



PEACE
NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN CHURCH

June 2021



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Last month I attended the NALC Pastor's Conference followed by the national Dean's Meeting in San Antonio, TX. The theme of the conference was "Keeping the Main Things the Main Things." We were reminded that while it is easier to unite around politics, the Church was formed to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Salvation will not come to people by the efforts of a political leader; it will only come through God. As one pastor commented, "It's not about the Elephant, it's not about the Donkey; it's all about the Lamb!" To this comment I can only say, "Amen." We heard talks on vocation – the teaching that God calls each of us to serve Him through the work that we do. Whatever type of work, whatever specialty is the focus of one's career, vocation is serving God through one's work. This transforms the "daily grind" into holy work done on behalf of and for God. We were also reminded that the Doctrine of Justification is critical to the life of a congregation within the universal Church. Justification is Christ's work, it is how God in Jesus makes us right

with Him after sin has distorted or broken the relationship. We (the baptized) are to stress God's work in mending the relationship, we cannot justify ourselves.

God's desire is to justify each individual person. Lastly we were challenged to have a "flood mentality" instead of a "scarcity mentality." God's grace flows freely, why do so many congregations start with the belief that there isn't enough to go around? We have biblical stories of Jesus taking a few loaves and fish and feeding multitudes. Nowhere in Scripture do we read that Jesus filled his quota for daily healings and had to turn people away. Yet we continue to treat God's benevolent giving as a zero sum game. It is as if there is a limit to God's blessings and if we share these

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**SENIOR PASTOR
STEVE HARTTEN**

Peace Lutheran Church
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St. Joseph, MI 49085
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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.*

Mark your calendars and get those toes flip-flop ready: the First day of Summer is June 21st!



COUNCIL MINUTES

Monday, May 17, 2021
6:30 p.m.

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

Absent: Virgil Bennett

Also Present: Pastor Hartten

Call to Order: Ed Zajac called the meeting to order at 6:34pm.

Open Devotion/Prayer Pastor Steve Hartten
 Pastor Hartten's devotion was based on Psalm 91. The first verse says "Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty." With all of our church's debates on what to do about COVID, masks, gloves, etc, this Psalm is God's way of conveying the theme of God's protection and rescue from danger if we seek Him and draw near to him. The song, "On eagles wings" is based on Psalm 91. Our church has been blessed, our Protector has kept us safe.

Approval of May agenda
 Bryan made a motion to approve the May agenda and Herb seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Approval of April 2021 minutes made via email.

Treasurer's report		Jon Kooiman (acct. mgr)	
Curr.	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)
Offerings	\$16,671.00	\$15,666.66	\$1,004.34
Thrivent Choice		\$45.83	\$(45.83)
Soup Kitchen		\$33.33	\$(33.33)
Fellowship		\$11.66	\$(11.66)
Interest	\$4.18	-	\$4.18
Total	\$16,675.18	\$15,757.48	\$917.70
Year-to-Date	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)
Offerings	\$56,890.88	\$62,666.72	\$(5,775.84)
Thrivent Choice	\$1,000	\$183.36	\$816.64
Soup Kitchen	\$1,055	\$133.36	\$921.64
Fellowship	\$30	\$46.72	\$(16.72)

Interest	\$16.24	-	\$16.24
Total	\$58,992.12	\$63,030.16	(\$4,038.04)

Old Business
COVID-19 update and discussion

There have been many emails and in-person comments from members showing strong feelings about wearing masks, singing, and social distancing. The council discussed and decided to go with the CDC guidelines with unanimous approval. It will be up to the individuals on wearing a mask. Social distancing will be three feet. We will take down the tape on the first couple of rows in front, two on each side.

Audio/Video Room Clean Up (May) Ed
 This is tabled until next month

Samaritas Information Updates Pastor
 Pastor has had no response to his emails concerning the use of our fellowship hall. This will be tabled until next month.

Playground Equipment Bob
 Ed will contact the township regarding the construction of playground equipment on the property before we investigate the possibility of going forward.

Congregation communication via phone (May) Ed/Pastor Hartten
 Tabled until next month.

Brandi's Computer Pastor Hartten
 Brandi's computer has been installed and is working great.

Ken Berry to discuss Outside Clean-up Ken
 Ken passed around a sign-up sheet for the council to pick an area on the grounds to be responsible for pulling weeds and keeping it looking neat. Many spots left for congregation members to sign-up too. Council discussed and approved the use of the church credit card for a limited number of people to be able to use

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the card for approved purchases for the church.

Standing Committee Reports

Worship

Ken Berry

At the May 16th worship service, Ken presented to the congregation the possibility of doing away with gloves and tongs for pastors and communion assistants and also no gloves for the usher. With a show of hands, the congregation was all in favor of doing away with gloves and tongs. Ken asked for the council's approval. Rich made a motion to approve both the elimination of gloves and tongs for the pastors and communion assistants and the elimination of the gloves for the ushers. Ed seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Fellowship

Nothing to report

Building and Grounds

Virgil

Nothing to report

Pastor's Report

Pastor Hartten

The summary of the pastor's activities are as follows: Church council, Confirmation Instruction, Dean's Meeting in San Antonio, Dean Visit to Christ in Warren, MI, Funeral/Memorial for Marilyn Steele and Sid Hickmott, Funeral Planning, Ruth Bible Study, Home Visits, Lutheran Text Study, NALC Pastor's Conference, Office Visits, Property Clean-up Day, Spectrum Lakeland Round Table, Tuesday Prayer Group, and Worship Services on Good Friday, Maundy Thursday, Mid-week Lent, and Sunday.

The NALC Convocation/Luther week will be held in Corpus Christi, Texas on August 2nd through the 7th. Pastor asked the council members to prayerfully consider attending since our church is allowed one delegate to attend with the pastor. If no one from the council would like to attend, the invite will go out to the congregation.

Pastor sent out an 18 page paper titled "Theology of Sacramental Practice." for the council to

read at their leisure. Pastor will present it to the Worship Committee and the Altar Guild. The paper discussed different ways the church could handle wafers and wine when communion is finished.

New Business

Church Flag Pole issues

Virgil

Virgil contacted Benton Harbor Tent and Awning for an estimate to repair the flag pole for safety. They have not responded. We will look into other places that can do the repair.

Greeters for June

Barb Berry

June 6 - Bob and Herb
June 13 - Barb and Teresa
June 20 - Ed and Rich
June 27 - Virgil and Bryan

Discuss Changes to Bank Access Barb Berry

In looking into the individuals that have bank access authority into our accounts at TCF bank, we have discovered Amy Cahill and Kevin Kunst are still on the bank accounts. We need to remove their names from all our accounts. Rich made the motion to remove Amy Cahill and Kevin Kunst from all our bank accounts with TCF immediately and Bryan seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Motion to Adjourn

Teresa made a motion to adjourn.

Closing prayer

Pastor Hartten

Pastor Hartten led the council in praying the Lord's Prayer

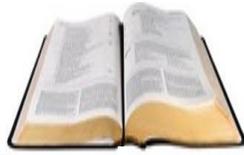
Pastor's Message

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blessings with others, there won't be enough left for me. May we instead willingly share in the bounty God has blessed us; the well won't run dry and the river of mercy won't stop flowing.

A congregation is a local mission outpost to share the Gospel story. That is the main reason for our existence, and any other congregation's existence. Proclaiming the Gospel through word and deed is keeping the main thing the main thing.

THIS MONTH'S READINGS



Sunday, June 6 - Second Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 3:8-15, Psalm 130
2 Corinthians 4:13; 5:1, Mark 3:20-35

Sunday, June 13 - Third Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 17:22-24, Psalm 1
2 Corinthians 5:1-17, Mark 4: 26-34

Sunday, June 20 - Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Job 38:1-11, Psalm 124
2 Corinthians 6:1-13, Mark 4:35-41

Sunday, June 27 - Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Lamentations 3:22-33, Psalm 30
2 Corinthians 8:1-9, 13-15, Mark 5:21-43

The Littlest Things By Joni Eareckson Tada

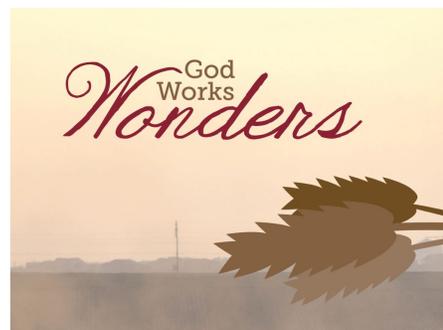
"That night the king could not sleep; so he ordered the book of chronicles, the record of his reign, to be brought to him." - Esther 6:1

One night King Xerxes, the emperor of Persia, can't get to sleep - even with servants to fan away the heat, musicians to serenade him, a harem full of companions, and endless wine to drink himself into oblivion. Who knows why he tosses and turns on his pillow? But instead of calling for fanners, musicians, wine stewards, and concubines, he called for someone to read him the chronicles of his reign (guaranteed to make anyone nod off).

As the reader drones on, an obscure passage gets Xerxes thinking (read about it in chapter 6 of Esther). What he learns that night in the pages of those chronicles precisely prepares Xerxes for an empire-altering request that his wife, Queen Esther, will make of him the next day. The little-known passage tips his mental scales - he will grant the request. And his granting it will end up saving the Jewish race from annihilation. A great people will be spared. And centuries later, this people will produce a young boy who will grow up to die for the sins of the world. All because an emperor could not sleep.

Your life is no exception to God's delight in arranging coincidences. God uses the most innocuous, every day, bland circumstances to engineer the most earth-shattering and significant moments in your life. How He does it is one of the great mysteries. But He does it. Totally natural. But mind-bogglingly complicated.

Father God, thank You for the story of Queen Esther and how You used a minor thing to circumvent a major holocaust. It all resulted in the preservation of Your people, as well as the birth of Jesus. I praise You for the small things You arrange in my life. . . and how they are a part of Your marvelous plan for my good! Amen.



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

Birthdays

2 Elaine Sirk
4 Shawn Cahill
4 Margy Weaver
5 Jerry Pliley
7 Lisa Zajac
8 Shelly Fitzpatrick
9 Keith Chapman
9 Lorene Schlutt
10 Sherri Nitz
13 Brynn Fitzpatrick
17 Christine Bennett
19 Harper Baskin

22 Rylie Fitzpatrick
23 Nolan Fitzpatrick
24 Bryan Sorensen
25 Bradley Dalrymple
25 Nan Hacker
29 Larry Hacker

Anniversaries

9 Richard & Tammy Steinbauer
14 Nancy & Bob Cooley
16 Mark & Becky Carpenter
24 Dominic & Bev So
25 Jim & Jeanine Damaske

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



Hidden History: Understanding the Origins of Racial Inequity

Join Spectrum-Lakeland for the third in a series of three online panel discussions framed by the notion that many people are not aware of the legacy of slavery, the Civil War, Reconstruction, and post-Reconstruction events.

This panel will feature a discussion of pre-World War II race relations which simmered uncomfortably across the nation with notable, and some little-known incidents. It will focus on the struggles of Black professionals in Grand Rapids, the Tulsa Massacre of 1921, and the rise of militarization of the police and their infiltration of white supremacist militia groups.

Tuesday, June 15 at 7p.m. EDT Online via Zoom

Register here:

https://lakemichigancollege.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3jinpehPSq6I6Bf1Piz2hw

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