



**PEACE**  
NORTH AMERICAN  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**May 2021**



## *PASTOR'S MESSAGE*

There have been a series of articles in the past month about the continuing attendance decline among houses of worship in the United States. Just 47% of the US population are members of a church, mosque or synagogue, according to a survey by Gallup, down from 70% two decades ago – in part a result of millennials turning away from religion but also, experts say, a reaction to the swirling mix of politics and Christianity. As I understand the various authors, the reaction is not based on Christians publicly sharing their faith while in government; the reaction is based on attempts to enact laws that promote and protect beliefs that are contained within Christianity, but not necessarily shared by all Christians.

As congregations deal with declining membership numbers, it becomes tempting to turn to legislation to impart Christian values on a culture that is moving away from Christianity. After all, most of us were taught we were founded as a Christian nation. While I would agree that Christianity influenced our founding documents,

I'm not sure that 18<sup>th</sup> Century politicians would agree whole-heartedly with the modern belief that the United States was a unified Christian nation. Washington and Jefferson had beliefs more in line with Unitarianism and Deists than Orthodox Christianity. The Separation of Church and State came about because there were disagreements over which 'church' was "the Church." Anabaptists (modern-day Baptists and others who practiced adult baptism by immersion) were kicked out of the Puritan/Congregational Massachusetts Bay Colony and founded Rhode Island. Quakers in Pennsylvania didn't see eye-to-eye with Anglicans and Roman Catholics in Maryland. The Reformed Tradition (followers of Calvin's Reformation) in New York City and the Hudson River Valley had their

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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.*

**The Day of Pentecost is May 23rd**  
Remember to wear red to worship to commemorate the gift of the Holy Spirit arriving in the form of wind and fire!



# COUNCIL MINUTES

**Monday, April 19, 2021**  
**6:30 p.m.**

**Members present:** Barb Berry, Virgil Bennett, Teresa Hogan, Herb Kroening, Bob Phillips, Bryan Sorensen, Rich Steinbauer

**Absent:** Ed Zajac

**Also Present:** Pastor Hartten

**Call to Order:** Richard Steinbauer called the meeting to order at 6:38pm.

**Open Devotion/Prayer Pastor Steve Hartten**

Pastor Hartten's devotion was based on Luke 24:36-49. Jesus appeared to the disciples in the upper room. He showed the disciples his hands and feet. Jesus opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures and explained what was written. From Easter Day the focus has been outward. Over time our church must focus beyond ourselves to welcome people in. Pastor prayed.

**Approval of April agenda**

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

**Approval of March 2021** minutes made via email.

**Treasurer's report Jon Kooiman (acct. mgr)**

| <b>Curr.</b>        | <b>Actual</b>      | <b>Budget</b>      | <b>Over/(Under)</b> |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Offerings           | \$11,391.98        | \$15,666.66        | \$(4,274.68)        |
| Thrivent Choice     |                    | \$45.83            | \$(45.83)           |
| Soup Kitchen        | \$325              | \$33.33            | \$291.67            |
| Fellowship          |                    | \$11.66            | \$(11.66)           |
| Interest            | \$3.94             | -                  | \$3.94              |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>\$11,720.92</b> | <b>\$15,757.48</b> | <b>(\$4,036.56)</b> |
| <b>Year-to-Date</b> | <b>Actual</b>      | <b>Budget</b>      | <b>Over/(Under)</b> |
| Offerings           | \$40,219.88        | \$47,000.06        | \$(6,780.18)        |
| Thrivent Choice     | \$1,000            | \$137.53           | \$862.47            |
| Soup Kitchen        | \$1,055            | \$100.03           | \$954.97            |
| Fellowship          | \$30               | \$35.06            | \$(5.06)            |
| Interest            | \$12.06            | -                  | \$12.06             |

**Total \$42,316.94 \$47,272.68 (\$4,955.74)**

**Old Business**

**COVID-19 update and discussion**

Nothing new to discuss

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

The audio/video room in the corner of the basement is full of needed and unneeded equipment and other items. Bryan, Ed, Mark and Josh will be scheduling a day to go through that basement room. About 50% will be going to recycle. They will report back to the council when completed.

**Roof re-shingling/repair contracts**

**Virgil/Pastor**

The roofers ordered the dumpster to be delivered on site. The roofing begins when the weather cooperates. Rich will call TCF Bank to close out the roof fund to put the monies in the general fund to pay for the new roof.

**Samaritas Information Updates Pastor**

Our church is waiting for Samaritas to respond in order to begin their counseling at our church. We received keys and alarm codes for their staff and have everything in place for Samaritas to begin.

**Playground Items for purchase Bob**

Ray Leitz owns playground equipment that he is willing to donate to the church. Rich, Bob and Bryan will talk to Ray about stopping over to his house to look at the equipment next Sunday afternoon after church.

**Congregation communication via phone (May)**

**Pastor Hartten**

Ed and Barb Morgan divided the members of the congregation to call and explain the "congregation communication program" and get permission to add their phone number to the call list. Council will discuss it next month.

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## **Standing Committee Reports**

### **Worship**

No meeting

**Ken Berry**

### **Fellowship**

No meeting

### **Building and Grounds**

**Virgil**

Our church was given the opportunity to become a green faith member. There was a list of environmental tasks in order to qualify. Going through the list, we have eight out of fourteen and will be receiving a certificate.

### **Pastor's Report**

**Pastor Hartten**

The summary of the pastor's activities are as follows: Church Council, Confirmation Instruction, Dean's Zoom Meeting with Dr. Wendel, Funerals for Frank Gaul and Arnie Weaver, Galatians Bible Study, Home Visits, Hospital Visits, Lutheran Text Study, Mission District Zoom Meeting, Office Visits, Spectrum Lakeland Round Table, Tuesday Prayer Group, Worship Services on Good Friday, Maundy Thursday, Mid-week Lent and Sundays.

### **New Business**

#### **Grounds Committee**

**Ken Berry**

Ken contacted Al Marks for mowing and snow plowing. He will keep prices the same and will only come when necessary. Ed gave Ken the go ahead to get the sprinklers working. The cost is \$80 to set up and \$80 to winterize. Four or five heads had to be replaced and he will have a bill sent to the church.

Ken passed out estimates for fertilizing treatments. TruGreen is the lowest at \$164 per treatment for four treatments. Council decided TruGreen should only do two treatments. Rich made a motion to approve two treatments for weed killer application now and fertilizer in the fall with TruGreen. Teresa seconded the motion and the motion carried. Ken is approved for up to \$200 per application for TruGreen if price is more for only two applications.

Ken asked for approval to purchase 15 yards of mulch this year, instead of 10 yards.

The cost would be \$480. Herb made a motion to approve the purchase of 15 yards of mulch. Bryan seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

Larry Hacker sent one of his workers to the church to pull out weeds. The worker and Ken worked for about 3 ½ hours and got a lot accomplished. Thank you, Larry.

Ken brought a sample of an edging that would hold mulch around the island and by the shrubs in front of the building to keep the mulch from washing out during heavy rains. Seven rolls costs \$280 and council approved this purchase.

Ken asked permission from the council to allow the Grounds Committee to move some flowers away from the marquee sign and take out grasses and let grass grow in there. Council gave him permission.

Ken had concerns about all the unnecessary items in the shed. Virgil and Ken are going to reorganize the shed and remove any items that are not needed anymore.

The Grounds Committee will be asking people to sign up to take on the responsibility to pull weeds and care for certain areas.

Ken asked how the development of the property affects the Grounds Committee's responsibilities. Rich said the Grounds Committee would be part of everything on the property.

#### **Brandi's Computer**

**Pastor Hartten**

The hard drive on the computer is starting to fail. Josh recommended the purchase of a solid state drive for \$65, which is a comparable size to the old one. Also the printhead on the Cannon printer on the scrip desk quit working. The price to replace just the printhead is almost the same as a new printer. Virgil made a motion to upgrade the solid state drive for Brandi's computer and purchase the new printer for the scrip desk. Bryan seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

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The money will be taken out of the scrip fund.

Hearing enhancement devices. The church has three hearing enhancement devices and one will have to be replaced. We have four members at this time that need to use these devices. It is recommended to purchase another three devices at about \$124 each. Price includes batteries and ear buds. There is money to cover these in the A/V fund. Herb made a motion to purchase the three new hearing devices and Teresa seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

### **Church Flag Poll**

**Virgil**

Virgil printed out a sheet of flagpole facts describing how unsafe our current flagpole is to those raising and lowering the flag. Virgil made a recommendation to look into modifying the flagpole to eliminate the need for the ladder and make the flag ropes more user friendly. He will call a flagpole company to inspect our flagpole, give recommendations and a cost. Virgil will also have the company perform an inspection for all other parts at the time. Virgil will report back to the council.

### **Greeters for May**

**Barb**

May 2 Bob and Virgil  
May 9 Bryan and Teresa  
May 16 Barb and Rich  
May 23 Theresa and Ed  
May 30 Herb and Bob

### **Motion to Adjourn**

Bryan made a motion to adjourn.

### **Closing prayer**

Pastor prayed.

**Pastor Hartten**

## **Pastor's Message**

*(Continued from page 1)*

own understanding of the Christian faith. Our Founding Fathers agreed that allowing the hodge-podge of religious beliefs was better than promoting one version of Christianity. The modern-day attempts to utilize government to instill Christian practices stands in opposition to the way Jesus' early followers spread the faith. The way the early Christians lived in fellowship with each other, the love extended by this community beyond its members resulted in the Lord adding to their number day by day. (Acts 2: 42-47) All this happened when the pagan religion of the Roman Empire was the official state religion! One does not need a Christian nation for Christianity to flourish. Christianity is growing in modern countries where the majority of the population is not Christian. Legalism is a long way from love, forcing behavior through laws results in a fear-based response. People keep the law to avoid being prosecuted, or they operate around the law in the hope of not getting caught. Compare this to a response based in gratitude for what God through the community of faith has done for an individual. The second response is based in love, not fear. One message of Jesus' cross and resurrection is that love does triumph in the end. We know the end of the story, we know the final outcome. Perhaps relearning our history from the Book of Acts would be a better use of our energy instead of trying to pass laws that further isolate the unchurched.



## Your "Mission Field" is HUGE

Who can you invite to your church? Who can you share your Jesus with? Your field is huge.

- Think of family members, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles.
- Think of neighbors - next door neighbors, elderly persons, and new families in the neighborhood.
- Think of persons you know through sports or hobbies - people with whom you bowl, golf, or play tennis with.
- Think of people at work - supervisors, employees, secretaries, clients, and colleagues you see once in a while.
- Think of friends with whom you dine out - single friends, parents of your child's friends, old friends from school.
- Think of casual associates - your dentist, your doctor, your child's teacher, persons who belong to clubs and professional groups you attend, sales representatives who call on you frequently, and persons who graduated from the same school as you.
- Think especially of persons who are undergoing personal life stresses of some kind.

### Old Church Hymnals Available to Take Home May 2<sup>nd</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>

Peace has a collection of classic, *The Lutheran Hymnal* © 1941 Authorized by the Synods Constituting The Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference of North America. These are well-preserved considering they have been stored outdoors in a shed. If you would like to take one or several for a keepsake, you are welcome to do so. They will be on display in the Fellowship Hall beginning Thursday, April 29<sup>th</sup> and will remain through Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup>. After May 9<sup>th</sup> they will be removed from the property.



### Hidden History: Understanding the Origins of Racial Inequity

Join Spectrum-Lakeland for the second 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. Picking up where the first panel left off, this event will feature a discussion of the aftermath of the Civil War including the failure of Reconstruction, Jim Crow, and how incidents and policies of that era reverberate today.

**Tuesday, May 11 at 7p.m. EDT Online  
via Zoom**

**Register here:**

[https://lakemichigancollege.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_e1VviPCoR8WX-ReoFPjyFA](https://lakemichigancollege.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_e1VviPCoR8WX-ReoFPjyFA)

**THIS MONTH'S  
READINGS**



**Sunday, May 2 - Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 8:26-40, Psalm 150  
1 John 4:1-21, John 15:1-8

**Sunday, May 9 - Sixth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 10:34-48, Psalm 98  
1 John 5:1-8, John 15:9-17

**Sun, May 16 – Seventh Sunday of Easter**

Acts 1:12-26, Psalm 1  
1 John 5:9-15, John 17:11-19

**Sunday, May 23 - Day of Pentecost**

Ezekiel 37:1-14, Psalm 139:1-16  
Acts 2:1-21, John 15:26-27, 16:4-15

**Sunday, May 30 - Holy Trinity Sunday**

Isaiah 6:1-8, Psalm 29  
Acts 2:14, 22-36, John 3:1-17

*Still saving change? Time to bring it in!  
Those coins make a big difference, but we  
will gladly take green paper and checks!*

**PENNIES FOR PATIENTS**



*Our Collection Runs Now  
to May 9<sup>th</sup>, Mother's Day!*

Berrien County Cancer Service provides a unique nursing service for people in Berrien County, specializing in skilled home nursing care for cancer patients and those with related serious illnesses **at no cost, thanks to your donations.**

**Neighbors Helping Neighbors.  
Together, we can make a difference  
to cancer patients and families in need.**

Please consider making a donation.   
Perhaps in honor of, or in memory of a loved one,  
or in thanks for a personal blessing of healing.

*Writing a check? Please write it to Peace Lutheran Church  
with "BCCS Pennies" on the memo line.  
Cards and envelopes are available at the collection jar.*

*Thank you for your support and prayers*

**Book of Ruth Bible Study  
Begins May 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup>**

Pastor Steve will be leading a 5 session Bible Study on the Old Testament Book of Ruth. The narrative takes place during the time of the Judges in Israel, "a time when everyone did what was right in his own eyes." We will explore the contrast between being faithful to God and doing what is right in God's eyes verses doing whatever I think is right. Classes will be held on-line on Sunday nights, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. and Monday afternoons, 1:00 – 2:30 pm. There are no special books to purchase, just bring your Bible! Please sign up on the sheet in the church hallway.



**National Day of Prayer  
(Virtual)**

**Thursday, May 6 at noon  
Dial 701-801-6523 to join the call**

**National Day of Prayer: May 6th at 12:15pm  
(Bridgman City Hall)**

**Gather Around the Flagpole at Bridgman  
City Hall  
9765 Maple Street  
Bridgman, MI**

**All are welcome to gather around the  
flagpole to pray.**

| Sun                                                                                  | Mon                                                                                   | Tue                                                                                  | Wed                                                        | Thu                                                                                                      | Fri                                                      | Sat                             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
|                                                                                      |                                                                                       |                                                                                      |                                                            |                                                                                                          |                                                          | 1<br>Spring Clean Up<br>9am-1pm |
| 2<br>10:15 Worship<br>Service<br>w/communion                                         | 3 9-12 Office Hrs<br>7p Fellowship<br>Committee<br>Pastor Steve @<br>Pastor's Meeting | 4 9-12 Office Hrs<br>7p Prayer Mtg via<br>Zoom<br>Pastor Steve @<br>Pastor's Meeting | 5<br>9-12 Office Hrs<br>Pastor Steve @<br>Pastor's Meeting | 6 9-12 Office Hrs<br>Pastor Steve @<br>Pastor's Meeting<br>National Day of<br>Prayer @ noon<br>Choir 7pm | 7<br>Office closed<br>Pastor Steve @<br>Pastor's Meeting | 8                               |
| 9<br>Mother's Day<br>10:15 Worship<br>w/communion<br>Bible Study via<br>Zoom 630-8pm | 10 9-12 Office<br>Hrs<br>Bible Study 1-230<br>7pm - Worship<br>Committee              | 11<br>9-12 Office Hours<br>7p Prayer Mtg via<br>Zoom                                 | 12<br>9-12 Office Hours                                    | 13<br>9-12 Office Hours<br>Choir 7pm                                                                     | 14<br>Office closed                                      | 15                              |
| 16<br>10:15 Worship<br>w/communion<br>Bible Study via<br>Zoom 6:30-8pm               | 17 9-12 Office<br>Hrs<br>Bible Study 1-230<br>6:30pm - Council<br>Meeting             | 18<br>9-12 Office Hours<br>7p Prayer Mtg via<br>Zoom                                 | 19<br>9-12 Office Hours                                    | 20<br>9-12 Office Hours<br>Choir 7pm                                                                     | 21<br>Office closed                                      | 22                              |
| 23 10:15 Worship<br>w/communion *<br><br>30 10:15 Worship<br>w/communion *           | 24 9-12<br>Office Hours **<br><br>31 Memorial Day<br>Office closed                    | 25<br>9-12 Office Hours<br>7p Prayer Mtg via<br>Zoom                                 | 26<br>9-12 Office Hours                                    | 27<br>9-12 Office Hours                                                                                  | 28<br>Office Closed                                      | 29                              |

\*Bible Study via Zoom 630-8pm \*\*Bible Study 1-230pm (in-person)

### Birthdays

1 Roger Siewert  
2 Teresa Hogan  
6 Ruth Retzke  
11 Barb Berry  
12 Ainsley Cahill  
14 Nancy Cooley  
15 Lee Hornack  
23 Eleanor Rinas  
25 Loretta Hartten  
26 Miles Farmer  
27 Darlene Gaul  
28 Amy Cahill  
31 Patrick Cahill

### Anniversaries

7 Josh & April  
Lochner  
12 Ray & Cathy  
Dalrymple  
14 James & Judith  
Priebe  
18 Virgil &  
Christine Bennett  
23 Ken & Barb  
Berry  
30 Kevin & Carrie  
Kutchie

### 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



## Pastor Steve in San Antonio, TX

The 2021 NALC Pastor's Conference is May 3-6, 2021 in San Antonio, TX. At the conclusion of the Pastor's Conference the Deans will have a meeting May 6-7, 2021. Pastor Steve will be attending as the Dean of the Michigan Mission District. If you desire Pastoral Care during this week, please contact Pastor Ron Schmidt.

### ~MAY IS HERE ... SPRING CAN'T BE FAR BEHIND~

If you are looking for a great Mother's Day gift for Mom or looking for something to brighten up your yard, consider Barbott Gift Certificates from Scrip. You will save lots of money by purchasing bargain priced Gift Certificates to fill your floral needs and, at the same time, help Peace earn money through Barbott's Non-Profit Fundraiser.

**Save \$3.49 off each hanging basket for a gift for mom (or yourself)!** A Gift Certificate purchased for \$12.50 buys a Hanging Basket priced at \$15.99!

**Save \$1.99 on each 48 plant flat!** A Gift Certificate purchased for \$11.00 buys a flat priced at \$12.99.

**Save \$1.49 on each 4 1/2" potted plant (proven winners included).** A Gift Certificate purchased for \$3.50 buys a 4 1/2" plant priced at \$4.99.

**Save \$.99 on each 4" potted plant (veggies, herbs, vines and spikes).** A Gift Certificate purchased for \$2.00 buys a 4" plant priced at \$2.99.

Plus.... you pay no sales tax on the above certificates... an extra 6% savings.

Not sure what you need? We have \$25 Gift Certificates available. This certificate earns money for Peace, but you would pay Barbott's price on your purchase plus sales tax. We've filled all pre-orders, but have a good number of extra certificates.

**All Certificates available while they last on Sunday mornings after worship or by calling Shari at 269-930-1514.**

