get 14 cavities? Are there even that many teeth in a mouth? After the shock of hearing the number 14 roll off the lips of the dentist and the anger over my own lack of flossing subsided, it was time to take action.

Now, I could have sat back and denied any problems and ignored the cavities for a number of years without too much pain. However, in a couple years, I would have a full-blown problem and likely lose many of my teeth as a result of my inaction. So, faced with that outcome, I made an appointment for the dentist to drill out the soft spots and get down to solid tooth; then, and only then, could the real root of the problem be addressed. With protective fillings in place and regular maintenance, my teeth stand a good chance of being healthy. Although not pleasant, the effort is necessary if I want to keep my teeth. Since financing my dentist's exotic trip to Bora Bora, I have committed to flossing on a nightly basis and I am kicking the soda habit. Although it has painful and expensive, I know that in the long run, it is the right thing to do.

How about you? Do you have some decay gnawing away in your life? By decay, I am not talking about your oral health. I am talking about relationships within your life—those of family members, friends, co-workers and fellow congregational members. Because of sin, the most innocent of differences can fester into something huge if not addressed in a timely manner. Like knowing you need to go to the dentist, it certainly is not a pleasant proposition to confront the problem head-on. Fear often paralyzes our intentions and we simply do nothing or let issues fester.

Does it sound logical that I would not visit the dentist and expect my teeth to somehow magically improve? Maybe, if I would go to the podiatrist next door to the dentist and complain to *him* about my cavities and the mean dentist, it may help. Both of these scenarios are plain NONSENSE! Issues between another person or group need to be addressed as soon as you realize something is wrong. Going directly to the source (Matthew 18) is the correct prescription to amending differences and our ultimate goal is forgiveness and peace for all parties involved. If you have had difficulties in the past adhering to this portion of God's Word, you will want to go and read that section again. Similar to a cavity, the real root of the problem cannot be addressed unless you drill down and get to the bottom of the issue.

Once the layers of the disagreement have been stripped away, the time for healing can begin. The tooth has a filling while we have the Word of God to sooth hurt feelings and bruised relationships. If I were to stop flossing and brushing once I got my cavities filled, it would be disastrous once again. Likewise, if we address the issues and then avoid the Word, it also can be catastrophic.

Why the encouragement in oral health and relationships you ask? As the principal of our school, it is my responsibility to do all I can to aid our ministry as a whole. After all, that is what you called me to do! Our school is at a critical point as far as enrollment and word-of-mouth advertising. We are in need of every one of our members to be comfortable supporting our ministry and encouraging others to come and hear the true Gospel message and perhaps encouraging them to send their children to our school. That is not happening 100% of the time. It needs to be! The goal is not to bilk them of their money or somehow secure jobs for the called workers—it is to bring the precious message of the Savior to as many children as we physically can.

Having been here a year now, I am still seeing hurt feelings and hearing about issues that have taken place at least one year, in some instances, many years ago. This should not be. Remember my 14 cavities? My teeth got that way by me avoiding the dentist. If you have been wronged by someone in the past, get to the core, address the problem, forgive them and move on. We have far too great a treasure to keep to ourselves.

If you know of someone that is even remotely interested in our school, please give me their number so I can make contact with them. If you are still struggling with events from the past that just simply can't be forgotten unless worked through, please contact me and I would be thrilled to listen and work toward a solution. May God grant healing to those hearts that are hurt and may he continue to make us an energetic congregation eager to share the message!

VBS / Discovery Camp Survey- For all those people who took time to really put down some awesome responses for the survey, THANK YOU! There were many helpful ideas offered. In general, there was a feeling that the kids learned new skills while not neglecting the Word. Granted, not everyone agreed on every question, but that is what we were looking for--your own opinion. One question on the survey asked if we should do it again. Out of a total of 9 surveys submitted, the average response was 4.33 (the scale was from 1-5). So, based on 86.66% support of the concept, it looks as if we may try this again, whether that is next year or the following year.

Online Sermons – Although you may not be able to go up to someone and start talking about Jesus, here is but one more thing you can do to help spread the Good News. If you are a member of Facebook, or anything like it, consider putting a link to our website (www.popslc.org) on your Facebook page. You may also want to link to our YouTube channel that has videos of our sermons (<http://www.youtube.com/user/whatisthisabout777>).

Bulletin Art - Please send me an email if you would like to do a cover during the summer months. jeff.sell@popslc.org