



**PEACE**  
NORTH AMERICAN  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**September, 2020**



## *PASTOR'S MESSAGE*

While scanning through the radio dial I came across a news piece that was fascinating. Though I didn't get the details of the reporter or what news agency he worked for, the story concerned the fear among white Christians due to the decline of Christianity in the United States. Congregations are closing, attendance is dropping, and instead of looking inward to examine how we as the Body of Christ is functioning, the focus is directed outward. Targets are chosen to place the blame for the declining Church: Muslim immigrants, liberal politics, and racial unrest. These are "other" and we should be afraid of the "other." If it wasn't for these situations and ideas intruding upon our nation, the Church would seemingly be doing just fine.

While I believe that the report was an accurate diagnosis of the problem- many Christians are living in fear and looking outward to place the blame for the Church's decline, I was saddened that the reporter did not press those he interviewed as to why they didn't look internally for the root of the problem. The Church has always faced challenges- from the day of Pentecost until now - that is nothing new. Sometimes the Church struggles because it has forgotten its mission and it fails to live up to its calling.

Jesus left his disciples with a new commandment: "Love one another as I

have loved you." How many of the congregations that are declining have not learned to love each other? How many have been marred by internal conflict? How many have a reputation as a place of disharmony instead of unity? The early Church as recorded in the Book of Acts grew because people outside the Church were drawn to the love shown among Church members.

Another reason the early Church grew was the emphasis on discipleship. People put their lives on the line to join an outlawed religion. Following Jesus meant a total commitment: prayer, study, fellowship, action. Membership wasn't something valued on paper; it was a transformation of one's life to live as closely as possible to what Jesus taught.

Perhaps the Church is struggling in our country because it isn't being true to its calling. Bible Studies, Prayer Meetings, Book Studies, Sunday School are opportunities to deepen faith, to grow as a disciple. These growth opportunities make it easier for believers to share their faith. As I have come to



**SENIOR PASTOR  
STEVE HARTTEN**

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**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:  
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.*



# COUNCIL MINUTES

**Peace Lutheran Church  
Council Minutes  
Monday, August 17, 2020  
6:30 p.m.**

Fellowship	\$632	\$175	\$457
Misc.	-	\$245	(\$245)
Interest	\$112	\$112	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$103,990</b>	<b>\$109,382</b>	<b>(\$5,392)</b>

**Old Business**

**Welcome to Teresa Hogan** **Bev So**

Teresa will take over Mark Carpenter's term. Barb made a motion to name Teresa Hogan as Mark Carpenter's replacement and Bryan seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Reminder - Zajac benefit, August 29**

The council is asking for the help of the congregation to make this benefit a success. There will be a meeting on Thursday at 6:15 p.m. Bev will show the flow of the process for the night of the event.

**Standing Committee Reports**

**Worship Committee** **Pastor Hartten**

The Worship Committee had a meeting on Aug. 16 to discuss communion. The following were recommendations made for Council's consideration. They suggested starting communion on Labor Day weekend with guidelines in place for distributing wafers, only one assistant, spaced out individual wine cups, and the process for ushering the rows to take communion.

There will be one blessing after all have communed. Council discussed all the suggestions and knowing that this will be a work in progress, Virgil made a motion to accept the committee's suggestions. Rich seconded the motion and the motion carried. Council suggested having a walk-through demonstration the last week of August.

**Building/Property**

Bob Phillips presented the council with information on constructing a pavilion. He received a quote on an Amish built pavilion. A 12' x 22' wood structure with a wood floor would cost about \$4,950. To purchase two pavilions would cost less than \$10,000, making the pavilion 12' x 44'.

**Members present:** Virgil Bennett, Barb Berry, Teresa Hogan, Bob Phillips, Bev So, Bryan Sorensen, Rich Steinbauer

**Absent:** Herb Kroening and Eddie Zajac

**Also Present:** Pastor Steve Hartten

**Call to Order**

Bev So called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Opening Devotion/Prayer** **Pastor Steve Hartten**

Pastor Hartten opened the meeting with a devotion from Isaiah 51:1-6. This was about the Israelites in captivity waiting for God to deliver. We are coming out of summer and there has not been much going on since March. These verses are words of encouragement. Look how God had been working in our church. God will give us our energy back again. Pastor said a prayer.

**Approval of August agenda**

Bryan made a motion to approve the August agenda and Virgil seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Approval of July 2020** minutes made via email.

**Treasurer's report**

<b>June</b>	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)
Offerings	\$14,468	\$15,450	(\$982)
Thrivent Choice	-	\$67	(\$67)
Soup Kitchen	\$50	\$33	\$17
Fellowship	-	\$25	(\$25)
Misc.	-	\$35	(\$35)
Interest	\$16	\$16	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,534</b>	<b>\$15,626</b>	<b>(\$1,092)</b>

<b>Year-to-Date</b>	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)
Offerings	\$102,284	\$108,150	(\$5,866)
Thrivent Choice	\$462	\$469	(\$7)
Soup Kitchen	\$500	\$231	\$269

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# NALC 20/20 Vision: A plan for the next four years

Bishop Selbo has been working on creating a 10-point plan to guide the NALC through the next four years. Pastor Steve first saw a rough draft of this plan last November when he attended the Annual Dean's Meeting in Columbus, Ohio. Following are highlights of the plan that was endorsed by this year's Annual Convocation. To view the plan in its entirety, visit <https://thenalc.org/vision/>.

## Disciple-Making Cultures

A Church Body committed to developing disciple making congregations and cultures Discipleship: The goal is to produce disciples who are, themselves, able to disciple others. Leading people to faith in Jesus until they are able to lead others to faith in Jesus. Discipleship is following Jesus and helping others to follow Jesus.

## Congregational Multiplication

- A body of believers committed to increasing our mission outreach and congregational multiplication efforts.
- Every congregation is challenged to be in relationship with at least one local, global and domestic mission effort.
- 45 new mission starts by 2022.
- Each Mission District challenged to start a new mission every 3 years.

## Pastoral Support

- A denomination in which every congregation receives regular and consistent pastoral support.
- Active ordained pastors serving in multiple parishes.
- Retired pastors serving part-time and shorter-term roles.
- Provide employment for pastors serving in new starts and/or tent-making ministries.

## Continuing Education

- A continuing education emphasis that supports the ongoing development of all NALC pastors and lay leaders.
- Encourage every pastor to take part in at least one continuing education course per year.
- Include encouragement for salary, vacation, continuing education and sabbatical funding in the call process/pastoral care guidelines.

## Continual Restructuring

- A strategy for continental restructuring that is able to expand with denominational growth.
- Before committing to the addition of regional staff



and/or bishops, consider an expanded, limited and authorized use of mission district deans for similar purposes.

- Consideration should be given to larger geographic regions, including multiple districts, in which one of the deans, selected by the bishop, in consultation with the regional pastors and deans, would serve in a more expanded role as a direct extension of the Bishop's Office.

## Seminary System

- A denomination with the strongest and most highly respected Lutheran seminary training system in North America.
- Centered in Ambridge, Penn., with learning hubs/extension centers in several other locations.
- Partner with our ecumenical partners to foster orthodox theological education.
- Disciple-making emphasis incorporated in seminary training and first-call support.

## Technology and Communication

- A communications strategy focused on forming identity, unity and testimony across our church body.
- Identity – create Identity Document and Brand Guidelines to encourage consistent messaging about the NALC and its Core Values.
- Unity – an increased level of unity and affinity between our ministries, mission districts, congregations and parishioners across the continent.

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# Pastor's Message

*Continued from Page 1*

know Jesus more intimately over the course of my life, it is easier for me to talk about him, to tell other's about God's love. When is the last time you've shared God's love with someone outside of church?

Jesus tells his disciples in John 16:33b, "In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." Jesus' Church will continue till his Second Coming. Instead of being fearful and looking for external causes for the Church's decline, may we recommit ourselves to an active process of discipleship.

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## Council Minutes

*Continued from Page 2*

### Pastor's Report

**Pastor Hartten**

The summary of the pastor's activities are as follows: Congregation Disaster Training, NALC Convocation, NALC Disaster Relief Training, Vacation, Sunday Worship

### New Business

#### New event: Concert on Sunday, Sept. 13

**Bob Phillips**

Peace Lutheran Church will be hosting a benefit concert for Ed Zajac on Sunday, Sept. 13, about 5:30 p.m. The jazz band, Blue Shoes, will be playing at the concert. There are 12 members in the band and they have agreed to only charge \$300, which is one half of their normal rate. The band has their own tent and sound system. They play a mixture of all types of music. They play for two hours with one break in between. We will sell popcorn, candy bars, chips and pop. Tickets will cost \$10 per person. We will be selling raffle tickets. Prizes are needed from the congregation. We will also have a 50/50 raffle.

### Council Greeters for September

Sept 6 - Bryan and Bob

**Bev So**

Sept 13 - Rich and Virgil

Sept. 20 - Teresa and Ed

Sept, 27 - Barb and Herb

### NALC items for ratification

**Pastor Hartten**

Since NALC is a congregation-led denomination, two-thirds of the congregations must support legislation in order for it to be changed. Virgil made a motion to present changes made at the convocation for potential ratification at our congregational meeting in September. Teresa seconded the motion and the motion passed.

### September congregational meeting

**Bev So**

The congregational meeting will take place on Sunday, Sept. 27, following the church service. In order for all to be safe, it was suggested to hold the meeting in the sanctuary with masks and social distancing.

### Motion to adjourn

Bryan made a motion to adjourn.

### Closing prayer

The council joined together in praying the Lord's Prayer.

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## NALC 20/20 Vision

*Continued from Page 3*

- Testimony – see an increased flow of proclamation of God at work in congregations engaging in mission in their communities.

### Ecumenical Relationships

- A denomination in which our international and ecumenical relationships strengthen our shared commitment to the Great Commission, the Great Commandments and the Church Catholic, and which enhance our partnership on the congregational level.
- Review and evaluate the purpose and goals for each of our international and ecumenical partnerships.
- Remain committed to international and ecumenical

partnerships that lead to jointly committed and Christ-honoring action steps, consistent with this vision component.

### Financial Strength

- A Church Body with the financial strength to support its God-given vision.
- Develop a vision to inspire and expand financial support.
- Challenge all congregations and mission districts to increase their financial support by 1 percent of their congregational budget, per year, for four years.
- Establish an emergency fund for pastors in need.

### Strategic Planning

- A Strategic Planning Team (SPT) that continually prays for and works to develop the next steps for our God-given vision and future.

# Eddie Zajac Benefit Concert



## **Blue Shoes Jazz Band**

**Peace Lutheran Church Lawn**

3590 Lincoln Ave. St. Joseph

**Sunday, Sept. 13 - 5:30-8 p.m.**

**Tickets: \$ 10 for adults, \$5 for children**  
**Purchase: [www.peacelutheranstjoe.org](http://www.peacelutheranstjoe.org)**

*Bring your own chair*

*Refreshments available for purchase*

*All proceeds will help with Eddie's medical expenses and rehabilitation following the amputation of his leg.*

## **SCRIP News: increased rebates, new partners, retiring cards**

### **DAIRY QUEEN HAS JUST RAISED ITS REBATE TO 20 PERCENT**

Effective immediately you can earn a 20 percent rebate for the church on Dairy Queen SCRIP purchases. That's up from 10 percent in the past! What a delightful and tasty way to support the church SCRIP program.

### **PAPA VINO'S – ARE YOU INTERESTED?**

We have contacted Papa Vino's and can stock our Cash and Carry box with cards (\$25 / \$50) OR you can order any denomination you like if you're not in a hurry for the cards. The rebate to the church is a great 11 percent.

### **PLANNING AHEAD – PURGING OUR CASH AND CARRY BOX**

Sometimes card popularity changes over time. We have several cards that no longer generate interest in sales but are taking up room in our Cash and Carry box. It's time to decide whether we can increase sales of these cards or stop offering them completely. Shari has not included cards with poor sales on restaurants due to Coronavirus issues with dining in restaurants. Remember.... You can use your restaurant gift cards for carry out and delivery, too!

The following cards will be discontinued if no interest is shown in 90 days. Once discontinued, the cards can still be ordered online, but will not be available for immediate use from our Cash and Carry Box.

- **ACE HARDWARE** - \$25 – 4 percent rebate. No sales in over a year
- **BP** - \$100 – 1.5 percent rebate. This used to be a big seller, but no more. We have \$600 tied up in stock in our cash and carry
- **CVS** - \$25 – 6 percent rebate. No sales in more than 6 months
- **PETSMART** - \$25 – 5 percent rebate. Only two cards sold in the last year

If you want to keep these cards available for immediate use, please place an order as soon as possible.

### **In-Person education cancelled for fall**

Adult Sunday School, Youth Bible Study, Men's Ministry and the Wednesday Night Bible Study will not be offered this fall. The pastoral staff is not convinced that the worst of COVID-19 is behind us. In-person educational offerings will be re-evaluated in late November for the start of 2021.



# 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

**Live streaming:** Bryan Sorensen

September 6

**Lector:** Marty Tallman

**Welcome Center:** Jeannette Jeske

September 13

**Lector:** Bev So

**Welcome Center:** Norma Carpenter

September 20

**Lector:** Shari Schmidt

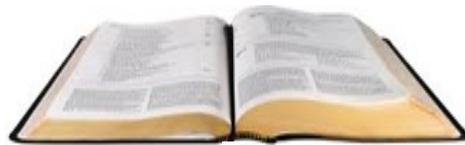
**Welcome Center:** Chris Bennett

September 27

**Lector:** Sandy Warren

**Welcome Center:** Heidi Sorensen

## THIS MONTH'S READINGS



**Sun., Sept. 6 - Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Ezekiel 33:7-9, Psalm 32:1-7

Romans 13:1-10, Matthew 18:1-20

**Sun., Sept. 13 - Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Genesis 50:15-21, Psalm 103:1-12

Romans 14:1-12, Matthew 18:21-35

**Sun., Sept. 20 - Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Isaiah 55:6-9, Psalm 27:1-9,

Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30, Matthew 20:1-16

**Sun., Sept. 27 - Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32, Psalm 25:1-10

Philippians 2:1-18, Matthew 21:23-32

## Holy Communion to resume Sept. 6

The Worship Committee has been hard at work over the summer thinking about how to reintroduce Holy Communion while observing a “best practice” approach of social distancing to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. In addition to the pastor and communion assistant wearing masks and gloves, the traffic flow will be reversed – communicants will approach the altar from the side aisle and return to via the center aisle. Distribution will be continuous. There will not be a dismissal and there will only be a final blessing after all who desire have communed. As before, nobody will be forced to take communion during worship, but Peace will be offering the Sacrament on a weekly basis as we shift into the fall.

## Sign up for the Zoom “Every Member Book Study”

Beginning the week of Sept. 13, Peace will once again host an “Every Member Book Study.” This year’s book is *Joining Jesus on His Mission – How to Be an Everyday Missionary* by Greg Finke. The Cahills will lead one session of the study meeting via Zoom on Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. Pastor Steve will lead the second session on Monday afternoons at 2 p.m. also via Zoom.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 9-12 Office Hours	4 Office closed	5
6 10:15 Worship w/communion	7 9-12 Office Hours	8 9-12 Office Hours 7p Prayer Mtg	9 9-12 Office Hours	10 9-12 Office Hours	11 Office closed	12
13 10:15 Worship w/communion 5:30p Zajac Benefit Concert	14 9-12 Office Hours 2p Joining Jesus 7p Worship Committee Mtg	15 9-12 Office Hours 7p Prayer Mtg via Zoom	16 9-12 Office Hours	17 News Due 9-12 Office Hours 7p Joining Jesus	18 Office closed	19
20 10:15 Worship w/communion	21 9-12 Office Hours 2p Joining Jesus 6:30p Council Mtg	22 9-12 Office Hours 7p Prayer Mtg via Zoom	23 9-12 Office Hours	24 9-12 Office Hours 7p Joining Jesus	25 Office closed	26
27 10:15 Worship w/communion	28 9-12 Office Hours 2p Joining Jesus	29 9-12 Office Hours 7p Prayer Mtg via Zoom	30 9-12 Office Hours		28	29

### Birthdays

8 Shirley Chapman  
10 Juli Nurbhai  
11 Mark Mahler  
13 Steve Hartten  
13 Ricky Roberts  
19 Virgil Bennett  
24 Asher Adkins  
27 Linda Roberts

### Anniversaries

19 Cliff & Pat  
DeSchaaf  
18 Todd & Sherri  
Nitz  
19 Michael & Tiffany

King  
25 John & Diane  
Herrman  
28 Gary & Barb  
Walker  
30 Wayne & Sandy  
Schuermann

### 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.*

Marian Hogue  
Ruth Retzke  
Betty Robbins  
Elaine Sirk  
Mildred Wantz

### Daily Devotion Podcast

Looking for a daily boost to  
your devotional routine?  
Ground Up Grace, a  
production of the Moravian  
Church is a good way to start  
your day. You can download  
the podcast at [https://  
www.groundupgrace.com/](https://www.groundupgrace.com/).

It features a husband and  
wife team that formally ran a  
church camp in Minnesota.  
There is Scripture, a reflection,  
and a hymn- all within about 5  
– 7 minutes. The devotions are  
well-crafted and emphasize  
how God's grace supports us  
through our daily grind of life.



**Blessing of the  
Animals  
Sunday, Oct. 4  
3 p.m.**

***Invite your friends!***



**Congregational Meeting**

**Sunday, Sept. 27**

**following the 10:15 a.m. worship service**

This fall's semi-annual congregational meeting will take place in the Sanctuary instead of the Fellowship Hall as we will not be serving a meal before the meeting due to COVID-19. Additionally, the Sanctuary allows for a larger gathering while observing social distancing requirements. The meeting will begin approximately 10 minutes after the conclusion of worship.

In addition to congregational business, Peace needs to vote on three proposed changes to the NALC constitution that were adopted during the 2020 Annual Convocation. Since the NALC is congregationally based, the adopted changes must be ratified by two-thirds of NALC congregations within six months in order to take effect. More information will be coming in a packet before the meeting.

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