



PEACE
NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN CHURCH

March 2021



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

In the weeks since our granddaughter Makinna's sudden death, I have been researching literature that might help her family with our grief. I came across the following on a book about forgiveness by Lysa Terkeurst in a chapter titled, "Because They Thought God Would Save Them." The author quoted a Christian counselor, Jim Cress: "Hope is the melody of the future. Faith is dancing to that melody right now."

The quote was addressed to people who are angry at God for whatever tragic event interrupted their life's plans. There is an underlying assumption that these people have faith in God, but faith is being challenged or tested. While appropriate for a family mourning the death of an infant, this quote also applies to each one of us in everyday life.

Over four years ago the Call Committee told me that the membership at Peace not only expected the congregation to grow to once again need two worship services on Sunday morning, they expected that the expandable wall in the front of

the church would be taken down and rebuilt further to the west. These were ambitious goals; for the goal was not only to return to the glory days of the past, but to exceed the "good old days" with a new vision. There was hope contained in this vision, an anticipation of a future that was different than the present reality of declining membership. Hope is the melody of the future, hope gave birth to that vision.

How have we used the intervening years to live into that vision? We heard the melody; have we gotten the courage to learn the dance steps so that the melody directs our activities in the present? What transformations have occurred that would help us live into the vision? In this Season of Lent it is important to take stock of where we stand in relationship with God



**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.

Holy Week is from March 28th to April 3rd



COUNCIL MINUTES

**Monday, February 15, 2021
6:30 p.m.**

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

Also Present: Pastor Hartten

Call to Order

Eddie Zajac called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Open Devotion/Prayer Pastor Steve Hartten

Pastor Hartten’s devotion was based on Psalm 62: 5-7. “Yes my soul, find rest in God, my hope comes from him. Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken. My salvation and my honor depend on God, he is my mighty rock, my refuge.” Pastor Hartten reminded us that we should be more positive. We should trust in God and see how God is leading our church.

Approval of February agenda Ed Zajac

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

Approval of January 2021 minutes made via email.

Treasurer’s report Jon Kooiman (acct. mgr)

January	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)
Offerings	\$15,850.40	\$15,666.74	\$183.66
Thrivent Choice	\$750	\$45.87	\$704.13
Soup Kitchen	-	\$33.37	(\$33.37)
Fellowship	-	\$11.74	(\$11.74)
Interest	\$4.06	-	\$4.06
Total	\$16,604.46	\$15,757.72	\$846.74
Year-to-Date	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)
Offerings	\$15,850.40	\$15,666.74	\$183.66
Thrivent Choice	\$750	\$45.87	\$704.13
Soup Kitchen	-	\$33.37	(\$33.37)
Fellowship	-	\$11.74	(\$11.74)
Interest	\$4.06	-	\$4.06
Total	\$16,604.46	\$15,757.72	\$846.74

Old Business

COVID-19 update and discussion Ed/Pastor
Numbers in Berrien County are still dropping. There has been only one person in our church that reported being sick with COVID. We will start singing hymns on Sunday

Work approved for gutter replacement

Ed/Pastor
Virgil will give the contractor a call to set up our church on their schedule.

Roof re-shingling/repair contracts

Virgil/Pastor
Future Construction honored the estimate given last September. Deposit does not have to be made until the materials are received, which will be in about three months.

Samaritas Information Updates Ed/Pastor

The Supervisor for the program took pictures of the classrooms. She is looking over the “Building Use Agreement” before signing the document. Individual card codes will be ordered for everyone having a key to the church.

Discussion/worship w/ both pastors

Ed/Rich/Barb
Mid March to April 1 is the target date for Pastor Schmidt to take a more active role in preaching the sermon or leading the liturgy. Pastor Schmidt will be preaching on February 28.

Congregation communication via phone

Pastor Hartten
There is no target date to install the automated phone service called “One Call Now.”

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Standing Committee Reports

Worship

Ken Berry

The Worship committee did not meet in February. Next meeting will be held on March 8, 2021

Fellowship

The Fellowship committee met on Saturday, February 13, packed Valentine goodie bags and delivered to our home bound members. A total of 28 bags were delivered.

Building and Grounds

Virgil/ Ed

The snow blower engine needs some repair, possibly only a new belt. Virgil will look into it and find out what is needed to repair.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Hartten

On February 21, Pastor Hartten will install the council for 2021.

The summary of the pastor's activities are as follows: Dean Phone Calls, Church Council, Congregational Meeting, Dean Visit to Hubbard Lake, Galatians Bible Study Landis Funeral, Lutheran Text Study (Zoom), Samaritas Orientation, Tuesday Prayer Meeting (Zoom), Home Visits, Office Visits, Sunday Worship.

New Business

The Berrien County Drain Commission sent notice to all property owners regarding the Pinebrook Drain #408 Project. As a property owner, Peace Lutheran Church's special assessment is \$2,132.10. This must either be paid in one lump sum by March 1 or they will spread it out over the next 20 years which would include interest. Teresa made a motion to pay the one lump sum and Bryan seconded the motion. The motion carried. Ed will announce this to the congregation on Sunday, February 21.

Easter Flowers

Shari Schmidt asked for Council's approval to purchase the Easter Flowers as we have done in the past. Rich made a motion to approve the request for Easter flowers. Herb seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Angel Eyes Donation

The council has agreed to make a donation to Angel Eyes in memory of Makinna Joyce Rigler, Pastor Hartten and Loretta's grandchild. This is an organization that supports parents whose child died from SIDS. The newsletter will mention the organization.

Bereavement for Pastor

The council discussed adding three days bereavement to the constitution. This had not been a part of the constitution. Bryan made a motion to add three days of bereavement, Virgil seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Greeters for March

Ed Zajac

March 7 Bob and Herb
March 14 Barb and Teresa
March 21 Ed and Rich
March 28 Bryan and Teresa

Motion to Adjourn

Bryan made a motion to adjourn.

Closing prayer

Pastor Hartten

Pastor Hartten gave the closing prayer.

Pastor's Message

Continued from page 1

both as individuals and as a collective congregation. If we hear a melody yet we don't get up to dance, the present will become the future. Grieving parents who cannot find a way to move beyond a tragic death become stuck in an unhealthy place. They may want a different future, but if they do not act to get counseling/assistance, if over time they can't move beyond the death, they will never realize a new future. They may have heard faint strains of a new melody, but they are unable or unwilling to join in the dance. May we use this Season of Lent to honestly take stock of how we are dancing to the melody of a growing congregation that is a result of vibrant ministries so that the building can be expanded in the future.

Don't forget to "Spring Forward" by setting your clocks ahead one hour! Daylight-Saving Time begins March 14th!



Thank You from Pastor Steve and Loretta

Thank you for the outpouring of prayers, words of comfort and cards in response to the sudden death of our granddaughter, Makinna Rigler. We appreciate all the ways you have shared in our sorrow and we know we would not have been able to handle this tragedy without your prayers. We have chosen to support a Colorado state-wide non-profit counseling service for families who have experienced SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome- formally known as "crib death") If you would like to make a donation in memory of Makinna, please send your donation to the following:

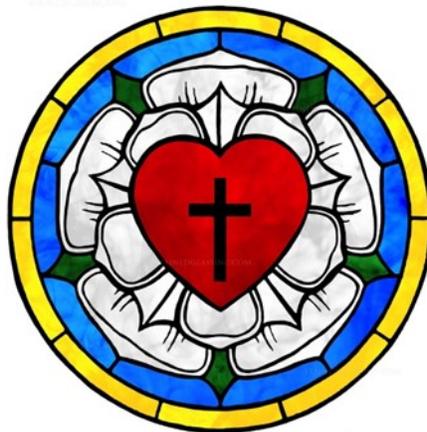
Angel Eyes
40 West Littleton Blvd
Suite 210
Littleton CO 80120
www.angeleyes.org



Martin Luther's Seal – the Emblem of the North American Lutheran Church

You may have noticed that the emblem of our denomination is Luther's Seal. Here is Luther's explanation of how the seal was to be designed to reflect his theology. The explanation is taken from a letter by Luther to Lazarus Spengler, July 8, 1530. Spengler designed the seal and was a prominent hymn writer for the early Lutheran Church.

First, there is a cross, black on a heart in red, as its natural color. This is to remind one that faith in the Crucified saves us; for if one believes with the heart, one is justified. Now although it is a black cross, although it mortifies and is designed to inflict pain, it nonetheless allows the heart to keep its color, it does not destroy its nature, that is, it does not kill but keeps alive. For the just lives by faith, but faith in the Crucified. Such a heart is to be centered on a white rose in order to indicate that faith yields joy, comfort, and peace and straightway beds one on a white, pleasing rose. Nor does faith yield the peace and joy of the world. Therefore the rose would be white and not red, because white is the color of the spirits and of all the angels. This rose is on a field tinted with the hues of heaven to indicate that this joy in the spirit and faith is a beginning of the future heavenly joy, a joy which, to be sure, is even now present in faith and embraced by hope but is not yet revealed. And around this field runs a ring of gold to show that the blessedness of heaven endures forever and ever and is more precious than all pleasures and possessions of earth, as gold is the most precious and the noblest metal.



New Auto-Call Service to Improve Communication

Peace Lutheran will be working with One Call Now to improve communication among the membership. Current emails like Monday's "This Week at Peace" are averaging about 40% of the recipients opening the email. In addition, about 25% of member households do not have internet access. In searching for a more efficient method of communicating important

information about congregational events, Pastor Steve learned of a system being used by St. Paul Lutheran, Evert to reach members. St. Paul uses a phone system that allows a congregational member to place one phone call, record his or her voice message, and then the system will auto-dial the membership directory.

Attempts to reach each phone number will continue until either voicemail or an active person answers or twenty-four hours expire. The system can track who is answering in person, whose information went to voicemail, and who could not be reached. St. Paul reports over 90% of the messages reach their members through direct contact or voicemail. Please think about which phone number you would like Peace Lutheran to use to share information about upcoming events and weather-related closings.

Mid-Week Lenten Series

Peace Lutheran will hold in-person mid-week Lenten services on Wednesdays at 7:00. These services will be held through March 24th. This year's theme is The Hands of the Passion. Themes for each week are:

March 3 Hands of Misguided Zeal (Peter)
March 10 Hands of Hypocrisy (Caiaphas)
March 17 Hands of Brutality (Soldiers)
March 24 Hands of Preservation (Pilate)

We will be using the liturgy, Joyous Light, the Vespers/Evening Prayer service that we have used the past couple of years. Soup Suppers will not be held due to the ongoing pandemic.

THIS MONTH'S READINGS



Sun., March 7 - Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20: 1-17, Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1:18-31, John 2:13-22 (23-25)

Sun., March 14 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

Numbers 21:4-9, Psalm 107:1-9
Ephesians 2:1-10, John 3:14-21

Sun., March 21 – Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 119:9-16
Hebrews 5:1-10, Mark 10:(32-34) 35-45

Sun., March 28 - Palm Sunday (Sunday of the Passion)

Zechariah 9:9-12, Psalm 118:19-29
Philippians 2:5-11, Mark 14:1-15:47

Interested in becoming a CASA volunteer?

A Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Volunteer advocates in the community and courtroom for the best interests of foster children in our county. We seek dynamic, energetic volunteers with a passion for children to join our incredible team! Extensive training (over 30 hours) will be provided virtually. Volunteers must be over 21, have reliable transportation, and pass a criminal/CPS background check. **For an application, or to learn more, please contact: Jamie Brooks: jamie@casaswmi.org or 269-932-3557.** For more information about our CASA of Southwest Michigan visit CASAswmi.org and for information on National CASA please visit nationalcasagal.org.



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates

FOR CHILDREN

CASA OF SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN, INC.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 9-12 Office Hours 7pm Fellowship	2 9-12 Office Hours	3 9-12 Office Hours 7p Lent 2 service	4 9-12 Office Hours	5 Office closed	6
7 10:15 Worship w/communion 6:30pm Galatians Bible Study Zoom	8 9-12 Office Hours 7p Worship Mtg 1pm Galatians Bible	9 9-12 Office Hours 7p Prayer Mtg via Zoom	10 9-12 Office Hours 7p Lent 3 Service	11 9-12 Office Hours	12 Office closed	13
14 10:15 Worship w/communion 6:30pm Galatians Bible Study Zoom	15 9-12 Office Hours 630p Council Mtg 1pm Galatians Bible Study	16 9-12 Office Hours 7p Prayer Mtg via Zoom	17 9-12 Office Hours 7p Lent 4 Service	18 9-12 Office Hours	19 Office closed	20
21 10:15 Worship w/communion	22 9-12 Office Hours	23 9-12 Office Hours 7p Prayer Mtg via Zoom	24 9-12 Office Hours 7p Lent 5 Service	25 9-12 Office Hours	26 Office closed	27
28 10:15 Worship w/communion	29 9-12 Office Hours	30 9-12 Office Hours 7p Prayer Mtg via Zoom	31 9-12 Office Hours			

Birthdays

2 Cathy Dalrymple
2 Margaret O'Neill
2 Gloria Siewert
5 Derek Riippa
6 Pat DeSchaaf
6 Margaret
Schmieding
10 Eddie Zajac
13 Haley Kutchie
14 John Herrman
14 Mia Nurbhai
15 Jeanine Damaske
23 Brett Genovese
24 Mark Carpenter

Anniversaries

1 Keith & Jill
Chapman
12 Jerry & Lorene
Schlutt

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.

Ruth Retzke
Elaine Sirk
Mildred Wantz



Easter Sunday is April 4th!

Easter Sunday is the first weekend in April. We are currently discussing plans for Easter worship. Please watch emails and the April newsletter for final details.

Working around COVID restrictions will mean a slightly different worship experience so be prepared make adjustments.

Collection for Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen

We are still collecting donations for the Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen. **We are asking for donations of cash and gift cards only.** The cash and gift cards from Gordon Foods, Meijer, and Aldi will be used to purchase lunch meat, cheese, buns, condiments, chips, fruit, water and paper products. These items are all used to prepare sack lunches for 120+ people.

We are very thankful for the Flour Shop's dessert donations.



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