



Pastor's Message

“If it is the Lord's will”

Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.”

(James 4:13-15)

The beginning of a new year is a time for making plans. What will we do this year? As individuals and families we're looking ahead and thinking of what we'd like to do. As a group of Christians we do the same in our congregation.

And that's good. It's wise to take inventory of what the Lord has given to us and to thoughtfully decide how to use it.

But ... our planning goes off the tracks if we forget that our God is in control. Ultimately, he is the one who determines what happens. Some of our plans may work out the way we thought they would. Others will not. (Look back at 2013. Did every detail go according to plan?)

On the one hand, the fact that God is in control of what happens is humbling. “But I have great ideas, God? What's so wrong with my plans?” We even resent God for not rubber stamping our plans, as if he needs to have us sign off on any changes that he makes. If our attitude shows signs of that need to control everything, then we need God's words through James: “What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.” In reality, we have not been around very long at all compared to our eternal God. We, who are like a bit of morning fog that burns off by noon, do not have the right to criticize God when he decides in his love and wisdom to alter our plans.

On the other hand, though, isn't it an amazing comfort to know that the Lord is in control? It's unnerving, yes, to think that God may have something in store for us in 2014 than is different than we anticipate. However, we know that this is the God who planned out the rescue of our souls and accomplished his mission ... and who did so in some unanticipated ways (think “manger”). This is the God who altered the course of nations and used influential rulers to get his plan for us completed (think “Caesar Augustus” and “Pontius Pilate”). Granted, he may have some uncomfortable and painful twists and turns in mind for us, but his ultimate goal of bringing us to perfect happiness will be fulfilled.

Know that the Lord's will for us is good and kind, and say for 2014, “If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.”

Some plans (“if it is the Lord's will”!) for the first part of 2014:

Offering Planning Toolbox – We'll each soon be receiving a packet that can help us plan our offerings to church. There's certainly no rule that this has to be done, but it is very helpful. It's helpful to us as we strive to manage well the gifts God has entrusted to us, and it's helpful to our ministry as a whole. As you know, we do not require a tithe or any certain amount for church offerings. Instead, we encourage each family to think through what the Lord has given to them and to plan regular offerings in proportion to that. The packet you'll be receiving has tools to help with that.

New Pastor at Hope Lutheran – Our sister church in West Jordan will be welcoming a new pastor, Paul Webber, to their congregation on the afternoon of Sunday, January 26. We don't know details yet, but we'll be invited to Hope to welcome Pastor Webber and his family and show support for our fellow Christians.

Open Forum and Voters' Meeting – We're planning a congregational open forum for Sunday, January 12 during our adult Bible study hour. *(continued on top of page 2)*



A NEW
YEAR
&
NEW
OPPORTUNITIES



This is a chance to ask and talk about the work of our congregation and to get a preview of things that will be decided on at the Voters' Meeting, which will be two weeks later on January 26.

Pastor-Member Visits in February – Our annual pastor-member visits are being planned for the second half of February this year. Begin thinking of a time during one of those weeks to stop by the church office to chat with a pastor for a little bit. The purpose of our annual visits is to catch up on what's going on in your life and to talk about any questions or concerns or joys you may want to share.

Of course, any of these plans might change! But with our loving Lord in control, that's OK! "If the Lord wills, we will do this or that."

Pastor Micheel

President

*As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold,
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright,
So, most gracious Lord, may we
Evermore your followers be.*

*Holy Jesus, ev'ry day
Keep us in the narrow way;
And, when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds your glory hide.*

Christian Worship 83, v. 1, 4

Epiphany occurs this month, twelve days after Christmas, on January 6. Epiphany (meaning manifestation or revelation) is a day to celebrate the manifestation of God in human form. Some churches observe Epiphany with a focus on Christ's baptism, when Jesus was revealed as the Son of God. Other churches focus on Jesus' first recorded miracle, when he revealed his divine power by turning water into wine at the wedding in Cana. The verses above, from the Epiphany section of our hymnal, focus on the revelation of Jesus as King of the Jews to the Magi, or wise men.



EPIPHANY

Two other important events occur this month at Prince of Peace. On Sunday, January 12, during the Bible class hour, we have scheduled an Open Forum. Everyone is encouraged to attend our Open Forum meetings. Our boards and committees will provide us with reports and updates. There will be an opportunity for questions and discussion. This meeting will not only serve to better inform us, but will also help us prepare for the voters' meeting on Sunday, January 26, following the 10:45 a.m. worship service. All members, and especially our voting members, are encouraged to attend our voters' meetings.



David Brandt, President

COMING UP!

**CONGREGATIONAL
OPEN FORUM**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12 *between services*

**VOTER'S
MEETING**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26
12:00PM

Principal's Report

Children's Christmas Service— Thank you to all the parents who allowed their children to take part in the children's Christmas service on December 15. The Lord blessed us with 357 people in attendance, up from 290 the year prior. We thank God for His goodness and for giving us real reason to celebrate—the birth of our Savior!



Open House— We will be having our school open house on **February 19 from 10AM-7PM**. This will be the first day forms will be available to enroll for the 2014-2015 school year, and there is a very real possibility of having classrooms fill quickly this

year. If you know of anyone who may be interested in our school, please invite them to our open house and let me know to expect them. Please continue to keep the church's school ministry arm in your prayers.

Questions about our School?—

Are you a parent who has questions about our school? Perhaps you have thought about sending your child to our congregation's school but have not because you weren't quite sure what is taught or what it is like. **Now is your time to ask!** If you would like to come in and have a look for yourself or even bring your child in to sit in on a class, please know that you are very welcome to do that. After all, it is your school and the staff is here to serve you!



Tuition Assistance— Because the Solid Education Foundation is no longer around, we can no longer tell families to apply for financial aid from them.

The school board is working on an alternative which will likely be presented at the open forum in January. Please look for more information at that time.

Jeff Sell, Principal

WISH (Women In Service to Him)



The New Year tends to be met with excited anticipation. An opportunity for a new start, and hopeful for the blessings the year has in store. Unfortunately, we are surrounded by a world of uncertainty that often overshadow these hopes and expectations. However, the Bible encourages us **“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”** Romans 15:13 (NIV).

My prayer is that God fills you with hope, joy and peace as we welcome 2014. Thank you for your tireless service to our Lord and his ministry. It is a privilege to serve side by side with each of you.

Warm Wishes,

Jamie Schultz, President

Board of Christian Education

We will be needing additional teachers for our Sunday morning Family Bible Hour winter and spring quarters.

There is great flexibility in the teaching schedule (i.e., you do not have to teach every Sunday) and teaching assistance will be provided from the pastors. If you are interested in helping occasionally in our Family Bible Hour and would like to know more, please speak with Pastor Micheel or me.

Matt Rohrer, Chairman

