



PEACE
NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN CHURCH

November 2021

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

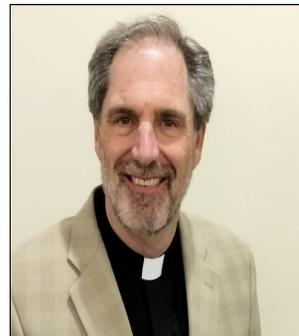
As I write this column, the positivity test rate for COVID-19 in Berrien County is 13%, putting us in the “high risk” category. It is clearly time to rethink our congregational response to the pandemic as the Fall Season means closed windows and recycled air.

I applaud the Church Council for taking the step of suggesting mask use during worship. I realize that this is not welcome news to some members, yet I believe it is a step in the right direction. For some of us the pandemic is past, it is time to move on and put preventative measures behind us. Peace has followed recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and our local Health Department and Hospital. Based on these sources, mask use is still recommended. A recommendation is different from a mandate. Masks will still be available at the door, yet at the same time we will not be requiring people to wear a mask if they don't want to or cannot.

I recently read a column by a doctor describing the three easy to follow preventative measures for combating COVID-19. None of them are 100% effective, yet when used in combination they are very effective. Think of masks, vaccines, and social distancing as slices of Swiss cheese. Each slice of cheese has

several holes in it. These holes represent the fact that each preventative measure isn't 100% effective. If a person only gets vaccinated, there is still the risk of contracting the virus. Same if the person wears a mask but does not get vaccinated or avoid mingling in crowds. Practicing all three preventative measures is like stacking the three slices of cheese on top of each other. Each layer had its own holes, but when stacked together there is a much more solid barrier preventing the spread of the virus. I personally prefer not wearing a mask for worship. It is difficult to sing with a mask on, and I recognize that some of our members already suffer from breathing disorders. A mask only aggravates this pre-existing condition. For those of us who can wear a mask, we have three layers of coverage. Most of our members have been vaccinated, I'm very thankful for this. Spreading out in worship,

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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.

Thanksgiving Eve Service is on November 24th at 7pm.



COUNCIL MINUTES

Monday, October 28, 2021

6:30 p.m.

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

Absent: Rich Steinbauer, Ed Zajac

Also Present: Pastor Hartten, Marty Tallman

Call to Order: Virgil Bennett called the meeting to order at 6:35pm.

Open Devotion/Prayer **Pastor Steve Hartten**
Pastor Hartten gave the opening prayer.

Approval of October agenda
Brian made a motion to approve the October agenda and Barb seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Approval of September 2021 minutes made via email.

Treasurer's report **Brenda Engel (acct. mgr)**
There was some confusion as the council spent time going over the new report from Brenda. The council will be asking Brenda to attend our council meeting next month to explain the new report.

Old Business
COVID-19 update and discussion
Michigan is up 10% for Covid 19 cases. Berrien county is considered high. The council is recommending wearing masks again to church.

Update on Bookkeeping and CDM Pastor Hartten
Peace Lutheran has now transferred over to the new system. The council will be asking Brenda to attend our council meeting next month to explain the new report.

Standing Committee Reports

Worship **Ken Berry**
Sandy Schuermann will again donate roses in remembrance of those who have passed during the year for All Saints Day on November 7.

Worship committee has concluded the final portion of the Theology of Sacramental Practice from NALC Pastors' Conference 2021. They will be summarizing their discussions at their next meeting for Council's review.

Fellowship **Teresa**
Fellowship committee is requesting a kitchen door and window shutters for the kitchen window. The council has asked Fellowship to bring back a cost for these changes. The Fellowship wants to put up the Christmas tree on December 4 for decorating. Council agreed. The committee also asked for the basement to be cleaned up. Bryan plans to clean it up but needs time to work on it. He will put the stuff in the AV room for now to get it out of the way.

Building and Grounds **Virgil**
Virgil and Dominic So plan on trimming the area that borders the south end of the parking lot on Saturday, October 23. Virgil also mentioned the flag pole has been repaired and the flag is flying once again.

Pastor's Report **Pastor Hartten**
The summary of the pastor's activities are as follows: Blessing of the Animals, Church Council, Confirmation Instruction, Congregational Meeting, Dean's Responsibilities, Forgiveness Class, Home Visits, Lutheran Text Study, Mekane Yesus Advocacy Team, Men's Bible Study, MI Mission District Annual Meeting, Office Visits, Rinas Memorial Service, Tallman Wedding, Tuesday Prayer Group, Vacation, Worship Committee, Sunday Worship
Next month the council will receive a summary from the Worship Committee on the Theology

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of Sacramental Practice from NALC Pastors' Conference 2021.

New Business

Monday Evening Services Marty Tallman

Marty Tallman, coordinator for the implementation of a Monday night service, talked about the cost for adding a Monday night service and also suggested other ways Peace Lutheran could accommodate working families with children. Peace could serve a light meal before the service asking for a free will offering. Perhaps having the service in the fellowship hall at first for a more casual atmosphere. Bev So and Maria Tallman have agreed to donate their cost during our trial period. Music is another item we have to consider since we will need a CCLI license for more contemporary music. The cost for the added service would be about \$83.40 per week (\$23.40 during the trial period). Marty Tallman also said some churches have air purification systems to help make the people more comfortable since windows are shut this time of year.

Christmas Tree Lighting

Bob Phillips would like to pursue the Christmas Tree Lighting again this year. The lights are already on the tree. Last year, Bob donated hot chocolate and candy canes and would like to donate again this year. He also suggested wrapped cookies to serve. The plan for the Christmas Tree Lighting is for Sunday, December 5, at 6:30 p.m. Council agrees.

Christmas Caroling

Bob suggested borrowing a flatbed truck for the choir to sing Christmas carols as the truck is moving slowly through neighborhoods. Bob will check with St. Joseph Township and city of St. Joseph to see if it would be possible. He will also talk to the choir.

Greeters for November

- November 7 Barb & Bob
- November 14 Bryan & Ed
- November 21 Herb & Bob
- November 28 Virgil & Rich

Teresa

Motion to Adjourn

Teresa made a motion to adjourn at 7:57pm.

Closing prayer

Pastor

The council joined in saying the Lord's Prayer.

THINK SCRIP THIS CHRISTMAS!

GIVE GIFT CARDS AS GIFTS ...

Give Scrip to Teachers, Teens and hard to buy for folks who love to do their own shopping! Cards range in value from \$5 up. *While supplies last, 18 vendors are offering cards starting at \$5 and \$10 (Amazon, Applebees, Home Depot, Meijer, Panera, Walmart, Starbucks plus 10 more vendors)*

PURCHASE GIFT CARDS TO BUY GIFTS ...

Purchase gift cards to use when you want to purchase the gifts yourself. We have cards for over 250 vendors from all the major department stores, specialty stores, restaurants, gasoline, groceries..... you name it... we probably have it!

USE SCRIP TO PAY YOUR KOHLS

BILL! Did you know? You can pay your Kohl's credit card bills with Kohl's Scrip cards? You can use the store card to get the extra 'in-store bonus offers' and then pay your bill with a Kohl's Scrip card.... instantly earning a 4 percent tax-deductible rebate for the church.

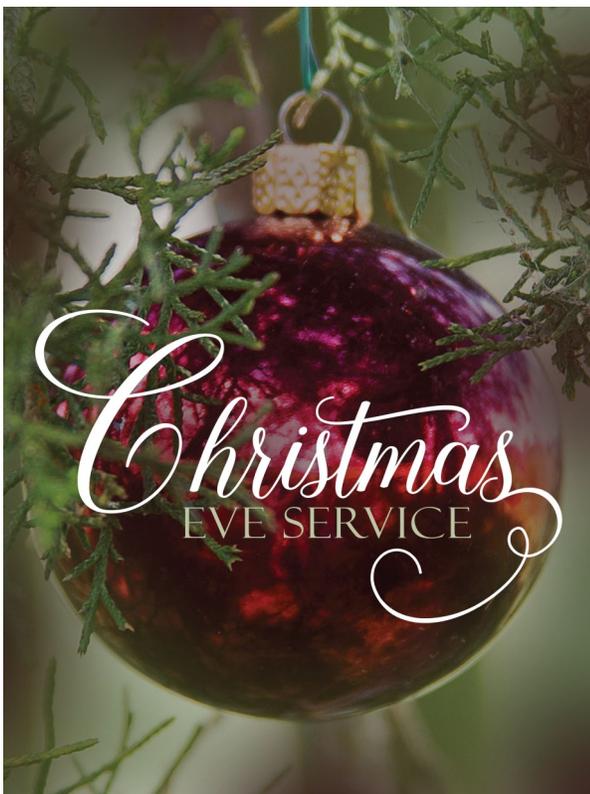
REMEMBER! ... by using Scrip you benefit Peace by earning a rebate on every purchase. You also benefit yourself if you itemize on taxes because the rebate you earn becomes a TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION to Peace!

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR WANT TO PURCHASE CARDS, PLEASE SEE SHARI AFTER WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS OR BRANDI, IN THE CHURCH OFFICE, MONDAY—THURSDAY BETWEEN 9 A.M. AND NOON

Christmas Eve 6:00pm

Over the past several years worship attendance on Christmas Eve has been declining. Despite this decline, the Church Council continued to offer two worship services to accommodate families and to make it easier for visitors to worship on Christmas Eve. This year when the Worship Committee recommended changing to one worship service on Christmas Eve, the recommendation was accepted in the Committee's report without comment.

There has been a desire to have a full Sanctuary on Christmas Eve, to once again have the church full enough that the singing resounds in the rafters. A compromise start time of 6:00 p.m. was chosen for this year. While it will mean altering family plans, it is hoped that adjustments can be made and the community will gather to hear God's word and sing His praise.



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keeping distance is not that difficult in our large Sanctuary. All of us can implement two of the three safety measures. The more people that can implement these preventative measures, the better our odds for not being infected by this virus which is causing spikes in infections in other parts of the world.

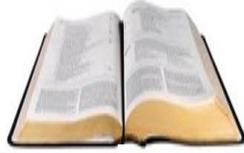
I'll be wearing a mask on Sundays, and most likely while teaching classes once it becomes too cold to open windows and air out the rooms in the building. I invite you to join with me so that in-person worship can continue throughout this winter.

DECK THE HALLS WITH HATS!

The hallway at Peace is once again filled with beautiful, colorful knitted, crocheted and handmade fleece hats. With the help and guidance of God, the ladies on the Hats Mission Team have worked throughout the year to create those warm hats for kids in need. We're pretty good on hats, but as in years past, we are in need of gloves for each child as well. Please consider donating gloves for these children. In years past we have delivered our 'gifts of love' just before Christmas, to the nearly 400 children at Lybrooke Elementary School in Eau Claire where we started our journey in 2011. Many years we have had bitterly cold weather in November, so we plan to deliver them the first week in November this year. Since that first delivery in December 2011, Peace Lutheran Church has shared the Love of God with nearly 4000 Berrien County children who needed warm hats and gloves.

When God gives a vision he also gives the ability to complete it. We need only to have faith and follow his leading!

**THIS MONTH'S
READINGS**



Sunday, Nov 7 - All Saints Sunday

Revelation 7:2-17, Psalm 149
1 John 3:1-3, Matthew 5:1-12

**Sunday, Nov 14 – Twenty-Fifth Sunday
after Pentecost**

Daniel 12:1-3, Psalm 16
Hebrews 10:11-25, Mark 13:1-13

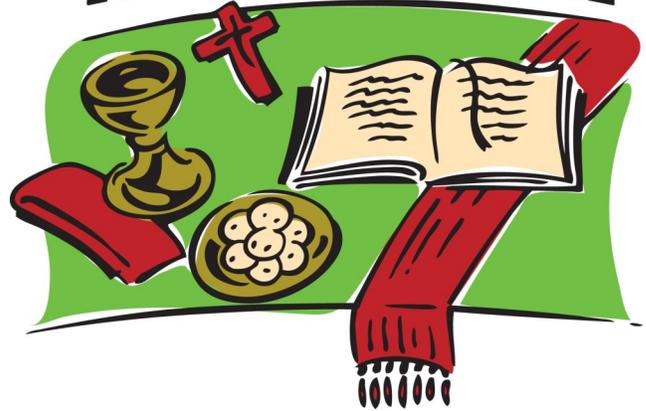
Sunday, Nov 21 – Christ the King

Isaiah 51:4-6 Psalm 93
Revelation 1:4b-8 Mark 13:24-37

Sunday, Nov 28 - First Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16, Psalm 25:1-10
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13, Luke 21:25-36

Altar Guild



We are looking for Altar Guild helpers; are you interested?

Being able to serve is very easy: you are committed to serve just one Sunday every other month. Duties include setting up before church service., filling the trays with wine and grape juice, adding wafers to the paten. You would also make glasses of water for the Pastors. After service there is clean up that takes about 15 minutes. Please contact Ginger if you're interested; she would be more than happy to help you with the first time.



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|-------|----------------------------------|
| 11/7 | Barb Berry & Bob Phillips |
| 11/14 | Ed Zajac & Bryan Sorensen |
| 11/21 | Herb Kroening & Bob Phillips |
| 11/28 | Virgil Bennett & Rich Steinbauer |

To Cry Is to Heal

By Crystal Caviness

Crystal Caviness is a senior content development specialist at United Methodist Communications.

The human body produces three types of tears: basal, reflex and emotional. Basal tears keep our eyes lubricated, reflex tears are a reaction to irritants, such as onion chopping or smoke, and emotional tears are associated with emotions ranging from extreme happiness to stress, anger, pain and sadness. Unlike basal and reflex tears, emotional tears can be held back and stopped. It's the emotional tears that also release endorphins, chemicals that help ease both physical and emotional pain.

“Physiologically, when we don't cry, we are inhibiting our bodies from the process of being healed,” Bell says. “In many ways, we are dishonoring the way God made us by not letting us do the very thing God made us to do. When I'm stuffing down my emotions in this temple that God gave me, how can I function fully in my faith?”

“On the spiritual side,” Bell says, “when I refuse to cry, what I'm saying is that there is a piece of me that doesn't trust God with this. “If you're crying, let the tears come,” Bell says. “Stop wiping away your tears.”

Persecuted Christians

“For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it”

Matthew 16:25

Sunday, November 7th is the International Day of Prayer for Persecuted Christians. Persecuted believers provide us with examples of bold faith in the face of severe opposition. New believers are being won to Christ on the world's most difficult and dangerous mission fields. We benefit from the true stories of these exemplary brothers and sisters.

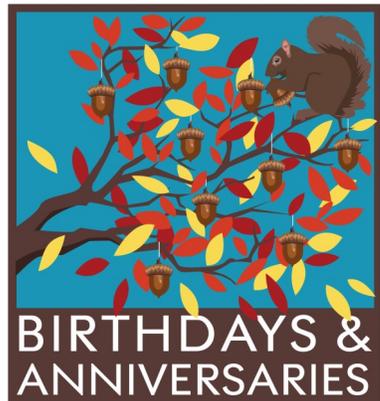
- Christians in Iran risk their freedom and lives to place God's word in the hands of those who do not know Jesus.
- Armed Hindu extremists approached Kande's home in India, angry that he would not renounce his faith in Christ. Kande told his wife, Bindi, “No matter what happens to me, you should not give up your faith in Jesus.”
- Gospel workers on the front lines of ministry in Central Asia share the gospel despite the possibility of arrest.
- Ethiopian Christians baptize former Somali Muslims in the backyard of a church building.
- Santana suffered imprisonment, abuse and beatings from her Muslim family, but she would not give up the peace she found in Christ.
- In Bahrain, Ghaleb is harassed at work for his faith in Christ.

Bold believers advancing the kingdom in hostile and restricted nations have needs as varied as the places they minister and the persecution they face. However, they all share one need - prayer. Please pray for persecuted Christians around the world all year long not just on November 7th. The Voice of the Martyrs: at www.persecution.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 9-12 Office Hrs Fellowship Mtg ****	2 9-12 Office Hrs 7p Prayer Mtg via Zoom ****	3 9-12 Office Hrs 7p: Bible Study ****	4 9-12 Office Hrs 7p - Choir ****	5 Office Closed ****	6 ****
7 10:15 Worship w/communion ****	8 9-12 Office Hrs 7p Worship Committee 130 Forgiveness	9 9-12 Office Hrs 7p Prayer Mtg via Zoom	10 9-12 Office Hrs 7p: Bible Study	11 9-12 Office Hrs 7p - Choir	12 Office closed	13
14 10:15 Worship w/communion 630 Forgiveness Class	15 9-12 Office Hrs 630 Council Mtg 130: Forgiveness	16 9-12 Office Hrs 7p Prayer Mtg via Zoom	17 9-12 Office Hrs 7p: Bible Study	18 9-12 Office Hrs 7p - Choir	19 Office closed	20
21 10:15 Worship w/communion 630: Forgiveness Class	22 9-12 Office Hrs 130 Forgiveness Class	23 9-12 Office Hrs 7p Prayer Mtg via Zoom	24 9-12 Office Hrs 7p Thanksgiving Eve Service	25 Office closed	26 Office closed	27
28 10:15 Worship w/communion 630: Forgiveness	29 9-12 Office Hrs 130 Forgiveness Class	30 9-12 Office Hrs 7p Prayer Mtg via Zoom Pr.				

**** Pastor Steve on Vacation ****

NOVEMBER



Birthdays

5 Sally Hoffman
8 Barb Durlinger
17 Jim Damaske
21 Barb Walker
23 Lynn Hornack
25 Tammy Gaul
26 Carrie Kutchie
27 Megan Adams
27 Steven Chapman

Anniversaries

2 Martin & Maria
Tallman

Military

**Lt/jg Chad
Knipschild**
301 Maple
Edgewater, MD 21037

Shut-In's

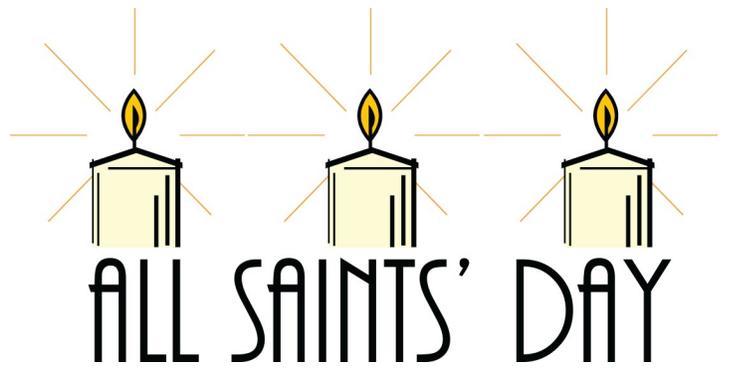
To keep our shut-ins
safe, please call the
church office for
mailing addresses.

Ruth Retzke

**Thanksgiving Eve Vespers
7pm
We hope to see you there!**



**Voice of the Martyrs
November 7th**



**All Saints Sunday
November 7th**

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LUTHERAN CHURCH
3590 Lincoln Avenue
St. Joseph, MI 49085

