



PEACE
NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN CHURCH

February 2022



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

A recurring problem recently resurfaced at Peace Lutheran: anonymous comments. An unidentified person does not like a decision that has been made. Criticism is leveled at an event through a trusted friend, but the person making the complaint does not want to be identified. Church leadership is then forced to make a decision: address the concern or dismiss it as hearsay.

If the leadership chooses to address the concern, leadership is acting on second-hand information at best. One must trust that the complaint was properly relayed, that whatever nuances were contained in the comments were accurately transferred to the appropriate person. Like the child's game of "telephone" a message can get distorted as it is passed from person to person - even with the best of intentions. This is but one of the dangers in receiving and acting on anonymous information. Another danger is that action would be based on hearsay. Hearsay is information received from other people that one cannot adequately substantiate. There is no way to verify the comment or complaint. Acting on hearsay is not leadership, it is reacting to rumor. I have chosen each time to dismiss an anonymous comment or complaint as hearsay. Instead of taking action on the complaint I encourage the individual who

relayed the information in good faith to tell the complainer to come talk with me directly and honestly or to seek out a Council Member.

For the Body of Christ to function well there needs to be good, honest communication. Good communication is one-on-one discussions, not anonymous critiques. I will listen, yet that does not always mean I will agree. Perhaps through direct communication common ground can be found and adjustments to how the congregation functions can be made. However there is a big difference between reacting to anonymous comments and acting on first-person communication.

Peace Lutheran has a Church Council consisting of individuals who care deeply about this ministry. If a person is unwilling to talk with me, seek out a Council member. I know that they will listen, and that your concern will be addressed through the proper channels.

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**PASTOR
STEVE HARTTEN**

Peace Lutheran Church
3590 Lincoln Avenue
St. Joseph, MI 49085
Phone: 269-556-7000
Church Office Email:
PeaceLutheranStJoe@sbcglobal.net
Church Website:
Peacelutheranstjoe.org

Church Office Hours:
Monday through Thursday
9 a.m.—12 p.m.

Pastoral Contact Info:
The Rev. Steve Hartten
Pastor
Phone: (H) 281-0307
(C) 303-638-7598

Audio/Video Requests:
For Audio CD call:
Josh Lochner 429-4415
For Video DVD call:
The Church Office 556-7000

Weekly Worship & Praise Opportunities:
Sunday
10:15 a.m. Worship
also streamed on Facebook Live or YouTube Live
Permission to podcast/stream the music in our services obtained from One License with license #A-722704.

Lent begins March 2nd, 2022.



COUNCIL MINUTES

**Monday, January 17, 2022
6:30 p.m.**

Members present: Teresa Hogan, Virgil Bennett, Bryan Sorensen, Bob Phillips, Rich Steinbauer, Herb Kroening, Ed Zajac, Barb Berry (phone) Ken Berry (phone)

Also Present: Pastor Hartten, Bev So, Christine Bennett, Maty Tallman

Call to Order: Ed Zajac called the meeting to order at 6:32pm.

Open Devotion/Prayer Pastor Steve Hartten
Pastor Hartten based his devotion on the Parable of the Bridge from Friedman's Fables. Council tasked with leading the Congregation in letting go of the rope and moving forward.

Approval of January agenda with the following add-ons

Ken Berry to join council – term to expire January 2023

Bob making plans to form outreach committee
Bryan made a motion to approve the January agenda and Herb seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Treasurer's report Brenda Engel (acct. mgr)

2022 Budget discussed and clarification of Christian Fellowship funds to be allocated for Monday Night Worship and Water for Lawn Maintenance included in the Building Repair and Maintenance line item. Bryan made a motion to approve the proposed budget and present to Congregation and Herb seconded the motion. The motion carried

Council Guest Bev So and Christine Bennett

Pastor Schmidt Retirement Celebration to be held at the Solarium in Stevensville from 3 to 6 . Budget for food and additional add on items \$3,171.50, will be cash bar. Council members to conduct the program; possible date of April 24, 2022.

Barb, Virgil, Ed and Bryan have formed a committee to write a program and timeline of events.

Council Guest

Marty Tallman

Several suggestions of Mission Statements for Monday Night Worship was presented to council. Members worked on combining portions of several suggestions. A draft was sent to council in email to vote.

Old Business

COVID-19 update and discussion

Covid 19 update: Infection rate is at 39% we will continue protocols in place, every other pew taped off, parishioners to wear masks, Choir on hiatus and no communion. We will revisit this next month.

2022 Budget

Approved, to be presented at the Congregational meeting January 30, 2022

Standing Committee Reports

Worship

When the Pastor is unavailable, who will cover the service? Teresa made a motion, a lay person in the congregation will conduct the service when Pastor Hartten is unavailable. Virgil seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Fellowship

Teresa completed the SafeServe Food Handling certification. Certification given to Pastor Hartten

Building and Grounds

Virgil

Virgil reports the Snow Blower is repaired and in good working condition.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Hartten

Pastor Hartten requesting one week off Feb 18-25. Bob made a motion to approve vacation, Virgil seconded.

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New Business

Pastor Ron Schmidt's grandson (a non-member) to be married in the church. Pastor requested a member price for using the facility since he is a member. Council discussed charging the grandson as a member or non-member. Final decision centered on not setting a precedent. Virgil made a motion that we should charge the non-member fee for the wedding. Motion passed.

Building use for 2022 elections renewal

Agreement for Peace to be a polling station needs to be signed. Teresa made a motion to sign the agreement, Herb seconded. Motion passed.

Building Membership

Bob and Ed will form an Outreach committee to plan activities to reach community members to visit and / or join our church. Non-council members will be invited to participate.

New Council members for 2022

President: Ed Zajac

Vice President: Teresa Hogan

Secretary: Ken Berry

Members: Herb Kroening, Barb Berry, Bob Phillips, Bryan Sorenson, Virgil Bennett
Rich Steinbauer completed his term and has not elected to serve a second term.

Greeters for February

Feb 6th Barb/Bryan

Feb 13th Rich/ Bob

Feb 20th Ken / Ed

Feb 27th Herb / Teresa

Motion to Adjourn

Closing prayer Pastor Hartten

Pastor's Message

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Help our leadership to be able to lead, let us hear your voice directly and not through a third party. You might be pleasantly surprised by the outcome.



**The SON is always shining;
it's just that the clouds (of life)
get in the way!**



2/6 Barb Berry & Bryan Sorenson
2/13 Rich Steinbauer & Bob Phillips
2/20 Ken Berry & Ed Zajac
2/27 Herb Kroening & Teresa Hogan

A Letter From the Soup Kitchen

Throughout 2021, five members of Peace have continued to make sack lunches for the soup kitchen in Benton Harbor. We have averaged 115 lunches made on the 2nd Friday of February, April, June, August, September, and December. Each lunch includes a ham and cheese sandwich, chips, fruit, dessert and a bottle of water. We think this practice will probably continue throughout most of 2022. We are once again asking for donations from the congregation to help with the purchase of the items needed for the lunches. Cash and gift cards from Gordon Foods, Meijer, or Aldi will be greatly appreciated. Our cost each time to prepare these lunches is approximately \$150.00. The Flour Shop has been very gracious and continues to donate desserts and often containers. Without those donations, our costs would be much higher. We also buy food at a great discount from Feed America when items we use are available. Please find it in your heart to donate during the month of February to our continuing outreach to help the Soup Kitchen. **Cards and cash may be placed in an envelope in the offering and marked Soup Kitchen. If writing a check, please designate Soup**

Kitchen in the memo.

Thank you to Christine Bennett, Ginger Kunst, and Barb Morgan for helping with the sack lunch preparations.

Thank you to all members for your prayers.

God's blessings,
Barb Berry and Bev So



The 5 Things Weary Christians Need to Hear

By Adam Weber, the founder and lead pastor of Embrace—a church that has six campuses in South Dakota and Minnesota—and the author of Love Has a Name

Maybe you've been going through a tough time lately. The day just got started and you're already wanting to go back to bed. You're drowning in your to-do list and calendar. Things just feel off. Or maybe life has never been better. You feel on top of the world. Everything is working out just like you want it to. You can't say it enough—you're doing great. Or maybe you're somewhere in between. No matter where you are today—mountaintop, valley or hill—here are five things we all need to hear from God; five things that no matter where we are or where we've been you (and me) need to hear this week.

1. **Chill Out. Relax.** Take your foot off the gas. Stop trying so hard to make life work out exactly the way you want it to. You're not in control. This is sometimes a super hard thing for me to realize, but it's true. No matter what I do or don't do, I'm not in control of my life. And that's okay. God is in control. And he is good. So chill out.
2. **God's Plan Is 1,000x Better.** Speaking of control, God's plan is so much better than ours will ever be. We may not see it now, but God has a plan for our lives. And get this, it's amazing! Our plans? They're flawed, imperfect and change every other day. God's plan? It's been written from day one. We can't do anything to mess it up. God's plan is always so much better than the plan I could come up with on my own. I've seen this over and over in my own life. Trust that his plan is so much better.
3. **God Doesn't Look for the Qualified.** God doesn't look for the talented, the blessed, the rock star, the celebrity or the guy with millions of followers. He looks for the willing. The simple. The available. He looks for me, he looks for you and he calls us to do some amazing things for him.
4. **God Can Use This.** Whatever you're walking through today, God can use it. This valley. This pain. This season. He can (and will) use it all for good. Nothing is wasted when it comes to God. Whatever you're going through right now, it's not pointless. There is a reason behind it, even if things don't seem clear right now.

5. **God Doesn't Want Anything From Us.** He just wants us. For us to love him. To spend time with him. To talk with him. To worship him. To show our love in any and every way we can. God doesn't ask us to pass a test, jump through hoops or complete a million weird tasks to earn his love. He doesn't want anything from us; he just wants us. So often we feel like God is asking so much from us—for our money, our church attendance, our good deeds—but really he doesn't want anything from us. All he's asking for is that we love him. When we love him, the other things will follow; not to earn his love, but because we love him.

These five things were life-giving to me this past week; challenging, but things I needed to hear from God.

Sometimes we don't need big, dramatic events to wake us up to what God's doing in our lives. Sometimes it's the simple reminders, the seemingly easy truths that change our whole perspective.

THIS MONTH'S READINGS



Sunday, Feb 6 - Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 6:1-13, Psalm 138
1 Corinthians 14:12-20, Luke 5:1-11

Sunday, Feb 13 - Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Jeremiah 17:5-8, Psalm 1
1 Corinthians 15:1-20, Luke 6:17-26

Sunday, Feb 20 – Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Genesis 45:3-15, Psalm 103:1-13
1 Corinthians 15:21-26, 30-42, Luke 6:27-38

Sunday, Feb 27 - Transfiguration

Deuteronomy 34:1-12, Psalm 99
Hebrews 3:1-6, Luke 9:28-36



WHAT: No Regret's Men's Conference (includes *live speakers, live worship, simulcast sessions, resource booths, lunch, and meaningful guy time*)

WHERE: The Chapel (4250 Washington Ave., St. Joseph, MI)

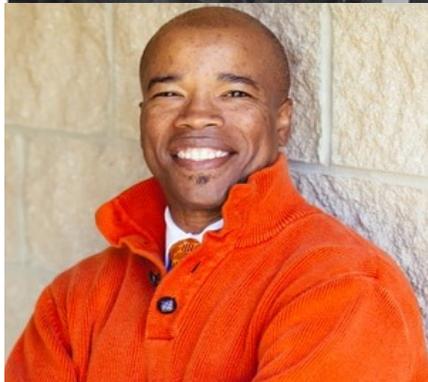
WHEN: February 5th, 2022

Breakout Session LOCAL LIVE Speakers:

(G)Race Relations: Bryant Bacon, Pastor, Mount Calvary Baptist Church, Niles & Matt Hickok, Pastor, Community EFC, Niles

The Men We Must Be: Rich Zeiger, Pastor, Real Life Community Church, Three Oaks

Protecting You and Your Kids from Pornography: Lyndon Azcuna, Executive Director, LifePlan



LIVE KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Marvin Williams
Lead Pastor - Trinity Church, Lansing

A dynamic communicator of God's Word, and author and speaker for Our Daily Bread Ministries. He was our keynote speaker in 2018, and we are pleased to have Pastor Marvin back with us! Check him out on his website here: <http://marvinwilliams.com>.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9-12 Office Hrs 7p Prayer Mtg	2 9-12 Office Hrs 645p Bible Study - Gospel of Mark	3 9-12 Office Hrs 745a: Men's Bible Study	4 Office closed	5
6 10:15 Worship w/o communion	7 9-12 Office Hrs 6:30p Fellowship Committee	8 9-12 Office Hrs 7p Prayer Mtg	9 9-12 Office Hrs 645p Bible Study - Gospel of Mark	10 9-12 Office Hrs 745a: Men's Bible Study	11 Office closed	12
13 10:15 Worship w/o communion	14 9-12 Office Hrs 7p Worship Committee ****	15 9-12 Office Hrs 7p Prayer Mtg ****	16 9-12 Office Hrs 645p Bible Study - Gospel of Mark ****	17 9-12 Office Hrs 745a: Men's Bible Study ****	18 Office closed ****	19 ****
20 10:15 Worship w/o communion ****	21 9-12 Office Hrs 630 Council Mtg ****	22 9-12 Office Hrs 7p Prayer Mtg ****	23 9-12 Office Hrs 645p Bible Study - Gospel of Mark ****	24 9-12 Office Hrs 745a: Men's Bible Study ****	25 Office closed ****	26
27 10:15 Worship w/o communion	28 9-12 Office Hrs					

**** - Pastor Steve @ Pastor's Conference in Orlando ++++ - Pastor Steve on Vacation

Birthdays

1 Ray Lietz
6 Jim Chapman
7 Maria Tallman
11 Jacob Tallman
12 Alison Adkins
13 Ken Berry
13 Becky Carpenter
21 Debbie Kroening
21 Janet Lietz
21 Autumn McCune
25 Bob Phillips
28 Pastor Ron
Schmidt

Anniversaries



Shut-In's

To keep our shut-ins safe, please call the church office for mailing addresses.

Leona Barowicz
Andrea Barowicz
Thomas Boozer
Darlene Gaul
Delores Gaul
Dolores Kraklau
Harold Lick
Ruth Retzke
Gloria Siewert

FEBRUARY



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Please join us for our monthly dinner club on Wednesday, Feb 9th at 6pm at Celementine's Too in St. Joe. There will be a sign-up sheet on the podium in the narthex. We hope to see you there!



Pastor Steve will be out of town from February 14th - 25th; first for the Pastor's Conference in Orlando, Florida, and then for vacation.

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St. Joseph, MI 49085

