



**PEACE**  
NORTH AMERICAN  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**June, 2020**



## *PASTOR'S MESSAGE*

Lately I feel like I've been spitting into the wind. I have tried to frame the sacrifices our government asked us to make to minimize the spread of coronavirus as acts of love toward neighbor. The puzzled looks or the outright dismissal of my position does not give me hope. It seems that the Christian faith has had minimal influence on how individuals have behaved during the COVID-19 pandemic.

I realize that our society's focus has made living a faithful life an uphill battle. Our nation is so captivated by individual rights that the concept of community gets pushed aside. I cherish my individual rights and freedom. Yet, at the same time, I belong to a neighborhood and a community. For me it is a both/and situation, not an either/or. The ability to see it as a both/and is derived from my faith.

Christianity came out of Judaism; both religions stress community. The Apostle Paul writes, "Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with each other." (Romans 12: 15-16) While not disparaging the rights of an individual, Paul is also reminding the members of the faith community that they are connected. I am called to rejoice in a member's success, they are called to weep along with me when I fail. The faith community is more than a

collection of individuals; there is a bonding, a connection that comes through a shared confession of faith. I fear this aspect of the faith is being forgotten.

When a lawyer asked Jesus, which was the greatest commandment in the Law, Jesus replied, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22: 36-39)

While we know we fail to fulfill the first commandment, at least we make attempts and we gather during worship to confess our shortcomings. I wonder if the stress caused by the current pandemic has caused us to forget that Jesus linked loving neighbor to loving God. The adjustments we have been asked to make to minimize the spread of this virus can be understood to be acts of love toward our neighbor, yet I've heard comments that make me wonder if we stop to consider the impact our actions have on those around us.



**SENIOR PASTOR  
STEVE HARTTEN**

**Peace Lutheran Church**  
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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:  
Jim Damaske 769-3792

**Weekly Worship &  
Praise Opportunities:**

*Sunday*  
**10:15 a.m. Worship**  
*on Facebook Live*  
or  
*YouTube Live*  
(see Page 7 for info)  
*Permission to podcast/stream*  
*the music in our services*  
*obtained from One License*  
*with license #A-722704.*

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# COUNCIL MINUTES

**Peace Lutheran Church  
Council Minutes (via Zoom)  
Monday, May 18, 2020  
6:30 p.m.**

**Members present:** Virgil Bennett, Barb Berry, Mark Carpenter, Herb Kroening, Bob Phillips, Bev So, Bryan Sorensen, Rich Steinbauer, Ed Zajac

**Also present:** Pastor Hartten

**Call to Order**

Bev So called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

**Opening Devotion/Prayer**

Pastor Hartten's devotion was taken from Ephesians 1:11-14. "In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of his glory." We should remember God is in charge and let the work we do be to his glory. Pastor prayed.

**Approval of May agenda**

Bryan made a motion to approve the May agenda and Rich seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Approval of April 2020 minutes made via email**

**Treasurer's report**

March	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)
Offerings	\$17,395	\$15,450	\$1,945
Thrivent Choice	\$462	\$67	\$395
Soup Kitchen	-	\$33	(\$33)
Fellowship	-	\$25	(\$25)
Misc.	-	\$35	(\$35)
Interest	\$16	\$16	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$17,837</b>	<b>\$15,626</b>	<b>\$2,247</b>

Year-to-Date	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)
Offerings	\$54,035	\$61,800	(\$7,765)
Thrivent Choice	\$462	\$268	\$194
Soup Kitchen	\$450	\$132	\$318
Fellowship	\$632	\$100	\$532
Misc.	-	\$140	(\$140)
Interest	\$64	\$64	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$55,643</b>	<b>\$62,504</b>	<b>(\$6,861)</b>

**Old business**

**Booth at Berrien County Youth Fair Bob Phillips**

According to the web site for the BCYF, the fair has not been cancelled at this time. The favorable point is most of the fair is held outside, but the crowds might be a problem. Booth rental is \$275 for a prime spot in the commercial building and is \$225 for other spots. There is also an \$85 mandatory insurance charge. Spaces are 8' x 10'. Bob is checking on price to purchase giveaways for our booth and Virgil is checking on rental of a backdrop or the cost to build one. Registering can be made between June 1 and August 1. We will be tabling further discussion until the June meeting.

**Audio visual equipment purchase Bryan Sorensen**

The new equipment is installed and working. Streaming on YouTube and Facebook worked well last week. There are lots of views on our media streams.

**Congregational priorities/council focus Bev So/  
Pastor Hartten**

Council discussed the six priorities that the congregation chose to focus on. These are not in any particular order.

1. Better Utilization of Social Media.

With the COVID 19, we have been using social media to stay in contact. This is a start.

2. Amend Policy and Procedure Manual to allow communal use of the Fellowship Hall.

Council formed a committee. Brian, Mark, Virgil and Rich will start working on the manual.

3. Establish Small Group/Cells to strengthen faith and provide fellowship among members - cells can be informal gathering.

Bev, Barb and Virgil will start getting ideas together.

4. Better Utilization of the North Property.

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# Pastor's Message

*Continued from Page 1*

In Paul's first letter to the Corinthian Church, he writes concerning dietary practices, "But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak." (1 Cor. 8.9) The request to wear a mask, the request to maintain six feet of distance does impinge upon my rights and freedom, yet following these guidelines is one way to protect those who are weak both physically and spiritually. My wearing a mask might lead someone embarrassed to wear a mask to put one on. My wearing a mask keeps my spittle and germs from reaching someone else. Following newly installed arrows on the floor of a supermarket is inconvenient, but it helps maintain social distance guidelines. Yet these simple tasks have raised the ire of many, sometimes bringing out the worst possible behaviors.

I understand that there has been tremendous economic hardship as a result of government policies. I do not intend to minimize that aspect of the government's actions. Compared to what our parents

or grandparents were asked to sacrifice for the good of neighbor and nation during WWII, we don't have much to complain about.

Here is the difference between then and now: eighty years ago the nation was united with a common purpose, there was a common understanding regarding what the sacrifice was for and that we were all in it together. There was a sense of community, and an understanding of neighbor that is difficult to find today. Perhaps eventually this country will rediscover what it means to be concerned for the neighbor; it will no doubt take time. For now, it is my prayer that Christian congregations intentionally begin to focus anew on what it means to love one's neighbor, as well as loving oneself. If so, then we can be the yeast that leavens the loaf, restoring a sense of togetherness that is missing in society. Jesus commanded us to love one another as he loved us. If there is to be an awakening in this country, it will start with Jesus' followers living out his teachings and demonstrating what togetherness looks like. Only then, as the Church sets an example, will concern for neighbor spread throughout society.

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## Council Minutes

*Continued from Page 2*

Bob, Ed and Herb formed a committee to look into ideas. Bob suggested a Christmas Living Nativity for a community event and will look into aspects of putting this together. Another suggestion is playground equipment. Committee will bring ideas back to the council.

5. Host Fundraisers for larger communal needs.
6. Establish a late-afternoon/early evening contemporary worship service.

The last two items will be discussed at a later date.

### Standing Committee Reports

#### Worship and Music via email

**Ken Berry/  
Pastor Steve**

1. Discuss suggestions for reconvening church services.

Council discussed the Worship Committee's recommendations for ways to safely reopen the church when restrictions are lifted. A possible date for reopening the church is June 14, depending on government restrictions at that time.

2. Request to purchase sanitary gloves, masks, and automatic sanitizer dispensing stands.

Virgil will contact businesses to purchase the needed items. We will try to buy locally if possible.

Rich made a motion to approve recommendations of the Worship Committee and Bryan seconded the motion. The motion carried. It was decided that the

recommendations for reopening the church will be sent out to the congregation with the next newsletter. It was suggested by the council to hold a couple of summer services outside. Pastor will take this suggestion back to the Worship Committee.

### Building/Property

**Virgil Bennett**

Virgil has been working hard to get the church ready to safely reopen. He has been cleaning and sanitizing the church and Fellowship Hall. When we have a date to reopen, the church will be ready.

### Pastor's Report

**Pastor Hartten**

The summary of pastor's activities are as follows: Church Council, Home Visits, Office Visits, Philippians Bible Study, Podcast, Telephone calls, Tuesday Evening Prayer Meeting, Virtual Lutheran Clergy Text Study, Worship Committee (virtual), Worship Sunday (virtual), Zoom Visits

### New Business

Kevin Kunst made a request to purchase five yards of mulch for the grounds. Cost is \$29.99 per yard. Mark made a motion to approve the purchase of mulch and Virgil seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Motion to adjourn** Mark made a motion to adjourn.

### Closing prayer

Pastor prayed.

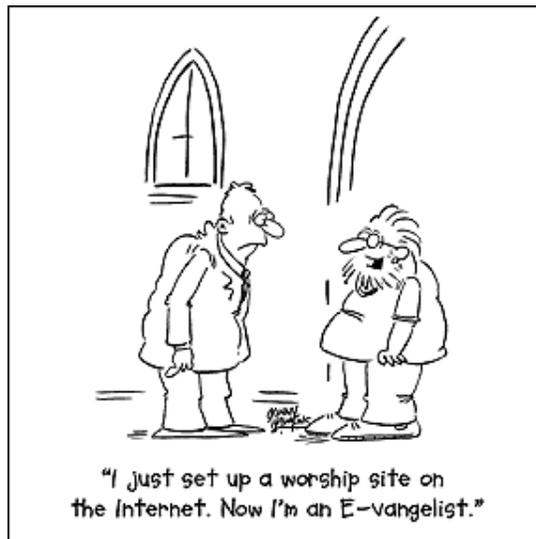
**Pastor Hartten**

# Plans to Resume In-person Worship at Peace are a “Work in Progress”

The Worship Committee met in May and began discussing plans for how Peace will reopen for public worship. This is a difficult process as the decision to open affects a congregation whose population is primarily in the “at risk” group. The overarching focus was how to ensure safety of those coming to worship—the result is that there will be substantial changes to how worship is conducted at Peace.

In the short term, the goal is to minimize the potential to spread the infection. As scientists learn more about the coronavirus, our practices will be adjusted. Over time, we will have to develop ways to worship that recognizes we will be living with this disease, and implementing steps to minimize risk. Everyone’s patience and understanding will be required as we begin to gather. The following recommendations were submitted by the Worship Committee to the Church Council and approved as follows:

- Church Council Members will continue to serve as Outside Greeters, and they will be wearing masks or face coverings to prevent the spread of saliva.
  - Nametags and Friendship Registers will not be used, these will be phased in as time goes by.
  - Facemasks are recommended in consideration of others attending worship. A supply of masks will be on hand if a person does not have one. If a worshiper refuses to wear a mask they will be asked to sit in the front row to minimize the risk of infection to others.
  - There will no longer be an Inside Greeter at the Sanctuary Doors. The Inside Greeter will staff the Welcome Center Desk and be wearing a mask or face covering.
  - An Usher will be stationed at the Sanctuary Doors and will distribute the worship bulletins while wearing a mask and gloves.
  - Offerings will be collected by placing an offering plate on a stand in the center aisle of the Sanctuary. An Usher will not collect the offering. This practice has worked well on Wednesday night worship during Advent and Lent.
  - Every other pew will be roped off, and individuals will be asked to sit six feet apart. Nuclear families may sit together; otherwise social distancing will be the norm.
  - Notices about seating policy will be printed in the worship bulletin, in the monthly Newsletter, and in Monday’s “This Week at Peace.” Additionally there will be large signs attached to the Narthex entrance doors and the Fellowship Hall doors.
- There will not be any singing as we resume worship; music will be provided and worshipers will be encouraged to meditate on the words. Studies have shown the singing produces aerosols that remain in the air for longer periods of time. Singing will be introduced at a later time.
  - Holy Communion will not be celebrated the first few weeks. Time will be allowed to adjust to the new patterns of worship before introducing this portion of worship.
  - The Sharing of the Peace will be reintroduced with the institution of Holy Communion. The Peace will be shared by a modified wave, placing a hand over one’s heart, or a simple verbal response. There will be no person-to-person contact.
  - At the end of worship, the ushers will dismiss attendees by rows. Dismissal will be directed toward the aisles at the outer edge of the Sanctuary to avoid congestion in the center aisle.
  - The Pastor will not stand at the Sanctuary doors to greet people after worship. Worshipers will be encouraged to leave the narthex and precede to the outdoors.
  - Outside Greeters will hold the Narthex door open to facilitate the flow of people to outside.
  - Mingling in the narthex before or after worship is discouraged. Visiting can occur outside on the front lawn or in the parking lot, observing the six-foot social distancing guidelines. Hand Sanitizer stands will be available in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall for people who desire to sanitize their hands. As restrictions are lifted and we learn how to worship anew, singing and Holy Communion will resume with modifications.



## Holding a Hand

by Pastor Bob Tasler (LCMS)

The nurse escorted the anxious old man to the bedside of the young man. "Your father is here," she whispered to the patient. She had to repeat the words several times before the patient's eyes opened. He was heavily sedated from the pain of a terrible auto accident. Barely able to see, he read out his hand and squeezed the old man's hand. The nurse brought in a chair and placed it next to the bed. All through the night the old man sat holding the young man's hand, offering gentle words of hope. The dying man said nothing, just held tightly to the man's hand.

As dawn approached, the young man died. The old man wept as he placed the lifeless hand back on the bed and went to call the nurse. "Who was he?" he asked. Startled, the nurse replied, "I thought he was your son." "No, he wasn't my son. I've never seen him before. I was looking for someone who was supposed to be on this floor and you brought me to this room." "Then why didn't you say something when you realized the mistake?" the nurse asked. He replied, "He was injured so badly. I was here ten minutes before I realized this wasn't the young man I was looking for. But he seemed too sick to tell the difference, so I just stayed. I think he needed a father by his side."

And so do we. Our most basic need is to be loved, to be approved, to be valued. We can tolerate a mountain of trouble if we know someone loves us. Our heavenly Father does, so He is by our side, and He will never leave us. He holds our hand when we're sick and quiets our heart when we're troubled. Then He asks us to be His hands to hold the hands of others and to be His voices and feet to do His errands of mercy. Join me in doing this, won't you?

## June Michigan Mission District Mission Trip Cancelled

The Michigan Mission District's trip to Dayton, Ohio, for June has been cancelled due to uncertainty over COVID-19 and concern for the safety of volunteers.

## Flower sales to end June 5

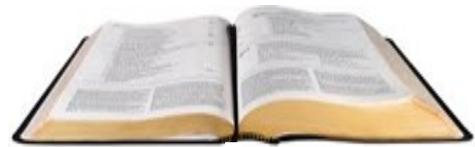
Friday, June 5, will be the last day to purchase Barbotts flower certificates for 2020. At this point, the church only has certificates for 4" square pots remaining. To purchase certificates, contact Shari Schmidt.



## A new way to support Peace financially

If you are ordering an item from Amazon there is an option to click on a link for "Amazon Smile." This link is a way of requesting a charitable donation be made to the organization of your choice. Peace Lutheran Church is one of those organizations! If you are so inclined, the next time you order from Amazon please register with the Smile link and a small percentage of your qualifying purchase will be donated to our congregation.

## THIS MONTH'S READINGS



### Sun., June 7 - Holy Trinity Sunday

Genesis 1:1-2:4a, Psalm 8

Acts 2:14a, 22-36, Matthew 28:16-20

### Sun., June 14 - Second Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 19:2-8, Psalm 100

Romans 5:6-15, Matthew 9:35-10:20

### Sun., June 21 - Third Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 20:7-13, Psalm 91:1-16

Romans 6:12-23, Matthew 10:5a, 21-33

### Sun., June 28 - Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 28:5-9, Psalm 119:153-160

Romans 7:1-13, Matthew 10:34-42

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 9-12 Office Hours	2 9-12 Office Hours 7p Prayer Mtg via Zoom	3 9-12 Office Hours	4 9-12 Office Hours 7p Finding I AM via Zoom	5 Office closed	6
7 10:15 Worship via FB Live and YouTube	8 9-12 Office Hours 7p Worship Committee Mtg	9 9-12 Office Hours 7p Prayer Mtg via Zoom	10 9-12 Office Hours	11 9-12 Office Hours 7p Finding I AM via Zoom	12 Office closed Soup Kitchen	13
14 10:15 Worship	15 9-12 Office Hours 6:30p Council	16 9-12 Office Hours 7p Prayer Mtg via Zoom	17 9-12 Office Hours	18 News Due 9-12 Office Hours	19 Office closed	20
21 10:15 Worship	22 9-12 Office Hours	23 9-12 Office Hours 7p Prayer Mtg via Zoom	24 9-12 Office Hours	25 9-12 Office Hours	26 Office closed	27
28 10:15 Worship	29 9-12 Office Hours	30 9-12 Office Hours 7p Prayer Mtg via Zoom	27 9-12 Office Hours	28 9-12 Office Hours	29 Office closed	30

## Birthdays

2 Ron Wilson  
4 Shawn Cahill  
5 Jerry Pliley  
7 Liza Zajac  
8 Shelly Fitzpatrick  
9 Keith Chapman  
9 Lorene Schlutt  
10 Shane Miller  
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  
29 Jeannette Jeske

## Anniversaries

9 Rich & Tammy Steinbauer  
16 Mark & Becky Carpenter  
16 Brian & Kelly Nimtze  
24 Dominic & Beverly So  
25 Jim & Jeanine Damaske

25 Doug & Sandy Landis

## 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  
Roger and Elaine Sirk  
Barbara Southland  
Mildred Wantz



Scrip will look different when we return to church because we will be using a contact-free delivery method.

If you would like to purchase Scrip cards, you will need to contact Shari Schmidt at 983-2590 or [thegrndldy@gmail.com](mailto:thegrndldy@gmail.com) with your order no later than 5 p.m. on Saturdays. Shari will have your order ready for you and in an envelope at the Scrip desk when you walk in the door of the church on Sunday morning. There will be a box on the desk for you to deposit your check before taking your order envelope.

We're hoping to return to worship at Peace yet this month!  
*See Page 4 for more information about what that might look like.*

Meanwhile join us for "live" worship Sundays at 10:15 a.m.  
on the Church Facebook Page:

**Peace Lutheran Church NALC**

or on the church YouTube channel:

**Pastor Peace**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeIZ8L41wJIGdyn8Ki818dA>

