



PEACE
NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN CHURCH

July 2021



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

July 4th, Independence Day, is a day many in our nation pause to reflect on the freedom we enjoy in our country. I say many pause as the day is filled with festivals, parades, cookouts, travel, fireworks, etc. I'm not sure if on occasion all the activities interfere with a person's intentions to pause and give thanks for what God has blessed us with. I was recently given a book to read, *The Beauty of What Remains* by Steve Leder, which reflects on lessons learned from the dying that help in valuing life. In the book, the author tells the story about a Ham Radio operator who was giving advice to another operator on how to appreciate life. He began talk by stating that the average life expectancy for an American male was 75 years. When he was 55 years old, he calculated how many Saturdays he would have left if he were to die at age 75. The total came to 1040 Saturdays. He then went to every toy store near where he lived and purchased the entire stock of marbles from each store. Eventually he was able to accumulate 1,000 marbles. He put them all in a jar, and every Saturday, he took out one marble. Knowing that the number of marbles was decreasing every week resulted in a better appreciation for the gift of life. Time became more valuable, and over the course of the

twenty years he began to be more appreciative of the people, places, and events that mattered the most to him. As he was sharing this story over the airwaves he mentioned that one marble remained in the jar. He then asked the question, "What would you focus on if you knew you had a limited number of marbles left?" "What matters the most to you?"

I am aware that we all value our freedom; knowing we all have a limited number of days left in our lives, do we stop and give thanks to God for all the blessing we enjoy? Do we give thanks to God for the day He has blessed us with, or does the business of life distract us from making time for God? After all we have appointments to keep, phone calls to make, emails to respond to, etcetera, etcetera. The hours in the day fill up quickly. Are we spending the time on what matters to us most or are we caught up in the current of a busy life?

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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:
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.

Happy Independence Day to our great nation!



COUNCIL MINUTES

Monday, June 21, 2021

6:30 p.m.

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

Absent: Herb Kroening

Also Present: Pastor Hartten

Call to Order: Rich Steinbauer called the meeting to order at 6:33pm.

Open Devotion/Prayer **Pastor Steve Hartten**

Pastor said a prayer asking for guidance.

Approval of June agenda

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

Approval of May 2021 minutes made via email.

Treasurer's report		Jon Kooiman (acct. mgr)	
Curr.	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)
Offerings	\$15,382.58	\$15,666.66	\$(284.08)
Thrivent Choice		\$45.83	\$(45.83)
Soup Kitchen		\$33.33	\$(33.33)
Fellowship	\$12.19	\$11.66	\$0.53
Interest		-	
Total	\$15,394.77	\$15,757.48	(\$362.71)
Year-to-Date	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)
Offerings	\$72,273.46	\$78,333.38	\$(6,059.92)
Thrivent Choice	\$1,000	\$229.13	\$770.81
Soup Kitchen	\$1,055	\$166.69	\$888.31
Fellowship	\$42.19	\$58.38	\$(16.19)
Interest	\$16.24	-	\$16.24
Total	\$74,386.89	\$78,787.64	(\$4,400.75)

Old Business

COVID-19 update and discussion

Tomorrow the governor is releasing all mandates and our church will follow.

Audio/Video Room Clean Up (May) **Ed**

Ed, Bryan and Josh plan on getting together on June

26th to go through the equipment and other things in the audio/video room in the basement. They will decide whether to resalvage or recycle the equipment and reorganize the room.

Credit for extra shingles

Virgil

Virgil will call Future Construction to find out if we are entitled to a reimbursement for the leftover shingles from the construction of the new roof.

Playground Equipment

Bob

We received a message from St. Joseph Township in response to our question concerning permits. There are no permits necessary for playground equipment on our property. Bryan and Rich will take a look at the playground equipment that was offered to our church.

Congregation communication via phone (May)
Ed/Pastor Hartten

Tabled until the July council meeting.

Standing Committee Reports

Worship

Ken Berry

Some of the worship committee's suggestions include reinstating the offertory "Create in me a clean heart...". The offering plate will stay at the back of the church and will be brought forward at the time of the offertory. It was suggested to introduce music for the "Gospel Acclamation". We also discussed signing the friendship book again, but instead of passing it around, it will be at the Welcome Center for signature. Teresa made a motion to approve the Worship Committee's suggestions, Virgil seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Fellowship

No meeting was held in June. The Fellowship Committee will meet in July.

Building and Grounds

Virgil

Nothing to report

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Pastor's Report

Pastor Hartten

The summary of the pastor's activities are as follows: Church Council, Confirmation Instruction, Dean's Meeting via Zoom, Home Visits, Hospital Visits, Lutheran Text Study, Memorial for Terri Perdue, Men's Bible Study, Office Visits, Pre-Marriage Counseling, Ruth Bible Study, Spectrum Lakeland Round Table, Tuesday Prayer Group, Worship Committee, Sunday Worship.

Pastor Hartten will be officiating a wedding at our church on July 31. Nancy Cooley's daughter will be getting married.

There are 80 churches that wish to join NALC but none have a pastor.

The council approved the pastor's request for vacation time from July 12-18 and September 6-19.

New Business

Ken Berry to discuss Outside Cleanup

The grass will be mowed on Thursday, June 24. Tru Green will be contacted concerning the water grass growing in the center island. It is very hard to kill that without affecting the other plants. The shrubs in the front will be removed and replaced. Along the side of the church, Bev plans on planting hydrangeas, using starters from her plants at home. Ken Berry was asked to call Miss Dig concerning underground wires before pulling out the bushes. Ken is challenging the worship committee for ideas to do different things.

Flag Pole

Virgil

American Flagpole Company is giving us an estimate to fix the flagpole. As a backup plan, we will get an estimate for putting in steps

Greeters for June

Barb Berry

July 4 - Barb and Teresa

July 11 - Bryan and Bob

July 18 - Ed and Rich

July 25 - Virgil and Herb

The NALS (North American Lutheran Seminary) is asking for our support

The contributions will help expand scholarship opportunities, recruit qualified students, expand year-round educational opportunities and bring in leading theologians to teach and guide tomorrow's church leaders and pastors. Virgil made a motion for our church to sponsor a special collection day on July 18 to support the NALS and Ed seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

Bob was approached about the need for two benches in front of our church. Lowes has benches 5 feet wide for \$168. Bryan made a motion to approve the purchase of these benches. Ed seconded the motion and the motion carried.

It was suggested to host a benefit dinner or a pig roast to support a local charity or a local family in need. We are looking at a possible date in September. More details to follow.

Motion to Adjourn

Bryan made a motion to adjourn.

Closing prayer

Pastor prayed.

Pastor Hartten

Pastor's Message

(Continued from page 1)

My hope is that you not only find time on July 4th to give thanks to God, but that it becomes a daily habit. Having a relationship with the One who created you, who sustains you, and who redeems you from the powers of sin, death and the devil is of utmost importance to me.

THIS MONTH'S READINGS



Sunday, July 4 - Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 2:1-5, Psalm 123
2 Corinthians 8:1-9, 13-15, Mark 5:21-43

Sunday, July 11 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 7:7-15, Psalm 85:1-13
Ephesians 1:3-14, Mark 6: 14-29

Sunday, July 18 – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 23:1-6, Psalm 23
Ephesians 2:11-22, Mark 6:30-44

Sunday, July 25 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 9:8-17, Psalm 136:1-9
Ephesians 3:14-21, Mark 6:45-56

*“Let my teaching
fall like rain and
my words descend
like dew, like showers
on new grass,
like
abundant
rain on
tender
plants.”*

Deuteronomy 32:2, NIV

Soup Kitchen July 2021

On the 2nd Friday, during the months of February, April, and June, we have provided an average of 100 sack lunches to the Soup Kitchen in Benton Harbor. Each sack lunch includes a ham sandwich, chips, fruit, and dessert. (The Flour Shop continues to donate baked goods.) Thanks to the gracious members in our congregation, contributions were made to support the purchase of the items needed to make the lunches. Your prayerful support is also greatly appreciated. We will once again be making the lunches in August. Thank you again for your support. God Bless!

Barb Berry and Bev So



Worship Changes coming in July

Starting July 4th, Peace will make additional changes to worship to move our practice closer to our pre-pandemic practices. The back of the sanctuary will no longer have alternate pews taped off, there is open seating throughout. The Offering will still be collected on a stand at the rear of the church, but it will be brought forward as we once again sing the Offertory. Holy Communion will be distributed by tables as before, although the Common Cup will be withheld for the near future. COVID Cards will no longer be required, but we will use the Friendship Pads at the Welcome Center to collect attendance information. Having worshipers sign in at the Welcome Center has resulted in a closer correlation between the usher's head count and the number of worshipers, making it easier to keep an accurate record of worship attendance. A new piece of liturgical music will be introduced – the Gospel Acclamation will be sung instead of spoken. The Council and Worship Committee thank you for your patience as we continue our journey back to “normal.”



NALS Special Offering Sunday

The Church Council has set Sunday, July 18 for a special offering to support the North American Lutheran Seminary, the flagship seminary of the NALC. Peace has participated in a special offering for the seminary in years past, and we have managed to raise approximately \$2,000 on a given Sunday. A portion of this money is used to provide scholarships to seminarians attending the NALS in Ambridge, PA. Students living on-campus get full-tuition scholarships- a wonderful benefit to minimize student debt upon graduation. Please make your check payable to Peace Lutheran Church, memo: NALS Seminary. We will forward one check on behalf of the congregation to the seminary.



The Stranger

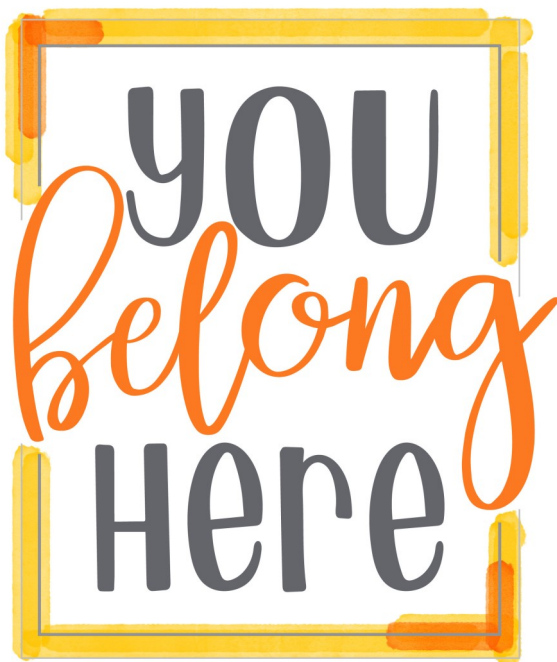
His name is John. He has wild hair and wears a T-shirt with holes in it, jeans, and flip-flops. This was literally John's wardrobe for his four years of high school. He is brilliant; his worldview and perspective are different than most around here, but he is very, very bright. He became a Christian during his junior year of high school when a fellow student shared her faith with him. Across the street from the high school campus is a modern, conservative, and active church. One Sunday John decides to go visit the church. He walks in without shoes, in his ripped jeans, holey T- shirt, and wild hair. The service has just started so John starts down one of the side aisles looking for a seat. The church was pretty full, and John didn't want to invade anyone's territory. As he made his way up the aisle, people are becoming uncomfortable, but no one says anything. John gets closer and closer to the front, and rather than bother anyone he just squats down on the carpet in front of the first row of chairs and makes himself comfortable.

Because this is so out of the norm, people who see John sitting up front on the floor are flustered, they don't know what to do. About the time John gets settled in, the Pastor realizes that one of the Elders sitting toward the back of the auditorium has gotten up from his seat and is making his way toward the front, and specifically toward John. The Elder is a godly man, very dignified and respected, wearing a suit and tie. He walks with his cane, his silver hair neatly combed, and his Bible under his arm. Nobody will blame him for what he is about to do. How can you expect a man of his age and of his background to understand some barefoot teenage kid with long hair, blue jeans and a T-shirt who walks in late and thinks it is somehow acceptable to just sit on the floor in front of everyone?

It takes what seems like a long time for the Deacon to reach the front where John is seated. The church is completely silent except for the whispers in the congregation. All eyes are focused on the intruder. Everyone is glad this one senior adult Elder has taken matters into his own hands. Even the Pastor is frozen in the moment with mixed emotions and thoughts running through his mind and heart. Then suddenly God shows up. When the Elder gets to where John is

seated, he ever so slowly and carefully kneels down beside John, then lays his cane and his Bible on the floor and sits down to worship beside John so he wouldn't be sitting alone. The congregation is overcome with emotion. The Elder doesn't say a word, he just gently reaches out his hand to shake John's. In that moment, although nothing is said, much is communicated. When the Pastor is able to speak, he simply says, "What I am about to preach, you will never remember. What you have just seen, you will never forget."

We are all called to be the church no matter where we are. God is love and Jesus ate with, loved and befriended those who the religious mocked and despised. Do unto others ...



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9-12 Office Hrs	2 Office Closed	3
4 10:15 Worship w/communion	5 Office Closed	6 9-12 Office Hrs 7p Prayer Mtg via Zoom	7 9-12 Office Hrs	8 9-12 Office Hrs	9 Office closed	10
11 10:15 Worship w/communion	12 9-12 Office Hrs 7p Worship Committee Pr Steve Vacation	13 9-12 Office Hrs 7p Prayer Mtg via Zoom Pr Steve Vacation	14 9-12 Office Hrs Pastor Steve Vacation	15 9-12 Office Hrs Pastor Steve Vacation	16 Office closed Pastor Steve Vacation	17 Pastor Steve Vacation
18 10:15 Worship w/communion Pastor Steve Vacation	19 9-12 Office Hrs 6:30p Council Mtg	20 9-12 Office Hrs 7p Prayer Mtg via Zoom	21 9-12 Office Hrs	22 9-12 Office Hrs	23 Office closed	24
25 10:15 Worship w/communion	26 9-12 Office Hrs	27 9-12 Office Hrs 7p Prayer Mtg via Zoom	28 9-12 Office Hrs	29 9-12 Office Hrs	30 Office Closed	31

Birthdays

1 Pam Bauer
2 Katie Davis
4 Ayla Adkins
4 Diane Herrman
8 Audrey Bauer
9 Brody Adkins
11 Matt Hogan
25 Jane Wilson
28 Denise Emery

Anniversaries

4 Denise & Sal
Emery
5 Gary & Karen
Richardville
9 Dennis & Janet
Lietz
14 Kevin & Shelly
Fitzpatrick
14 Marilyn & Bernie
Riley

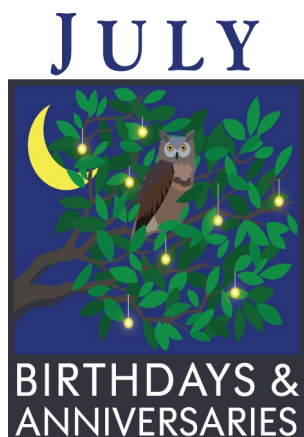
Military

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




The 2021-2022 Super Book is here! Lots of great coupons to local restaurants (both fine dining and fast food), golf, auto service, retail, entertainment, cleaning, and more!

Cost is \$40 per Super Book. See Brandi in the church office during office hours or contact Jim or Tammy Steinbauer.

**THE
NEW
SUPERBOOK
IS
HERE**

Over \$8000.00
in Value From
More than 350
Local Merchants!



Everything From A to Z!

Over 200 Restaurants From Fast Food to Fine Dining!
Golf, Auto Service, Retail, Entertainment, Cleaning, and More!

**Available
Here Now!**



Baroda Fireworks are back!!!

Ed and Lisa Zajac invite members of the church to join them for

Fun & Fireworks
7 p.m. July 3rd
1574 Lemon Creek Road, Baroda
RSVP at 269-944-7537 ASAP

Join the Zajacs for a great place to view the Baroda fireworks without the hassle. Lots of parking by the Zajacs and a quick escape route.

This year they are ordering fried chicken so Lisa needs you to RSVP as soon as possible. Bring a lawn chair, beverages of choice and a dish to share.

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