

February, 2019

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

There is a phenomenon in Christian Churches across the country. People in their 60s, 70s, and 80s no longer desire to serve within the congregation. They have a belief that they have already put in their time on committees, councils, etc. and now it is time for the next generation to step up and serve. There is even a name for this phenomenon: Rocking Chair Theology. Rocking Chair Theology is a belief that when an individual reaches the age of retirement from their vocation, he/she can retire from serving Jesus through the local Body of Christ (congregation).

I'll admit it is an appealing idea; rest and retirement in all aspects of life, but it doesn't fit the biblical understanding of faith. In Psalm 71:17-18 it is written, "O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come."

The end of a life of service to our God is the grave. There isn't a

prescribed age when we are given permission to stop living lives of discipleship and teaching the faith to others. This is especially critical here at Peace, for we do not yet have the younger generation to step up and serve.

There isn't a group of younger people waiting to step into leadership roles.

How shall we continue to move forward if members no longer want to serve because of old age? I don't have an answer for this question; I'm raising it because we are at a crossroads. How can we continue, let alone grow, our ministries if we adopt the Rocking Chair Theology?

NALC Pastor's Conference

I will be out of the office Feb. 18-22 to attend the NALC Pastor's Conference in Orlando, FL



SENIOR 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:

Rev. Steve Hartten
Senior Pastor
Phone: (H) 281-0307
(C) 303-638-7598

Rev. Ronald Schmidt
Staff Pastor
Phone: (H) 983-2590

Audio/Video Requests:

For Audio CD call:
Josh Lochner 429-4415
For Video DVD call:
Jim Damaske 769-3792

Weekly Worship & Praise Opportunities:

Sunday
10:15 a.m. Worship

Tuesday
11:30 a.m. Prayer Meeting

Thursday
7 p.m. Choir



Our 2019 Church Council Members will be installed on Feb. 10 at the 10:15 a.m. worship service.

What Does This Mean to Me?

This regular newsletter feature—playing on Luther's famous line in the Small Catechism—is designed to help us all better understand why things happen as they do at Peace. The worship committee actively seeks feedback or questions from congregation members confused or concerned about worship practices.

Where is the proper place for a congregation's Baptismal Font?

There isn't an easy answer to this question. For one, Baptismal Fonts have changed dramatically over the centuries. They were originally about 1 foot deep and 6-8 feet wide. Adults could kneel in the water and have water poured over their heads in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. These massive structures were usually placed to the side of the altar in a building's transept (arm of a cross-shaped building).

Over time, fonts became fancy stands with small bowls, too small to even immerse an infant. Though

sometimes placed at the entrance to the worship space, often these fonts were positioned near the altar in the chancel. The font balanced the pulpit on one side, font on the other side of the altar, like here at Peace. Lately church architecture has begun returning the font to the entrance of the church. It is through the waters of baptism that we are made members of the Body of Christ, and having the font positioned at the entrance serves as a visible reminder that we are to remember we are baptized and that baptism joins us to the Church.

Pastor Steve moved the Baptismal Font into the Narthex during Advent and Christmas so that it didn't get hidden by the Advent Wreath. Surprisingly there were only positive comments about the move! What are your ideas about Font placement? Pastor Steve would welcome your comments.



Peace's Hats Mission spreads joy to area children

We had another wonderful opportunity to share God's Love with children with fewer resources.

Pastor Ron and Shari Schmidt, and Sherrie Nitz delivered 375 hats and gloves to Lybrooke Elementary School, and Pat Nose and Shari delivered an additional 20 hats and gloves to Maureen Pliley's preschool class in Niles.

The kids' gratitude is almost overwhelming. Here are a couple of excerpts from their thank you notes: "You didn't have to come"; "Thank you for taking the time out of your day to make these hats and gloves"; "I love my hat and gloves. They are so comfy and cozy"; "Now I can have a snowball fight with my brother"; "Thank you for taking the time to pick out

just the right pair of gloves for my hat"; and, finally, "You guys ROCK!".

Thank you for helping us to make this project possible with your donations of hats, gloves, yarn and fleece! Please consider helping us next year with the project. The need is there and we are blessed to have the opportunity to serve God by helping others.



Co-Chair needed for Easter Egg Hunt

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, April 13. Unfortunately, our Chairperson for the last few years, Amy Cahill, will be out of town that day. So, we are looking for a volunteer to help chair the event. Amy is willing to help with the organization and publicity again this year, but we need someone to be on hand to lead the event on April 13. If you are willing to help with this key outreach for Peace, please contact Amy in the church office at 556-7000.

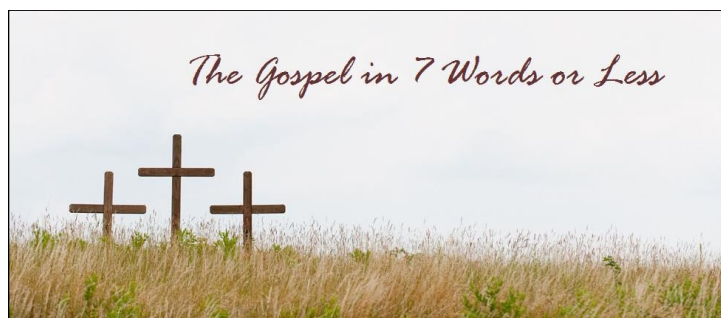
Mid-Week Lenten Series: The Gospel in 7 Words or Less

Imagine that a friend or family member who is unfamiliar with your Christian faith asks you to summarize the gospel. She isn't looking for a laundry list of doctrines. She has no interest in hearing you recite the Apostles' Creed. She wants to get to the heart of the matter. "In seven words or less," she says, "tell me what you believe as a Christian."

What would you say? How would you put it? Are you prepared to confess your faith in Jesus?

To be a Christian is to "believe with your heart" and "confess with your mouth" the good news of God's love for us in Christ (Romans 10:9-10). Peter calls us to be prepared always to give a reason for the hope we have as Christians (1 Peter 3:15). Christians have the best news in the world to share! But are we prepared to share it?

During this season of Lent, we're going to prepare to celebrate Holy Week by sharing why Holy Week is



so important. Our midweek worship services will serve as opportunities to consider the many ways in which the Scriptures proclaim Jesus. During the week, each of you will be working on your own summary, with the hopes that all of us are more prepared to share the good news of Jesus. Come and join us this Lent, and join us by crafting your own confession of the Gospel!

Annual Soup Kitchen Food Drive runs throughout February



Acts 20:35: Jesus our Lord said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

The Soup Kitchen Committee will be holding its annual food/money drive in February. Please consider making donations of cash, gift cards, and/or canned goods. We have planned the menus through 2019 and have specific food item needs.

The Soup Kitchen menus for 2019 include chicken and noodles, ham and hash brown potatoes, old

fashioned goulash, beef stew, sloppy joes, and spaghetti with meat sauce. Each meal also includes one or two vegetables, fruit, bread, and dessert.

Last year PLC members prepared and served 617 meals with donations from PLC, The Flour Shop, the food bank, and the soup kitchen.

Twelve PLC members helped at varying times throughout the year. Peace members serve at the Soup Kitchen on the second Friday of February, April, June, August, October and December, and the Soup Kitchen Committee always welcomes additional help.

We will be posting the complete menu and a giving tree in the narthex beginning in February.

SCRIP program earns more than \$3,000 for Peace in 2018

Peace sold 9,646 cards with a face value of \$79,515 in 2018. These sales generated \$3,221.54 in tax deductible rebates for the church. The tax deductible part is the part each participant generates for themselves as church contributions from their purchases.

We have fewer participants now than we have had in years past. In 2016 our rebates were \$4113.17 for only 7541 cards purchased. Results can vary due to the actual rebate percentages for the particular cards purchased. So all in all we had a great year in 2018.

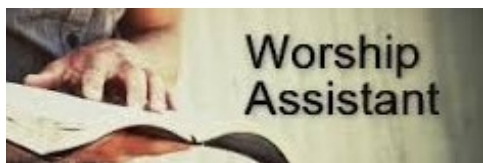
Watch for a Bulletin Board display on our Scrip program in the near future. We will be offering informational opportunities for you to learn about online purchasing from the comfort of your home as



well as opportunities for those of you who have not discovered the benefits of the program yet.

The top 5 rebates earned this year were \$512.05, \$378.36, \$324.86, \$270.52 and \$235.66. Rebates can be added to the total tax deductible contributions for each Scrip family.... no matter how large or small.

Come join the program ... it benefits the church and the participants, too.



SUPPORTING OUR WORSHIP

Serving this Month:

Worship Leaders: Pastor Steve Hartten, Pastor Ron Schmidt

Organist: Maria Tallman

Choir Director: Debbie Kroening

Audio: Josh Lochner, Mark Carpenter

Video: Jim Damaske

Usher: Sandy Warren

Communion: Keith Chapman and Amy Cahill

Altar Guild: Ginger Kunst and Amy Cahill

February 3

Greeters/Ushers: Doug and Sandy Landis

Lector: Sandy Warren

Nursery: Amy Cahill

Fellowship: Open

Altar Flowers: Open

February 10

Greeters/Ushers: Beverly and Dominic So

Lector: Beverly So

Acolyte: Emily Sorensen

Nursery: Megan Mahler

Altar Flowers: Open

February 17

Greeters/Ushers: Kevin and Ginger Kunst

Lector: Herb Kroening

Nursery: Nan Hacker

Fellowship: Open

Altar Flowers: Open

February 24

Greeters/Ushers: Shawn and Amy Cahill

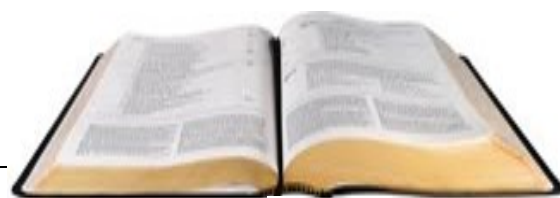
Lector: Shawn Cahill

Acolyte: Ainsley Cahill

Nursery: Denise Mahler

Altar Flowers: Open

THIS MONTH'S READINGS



Sun., Feb. 3 - Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

Jeremiah 1:4-10, 17-19, Psalm 71:1-11

1 Corinthians 12:31b-13:13, Luke 4:31-44

Sun., Feb. 17 - Sixth Sunday After Epiphany

Jeremiah 17:5-8, Psalm 1

1 Corinthians 15:1-20, Luke 6:17-26

Sun., Feb. 10 - Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

Isaiah 6:1-13, Psalm 138

1 Corinthians 14:12b-20, Luke 5:1-11

Sun., 24 - Seventh Sunday After Epiphany

Genesis 45:3-15, Psalm 103:1-13

1 Corinthians 15:21-26, 30-42, Luke 6:27-38

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Office closed	2
3 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	4 9-12 Office Hours 6p Fellowship Committee Mtg	5 9-12 Office Hours 11:30 Prayer Mtg 1:15p D. Study 7p Disciple Study	6 9-12 Office Hours 2:30 Upton 7:30p Genesis	7 9-12 Office Hours 8 Men's Ministry 12p The Quest 7p Choir	8 Office closed 9 Soup Kitchen	9 6p Holiday of Hearts Dinner & Dancing
10 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship with communion Council Install	11 9-12 Office Hours 7p Worship Committee Mtg	12 9-12 Office Hours 11:30 Prayer Mtg 1:15p D. Study 7p Disciple Study	13 9-12 Office Hours 2:30 Upton 7:30p Genesis Study	14 News Due 9-12 Office Hours 8 Men's Ministry 12p The Quest 7p Choir	15 Office closed	16
17 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:15 Fellowship 1p Tubing	18 9-12 Office Hours P. Steve NALC Conference 6p Council	19 9-12 Office Hours 11:30 Prayer Mtg P. Steve NALC Conference	20 9-12 Office Hours P. Steve NALC 2:30 Upton 7:30p G. Study	21 9-12 Office Hours P. Steve NALC 8 Men's Ministry 7p Choir	22 Office closed P. Steve NALC Conference	23
24 9 S. School 10:15 Worship with communion 11:15 Cong. Mtg. 11:15 Fellowship	25 9-12 Office Hours	26 9-12 Office Hours 11:30 Prayer Mtg 1:15p D. Study 7p Disciple Study	27 9-12 Office Hours 2:30 Upton 7:30p Genesis Study	28 9-12 Office Hours 8 Men's Ministry 7p Choir		

Birthdays

1 Ray Lietz
6 Jim Chapman Jr.
7 Maria Tallman
11 Jacob Tallman
12 Alison Adkins
13 Ken Berry Jr.
13 Becky Carpenter
20 Berkeley Davis
20 Marian Hogue
21 Debbie Kroening
21 Autumn McCune
28 Joe Naines
28 Rev. Ron Schmidt

Military

Lt/jg Chad Knipschild
301 Maple
Edgewater, MD 21037

Shut-In's

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

Albert Beebe
Marian Hogue
Joe Naines
Ruth Retzke
Betty Robbins
Barbara Southland
Mildred Wantz



Ash Wednesday is March 6

Return your palms from 2018
by Feb. 17 so they can be used
for this year's ashes.

Tubing at Five Pines 1 p.m. Feb. 17

Meet at Five Pines
6597 Smith Road, Berrien Center



We're going to try again for tubing in February. Afterward, we'll have dinner at the Subway in Berrien Springs as a group. Our alternate plan is roller skating.

Don't want to tube? Enjoy the fire at the Five Pines lodge or just meet us for dinner.

Please sign-up on the bulletin board if you plan to attend.

Cost is \$10 per person for tubing.



Holiday of Hearts Dinner & Dancing 6-9 p.m. Feb. 9 Fellowship Hall

Everyone is welcome including singles and children. A catered dinner will be served. Cost is \$10/person. The deadline to purchase tickets is Jan. 27.

Peace
LUTHERAN CHURCH

3590 Lincoln Avenue
St. Joseph, MI 49085

