



PEACE
NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 2023



NOVEMBER 5, 2023 COUNCIL MEETING

Opening Prayer: Virgil Bennett

Motion by Ginger seconded by Herb to approve the Agenda of November 5, 2023 with the Fresh Eyes Mission Summit (FEMS) added to the agenda. All ayes. Motion carried

Motion by Virgil second by Ginger to approve the Minutes of the October 22, 2023 Council meeting. All ayes Motion carried

OLD BUSINESS

On-Call Update - Deb Kroening - Deb informed the Council members of changes in the original Covenant to Pastor Walker, "I will", was added to every sentence. Deb stated a meeting was set up with Pastor Walker, herself and the Executive Council members at 6:30 on November 6, 2023 to discuss Salary, Housing and Health Insurance and also signing of the Covenant. Pastor Walker's starting date will be November 11, 2023. Discussion on Pastor Walker's classes, review after 6 months and NALC.

Stephen Ministry - Virgil and Teresa finished the first stages of Stephen Ministry Program. Virgil and Teresa stated they will put the Stephen Ministries on hold until after a new Pastor is hired.

Fresh Eyes Mission Summit (FEMS) - The program was nicely attended. The council decided look at the summary

sheets from Dr. Wendel and take the issues one at a time to consider each point. Also it was decided the council is going to rewrite/simplify the Mission Statement.

It was agreed that Dominic did a great job putting together the FEMS Program.

The council decided that since we now have a new pastor, Pastor Walker and John will be responsible for generating the weekly Bulletin with regard for content provided by the Worship Committee, the church's musicians and other sources.

Motion by Ginger seconded by Bob that effective immediately Pastor Walker and John will be solely responsible for production and review of the Bulletin. All ayes. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Nursing Home Member Rides - Virgil explained to the council Barb Morgan's idea of giving rides to the Shut-ins so they can attend church. There are many things to consider such as number and size of vehicles, driver/volunteers, discussion took place. The council decided to table giving rides to the shut-ins until more information is available.

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.

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.



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Vice Pastor Continuation/Compensation/Mentor

- Pastor Zornow sent the Council an email explaining his involvement with Pastor Walker. Pastor Zornow agreed to come to Peace Church once a month to bless the Communion Elements, mentor Pastor Walker for two (2) hours to help him better understand Lutheranism and to continue attending to the Council meetings. Pastor Zornow will be compensated for his involvement.

Motion by Virgil second by Bob to accept Pastor Zornow's e-mail of his involvement with Pastor Walker. All ayes. Motion carried

December 3, 2023 will be Pastors Zornow's last Church Service.

Louise Solak is a new member of the Worship Committee also a former Worship Committee Chairman. She sent the Executive Committee a e-mail regarding Worship and Music. Worship Committee & Music should meet and come up with a recommendation and the council will consider.

Closing Prayer - Teresa Hogan

Motion by Herb to adjourn at 1:50pm. All ayes. Motion carried.

Pastor Zornow's Last Sunday



Pastor Zornow's final Sunday will be December 3rd! There will be a council meeting to follow after service on this day. Although this would be his last Sunday, he will still come to Peace Lutheran Church to bless the sacraments for Pastor Walker and help with other church needs.

Welcome Pastor Walker!

Previously, a Congregational vote was held for Pastor Walker to be brought on as a Commissioned Lay Minister for Peace Lutheran Church through the NALC. The congregation had a unanimous vote in favor of Pastor Walker, and we are happy to have him come on board for our church!



Scam Alert



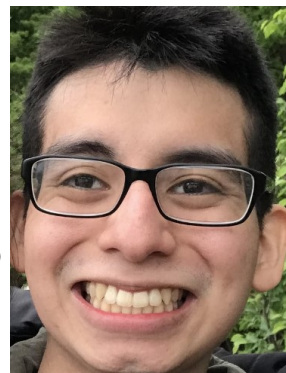
We've been notified of phishers/scams attempting to trick people. What makes this worse is that the scammers are using Pastor Zornow's name to lure others.

If you receive a message from someone asking for a favor who claims to be Pastor Zornow, please take caution if you decide to respond. This is most likely NOT him but in fact a scammer.

A Parting Blessing from John

To all members and friends of the church that I've interacted with—thank you. This has been an uplifting community to be a part of. I hope the community grows and can bring along more people.

I believe the church is in a good state despite my departure with the onboarding of Pastor Walker. I trust that things will only continue to become better, especially with the search of a new pastor being over. I wish I didn't have to part ways so soon. Unfortunately, time's a thief that steals away before it's duly reckoned.



Mortgage Burning Fiesta



Last month in November, we made our final payment for Thrivent Financial towards the church mortgage. The church is now officially paid off, and we are looking to celebrate the occasion by having a small “Mortgage Burning” party immediately after service on December 10th.

REMINDER: Soup Kitchen will be taking place on December 8th.



Tree Lighting & Christmas Movie Showing



In case you missed our previous announcements, we will be lighting the tree outside on Saturday, December 2nd at 6 p.m. Followed by this, we will screen a short film on A Charlie Brown Christmas or A Garfield Christmas! There will be hot chocolate and Christmas cookies provided to all who join in our festivity!

Men's Bible Study

There will be a Men's Bible Study group session held weekly on Thursday mornings. These will take place at 8:30 a.m.

- Materials provided for Individual Study (20-30 minutes per day, your own devotion)
Participants prepare for weekly meeting with the 5-day leaflet that provides scripture readings and related questions.
- Group Discussion : With a prepared discussion leader, group discuss the week's lesson.
- Group Lecture (20 minutes) Participant may choose to share but is non-mandatory. Everyone meets for a lecture, which further clarifies the lesson. Lecture is provided to voluntary leader.





DECEMBER

THIS MONTH'S READINGS



Welcome Center

Lector

12/3	Ginger Kunst	Greg Solak
12/10	Chris Bennett	Virgil Bennett
12/17	Margaret Schmieding	Larry Hacker
12/24	Beverly So	Herb Kroening
12/31	Barb Walker	Teresa Hogan

Altar Guild

12/3	Ginger Kunst
12/10	Nan Hacker
12/17	Margaret Schmeiding
12/24	Beverly So
12/31	Teresa Hogan

Greeters

12/3	Chris & Virgil Bennett
12/10	Ginger Kunst & Teresa Hogan
12/17	Bob Phillips & Herb Kroening
12/24	Chris Bennett & Ginger Kunst
12/31	Bob Phillips & Herb Kroening

December 3, 2023

First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7;
1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

December 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85;
2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8

December 17, 2023

Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126;
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8,
19-28

December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-11; Psalm 89:1-5, 19-29;
Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

December 31, 2023

First Sunday after Christmas

Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 111; Galatians
4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40



"The sun (son) is always shining; it's just that sometimes the clouds (of life) get in the way!"

Visit our website!



Worship Committee Meeting Times



The meeting times for the Worship Committee has changed from 7pm to 1pm on every third Tuesday of the month. The next meeting for the Worship Committee will be on December 19th!

If you have any concerns regarding this, please reach out to the Worship Committee Chairperson, Dominic So.

January Blood Drive

American Red Cross

Give blood. Help save lives.



Blood Drive
Peace Lutheran Church
3590 Lincoln Avenue, St. Joseph

Thursday, January 11, 2024
11:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

For an appointment visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter sponsor code: PEACELUTHERAN, or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).



Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.



Although the blood drive is over a month away, it's never a bad thing to spread the word early! With that said, please spread the word for anyone who may be looking to donate their blood for those in need. You can help make a difference for that one person's life.

“Greening” of the Church

On Sunday, November 26th, Peace Lutheran Church underwent some redecorating for the new Advent season. We had members help with the effort, and their effort was rewarded with some well earned pizza! Below are a few pictures of the new additions to our church.



Welcome Laura Ruble!

Laura has accepted the secretary position and will be replacing John in our office starting Monday, December 4th. If you'd like, stop by and give her a grand welcome to our community!

 **Our Staff**

Advent Bible Study



Next Bible Class will start on *Tuesday mornings, November 21st at 10:00 a.m.*

Books will be available the week prior. You do not need to pay for the books. This is a five-week class on Faithful “Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph” by Adam Hamilton. You do not need to be a member to attend.

Typically, when Christians explore stories surrounding the birth of Jesus, they focus on Mary, the mother of Jesus. In this study, our focus will be on Joseph, his life, and his role in the birth and life of Jesus. We don’t often hear about Joseph because there is relatively little in the Gospels about him. So we have to read between the lines to fill in the picture of Joseph’s life, and to some extent we must use our imagination to connect the bits of information we do find in the Gospels.

As we do this, we will find that there’s more than meets the eye in the New Testament accounts of Joseph’s life.

Class Days:

December 5: “Raising a Child Not Your Own”

December 12: “The Journey to Bethlehem”

December 19: “The Rest of the Story”

Pray for Harold Lick

We ask that you pray for Harold Lick, as he is currently at Corewell Hospital and is one of our shut-ins who suffers from dementia. He recently fell, broke a rib, and punctured a lung. He will likely be moved to a medical facility the first weekend of December. Please keep him in your thoughts over this wintery month.

December 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Office Closed	2 6pm Tree Lighting & Christmas Movie
3 10:15 Worship w/communion Council Mtg after service	4 9-12 Office Hrs	5 9-12 Office Hrs 10am Advent Bible Study	6 9-12 Office Hrs 6:00 Bingo	7 9-12 Office Hrs 8:30am Men's Bible Study	8 Office Closed Soup Kitchen	9
10 10:15 Worship w/communion 11:00 Mortgage Burning Party	11 9-12 Office Hrs	12 9-12 Office Hrs 10am Advent Bible Study	13 9-12 Office Hrs 6:00 Bingo	14 9-12 Office Hrs 8:30am Men's Bible Study	15 Office Closed	16
17 10:15 Worship w/communion	18 9-12 Office Hrs	19 9-12 Office Hrs 10am Advent Bible Study 1pm Worship Committee Mtg	20 9-12 Office Hrs 6:00 Bingo	21 9-12 Office Hrs 8:30am Men's Bible Study	22 Office Closed	23
24 10:15 Worship w/communion	25 9-12 Office Hrs	26 9-12 Office Hrs	27 9-12 Office Hrs 6:00 Bingo	28 9-12 Office Hrs	29 Office Closed	30
31 10:15 Worship w/communion						



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

- 2 Marilyn Riley
- 7 Josh Lochner
- 9 Jesse Spiker
- 12 Sharon Schmidt
- 22 Olivia Carpenter
- 24 Marilyn Hettig
- 31 Gerald Schlutt

Shut-Ins

To keep our shut-ins safe, please call the church office for mailing addresses.

- Leona Barowicz
- Andrea Barowicz
- Evelyn Chevrette
- Darlene Gaul

- Marilyn Hettig
- Delores Kraklau
- Harold Lick
- Betty Pliley
- Jerry Pliley
- Ruth Retzke
- Gloria Siewert
- Jane Wilson

Southshore Concert Band



If you're looking to spend some time during this month on holiday celebrations, then please feel free to attend the Southshore Concert Band's "Christmas on the Mainstage" on *Sunday, December 10* at 2:00 p.m. This will take place at Lake Michigan College on the Mendel Center Mainstage, and admission is FREE!

The band is comprised of passionate volunteers located through Southwest Michigan and Northern Indiana. This is a great way to cool off from the Mortgage Burning that will be going on earlier in the day at Peace Lutheran Church.



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