

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Cheryl Punzalan, Council President

Well, only one month behind us and already the New Year's resolutions are shot! Why is it that the harder I try to keep them the more creative the excuses are for not doing so? You know all that rain was a good excuse for doing or not doing lots of things. It's hard to visit folks you haven't seen in a while (Resolution #1) when the authorities are telling you to stay home unless it is absolutely necessary to be out on the road. One needs comfort food if it is cold and rainy outside...lots of lettuce does NOT warm up the insides (Resolution #2). It's difficult to walk outside in the neighborhood when it is so stormy (Resolution #3). It's hard to be at work earlier (#4) when the clock is flashing "88:88" because the power went off sometime in the night. It is really difficult to get the Council agenda out earlier (#5) if the steward's reports aren't submitted sufficiently in advance to review for business items. (Touché')

Yes, we are good ones for excuses. If we try hard enough we can justify in our own minds just about anything we do. We are very critical of co-workers' creative excuses and yet, we find ourselves repeating the very same lame lines in our own defense when the project isn't quite finished or the meeting went poorly or the report to senior management is late. Then, we beat ourselves up for this.

Peter in the courtyard denying his Lord comes to mind. He had really good reasons for doing what he did. After all, he could have been jailed or worse for acknowledging his association with Jesus. Nevertheless, Jesus knew his humanity and forgave him all the same. Jesus forgives us, too, when we are less than perfect. When we don't meet the lofty and, yes, many times unrealistic goals we set for ourselves, He says that we are still His children and He still loves us. This undeserved and omnipresent love is ours for the taking. Jesus did not make excuses about how painful that cross was or how humiliating crucifixion would be. He took all our failings and died for us.

Thank you, Jesus for being that perfection that I can never be. Thank you for taking my flaws to your cross and making me whole. Help me to tell others of your love. Amen

Shalom, Cheryl

FISH CATCHER (USPS 480-330) is published monthly by Salem Lutheran Church, 1211 N. Brand Blvd., Glendale, CA 91202. Periodical Postage paid at Glendale, CA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Salem Lutheran Church, 1211 N. Brand Blvd., Glendale, CA 91202.