

From the Pastor...

This Sunday, we'll conclude our three Sundays pondering the depth and width of Psalm 23.

I think sometimes a challenge for our understanding of Psalm 23 is its familiarity. The psalm is filled with rich images. The main metaphor used is God as shepherd. This Sunday, we'll consider the psalm's shift from the loving, guiding, protecting shepherd to the shepherd as the one who keeps working to be sure that the sheep stay in the fold.

The good shepherd image is given in the first three verses of the psalm. A key thing that the shepherd does is to lead in "right paths" (v. 3). The psalmist is depicted as a traveler crossing perilous terrain. Throughout the psalm, it is affirmed that God is trustworthy and can be particularly trusted to lead and to guide through every threat.

The shepherd can be trusted to provide good green pasture grass, to keep the sheep safe and secure in their travels, and to guide them along protected paths. In other words, the good shepherd provides for all of their needs, "*I shall not want.*" The sheep can put their complete trust in the shepherd because the shepherd is completely trustworthy.

One can easily see why this psalm provided some of the strongest and most descriptive images of Jesus in John 10. (also see Luke 15:3-6.)

Though we walk through "the deep darkness of the valley," we can walk with confidence knowing of the work of the shepherd.

"Yes, goodness and *steadfast love*  
will *pursue* me all the days of my life,  
and I will live in the LORD's house forever."

I know that's not quite how our English versions passively state verse six of Psalm 23 as "goodness and mercy following along" where you lead them. Yet, a more faithful, and Christ visioned descriptive translation would be: "goodness and faithful, unfailing love will ***pursue me.***"

Pursue, the Hebrew word ***radaph***, is a much more intense word than the way most of us memorized the Psalm as "will follow me all the days of my life." The word tends to be used in a negative sense in various places in scripture, for instance in Joshua 8 where the word is used five times where "pursuit" is connected with killing. And yet in Second Kings 5:21, it just means to go after

somebody, to chase them down, not necessarily for evil intent, as when one person runs after someone in order to have a conversation with them.

In speaking of goodness and mercy, or more literally "goodness and *chesed*, God's steadfast covenant faithful love," the psalmist is attributing agency and initiative to God. "Follow" sounds more passive, like a mere tagging along. To have God's love portrayed as dogged and determined in pursuit of us is quite different.

This Sunday we'll amplify this most beloved, familiar psalm, and focus on that word rendered as "follow", while speaking of the goodness and mercy of God. We'll look at a less passive translation of the word as we see God acting toward us to "pursue." To render this word in that way opens up new insight into an old, familiar friend of a Psalm as we see a God who abandons all cost to pursue and claim us to live in his house forever.

This Sunday's assigned gospel, John 15:9-17 ("I chose you"), is a perfect link to Psalm 23. Jesus, the pursuing God, the seeking, searching Savior, promises to keep loving us and also to keep urging, commanding, us to love one another. That's a fitting link with our emphasis on the pursuing God who is love, ultimate perfect love.

-Pastor William Metz

#### **Our Response to God's Love –**

Last Sunday, April 28, 2024, Attendance: In Person 48; On phone 8; Online 6; Offering: \$2502.00

#### **SERVING SUNDAY, May 5, 2024 (*Thank you!*):**

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Elder:	Gene Offermann	AV Tech:	Dave Edwards
Ushers:	Ronnie Counterman, Don Hilliard	Counters:	Joyce Carpentier, Jan Huwaldt
Reader:	Mark Weintraub	Flowers:	for Sharon Tanner's birthday
Organist:	Marlene Fissell	Coffee:	LWML, Connie Alex
Altar Guild:	Judy Aikins, Erleen Clawson	Greeters:	Sue Offermann, Joyce Carpentier



# BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES AT PEACE

## Bible Study

Sunday mornings 8:30 am

**Attend in-person in the Parish Hall ~~or via Zoom.~~**

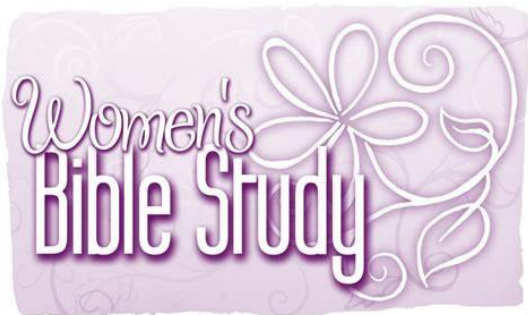
**~~To Join the Zoom Meeting via the Internet, use this  
information each week:~~**

Click [here](#) to Join (or launch Zoom and enter the ID and Passcode (below)

~~From any phone, dial 1 669 444 9171~~

~~Meeting ID: 860 6410 8815 & Passcode: 861083~~

Current study – Exodus



## Women's Bible Study

**Mondays, 12:30 pm in the Parish Hall**

Good studies. Great discussion. Wonderful fellowship. All ladies are encouraged to attend.

Current study – Romans

## Community Bible Study

**Outside the Red Dirt Café, near Walmart**

**Time: Tuesdays, 7:30 am Topic: The Psalm of the Day**

We study a selection of Wisdom literature (from Psalms, Proverbs, etc.) appointed as a reading for the day. After reading the text, we discuss its meaning and application. Men and women, believer and seeker, all are invited!



# LWML News, Fun and Faith

As Lutheran Women in Mission we joyfully proclaim CHRIST, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.

We enjoyed a fun day out for our April meeting with our faithful group. We went to see God's flowers and beautiful country up north and enjoyed lunch at a fun restaurant! How nice to share the day with our sisters in Christ!

This month, on Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, we will be meeting in the parish hall at 10:00 am. We will have a salad luncheon so bring your favorite salad to share. We will not be visiting Achievement House as previously planned. This will be our last meeting before our summer break. Think of some ideas to share for our upcoming year.

We pray for a blessed and renewed rest for you sharing God's word and enjoying each day.





# About Our Organist

Leonard Lutz has been involved in music all his life. As a baby, he would make his own music as soon as the radio was turned off for the night. By the age of 2, he was playing the record player. In the second grade, Leonard started his “formal” training on the piano, which he managed to do for only 6 months due to getting headaches whenever he went to his piano lesson. He continued to play and practice under his mom’s tutelage.



In the third grade, he started trombone lessons and had to use his foot to reach the longer slide positions. That was the beginning of Leonard’s interest in learning as much as he could musically. Along the way, he picked up banjo, 12-string guitar, baritone, French horn, and trumpet. When he was a high-school junior, the school bought a bassoon and Leonard was interested in learning it. That was his first woodwind and has been his favorite instrument to this day.

Attending Pacific Union College as a Music Major, he took lessons on piano, organ, voice, and classical guitar all while supposedly being a “Diversified Low Brass” major. He continued playing as many instruments as he could get his hands on. Unable to decide on an instrument on which to specialize, he turned to Music Education, then switched to Communications with Broadcast Emphasis. He had been working at the college’s radio station as an assistant engineer and went on to become the music director, programming all of the station’s music. In 1977, Leonard received his BS in Communications with a minor in Music Education. His minor recital was on classical guitar.

He has been a classroom teacher and director of school music programs since 1981. He currently is also director of the Grande Ringers handbell choir at Arroyo Grande First United Methodist Church and organist for Peace Lutheran Church.

In addition, Leonard still plays many instruments and can be found playing a few of them at different times with the San Luis Chamber Orchestra. His wife of 45 years, Jeane, supports and encourages his musical endeavors.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
8:30am - Bible Study 10am - WORSHIP 11:30am - Choir Practice	12:30pm - Women Study 6pm - Literacy for Life	7:30am - Bible Study RD 10am - Prayer Warriors		9:15am - PS Chapel 10am - LWML Board	6pm - Bingo Fundraiser	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8:30am - Bible Study 10am - WORSHIP 11:30am - Choir Practice	12:30pm - Women Study 6pm - Literacy for Life	7:30am - Bible Study RD 10am - Doll Club 10am - Prayer Warriors	2pm - PS Board Meeting	9:15am - PS Chapel 10am - LWML Meeting		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8:30am - Bible Study 10am - WORSHIP 11:30am - Choir Practice	12:30pm - Women Study 6pm - Literacy for Life	7:30am - Bible Study RD 10am - Prayer Warriors		9:15am - PS Chapel 1pm - Board of Directors		2pm - LWML Tea (Zion)
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8:30am - Bible Study 10am - WORSHIP 11:30am - Choir Practice 11:30am - Preschool	12:30pm - Women Study 6pm - Literacy for Life	7:30am - Bible Study RD 10am - Prayer Warriors		9:15am - PS Chapel		
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
8:30am - Bible Study 10am - WORSHIP 11:30am - Choir Practice	Church Office Closed Preschool Closed 12:30pm - Women Study 6pm - Literacy for Life	7:30am - Bible Study RD 10am - Prayer Warriors 10:30am - People's Kitch		9:15am - PS Chapel		

# Peace Christian Preschool

Doris Angel, Director  
Sierra Day Co-Director  
805-489-9644  
director@peacearroyo  
grande.com



## May Newsletter 2024

### Mark your Calendar

**Chapel Every Thursday at 9:15am. Families are welcome to join us!**

**May 6-10:** Teacher Appreciation Day

**May 3:** Bingo night Fundraiser!  
6:00/ Dinner served!

**May 12:** Mother's Day

**May 17:** **EARLY CLOSURE DAY**  
at 12:20. Staff Meeting

**May 19:** 10:00- Preschool Sunday Church Service and then Open House/Progressive Lunch.

**May 27:** **SCHOOL CLOSED**  
For Memorial Day

### TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

**MAY 6-10**

Parents this is your week to bless your teachers who have loved and taught your children this school year. Be creative! Get together and plan something special with other parents or do your own thing! The administration staff will be doing some fun things as well! The church and school boards along with the LWML ladies have given generously to the staff for a fun event being planned!



### Happy Birthday

5/3 Miss Danicia

5/27 Tauren D.

### HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY



**May 12th**

## **\*\* PRESCHOOL SUNDAY and OPEN HOUSE \*\***

**Sunday MAY 19 Service at 10:00 and Open house after service.**

We'd like to invite you to attend the church service here at 10:00 am to hear the songs your children have prepared for you and then we will begin the Open House after the service around 11:30 ending at 1:00.

We encourage you to come and see each room as it will display the children's artwork through a teacher's creative theme. We will be doing a 4-part **Progressive Lunch**. As you visit each classroom you will eat a one part of your lunch in each classroom, drinks, chips, sandwiches, and desserts. This will give you an opportunity to see each classroom while you enjoy your lunch. You will see how the levels of learning progress as the children grow at our school. The children will be working hard to make this an event you won't want to miss! Make sure you sign up to help out with a lunch item!





***Peace Lutheran  
Church & Preschool***

***244 Oak Park Blvd.***

***Arroyo Grande, CA 93420***

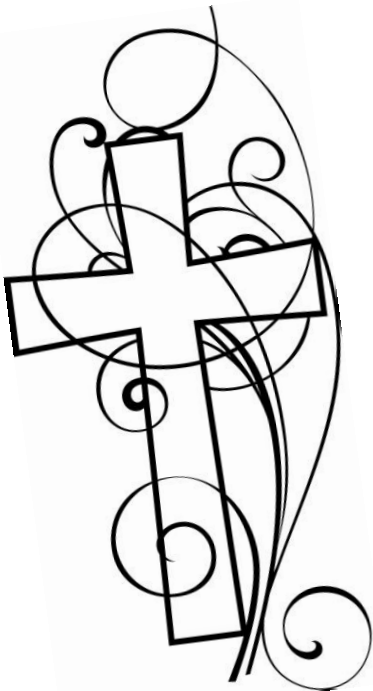
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[www.peacearroyogrande.com](http://www.peacearroyogrande.com)

May 2024

Church & School Newsletters



**Peace Lutheran Church  
Mission Statement**

In loving, caring fellowship, built upon the foundation of Word and Sacrament, we reach out with Gospel ministries to our community.