



Sharing Peace

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A Weekly Update from Peace Lutheran Church & Preschool
peacearroyogrande.com

April 16, 2024

A Devotional Thought from the Pastor

Psalm 23 is one of the most personal passages of scripture. Much of scripture is obviously produced with a group (synagogue or church) in mind. The proclamations of scripture are usually those of the group, praise for our God, our life together, our shared salvation.

But Psalm 23 is deeply personal from start to finish. The psalmist is not speaking general religious principles and platitudes. The psalmist is offering personal testimony.

The opening acclamation says it all: **The Lord is *my* shepherd.** In some places in the prophets, the Lord is praised as the shepherd of Israel. In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus speaks of himself as a shepherd who cares for the sheep of the fold. ***Psalm 23 makes that personal***, unashamedly claiming that God is not only the caring, guiding, protecting shepherd but, ***my shepherd***. It's first person singular from start to finish.

Perhaps one suggestion of this deeply personal psalm is that until the good shepherd (Jesus) becomes your shepherd, *my* shepherd, until God's goodness and mercy is claimed and named as there for you, then God is rather abstract and detached.

I remember once a discussion on the topic, "Does God exist?"

The professor who was leading us said, "That's not really the question that gets to the heart of our concerns about God. 'Does God exist?' is too intellectualized, too detached from the real question we have about God."

So what's the real question we have about God?

"It's not 'Is there a God?' It's '**Does the God who is care about me?**' or '**Is the God who is, there for me or not?**' That's the question that haunts us.

Psalm 23 gives an open, very personal, engaged response. The Lord is not only the Shepherd, or just the Shepherd, or even our Shepherd, but is known to be **my Shepherd.**

No wonder that, when we come to the end, and we are lowered into the ground in our death, and mourners surround the grave, we turn to Psalm 23. Those who are grieving, even in their mourning, are deeply comforted by being able to raise their voices, "The Lord is my shepherd, I lack for nothing...goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I'll dwell in God's house forever."

Perhaps the goal of the Christian life ought to be to live with God now in such a way so that at the end we may be able to say, with our last breath, that in spite of all the twists and turns in our lives, "the Lord, God of all, Creator of the universe, Lord of history, that **God is my shepherd.**"

-Pastor William Metz

— Upcoming Events —

PRESCHOOL CHAPEL	Thurs, Apr 18 th , 9:15 am
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING	Thurs, Apr 18 th , 1:00 pm
CHOIR PRACTICE	Sun, Apr 21 st , 11:30 am
BINGO NIGHT PRESCHOOL FUNDRAISER	Fri, May 3 rd , 6:00 pm

*Please join us in congratulating Pastor Metz and Becky on their 45th wedding anniversary this Sunday.

CHECK OUT ONE OF THE BIBLE STUDIES AT PEACE THIS WEEK!

- Bible study, **Sundays 8:30 am**, in the Parish Hall and via Zoom. ~~Click this [LINK](#) to join the stream. Or start Zoom and enter the Meeting ID and Passcode below. Or dial 1 669 444 9171 Meeting ID: 860 6410 8815 & Passcode: 861083~~
- The Women’s Bible study, Starting a new Study of Romans, Mondays 12:30 pm, in the Parish Hall, All ladies welcome!
- Community Bible study, Tuesdays, 7:30 am, outside, near Red Dirt Café in the Walmart Shopping Center.

COMING SOON – A NEW E-NEWS

The Update is migrating to a weekly E-News. Add your email address to the list by visiting the website (peacearroyogrande.com). Scroll down to the bottom of the home page and you’ll find the spot to sign up. It looks like the image to the right →

Keep up with new Posts and Newsletters

First Name

Last Name

Email address:

Our Response to God’s Love –

Last Sunday, April 14, 2024, Attendance: In Person 47; On phone 5; Online 5; Offering: \$6,737.00

SERVING SUNDAY, April 21, 2024 (Thank you!):

Elder:	Dirk Vavroch	AV Tech:	Mark Weintraub
Ushers:	Ronnie Counterman, Don Hilliard	Counters:	Joyce Carpentier, Jan Huwaldt
Reader:	Don Hilliard	Flowers:	Cindy Cornforth for Ralph’s birthday
Organist:	Marlene Fissell	Coffee:	Jana Jones
Altar Guild:	Margie Schaaf, SuAnne Alessandro	Greeters:	Sue Offermann, Joyce Carpentier

Four Ways to Worship at Peace Lutheran Church	
In-Person – In the Sanctuary	Join the celebration, in person, Sundays at 10 am in the Peace sanctuary! Hearing assist devices are available. Printed worship orders are provided.
In the Parking Lot at Peace	Tune to 105.7 for an audio feed of the worship service (only available in the immediate vicinity of the church property)
Via a Live Stream on YouTube	Click here to go to the Peace YouTube page Or navigate to: youtube.com/@peacelutheranchurchvideose9201/streams Please email your attendance to: offermann2@yahoo.com or Pastor John (pastor@peacearroyogrande.com).
Via Telephone	Dial 1-612-746-7380. When prompted, enter the conference code: 872142. Please mute your phone or cover the handset mouthpiece. Either before or after the service, someone will ask for attendance.