

The Pastor's Perspective:

I'm not sure when I began ending the benediction with the Hebrew "Shalom." The Apostle Peter closes his first letter with, "Peace to all of you who are in Christ." (I Peter 5:14) In the Christmas season, we often sing about "Peace on Earth." Peace is the focus on the second Sunday of Advent. The messianic hope was for an age of peace with the coming of the Prince of Peace. Further, the New Testament shows a linking of the Greek "Eirene" to "Grace," which is the word the Apostle Paul often used as a *bene-good diction*-word ending several of the epistles.



If you were to come to our condo, you'd be greeted by various versions of "Shalom" signs. One is as seen here, showing the Hebrew. There's also one cut from Jerusalem wood and another is a colorful embroidery. Parishioners traveling to Israel found them and shared them with me. A story: At one church I served, a father told me his daughter wondered why I told worshipers to "Shut-up" at the end of the service. I soon assured all of them in a children's message that the opposite was true! "Shalom" is about Christ's peace to be shared. Our world needs it, now more than ever!

The Hebrew "Shalom" that you hear as the blessing concluding worship is an Old Testament word rich with meanings of completeness, soundness and well-being. When we experience shalom, we enjoy the peace that's been described as one "that passes all understanding." It's a state of shalom that's a lot more than an absence of warfare. It's about relationships being what they're designed to be, as well as a completeness husband and wife enjoy when things are as God intended them to be. "It's" Finish the sentence and you'll know. Anyhow, I feel privileged to pronounce a shalom blessing for you to receive.

- *Pastor George Vink*

Search Committee Update:

- The search committee has begun meeting and would like input from the congregation as to what attributes you would like to see in our next pastor. If you are unable to attend the discussion on December 1 but would still like to share your thoughts, please write out your thoughts and put them in the Zuiderveen mailbox or email them to brendaz0422@gmail.com. There will also be a form in the narthex that you can make suggestions for a pastor if there is someone you would like us to consider. Please place completed forms in the Zuiderveen mailbox. The search committee is made up of Nicole Dornbos, Ted Howerzyl, Gary Pipping, Brian Reed, Mary Rozendal, Peggy Sonke, Kelly Vogel, Kylie Wilson, and Brenda Zuiderveen (chair).

Church Announcements:

- **Our worship this Sunday:** Today is the second Sunday in the season of Advent, with the theme of "PEACE". Pastor Cody Zuiderveen will bring a message from Luke 2: 1-20 titled "The Great Reversal"
Next week for the 3rd Sunday of Advent our theme will be "JOY". Pastor George Vink will bring a message titled "The Gift of Joy - Savoring and Sharing It" based on Isaiah 12:1-6, 40:9-11 & Luke 2:8-10. During the service, the kids will present their children's Christmas Program "Christmas Is A Promise".
- **Christmas Eve Service:** The Elders have recommended a 4pm Christmas Eve Service. Please invite your friends and family to join us for a service of Lessons and Carols at 4pm on Friday, December 24th.
- **Sunday December 12:** You are invited to join us for a light breakfast before church from 8:45am-9:30am. During the worship service on December 12, the kids will present their Christmas Program titled "Christmas: The Story of a Promise."

Directory Update:

- Annette Vos has moved to Room 104 in the Reflections wing at Sunset Manor. Her telephone number will remain the same.

Calendar:

Pastor George Vink's Office Hours: Tuesday 11-2 Phone:616-808-6062

Admin Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday from 9-12 and Friday from 12:30-2.

Diane's Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9-3

December 5: Youth Group 5-7pm

December 9: Joy Breakfast 9am @ Rainbow Grill

Friendship Group 7-8pm

December 12: Breakfast 8:45-9:30, 10am Christmas Program

December 14: Baby Pantry 2-4pm

December 15: Gems & Cadets Christmas Party 6-8pm

December 24: Christmas Eve Service 4pm

Schedule:

December Special Offering: Grandville Friendship Homes

December 5: General Fund, Faith Promise

December 12: General Fund, Christian Education

December 19: General Fund, Baby Pantry

December 26: General Fund, Benevolence

- **Coffee Servers:**
December 5: Steve & Marla Maring, Marc & Nancy Faasse
December 12: Tom & Mary Jo Vryhof,
- **Kids Own Worship**
December 5: Jane Schut - Christmas: Angels & Shepherds
December 12: No Kids Own Worship - Christmas Program
- **Bus Drivers:**
December 5: Chad Vogel
December 12: Roger Grit
- **Nursery:**
December 5: Marla Maring, Lauren Dertien
December 12: Cali Stob, Emily Dertien

Prayer List

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." Phillipians 4:6

South Grandville Prayer Line: the NEW number is 616-532-5413 (option 4).

Requests

- Council Members: Steve Maring, Jim Mellema, Bonnie Williams, Diane Reed
- Military: Lt Col Brian Sikkema
- Missionary of the Month: Geoff & Tammy Kooistra
- Members: Gloria DeMaagd, Fred Brunsting, Ike Brinks, Karen Hampton

Help & Healing

- **Marv and Barb Blouw** are both recovering from their cases of Covid 19. **Marv** continues to improve and gain strength. Barb was discharged from the hospital after a 14 day stay and was able to return to Sunset. She is quite weak and will need physical therapy and follow-up care.
- **Ed and Jo Brower** welcome our prayers for their daughter, **Rhonda Kerkstra**, who was recently diagnosed with cancer. She has begun a six month regimen of chemotherapy. We join her and her family praying that the treatments will be effective and tolerated well.
- **Ike Brinks** continues to recuperate at home and he is feeling quite well. He is currently undergoing additional tests and follow up medical consultations .
- **Don Homan** began a new series of chemotherapy treatments on Thursday, December 2. He currently anticipates a treatment each week for the next two weeks and then a break.

- **Nella Homan** continues to convalesce at home following her recent knee replacement surgery. She is receiving physical therapy and making good progress.
- **Barb Oosterink** remains patient and hopeful for regaining some of her eyesight as she anticipates a consultation with her eye doctor on December 10.
- **Randy Veldhouse** is now recuperating at home following his recent corrective brain surgery at St Mary's Health Care Hospital. He is feeling well, was scheduled for a follow-up MRI on December 3, and anticipates a consultation with his oncologist on Tuesday, December 7.
- **Rod Williams** has decided to forego any additional cancer treatments. He is currently receiving hospice care at home and is very weak. For him and his family we pray for a daily gift of God's all-sufficient grace and peace.
- **Elaine Marsman** at Waterford Memory Care and **Wilma Rus** at American House on Byron Center Avenue continue to receive hospice care.

Happy Birthday!

December 2 - Tress Nyenhuis
 December 3 - Linda Veldhouse
 December 4 - Cooper Mann
 December 6- Steve Vos, Amy Vos-Dillinger
 December 7 - Jim Dertien
 December 11 - Rick Vandekieft, Burt Westveld
 December 14 - John DeHaan
 December 15 - Marve Blouw, Wilma Rus
 December 16 - Ruth Minkler
 December 20- Bobby Osenga
 December 21 - Daryl Rus, Yura Rozendal
 December 28 - Dan Mouw
 December 30 - Sid VanderPloeg
 December 31 - Drew Stob, Mary Jo Vryhof, Jim Mellema