

Youth News - April 2020 by Chandra Hillman, Youth Director

Looking back at March: Twelve youth started out the month with serving a Lenten meal. We were scheduled to serve another meal, but as we all know, it was cancelled. I value the support of the parents in helping prepare the food and the willingness of the youth to help serve our congregation!

Our monthly youth planning meeting was held to discuss upcoming events. An afternoon of games was planned for March 29th, but unfortunately had to be cancelled, hopefully we will be able to reschedule it. I want to give a God shout out in thankfulness to Pastor Joe for coming to our meeting. How great it is to have him here at Peace and I'm so grateful for his support and presence!!

With Sunday morning Bible classes not being held, I volunteered to send (through text) the youth my lessons, so they could still continue with our Bible study. We have been studying about spiritual warfare. God's timing is always perfect and I feel like our Bible study lessons couldn't have come at a more appropriate time. The Holy Spirit is definitely working through us. Knowing that everything happens in God's time is a strong reminder of the One who is in control. Here are some main topics that we have discussed during our Sunday morning Bible studies for March.

Through Scripture, we studied how God's Word teaches us the tricks Satan uses against us and how we can battle the enemy through His Word. We studied what the Christian response should be to defeat the devil's schemes. To live accordingly, Christians need to submit, resist, draw near, cleanse, mourn and be humble. We can't fight Satan alone and it's through Christ and His completed work on the cross that we can stand strong and believe that He is the One who will lead us through any battles. The differences between Satan's accusations and the Holy Spirit's convictions were discussed. Jesus instructed us to make prayer a daily weapon for protection. God wants us to be His prayer warriors to help fight off Satan. Scripture is another weapon God has given us to fight the devil, like Jesus did in the wilderness in Matthew 4, when Satan tried tempting Him. We need to use the weapons that were created specifically for us to fight our spiritual battles. John 16:33 says, "In this world you will have tribulation." God didn't leave us alone to fight this battle on our own. No matter what we face, our loving Father is WITH us, He is FOR us and He FIGHTS for us. Satan likes when fear and doubt surround us, but we need to remember that he's a liar and God's Word is the only truth.

We also talked about putting on the armor of God to battle Satan's devilish ways. Belt of Truth-Paul relates the belt with truth because God's Word is truth. Like a belt is worn close to our body, we are to hold God's truth close to us and allow it to surround us. To defeat Satan we need to start with the belt of truth because every other piece of armor is attached to the truth. Breastplate of Righteousness- The devil attacks our hearts and minds; God's righteousness is the breastplate that protects our hearts and minds. Gospel of Peace or Shoes of Peace-As believers in Christ, we are called to share the true peace that comes from only God. When our shoes are fitted with the Gospel of Peace, this allows us to be ready to share God's with others. The Shoes of Peace, help us to fight for Christ in the spiritual battles we face. Shield of Faith- Hebrews 11:1 says, "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." Though we can't see God physically, He is evident through creation and therefore, our faith in Him comes from this truth. As Christians, our shield of faith needs to be regularly "dipped" in water of God's Word because, "faith comes by hearing and by hearing of the Word of God." Romans 10:17. Our faith will protect us during trials in the same way a shield does during battle. Having faith in God, gives us no reason to fear or doubt. Helmet of Salvation-The helmet protects our minds from doubting God's work for us. Living in a sinful world, our salvation acts like a helmet in the way it protects our minds. Sword of the Spirit-The sword represents the Word of God. If we are lacking in knowledge of God's Word, we will struggle to fight against the enemy. God didn't intend for us to keep this knowledge to ourselves. So when we are asked to defend our beliefs, we can use God's Word to point back to Him. When tough times come our way, we can find peace in knowing that God is on our side. Romans 8:31 reminds us, "What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?"

Battling Satan on a daily basis is something we all do, but we need to remember that there's no reason to fear him when we have God leading our battles and with the blood of the Lamb, the devil has been defeated. Jesus Christ alone gives us the victory May we continue to be a light in a dark world, that seeks to point others to Christ's love and forgiveness. Satan wants us to think that all hope is gone, because of Jesus we have hope. Our weekly Bible verse for March 22 was, "But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 15:57

With many prayers and hope that things get back to normal, here is our April calendar:

Wed. April 1- Youth night from 6:00-7:00, put together Random Acts of Kindness for the S.S. kids and for Easter plus do canvas paintings

Sun. April 5- Easter egg hunt for S.S. kids, Go out to eat and do our other Random Act of Kindness

Sun. April 12- Easter Sunrise Service at 6:45 a.m at Peace Lutheran Cemetery, breakfast following

I leave you with Phillipians 4:7, "And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Faithfully serving in Christ, Chandra

