



PEACE
NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN CHURCH

March 2022



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

In her book, *Amazing Grace: A Vocabulary of Faith*, Kathleen Norris writes about her experience of Lent in a Benedictine Convent. Her husband had taken ill far from home, and she stayed with the sisters while he recuperated in the local hospital. Norris recalls a conversation with one of the nuns who told her: "For most of her life she considered it [Lent] only in punitive terms, as a time of self-denial. 'Now' she said, 'I still fast, but my reasons for fasting have changed.' She hoped to recover Lent as an aspect of spring itself, a time of waiting, but also of burgeoning hopes."

The English word Lent means spring, taken from an old Germanic root for lengthening- as in the lengthening of daylight as the season progresses toward summer. This year we have a rare gift in that Easter comes late; April 17th meaning that Lent begins on March 2nd. Throughout the forty days the weather will hopefully transition not only to more daylight, but a time when early flowers burst forth in bloom and signs of new life begin to appear in orchards, vineyards, and lawns. We tangibly live through a season of waiting and hoping as green returns to the brown grasses and the woody branches of trees and vines give hints of budding out.

In the Church, Lent takes on many forms. The Alleluia (literally "praise ye the Lord") is silenced until Easter. The liturgy takes on a more somber tone as we reflect on our need for forgiveness and we contemplate the cost of that forgiveness through Holy Week. The season lasts forty days recalling Jesus' temptation in the wilderness. We daily know temptation and we are comforted that our Savior not only knew it but overcame it. While Lent can feel punitive, we are punishing ourselves by depriving ourselves of joyous celebrations, underlying these practices is a sense of hope.

Lent leads us to Easter, that glorious seven-week festival where we celebrate Jesus' resurrection. There is a promise of new life to come after this one. We wait for that in hope. There is the assurance of God's continual presence with us in the here and now, whether or not we sense it or feel it. As we voluntarily fast,

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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.

The First Day of Spring is Sunday, March 20th!



COUNCIL MINUTES

Monday, February 21, 2022

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

Also Present: Bev So, Marty Tallman

Call to Order: Ed Zajac called the meeting to order at 6:37pm.

Open Devotion/Prayer

Ken Berry gave the opening prayer asking for guidance and support for the council meeting.

Approval of February Agenda

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

Treasurer's report **Brenda Engel (acct. mgr)**
There was no report this month

Council Guest Party Information **Bev So**
Update on Pastor Ron's Retirement Party (April 24th, 2022). The Solarium at the Watermark in Stevensville has been reserved for April 24 from 3:00 pm. until 7:00 p.m. There will be appetizers, water and coffee service. There will also be a cash bar including soda. Tickets will be \$15. They will be available from Sunday, March 6, through April 10 before and after the worship service. Brandi will also sell tickets during office hours.

Old Business

COVID-19 update and discussion

With the decline in Covid numbers, the council has decided to lift our restrictions and go back to our regular service with communion. Masks will be optional. Teresa made a motion for services and communion to go back to normal starting on March 2 and Herb seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Monday Evening Services Update and Mission Statement **Marty Tallman**

We finalized the mission statement for the Monday night worship as follows: "To reach out to the area faithful for a new group of worshipers with the word of God centered in the miracle of grace who might find an evening service more desirable."

Standing Committee Reports **Worship**

Recommendations were given to the council to drop the Covid restrictions, mask mandates to be lifted, pews opened and communion to be resumed. There was positive member feedback on the music from Jim Thurman. Worship is still working on the plan for the Monday night service.

Fellowship **Teresa**
Fellowship did not meet in the month of February.

Building **Virgil**
CO2 carbon monoxide detectors were ordered. Virgil and Ken will be installing them on February 22.

Grounds **Ken**
The ground committee has ordered Tru Geen to apply six treatments to the front and side lawns. Spring cleanup will be April 30 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. There will be maintenance cleanup scheduled for every month throughout the summer and fall. The committee has decided to remove most of the shrubs and bushes in the front of the church and replace them with flowering bushes. More details will follow as plans develop.

Outreach Committee **Bob**
The outreach committee is assembling ideas to serve the community. At the next meeting they will develop a plan for the year.

Pastor's Report **Pastor Hartten**
The summary of the pastor's activities are as follows: Church Council, Confirmation

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Instruction, Congregational Meeting, Dean’s Responsibilities, Hospital Visits, Lutheran Text Study, MI Mission Zoom Meeting, Music Audition (Jim Thurman), Office Visits, Tuesday Prayer Group, Worship Committee, Sunday Worship seconded.

New Business

Signing Authority for Honor Credit Union

With the changes in the council and the executive committee, council has agreed to add Kenneth A Berry as an authorized person on the Honor Credit Union account and will be able to sign checks and act as a representative to Peace Lutheran Church. We also agreed to add Teresa Hogan as an authorized person on the Honor Credit Union account and will be able to sign checks and act as a representative to Peace Lutheran Church. Delete Barbara Berry as an authorized person on the account.

Central Security System

After talking with our central alarm system, the council has approved the company to do an inspection of all smoke detectors and heat detectors with their specialized test devices. The units were installed in 1997 and are overdue for an inspection. The cost will be around \$300. Bryan made a motion to approve the inspection. Barb seconded the motion and the motion carried. Brandi will call the alarm company and set an appointment. She will also inform them to add Kenneth Berry and Teresa Hogan as authorized persons to enter and exit the building. At the same time, Barb Berry will be deleted from the list. Council has approved Kenneth Berry and Teresa Hogan to receive keys to the church and Barbara Berry will no longer have a key.

WiFi connection for streaming church services

Bryan

Bryan and Josh have discussed the problem of our WiFi cutting out during our services with our provider. The provider did not have a solution so Bryan and Josh have decided, with council’s approval, to hardwire the laptop for the streaming services. The money will come out of the AV fund and this should solve the problem.

March Greeters

Barb

- March 6: Herb and Bryan
- March 13: Ken and Barb
- March 20: Bob and Ed
- March 27: Virgil and Teresa

Motion to Adjourn

Bryan made a motion to adjourn.

Closing Prayer

Ken

Ken Berry gave the closing prayer thanking God for His presence.

Pastor’s Message

Continued from page 1

depriving ourselves of items that might distract us from putting God at the center of our lives, we do so in hope. We hope to reclaim the wonder of God’s unfailing love, the wonder that God cares intimately about you, and about me. Like a bulb tentatively poking a green shoot out of newly thawed soil in the hope of warmer days to come, we intentionally practice disciplines to help us more fully appreciate God’s presence in our lives. Take time this Lent to marvel at the changing of the seasons, and wonder at the changes God is working in your life.



- March 6: Herb Kroening & Bryan Sorensen**
- March 13: Ken Berry & Barb Berry**
- March 20: Bob Phillips & Ed Zajac**
- March 27: Virgil Bennett & Teresa Hogan**

Pastor Ronald W. Schmidt
Retirement Celebration

You are invited to join us to celebrate on

Sunday, April 24th, 2022

The Watermark Solarium

2688 Kimmel Street, Stevensville, MI 49085

\$15 per person - prepay by April 10, 2022

Tickets are available to purchase in the church office during office hours or before/after
Sunday worship service

Peace Lutheran Church • 3590 Lincoln Avenue, St. Joseph, MI 49085

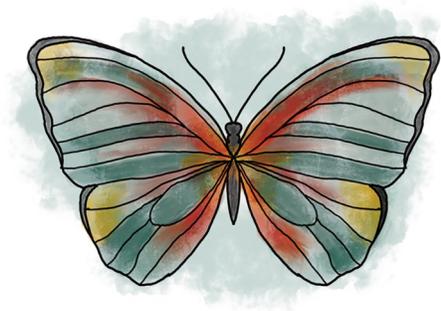
269-556-7000 • peacelutheranstjoe@sbcglobal.net

Reservations required - please indicate if you desire a vegetarian meal

Appetizers & Cash Bar: 3 p.m.

Buffet Dinner: 4 p.m.

Tickets available March 6th



*The first day of Spring is on Sunday, March
20th*



Anonymous 5th Century Communion Hymn

Because for our sake you tasted gall, may the Enemy's bitterness be killed in us.

Because for our sake you drank sour wine, may what is weak in us be strengthened.

Because for our sake you were spat upon, may we be bathed in the dew of immortality.

Because for our sake you were struck with a rod, may we receive shelter in the last.

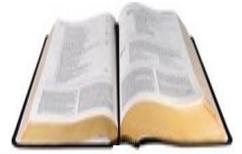
Because for your sake you accepted a crown of thorns, may we that love you be crowned with garlands that never can fade.

Because for our sake you were wrapped in a shroud, may we be clothed in your all-enfolding strength.

Because you were laid in the new grave and the tomb, may we receive the renewal of soul and body.

Because you rose and returned to life, may we be brought to life again. Amen.

THIS MONTH'S READINGS



Sunday, March 6 - First Sunday in Lent

Deuteronomy 26:1-11, Psalm 91:1-13
Romans 10:8b-13, Luke 4:1-13

Sunday, March 13 - Second Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 26:8-15, Psalm 4
Philippians 3:17-4:1, Luke 13:31-35

Sunday, March 20 - Third Sunday in Lent

Ezekiel 33:7-20, Psalm 85
1 Corinthians 10:1-13, Luke 13:1-9

Sunday, March 27 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 12: 1-6, Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21, Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Children's Definition of Love

"Love is when someone hurts you. And you get so mad but you don't yell at them because you know it would hurt their feelings."

"Love is when Mommy makes coffee for Daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him to make sure it tastes OK."

"Love is when Mommy sees Daddy smelly and sweating and still says he's handsomer than Robert Redford."

"Love is when a puppy licks your face, even after you left him alone all day."

"You shouldn't say I love you unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget."

Mid-Week Lenten Series

Lent begins on Wednesday, March 2, 2022. There will be a worship service at 7:00 p.m. The following Wednesdays there will be mid-week worship at 7:00 p.m. using the sung Vespers service, Joyous Light. The theme for this year's mid-week services is CrossWords: the words Jesus spoke from the cross. While we hear these words read every Good Friday, we don't usually take the time to look behind the meaning of each of these phrases. The focus each week is as follows:

March 9 th	You Will Be With Me in Paradise
March 16 th	Behold your Son, Behold your Mother
March 23 rd	Why Have You Forsaken Me
March 30 th	I Thirst
April 6 th	It is Finished

Please make plans to attend and explore the deeper meanings behind Jesus' last words.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9-12 Office Hrs 7p Prayer Mtg	2 9-12 Office Hrs Ash Wednesday Service 7pm	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 7p Worship Committee	9 9-12 Office Hrs 7p Lent Service	10 9-12 Office Hrs 745a: Men's Bible Study	11 Office closed	12
13 10:15 Worship w/o communion Daylight Saving Time Begins	14 9-12 Office Hrs	15 9-12 Office Hrs 7p Prayer Mtg	16 9-12 Office Hrs 7p Lent Service	17 9-12 Office Hrs 745a: Men's Bible Study	18 Office closed	19
20 10:15 Worship w/o communion First Day of Spring!!!	21 9-12 Office Hrs 630 Council Mtg	22 9-12 Office Hrs 7p Prayer Mtg	23 9-12 Office Hrs 7p Lent Service	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	29 9-12 Office Hrs 7p Prayer Mtg	30 9-12 Office Hrs 7p Lent Service	31 9-12 Office Hrs 745a: Men's Bible Study		

MARCH



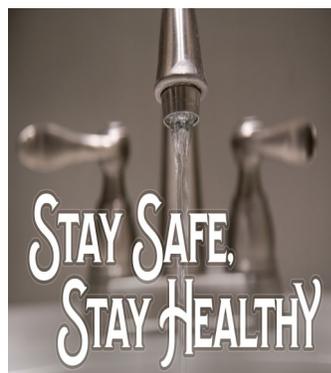
BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

2 Margaret O'Neill
2 Gloria Siewert
6 Patricia DeSchaaf
6 Margaret Schmieding
10 Eddie Zajac
14 John Herrman
14 Zamia Nurbhai
15 Jeanine Damaske
23 Brett Genovese
24 Mark Carpenter

Anniversaries

1 Keith & Jill Chapman
12 Jerry & Lorene Schlutt



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

COVID-19 UPDATES

With the decline in Covid-19 numbers, the council has decided to lift our restrictions and go back to our regular service with communion. Masks will be optional. We will go back to normal starting on Ash Wednesday (March 2nd).



**SPRING
FORWARD**

Daylight-Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 13. Remember to set your clocks FORWARD Saturday night before bed, and enjoy that extra SUNSHINE!



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