

Peace News



May, 2018

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

The Church Council had a retreat day last month. We discussed the health of the congregation and began to make plans for the future. The good news is that membership and worship attendance at Peace has stabilized. Pastor Schmidt's ministry as interim pastor began the process of reversing membership and worship attendance decline, and the past year and one-half has provided additional stability. Overall, our members are content and there is a new feeling of optimism within the congregation.

In preparation for the retreat, Church Council members and people who are involved in the educational ministries at Peace were asked to take a "Change Readiness Survey" from Thom S. Rainer's book *Who Moved My Pulpit?* The average score for Council, Men's Bible Study, and Women's Bible Study was a "4" and Divine Drama scored a "5". A score of "4" means that there is average potential for change. Average is not good because the average church is losing ground in its community. Many improvements are required if the church plans to be around in 20 years. A score of "5" means that change could cause the congregation to implode. It is likely a dying church; radical change is needed yet there is little willingness to make changes. Based on the abundance of comments I receive when changes are attempted, I believe these scores to be accurate if not overly optimistic. We are not a group that likes change.

It is tempting to think that our current state of contentment is the end

goal. The turmoil of the past years has given way to a time when we can relax and settle in. In truth, our current situation is preparation for a time of change. Change from being predominately inwardly focused on its members and its building to a congregation that looks beyond itself to its neighborhood and community.

This can be an exciting time as we make changes that will allow us to reach more people. It can be a frightening time as well, for we don't know if the changes will work. Isn't it safer to leave things alone? After all we are comfortable and content!

Jesus asks his church to scatter seed and bring in the harvest. When a farmer plants a crop in the spring, there is no guarantee that there will be a harvest in the fall. There might be a summer hail storm, an early freeze, or torrential rains as the crop ripens. The farmer takes a risk. One thing is certain: if a crop isn't planted, there won't be a harvest. A time of stability is not a time of growth. Try to look at change as the equivalent of scattering seeds on the ground. Some won't take root, but those changes that do will lead to a harvest. Please join with me as we seek to live into God's future for this ministry.



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



COUNCIL MINUTES

Peace Lutheran Church Council Minutes April 16, 2018

Call to Order at 6:02

Kevin Kunst

Opening Prayer

Pastor Hartten

Members present: Kevin Kunst, Virgil Bennett, Karen Richardville, Mark Carpenter, Josh Lochner, Ed Zajac, Bev So, Jerry Pliley

Also present: Pastor Hartten, Sharon Schmidt, Becky Carpenter - treasurer

Member absent: Barb Berry

Approval of Agenda

Kevin Kunst

Virgil Bennett made a motion to approve the agenda. Mark Carpenter seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Event Opportunity

Sharon Schmidt

Presentation - musician Paul Todd performance at Peace this summer. Following discussion it was decided a decision will be made pending further information.

Treasurer's Report

Becky Carpenter

See page 3

Old Business:

Quickbooks Update

Josh Lochner

It has been updated and resolved.

Staff Payroll Review

Kevin Kunst

Staff reviews were very positive. It was agreed to pay increases for the office administrator and building administrator. Motion passed via email.

Guest parking sign pricing

Jerry Pliley

Tabled until the next meeting.

AT&T Voicemail update

Pastor Hartten

Pastor is now able to remotely check on voicemail.

Standing Committee Reports:

Worship/Music

Nan Hacker/Ken Berry

Lenten services were well attended but attendance for Easter was down from last year. Thirteen people participated in foot washing which was encouraging.

We reviewed the proposed Worship Planning Calendar for July through September.

Summer worship begins Thursday, May 31, at 7 p.m. Sermons will be the same as the following Sunday instead of the previous Sunday as last year.

Discussion as to changing the time for worship during the summer. Pending approval from council, it was proposed that a vote be taken by ballot by the congregation to change the start time to 9:15 during the summer months only.

It appears that there is some confusion as to the function of mutual ministry. Pastor will explain their function in a newsletter article.

Property **Kevin Kunst/Jerry Pliley**

(Grounds Meeting scheduled for (4/18/18). Some grass damage from snow removal, but that will be corrected. Sprinkler system will be set for twice each week.

Fellowship **Christine Bennett**

The Easter breakfast was well received, even though fewer attended than in past years. Ideas were discussed for next year.

There was much discussion and planning concerning the anniversary dinner.

The Altar Guild is in charge of the May fellowship.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Hartten

The mid-week Wednesday Soup & Bread Supper/Worship finished strong with attendance consistently in the mid 30s. The introduction of foot washing was well received with 13 people coming forward. Many positive comments were received regarding the power and impact of the Holy Week services.

The Divine Drama Bible Study is drawing to a close. Only one of the 14 who originally signed up did not complete the 30-week course. It was suggested that another session begin in January of 2019, following the all-church book study and the 25th anniversary celebration.

The Tuesday Night Women's Book Study has 17 women participating starting last week. The book is on Contentment and will last 6 weeks. The group will then take the summer off.

An "Every Member Book Study" will start in September 2018. Leaders are needed for this study which is hoped will encompass all members of Peace.

Pastor and Amy Cahill were interviewed on WSJM radio about the Easter Egg Hunt. The most effective advertising came via Facebook followed by St. Joe

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Special Offering for North American Lutheran Seminary

The NALC has designated May as North American Lutheran Seminary (NALS) month; in response the Church Council has designated Sunday, May 20th for an additional offering that will benefit the NALS. The NALS has been very creative in working with select undergraduate institutions to help streamline the track for becoming a pastor. If upon entering college a student can identify a call to the pastoral office, attending one of five colleges will reduce the time from 8 years down to 6 without sacrificing core courses. In addition students do not pay tuition when



attending the NALS- the cost is underwritten by the seminary. Please prayerfully consider a gift to the seminary on May 20th. This is a gift to our congregation's future and the future of the NALC; the seminary is the training ground for our clergy.

Council Minutes

Continued from Page 2

Today. Approximately seventy children attended this year.

A summary of some of Pastor's activities are as follows: Confirmation class, Divine Drama classes, home visits, nursing home visits, office visits, Easter Egg Hunt, Lutheran clergy text study, Tuesday prayer meetings, Thursday Men's Bible studies, tutoring at Upton Middle School, worship and council meetings, and seven worship services.

New Business

Worship Committee Congregational Survey

Kevin Kunst

Possibly changing Sunday summer worship time to 9:15 a.m. After discussion, Karen Richardville made a motion to proceed with the survey. Ed Zajac seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Proposed Worship Calendar for July, August, September

Bev So made a motion to accept the worship calendar. Virgil Bennett seconded the motion. The motion passed.

NALC logo sign on marquee

Pastor Hartten

Suggestions were made and presented. More information is needed before we proceed with a new sign.

May special donation to NALC seminary

More than nine out of 10 NALC pastors are 40 and over. Three out of four of our pastors are over age 60. To meet the pastoral needs of the NALC, we need to grow our seminary student body. We as members of PLC need to be proactive in supporting our seminary. Josh Lochner made a motion for PLC to have a special donation in May in support of the NALC seminary. Mark Carpenter seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Strategic vision

During the retreat on Saturday, April 14, the council organized the congregational members' visions for PLC into categories. During the council's retreat they agreed on the first strategic vision that would be accomplished within one year. The council will share the vision by email or postal letter mailed.

The council will again present the vision on Sunday, April 29 following the worship service with time for questions from the congregation.

The motion to adjourn was made by Jerry Pliley at 8:05 p.m.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Treasurer's Report	Current Month (actual)	Budget	Over/(Under)	YTD	Over/Under Budget YTD
		Current Month	Budget		
All Income	\$ 20,250	\$ 16,054	\$ 4,196	\$ 54,860	\$ 6,699
All Expenses	\$(17,766)	\$ (17,970)	\$ 204	\$(52,113)	\$ 241
	\$ 2,484	\$ (1,916)	\$ 4,400	\$ 2,747	\$ 6,940

We will have a Special Congregational Meeting May 20 following worship.



Peace Lutheran Church

October 31, 1993 - October 31, 2018

Do you know what is IN the PEACE TIME CAPSULE?

Since the list of items enclosed in the time capsule (copper box hermetically sealed) is so extensive, the following are representative of what was included for future generations to review:

- A listing of the Charter Members who formed PLC.
- Auto tape....1st Service held on February 7, 1993, conducted by Pastor Fred Wilkins.
- Auto tape....1st Service preached on March 7, 1993 by Pastor Koehneke.
- Picture...ground breaking ceremonies for new church held on May 11, 1997.
- Our 1st Pictorial Directory....Fall of 1997.
- The Video and program bulletin for our February 22, 1998, Dedication Sunday. Ceremonies (all three services)
- Church Directory.....1999.
- Church Council Members listing...list all members from 1992 to present.
- Copy of the Holy Bible.
- Copy of Lutheran Hymnal.
- Assorted brass and wooden crosses, given by individual members of PLC.



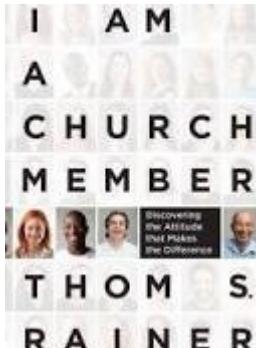
- An assortment of cassette tapes from memorable worship services of the past:
Patriotic Service Video bulletins, flags, etc.

If you have any personal recollections of your life experiences at Peace, please note the email addresses of the committee members and send them on to us. Your input is vitally important.

Rich Carpenter, Chair richc@ameritech.net
Norma Carpenter norma936@comcast.net
Lee/Lynn Hornack Lchornack@aol.com

Coming in September: Every Member Book Study

The success of the Women's Book Study group has inspired our leadership to invite every member to read the same book starting in September. Small groups will form with facilitators to guide the discussion. The book is *I Am a Church Member* by Thom S. Rainer. The book is only 79 pages and it is divided into 6 chapters. Easy reading and there are even discussion questions provided! Watch for more information in the coming months as we gear up for an Every Member Book Study in anticipation of our 25th Anniversary.



Peace Lutheran Church's Silver Anniversary Celebration

The Heritage Center, Downtown St. Joe
7 p.m. Saturday, October 27, 2018

Cocktail hour 6-7 p.m.

Catered Dinner with choice of entrée
(vegetarian option available)

Tickets are \$15 per person

On Sunday, October 28th there will be a Festival Worship to Celebrate 25 Years of God's Grace



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.

“Why does the congregation collect an offering during worship?”

Before answering this question, consider the difference between “offering” and “tithe.” These two words have been used interchangeably at Peace, but there is a difference between an offering and a tithe. An offering is a gift given back to God. A tithe is a type of offering, but it is a very specific type of offering. In Genesis 14: 20b we read “And Abram gave [Melchizedek] a tenth of everything.” (This gift was in response to the priest’s blessing). In the Book of Numbers, the word tithe, meaning one tenth of a person’s income, first appears: “To the Levites I have given every tithe in Israel for an inheritance, in return for the service that they do, their service in the tent of meeting.” (Numbers 18: 21) The Levites were the tribe from which the priests were chosen. The priests

did not work the land or raise livestock. Instead, the priests tended to the Tabernacle, the portable tent of meeting that housed the Ark of the Covenant. The priests were supported by the other tribes giving 10 percent of their income. Yet the Levites were also to give a tithe of the tithe they received as an offering to the Lord. God’s economic system depended upon people giving ten percent to the priests and the priests giving ten percent to the Lord in the form of burnt or grain offerings.

While there are some members at Peace who do indeed tithe by giving 10 percent of their income, not all members tithe. It is more proper to talk about offerings and tithes than to use the two words as if they were synonyms.

The modern Church collects an offering to provide an opportunity for people to respond to God’s goodness. By making an offering we are giving gifts of money and service to God. The gifts of money are a tangible way to express our thanks for what God has already given us – forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life. Next month we’ll continue the discussion.



The role of the Mutual Ministry Committee

The Mutual Ministry Committee is a constitutionally required committee. The Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines Manual approved by the Church Council 12/21/2010 states the following:

A Mutual Ministry Committee (in the absence of a Mutual Ministry Committee, the duties shall be fulfilled by the Executive Committee) shall be appointed jointly by the Church Council President and the Pastor. Term of office will be two years, with three members to be appointed each successive year. The Mutual Ministry Committee, created in Chapter 13.04 of the Congregation’s Constitution, shall, in addition to other duties assigned to it by the Church Council, investigate the needs of the staff of the Congregation and will develop methods and opportunities for the Congregation and the Church Council to meet those needs. The committee shall provide an open, concerned and trustworthy group from the congregation to interface with the church staff and Pastor. It will be their purpose to be aware of attitudes and conditions within the congregation as it may relate to the staff.

If conflict should arise within the staff group or if

a staff member experiences a personal problem, the committee shall serve as a sounding board for their concerns.

They shall annually review with the Pastor(s) the progress made within the Parish during the past year and set goals for the following year. The Congregation’s mission shall be reviewed by the committee yearly.

This committee shall be accountable to report directly to the Church Council. They shall recommend any action they deem necessary to the Church Council and hold in strict confidence all personal information.

Mutual Ministry members are a buffer, a sounding board, a liaison between the staff – not just the Senior Pastor- and members of the congregation. They meet monthly, on even months, usually on a Tuesday night. The current committee members along with the year their term ends are:

Shawn Cahill -2019; Sandy Landis- 2020; Joe Moulton-2019; Jim Priebe -2020; and Lisa Zajac - 2019



Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

BASKETS
OF PROMISE



Our Lenten efforts produced
130+ Personal Care Kits



*Missed the collection date? Have items to donate?
We still have an open box, bring it in!*

During Lent 2018, if you donated or brought in personal care items, helped assemble kits or prayed for this ministry, you have helped turn ordinary items into extraordinary gifts to help people throughout the world deal with some of life's most challenging situations.

Thank you for sending love and hope to those in need.

Barbotts opens for the season on April 28

It's time to put the cold, bitter winter to bed and begin thinking of the warm, pleasant days of summer by turning our thoughts to our beautiful, lush gardens!

Peace will again partner with Barbotts to enable you to have quality bedding plants in your gardens at rock bottom prices! We price our certificates at lower prices than other area fund raisers selling the same plants! We also attempt to be competitive with surrounding nurseries and big-box stores!

We have 48 Plant Flats, Hanging Baskets, Proven Winners, Veggies/Vines and \$10 and \$25 Gift Certificates

It's a Win - Win - Win situation!

Barbotts provides certificates to Peace at discounted prices. Barbott wins with increased sales! Peace prices to include a rebate you earn for the church when you buy certificates. Peace wins! Peace offers certificates to you at lower than market prices. You win with lower costs!

Certificates are available on Sundays after worship or in the office during April and May. Help support our local nursery and the church, too!



Favorite Hymn Sunday Returns!

Last year's well received Favorite Hymn Sunday returns this year on Father's Day. Balloting is underway and will continue until May 6. While there are three weeks to vote, please only cast one ballot. We are using the honor system! You may vote for up to five of your favorite hymns. The top vote getters will be used on Father's Day with the remainder used throughout the summer. Start thinking about your favorites.



HYMN SING



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: Jim Priebe
Communion: Marty Tallman and Autumn McCune
Altar Guild: Loretta Hartten

May 6

Greeters/Ushers: Joe and Diana Moulton
Lector: Joe Moulton
Fellowship: Open

May 13

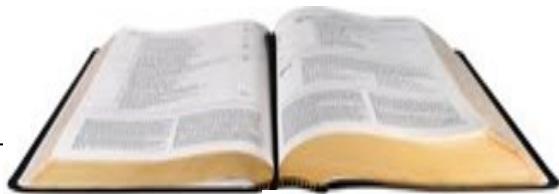
Greeters/Ushers: Rich and Norma Carpenter
Lector: Louise Solak
Altar Flowers: The Cahill Family

May 20

Greeters/Ushers: Lee and Lynn Hornack
Lector: Herb Kroening
Fellowship: Altar Guild
Altar Flowers: The Cahill Family

May 27

Greeters/Ushers: Ken and Barb Berry
Lector: Larry Hacker
Altar Flowers: Sandy Warren



THIS MONTH'S READINGS

Sun., May 6– Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 10:34-48, Psalm 98
1 John 5:1-8, John 15:9-17

Sun., May 20 - Day of Pentecost

Ezekiel 37:1-14, Psalm 139:1-16
Acts 2:1-21, John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

Sun., May 13 - Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:12-26, Psalm 1
1 John 5:9-15, John 17:11b-19

Sun., May 27 - Holy Trinity Sunday

Isaiah 6:1-8, Psalm 29
Acts 2:14a, 22-36, John 3:1-17

Super Book Sale Results

We raised a total of \$393.20 for the Scrip Program with our Super Book Sales earlier this year. We sold a total of 49 Super Books with profit of \$8 per book for a total of \$392. We also got additional donations of \$1.20. Thank you to Karen Coffey for organizing this fund-raiser. Thank you to Amy Cahill for selling the books. And, thank you to the congregation for supporting the Super Book Sale.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9–12 Office Hours 11:30 Prayer Mtg 7 p.m. Women's Book Study	2 9–12 Office Hours 2:40p Tutoring 7:30p Genesis Study	3 9–12 Office Hours 8 Men's Ministry 7p Choir	4 Office closed	5
6 Confirmation Sunday 10:15 Worship with communion	7 9–12 Office Hours 6 p Fellowship Committee Mtg	8 9–12 Office Hours 11:30 Prayer Mtg 7p Women's Book Study	9 9–12 Office Hours 2:40p Tutoring 7:30p Genesis Study	10 9–12 Office Hours 8 Men's Ministry 7p Choir	11 Office closed	12
13 10:15 Worship with communion	14 9–12 Office Hours 7p Worship Committee Mtg	15 9–12 Office Hours 11:30 Prayer Mtg 7p Women's Book Study	16 9–12 Office Hours 2:40p Tutoring 7:30p Genesis Study	17 News due 9–12 Office Hours 7p Choir	18 Office closed	19
20 10:15 Worship with communion 11:15 Cong. Mtg. 3p Family Fellowship	21 P. Steve vacation 9–12 Office Hours 6p Council Meeting	22 P. Steve vacation 9–12 Office Hours 11:30 Prayer Mtg	23 P. Steve vacation 9–12 Office Hours 2:40p Tutoring 7:30p Genesis	24 P. Steve vacation 9–12 Office Hours 7p Choir	25 P. Steve vacation Office closed	26 P. Steve vacation
27 P. Steve vacation 10:15 Worship with communion	28 P. Steve vacation Office Closed for Memorial Day	29 9–12 Office Hours 11:30 Prayer Mtg	30 9–12 Office Hours 2:40p Tutoring 7:30p Genesis Study	31 9–12 Office Hours 7p Worship		

Birthdays

2 Teresa Hogan
3 Betty Hettig
3 Ruth Retzke
11 Barb Berry
12 Ainsley Cahill
12 Sue Enders
14 Nancy Cooley
15 Lee Hornack
23 Eleanor Rinas
25 Loretta Hartten
25 Bud Talbot
26 Miles Farmer
26 Albert Reschke
27 Lonna Collins
27 Darlene Gaul

28 Amy Cahill
31 Patrick Cahill

Anniversaries

7 Josh & April Lochner
12 Ray & Cathy Dalrymple
14 James & Judith Priebe
18 Virgil & Christine Bennett
23 Ken & Barb Berry Jr.
30 Kevin & Carrie Kutchie

Military

Brandon M Enders
1061 USS Tennessee Ave
Kings Bay, GA 31547

Lt/jg Chad Knipschild
301 Maple
Edgewater, MD 21037

Sgt. Gary Smith
208 Polson Court
Raeford, NC 28376

Shut-In's

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

Albert Beebe
Marian Hogue
Joe Naines
Al Reschke
Betty Robbins
Barbara Southland
Mildred Wantz

Our Pennies for Patients collection for Berrien County Cancer Services runs through May 6.



Family Fellowship at Fernwood Botanical Garden

May 20 at 3 p.m.

Our May Family Fellowship will be a trip to Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve in Niles at 3 p.m. May 20. We'll meet at Fernwood, 13988 Range Line Road, and enjoy the gardens and hiking trails until 5 p.m. Admission is \$9 for adults and \$4 for youth 17 and younger. After, we'll head to the Cahills' house for a cookout. The Cahills will provide hot dogs, brats and buns. Please bring a side dish to share. If you plan to attend, please sign up on the bulletin board so we know how many people to expect.

Summer mid-Week Worship Returns May 31

Do you have plans to be on the water Sunday morning? Camping in a State Park? Maybe you just want to sleep in? On Thursday nights, May 31–August 30 we will gather for worship at 7 p.m. The Thursday service will be looking ahead to the coming Sunday. For example, on May 31 we will read the lessons and sing the hymns for Sunday, June 3. So if you know you'll be out of town or just snuggling under the covers on the weekend, come give Thursday night a try!



Peace
LUTHERAN CHURCH

3590 Lincoln Avenue
St. Joseph, MI 49085