**A New Year**

It is a new year. It is a time when we take stock of the past year in order to improve the year to come. It is a time when we sit down to plan and implement what we want to accomplish and even change. Part of that is planning our stewardship for the coming year.

Some people find this difficult. But it does not have to be. In fact, it is really quite simple and can be full of joy. So here are some tips as you review and plan for your 2020 giving. You begin by answering these three questions: Who are you? To whom do I give? And how much?

So, who are you? Are you a hearer of God’s Word? Are you a citizen of society? Are you a member of a family? Stewardship covers these three areas: church, society, family. We do not particularly struggle to give to society or family. Our struggles, our difficulties and our questions arise in giving to church.

So, what is our duty as members of the church with regard to giving? The Bible gives us a guide. If you are a hearer, a member of the church who receives instruction, the Apostle Paul said in Galatians 6:6 – “Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things.” This means God’s Church is primary. So when God calls us to give to the church, He has the local congregation in mind.
How much do we give to the local congregation? Our only instructions are these: to give regularly (1 Cor. 6:1–2), proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:12), and generously (2 Cor. 8:20) of our first fruits (Gen. 4:4; Prov. 3:9; Lev. 27:30) with a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7), and love (2 Cor. 8:23).

In other words, giving to the church is not to be an afterthought, given after everything else is spent. In this way, it is deliberate. We give regularly – weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, quarterly, or yearly – keeping in mind our own strengths, weaknesses, and limitations. We set it aside beforehand – before anything else is spent.

From those first fruits, we set aside a proportionate and generous amount. Ten percent was the standard for the Israelites. This was a command for the ancient Israelites. We can give as much as we want, but ask yourself: do we really want to be less generous than was commanded of the Israelites? Is the job of the New Testament Church bigger or smaller than the job given to Israel?

And how are we to give it? We give it with eagerness and earnestness. We give it cheerfully and with love, not out of compulsion. For through the preaching of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments, God has made us His children, forgiven us all our sins, given us grace, promised us life everlasting with Him in His kingdom, and filled us with His own Spirit, the Holy Spirit. This makes giving a joy, as Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).

It is that easy. And it is joyful. For in stewardship, our gracious and giving Lord invites us to take part in the work that He accomplishes here on earth, providing for the ongoing sharing of the gospel. Taking part in that makes all our work holy – work that is done in service to the Lord as His disciples.

A Message from the Editor...

Dear Readers,

Can you believe that 2020 will soon be here? May this year bring you true 20/20 vision and may the New Year bring you a newer and closer relationship with our Lord and Savior and with your family, friends and co-workers.

Happy New Year!

Jackie Pilan

PS: The deadline for February’s “Peace Lutheran Messenger” is Monday, January 20.
It is a new year AND a new decade. This is a great time to reflect and look back! This is a great
time to dream and look ahead! What has God done for you? What does He have in store for you?

In the academic setting, we are always asking students to think back. It helps them to organize
their learning and prepare for higher-level lessons. What have you learned that will help as you go
forward? What has God worked in your life, and how has He taught you?

We also expect students to think ahead. More advanced skills lie in their future. More complicated
processes require the mastery of previous, smaller lessons. Through what has God led you that
seemed like too much to handle? For what has He prepared you?

The Bible is full of accounts of God’s
preparation. Because of her favor with the king,
Esther was able to expose a plot against God’s
people. They were saved. Her cousin
counseled her, “For if you remain silent at this
time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will
arise from another place, but you and your
father’s family will perish. And who knows but
that you have come to royal position for such a
time as this?” Esther 4:14. God worked through
Esther. He had prepared her heart, had placed
her in position, and had strengthened her
boldness.

The works of God did not happen only in the Old and New Testaments. He still works today and
always will. Watch and see. What has He done with you, for you, and through you? What does
He have in mind for your future?

**Important Dates**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 10</td>
<td>5:30pm</td>
<td>Family Floor Hockey</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 17</td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Peace Lutheran School Spelling Bee (Gr. 5-8)</td>
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<td>End of the 2nd quarter</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 20</td>
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<td>No School. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 26</td>
<td>10:30am</td>
<td>Student-led Worship</td>
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<td>January 27-31</td>
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<td>National Lutheran Schools Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 31</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>Talent Show</td>
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Carol Stathakis,
Principal
New Year’s Office Hours

Please conduct any business that you have with Peace Lutheran Church and School during the shortened New Year’s holiday office hours.

Our offices will open with regular 8:00am-4:30pm hours starting on Monday, January 6, 2020.

Have a Happy New Year!

Seniors Group
Hymn Sing

Wednesday, January 8
12:30pm

Everyone is welcome to join our Seniors’ Group in singing familiar hymns on Wednesday, January 8, at 12:30pm, in the Gathering Room.

Adult Co-ed Sports
Sundays Returns

January 12, 2020
Volleyball at 4:00pm
Basketball at 6:00pm

Do you love playing basketball and/or volleyball? Peace is excited to invite you to our gym to play one or both sports every Sunday during the fall and winter.
PreK – Grade 8 Open House
THURSDAY
February 13
6:30pm – 8:00pm

RE-ENROLLMENT BEGINS SOON
FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

Preschool | Elementary | Middle School
Peace Auction 2020
March 27, 2020
6:30pm
The Peace Lutheran Church and School Auction Committee would like to formally invite you, our church and school family, and your guests, to our Annual Auction, which takes place on Friday, March 27, 2020, from 6:30pm, at the Palazzo Grande in Shelby Township.

We look forward to hosting you at our great night of food, fellowship and friendly bidding! Please stop in the office to purchase your tickets, which are $45 per person. Can't join us for the evening? Volunteer and donation opportunities are also available. Please e-mail to inquire!

Haiti Mission Trip
June 24 - July 1, 2020
We are planning another Mission trip to Haiti in June of 2020. We will connect with a local Lutheran church and join them in sharing Jesus and God’s love to the Haitian people. We will also participate in a variety of work such as maintenance and repair of buildings, food distribution, support of local orphanages and eyeglasses distribution.

The cost is $1,100.00 per person (not including personal money). The cost includes: airfare, lodging, two meals a day, local transportation

If you would like to be a part of this Mission Team, please contact Pastor Klemm at the Church office at 586-731-4120, or e-mail at pastorklemm@peaceshelby.org.
Family Night Returns on Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Family Night returns Wednesday, January 8. Please save the date and join us for dinner, and age appropriate Bible studies and activities.

The following Bible studies are available starting January 8:

**The Truth Project, led by Jim Schurig**

The Truth Project is a ground-breaking Bible study on Biblical worldview. This video-based study is the starting point for looking at life from a Biblical perspective. Learn lessons on the relevance and importance of living the Biblical worldview in daily life, featuring insights from other Biblical experts and discussions on theology, philosophy, sociology, science and more.

**LifeLight: Acts, Part I, led by John and Carol Blanchard**

This in-depth study of Acts Part 1 chronicles the 40 days after Jesus rose from the dead through His ascension, and how the Holy Spirit continued His work within the early days of the church

**KIDZONE Animals of the Bible**

There are many different animals in the Bible. This Wednesday KIDZONE study looks at the stories of these animals to learn powerful lessons of obedience, love and how we can live God’s way. Animals include a: snake, dove, frog, lion, pig, camel and other animals.
**Save the Date and Donate!**

**American Red Cross Blood Drive at Peace**

**Monday, January 20, 1:00 – 7:00pm**

Please consider donating blood during Peace’s American Red Cross Blood Drive. A single blood donation may help up to three different people. Walk-ins are welcome or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) for availability.

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**IT’S SNOW FUN!**

**Junior Youth Ministry**

**Sunday**

**January 26**

**12:00pm**

**See Holly for Details**
“STEP” INTO THE NEW YEAR

Make this craft to remember God’s many blessings.

What you need:
- Small stones
- Permanent markers
- Foil pan and cooking spray
- Drop cloth
- Gloves
- Quick-set concrete (and adult help)
- Bucket and paint stirrer

What you do:
1. After reflecting on the past year, use markers to decorate stones with memorable words, dates and drawings.
2. Spray pan with cooking spray. Set pan outside on a drop cloth.
3. Wearing gloves, mix concrete in a bucket, according to instructions.
4. Pour concrete into pan. Smooth top with paint stirrer.
5. Press in stones, handprints and other decorations.
7. Place the stepping-stone outside as a reminder of God’s continued goodness.

Reminder rocks

When Joshua and the Israelites crossed the Jordan River, they set up stones for a special reason.

Directions: Shade all the rocks that aren’t completely rounded. Unscramble the remaining rocks to reveal a message from Joshua 4:24, NIV.

So _______ the _________ the _______

____ the _______ ________ ________

Joshua 4:24, NIV

answer: So that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful. Joshua 4:24, NIV
Worship Services

**Sundays**
- 8:30am Classic
- 10:30am Contemporary
- 10:30am KidZone

**Sunday Bible Study**
- 9:45-10:30am

**Prayer Group**
- 7:00pm, Mondays

**Wednesday Family Night**
- 4:00pm Confirmation
- 6:00pm Dinner
- 6:45-8:00pm Bible Studies, KidZone and Confirmation

**Contact Information**
- Church: 586-731-4120
- School: 586-739-2431
- Fax: 586-731-8935
- Website: [www.peaceshelby.org](http://www.peaceshelby.org)

**Office Hours**
- Monday through Friday
- 8:00am to 4:30pm

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- Latchkey Supervisors: Chelsea Parmentier, Nicole Ohman

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- E – J: John Ugo
- K – L: Fred Thom
- M – O: Pat Longin
- P – R: Jeff DeSano
- S: Doug Shackelford
- T – Z: Ken Fritsch

Elder Family zones are determined by the first letter of your last name.

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