



1Thessalonians 5:13-15

Rise and Shine

13 and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another. 14 We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone. 15 See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.

Plymouth Lutheran Church
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Pastor Joel Baker **February 2021**
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From the Pastor's Office

It's already time for Lenten services coming up on Passover and Easter! Beginning Wednesday, February 17, Ash Wednesday, we will have services at 7:00 pm. On Ash Wednesday there will also be Communion. Our Wednesday evening Bible study will not meet until April 14. We will establish the Holy Week schedule and let you know it soon.

Times are difficult and I believe will get more so soon-people are so angry with one another and some in office are poised to try to do away with or limit Constitutional rights.

The Lord asks us to be peacemakers as much as it relies upon us.

Matthew 5:9

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Hebrews 12:14-15

Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled;

Ephesians 2:14-17

For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity. **AND HE CAME AND PREACHED PEACE TO YOU WHO WERE FAR AWAY, AND PEACE TO THOSE WHO WERE NEAR;**

Luke 10:5-7

Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace be to this house.’ If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you. Stay in that house, eating and drinking what they give you; for the laborer is worthy of his wages. Do not keep moving from house to house

Pray intentionally for your friends and neighbors. Diffuse anger where you are able without compromising God’s principles as expressed in His Word. Be prepared for harsh descriptions of conservative Christians, standing firm for God’s Word, to increase, and for a Biblical worldview to be increasingly at odds with mainstream culture, to the point of outright intolerance. This will be a strong test of faith for western culture and we need to draw close to the Lord continually as well as upholding one another.

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13).

Pastor Joel

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February at PLC



Sundays:

- 7, 14, 21, 28 **9:15am** Sunday School & Bible study
10:30am Worship Service
also via YouTube & FB live
11:30am Coffee Fellowship
- 21 **10:30am** Worship service with
Communion
- 28 **11:40am** Abbreviated Communion

Tuesdays:

- 9 **5:45pm** Mission Committee Meeting
6:30pm Board of Trustees meeting

Wednesdays:

- 3, 10 **9:30am** Men's & Ladies Bible
Study @ the church
6:30pm Read Thru the Bible
study @ the church
- 17 **7:00pm** Ash Wednesday Service
with Communion
- 24 **7:00pm** Lent Service

Saturdays:

- 13 **9:30am** Ladies Bible study @
church

Celebrate Our Congregation

February Birthdays:

Sharon	Wahala	2/2
Henry	Wempen	2/4
Pietro	Serazzi	2/9
Sue	Jukuri	2/19
Kevin	Myrmel	2/20
Pam	Bielinski	2/20
Larry	Walters	2/23
Ryan	Rintala	2/24
Nicole	Bartell	2/26

Save The Date

ASH Wednesday is February 17th
Palm Sunday is March 28th
Easter Sunday is April 4th

"Teacher, which is the greatest
commandment in the Law?"

Jesus replied, "Love the Lord
your God with all your heart
and with all your soul and
with all your mind.' This is
the first and greatest
commandment.

And the second is like it:
'Love your neighbor as
yourself.' All the Law and
the Prophets hang on these
two commandments."

Matthew 22:36-40

5 Ways to Pray for Your Persecuted Brothers and Sisters in Christ



With the arrival of the new year, resolve now to pray regularly for persecuted Christians in 2021. Here are five specific ways you can pray:

- Pray that persecuted believers will be filled with joy and peace that results in overflowing hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)
- Thank God for their faithful testimony as it inspires Christians around the world to boldness and faithfulness. (Romans 1:8–10)
- Pray that God will comfort believers who are experiencing troubles so the comfort of Christ will overflow into the lives of others. (2 Corinthians 1:3–7)
- Pray that God will strengthen their hearts, causing their love for one another and for their persecutors to increase and overflow. (1 Thessalonians 3:9–13)
- Pray that those who are enemies of the gospel and persecutors of God's people will experience Christ's love and be reconciled to God. (Romans 5:10)

[Get a Free 2021 Prayer Guide](#)



THE BUZZ

FROM THE FIVEHIVE

January 2021: "New" & "Thankful"



In our [last newsletter](#), I (Derek) introduced you to our friends, Nico and Elly van Bodegraven and their upcoming New Testament dedication.

I'm excited to share with you that the dedication took place on the date planned! On Sunday,

December 6, 2020, the Gizrra New Testament was dedicated in a joyful ceremony! This people group is now celebrating this NEW method of learning about God, and they are so THANKFUL to Nico and Elly for their tenacity and perseverance. The two men in the picture above are the two Gizrra translators who lead the local team; their names are Waea and Paul.

The Word of the Year

Ten years ago I (Kristy) decided that I was done with New Year's Resolutions. Inevitably, the resolution was broken by the end of January. Instead, I decided to prayerfully adopt a "word of the year" and then keep that word on my mind throughout the year. I'd let it challenge my thoughts and guide my decisions. It's been a great exercise in discipline and also watching how God works in my life through a simple word. My word for 2020 was "NEW". I had no idea what God had in store for me in 2020 when I decided on the word NEW, but I trusted that God had a plan.

As with many of you, my 2020 has been filled with **NEW** challenges, **NEW** uncertainties, **NEW** roles, **NEW** routines and a **NEW** way of trusting in God. Throughout the year, I was reminded that God knew exactly what was going to happen. God put the word **NEW** on my heart before 2020 began, so when a **NEW** challenge, uncertainty, role or routine came up, I knew that I could trust God!

2020 was filled with these **NEW** things for us:

-Derek was the head coach for the varsity basketball team and the head of the math department. He also had to teach on-line (with poor internet!) and be more flexible.

-Derek learned to relax and not take life quite so seriously.

-Kristy took on the role of Clinic manager and learned a lot about cross-cultural management. Another challenge was that her ears developed some kind of issue that cause other hardships.

-Kristy has learned how to better prioritize work and life activities.

-Grant, Nate and Trent had to help out around the house a lot more than usual with Kristy's new job being very demanding. They also developed **NEW** friendships since many of their other friends left during the COVID crisis.

-Grant, Nate and Trent have really become more mature in their attitudes and life skills.



Captions: The boys have gotten good at some "**NEW**" skills this year: Grant at lawn mowing; Trent at baking bread; and Nate at air layering unique Ukarumpa trees.



With 2020 behind us, I've picked a word for 2021: "**Thankful**". This is a word that God has been putting in my path a lot lately. For example, in a recent sermon I listened to, Colossians 4:2 impacted me: "Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving." (ESV) Even though I'm uncertain as to how this word will play out in 2021, I know that God has a plan for me in it, and I'm trusting Him for what lies ahead.

(Editor's note: Derek Johnson is a nephew of Myrna Maikkula and Neil Sunnaborg. Derek and Kristy and the kids are serving with Wycliffe in Papua New Guinea. Their first newsletter of 2021 included inspiring thoughts and I wanted to share them with you.)

The beginning of 2021 is the perfect time to reset our minds, look closely at our habits, and prepare our hearts for what God is going to do next.

Here are 5 ways to do that:

1. Set aside time with God every day.

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

JEREMIAH 29:13

Start rebuilding healthy habits by making time with God your top priority. When you prioritize time with Him, you allow Him to renew your mind and change the way you think.

2. Fix your eyes on Jesus

Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

HEBREWS 12:1-2

Keeping Jesus at the center of your life will help you lay aside anything that might easily entangle you, and eventually, this practice will change the way you live.

3. Remember Whose you are

You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

1 CORINTHIANS 6:19-20

Your future is in the hands of Someone who loves you, and He wants you to become the person He created you to be.

4. Start small

One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much.

LUKE 16:10

5. Invite others to join you

As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

PROVERBS 27:17

As you keep developing healthy habits, over time you will find yourself becoming more like the person God created you to be.