



**PEACE**  
NORTH AMERICAN  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**May, 2020**



## *PASTOR'S MESSAGE*

There is a social phenomenon called “ghosting.” It is the practice of ending a personal relationship with someone by suddenly and without explanation withdrawing from all communication. It can happen in congregations when visitors attend, leave no personal information and then do not return. We’ve experienced this phenomenon at Peace; many of our visitors do not leave information and they do not return.

A few months ago we had a couple attend worship, remain after worship to visit with me, explain that they were searching for a congregation and then provide me with contact information. I followed up with a phone call and letter, and the family was placed on our email list. Weeks passed and they didn’t return. After several weeks we received an email asking to be removed from our “This Week at Peace” emails. I wrote back assuring the couple that we would honor their request, and I also asked if they could share a reason why they weren’t returning. I wrote that I was trying to learn why we have visitors who frequently do not return. Within an hour I received a very polite email. The following is an excerpt: “Only opinions we could give as constructive is that the congregation appears to be older and overall, we did feel a bit under the microscope, inquisitive of who we were and what our motives might be and what we

were doing at your church. That was uncomfortable for us. Maybe ‘to be and let be’ initially would make it easier to return to another service for those, like us, seeking a church to call home and to be actively involved.”

How do we remain a friendly church without crossing the boundary into being too pushy? The easiest way is to take clues from our visitors. If you approach a visitor and say, “Good morning, I’m glad you are with us!” and they say “Thank you,” then it would be best to say, “I hope to see you again” and walk away. If you greet a visitor as above and they say, “I’m glad to be here, how long have you been here?” then the visitor has given permission to continue the conversation.

The worst case scenario is for our members to put our need to know above the comfort level of the visitor. This happens when we ask the questions we want answered to satisfy our desires even though the visitor doesn’t give any indication that he or she is interested in sharing any details.



**SENIOR PASTOR  
STEVE HARTTEN**

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**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:  
Jim Damaske 769-3792

**Weekly Worship & Praise Opportunities:**

*Sunday*  
**10:15 a.m. Worship**  
*on Facebook Live*  
or  
Sunday afternoon on  
YouTube  
(see Page 6 for info)

*Permission to podcast/stream the music in our services obtained from One License with license #A-722704.*



# COUNCIL MINUTES

**Peace Lutheran Church  
Council Minutes (via Zoom)  
Monday, April 20, 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 6:35 p.m.

**Opening Devotion/Prayer**

Pastor Hartten’s devotion was taken from Romans 12:12, “Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.” We must have hope in this very difficult time, patience for life to return to normal, and be constant in prayer. 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 2020 minutes** made via email.

**Treasurer’s report**

<b>February</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Over/(Under)</b>
Offerings	\$10,455	\$15,450	(\$4,995)
Thrivent Choice	-	\$67	(\$67)
Soup Kitchen	\$200	\$33	\$167
Fellowship	\$448	\$25	\$423
Misc.	-	\$35	(\$35)
Interest	\$16	\$16	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,119</b>	<b>\$15,626</b>	<b>(\$4,507)</b>

<b>Year-to-Date</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Over/(Under)</b>
Offerings	\$36,639	\$46,350	(\$9,711)
Thrivent Choice	-	\$201	(\$201)
Soup Kitchen	\$450	\$99	\$351
Fellowship	\$632	\$75	\$557
Misc.	-	\$105	(\$105)
Interest	\$48	\$48	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$37,769</b>	<b>\$46,878</b>	<b>(\$9,109)</b>

After looking over the documents, the council had no questions or comments.

**Old business  
Zajac benefit**

**Virgil Bennett**

The committee met on an online virtual chat service (via Zoom) on Sunday afternoon to discuss the plans for the benefit for Ed Zajac. The committee decided it was too early to make specific plans in light of the pandemic. They will wait 30 days and see if they can formalize plans at that time. Tentative date is the last weekend in August. Bev will contact Thrivent to extend our grant for the benefit until the end of August.

**Retreat update/areas of focus**

**Pastor/Bev**

After reviewing the suggestions collected at the Feb. 2, 2020, Congregational Forum, the following six areas were identified as priorities by the council:

1. Better Utilization of Social Media
2. Amend Policy and Procedure Manual to allow communal use of the Fellowship Hall
3. Establish Small Group/Cells to strengthen faith and provide fellowship among members
4. Better Utilization of the North Property
5. Host Fundraisers for larger communal needs
6. Establish a late-afternoon/early evening contemporary worship service

**Standing Committee Reports**

**Building/Property**

**Virgil Bennett**

Virgil has been working very hard to give our church a thorough cleaning. In the sanctuary, all windows except the upper ones have been cleaned inside and out, the pews have been cleaned including the wood and fabric, and floors have been vacuumed. In the fellowship hall, the folding chairs and tables have been cleaned and Virgil will spot clean the carpet. Restrooms have been cleaned and disinfected including all the dividers between the stalls. He will be working on getting the youth and nursery rooms cleaned and sanitized.

**Pastor’s Report Sent via email**

**Pastor Hartten**

Due to the pandemic, we have been able to adapt our worship to an internet-friendly format using Facebook and YouTube. For the households that do not have access to the internet, the church is sending bulletins and sermon manuscripts by mail.

The summary of pastor’s activities for March are as follows: Church Council, Church Council Retreat,

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## Pastor's Message

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The advice "to be and let be" does not mean "keep your distance," it means to respect my boundaries. Let the visitor set the pace of sharing information, otherwise he can feel pressured and that will lead the visitor to look elsewhere.

We can't help our age demographic, we are an older congregation. However, we can adjust our approach to visitors so that we are more concerned for their need for distance than for our need to know their personal story.

## Tuesday Prayer Meeting gets a new format

The Stay Safe, Stay Home guidelines have provided an opportunity to reconfigure our Tuesday Prayer Meeting. Instead of meeting at 11:30 a.m. in person on Tuesdays, the new meeting time will be Tuesday nights at 7 p.m. This will be a virtual meeting using Zoom. Internet connectivity is not necessary; people can participate in this meeting by telephone as well as by computer. The meeting would be no more than 40 minutes in length and would begin with a brief devotion, a discussion of prayer concerns, a time for public prayer and then closing the group session with the Lord's Prayer. If you are interested in participating, please contact Pastor Steve (pastorpeacestjoe@gmail.com or 269-556-7000) for more information.

## Council Minutes

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Dean's webinar with Bishop, Home Visits, Hospital Visits, Lunch Visit, Men's Thursday Bible Study, No Regrets Men's Bible Study, Office Visits, Telephone calls, Vanco On-line Giving Webinar, Virtual Lutheran Clergy Text Study, Sunday worship services, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday worship services.

### New Business

#### **One License Renewal** Ken/Pastor/Bev

The cost for renewing our music license based on the size of our worship service is \$200.00. If we would like to add streaming of the music, the annual fee is \$77.00 more. The church has about 44 subscribers on Facebook and YouTube. Barb made a motion to approve the \$200 renewal and the \$77 to add streaming. Ed seconded the motion and the motion carried.

#### **Audio visual equipment** Bryan Sorensen

Bryan shared a link on Amazon to the council members for a multi-streaming URayCoder to support live broadcasts for YouTube and Facebook using our church's own equipment. Rich made a motion to purchase this piece of equipment along with the cables that are needed to install. Bryan seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

#### **Register Peace for Amazon Gives donations** Bev

Bev discussed the idea of registering Peace for AmazonSmile donations. With every eligible purchase AmazonSmile will donate. Every member or their friends can donate to Peace Lutheran Church whenever they make an eligible purchase at Amazon. The only thing the council had to approve is accepting this donation. Herb made a motion to accept the donations and Virgil seconded the motion. The motion

passed.

#### **Staff expectations during pandemic** Bev

Pastor Hartten is not taking his scheduled vacation time in May because of the pandemic. He asked the council to approve a two week vacation plus the one week that was carried over from last year. He obviously cannot give an exact date at this time, but his plan is to take the three week vacation about 2-3 weeks after all restrictions are lifted. Mark made a motion to approve Pastor Hartten's three week vacation after the pandemic is over. Bryan seconded the motion and the motion was approved. Pastor will still have 2 remaining weeks of vacation in 2020.

#### **Paycheck Protection Program** Bev/Pastor

The council discussed filing paperwork to apply to the government for the small business loan since nonprofit organizations like churches can apply. This loan does not have to be paid back if used for staff salaries. Since Peace Lutheran Church is not in as great a need as other churches, it was decided not to file. Virgil made a motion to not file the paperwork, Bryan seconded the motion. The motion carried.

#### **H.A.R.P. program. (Helping Appalachian Rural People)**

Pastor and the youth did a service project there last year. H.A.R.P. made an appeal for a special donation from our members. Ed made a motion to send out notices to the congregation to give them an opportunity to donate to this worthwhile organization. Mark seconded the motion and the motion passed.

#### **Motion to adjourn**

Virgil made a motion to adjourn.

#### **Closing prayer**

Council joined together in praying the Lord's Prayer.

# Church Council sets 2020 focus areas

At the Church Council retreat the data collected at the February 2, 2020 Congregational Forum was reviewed and categorized. The following six areas have been identified as focus areas for the congregation as we move forward. The Council members are praying over this list to determine how to prioritize these focus areas. Please join with the Council in seeking God's guidance so that we strengthen this ministry through faithful stewardship.

1. Better Utilization of Social Media
  - set up Church YouTube channel
  - develop 2-3 minute advertisement for the congregation
  - create a series of podcasts
  - upload videos of entire worship service or portions of worship

2. Amend Policy and Procedure Manual to allow communal use of the Fellowship Hall
  - non-profit organizations (Blood Drive, Boy Scouts, etc)
3. Establish Small Groups/Cells to strengthen faith and provide fellowship among members
4. Better Utilization of the North Property
5. Host Fundraisers for larger communal needs
  - family in need
6. Establish a late-afternoon/early evening contemporary worship service
  - contact High School band directors to identify musicians
  - form a musical group/several groups that can lead modern songs from CCLI

## H.A.R.P. seeks donations as it faces COVID-19 pandemic

*H.A.R.P. or Helping Appalachian Rural People is a ministry that also hosts the NALC Disaster Relief Warehouse. Last summer when two youth and two adults went on a mission trip, we were based at the NALC Warehouse but we ministered to people through H.A.R.P.*

*The NALC has a close working relationship with this ministry. Following is a letter from the director of H.A.R.P., who also happens to be the director of the NALC Disaster Relief ministry. If you are moved to assist this ministry, please send your gift directly to H.A.R.P. Peace will not be sending a congregational offering.*

To friends and supporters of H.A.R.P.,

We want to start off by saying we are praying for everyone's continuous safety and good health during this difficult time. The months of March and April brought very uncertain and difficult times to many of us. H.A.R.P. is now closed to the public but is still responding to those in need through limited staff in the warehouse and volunteers working at home.

With the closures of many businesses, families who were already struggling to provide basic essentials for their families are now struggling even more. A majority of H.A.R.P.'s clients are what is classified as "the working poor"; those who are employed but do not make a living wage for any number of factors.

Due to layoffs and furloughs, H.A.R.P. has received an explosion of requests for food and basic living materials from clients. H.A.R.P. will continue to serve those in need through a contact free method in

order to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

However, H.A.R.P. has also been impacted by this global pandemic. This is where we need your help. One large part of H.A.R.P.'s funding comes from church groups and congregations coming together to raise money for H.A.R.P. projects and another large part comes from our fundraisers throughout the year. H.A.R.P. heavily relies on this support in order to keep serving those in need. With church group meetings postponed and the cancellation of our fundraisers for the near future, we need your help more than ever. We are reaching out to you to make a donation to H.A.R.P. so we can continue to serve those in need - especially those that need our help more than ever. In an effort to direct 100 percent of your contribution to support those who need it the most, we have applied for the CARES Act and the associated programs, such as the Payroll Protection Program, to cover our daily operational cost.

Donations can be made securely online, by credit card or Paypal, at [www.harpcaldwell.org/donate](http://www.harpcaldwell.org/donate) or by mailed check to 810 Main Street, Caldwell, Ohio 43724.

Thank you so much for your continuous support. Without your help, it would be impossible to do all that God has called us to do - serving those in need.

Praying that you and your family stay safe and healthy,

Mary Bates, Director  
H.A.R.P. Inc  
810 Main Street  
Caldwell, Ohio 43724

## Barbott fundraiser is underway

To help you plant beautiful, productive gardens, Peace is again partnering with Barbott Farm and Greenhouses to offer quality bedding plants for your gardens at rock bottom prices. You will be able pick up your certificates at Shari Schmidt's house with no contact.



This annual fundraiser is a Win - Win - Win situation!

- Barbott provides certificates to Peace at discounted prices - Barbott wins with plant sales!
- Peace prices include a rebate you earn for the church with each certificate - Peace wins!
- Peace offers certificates to you at lower than market prices - You win with lower costs!

Contact Shari to order your certificates. Help support our local nursery, the church, and your budget, too! Available items include:

- 48 Plant Flats for \$11. You can mix and match veggies and flowers. Items include tomatoes, peppers, broccoli, cauliflower, green beans, pumpkins, alyssum, wax begonias, salvia, coleus, dianthus, dusty miller, shade impatiens, lobelia, marigolds, moss roses, pansies, petunias, salvia, snapdragons, verbena, vinca and zinnias.
- 10" Hanging Baskets for \$12.50. Choose from begonias, impatiens, petunias, geraniums, ferns and more.
- 4.5" Round Pots for \$3.50. These are mostly annual flowers including grasses, ageratum, angelonias, argythemums, bidens, million bells, cleome, coleus, euphorbia, lantana, lobelia, phlox, heliotrope, gerbera daisies, ivy, geraniums and begonias.
- 4" Square Pots for \$2. These include perennials, herbs, vinca vines, asparagus fern, spikes and vegetables.

## New Sunday evening Bible Study offered

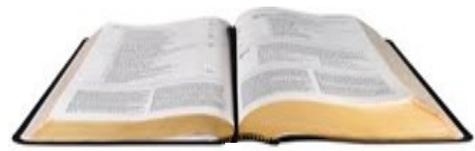
Looking for a Bible study that speaks to these troubled times? The Book of Philippians was written by the Apostle Paul while he was imprisoned in Rome. The letter deals with themes of faith, how suffering can be met with joy, and the need to share the Gospel because it is not an individualistic experience. Join Pastor Steve for a four-week study on Sunday nights, beginning May 10. Lessons will begin at 6:30 p.m. and be conducted via Zoom. All that is needed is a Bible and the ability to read one chapter per week in Philippians before class meets.

Please contact Pastor Steve for login information.

## Easter flower orders to be returned

Way back before the governor's first Stay Safe, Stay Home mandate, we were collecting orders for Easter flowers for the sanctuary. Amy still has the orders. Once we return to church, she will return the uncashed checks or cash.

## THIS MONTH'S READINGS



### Sun., May 3 - Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42-47, Psalm 23  
1 Peter 2:19-25, John 10:1-10

### Sun. May 10 - Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 6:1-9, 7:2a, 51-60, Psalm 146  
1 Peter 2:2-10, John 14:1-4

### Sun., May 17 - Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 17:16-31, Psalm 66:8-20  
1 Peter 3:13-22, John 14:15-21

### Sun., May 24 - Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:12-26, Psalm 68:1-10  
1 Peter 4:12-19, 5:6-11, John 17:1-11

### Sun., May 31 - Day of Pentecost

Numbers 11:24-30, Psalm 25:1-15  
Acts 2:1-21, John 7:37-39

## Covid-19 and the Stay Home, Stay Safe order has us rethinking church

Join us for “live” worship Sundays at 10:15 a.m. on the Church Facebook Page:

### **Peace Lutheran Church NALC**

or catch us later on the church YouTube channel:

### **Pastor Peace**

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

*Permission to podcast/stream the music in our services obtained from One License with license #A-722704.*



### **Members and Friends of Peace Lutheran Church PLEASE JOIN US IN SUPPORT OF THE 31<sup>ST</sup>**

### **PENNIES FOR PATIENTS**

In these very trying times of isolation and challenge, the resources are spread thin. Our friends at the Berrien County Cancer Service need our help to continue the medical support and services to patients, to provide equipment and needed supplies at no cost for those with cancer or related illnesses.

While we all pray this pandemic will end and our lives will soon return to “normal” – cancer patients and their families will still be fighting their battles, BCCS nurses and staff will still be serving. Whatever our challenges, they seem small compared to theirs.

**NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS** - your donation can make a huge difference to patients, caregivers and families when they need special care and assistance.

#### **To Contribute or for more information:**

You may write a check to Peace Lutheran Church, please write “BCCS” or “Pennies” in the memo or to contribute directly to BCCS go to their website. For information about this event, needed services or how to contribute directly, please visit the BCCS website at [bccancerservice.org](http://bccancerservice.org) or call the BCCS office at 269-429-3281.

**Event Date:** May 14, 2020 - - Please visit the website for event details. Due to the current social distancing requirements, the Pennies For Patients event may be a **VIRTUAL EVENT**.

*While we will gladly accept contributions for Pennies for Patients Day all year long, the last day for having them count for our 2020 total is Monday, June 1, 2020.*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Office closed	2
3 10:15 Worship via FB Live	4 9-12 Office Hours	5 9-12 Office Hours 7p Prayer Mtg via Zoom	6 9-12 Office Hours	7 9-12 Office Hours 7p Finding I AM via Zoom 8p Day of Prayer	8 Office closed	9
10 10:15 Worship via FB Live 6:30p Philippians Study via Zoom	11 9-12 Office Hours 7p Worship Committee Mtg	12 9-12 Office Hours 7p Prayer Mtg via Zoom	13 9-12 Office Hours	14 News Due 9-12 Office Hours 7p Finding I AM via Zoom	15 Office closed	16
17 10:15 Worship via FB Live 6:30p Philippians Study via Zoom	18 9-12 Office Hours 6:30p Council	19 9-12 Office Hours 7p Prayer Mtg via Zoom	20 9-12 Office Hours	21 9-12 Office Hours 7p Finding I AM via Zoom	22 Office closed	23
24 10:15 Worship via FB Live 6:30p Philippians Study via Zoom	25 Office closed for Memorial Day	26 9-12 Office Hours 7p Prayer Mtg via Zoom	27 9-12 Office Hours	28 9-12 Office Hours 7p Finding I AM via Zoom	29 Office closed	30
31 10:15 Worship via FB Live 6:30p Philippians Study via Zoom						

### Birthdays

1 Roger Siewert  
2 Teresa Hogan  
4 Betty Hettig  
6 Ruth Retzke  
11 Barb Berry  
12 Ainsley Cahill  
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 Jr.  
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.*  
Marian Hogue  
Ruth Retzke  
Betty Robbins  
Roger and Elaine  
Sirk  
Barbara Southland  
Mildred Wantz

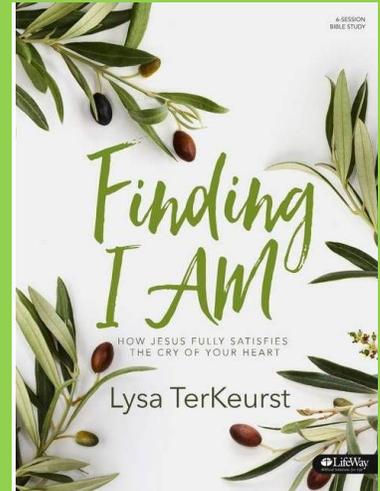


## A new way to support Peace

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.

## Women’s Bible Study to start May 7

Amy Cahill will be leading an online Women's Bible Study, Finding I Am, to start May 7 at 7 p.m. The video-based study is produced by LifeWay. Participants will purchase the Finding I Am workbook individually and then watch the online video and do the daily workbook assignments at home. On Thursdays at 7 p.m., we'll gather on Zoom to discuss the week's readings and the video. To participate, send an email to Amy at the church to let her know you'll be joining us. Then go to the LifeWay site, create an account and register for the Finding I Am study. Once you're registered, LifeWay will prompt you to purchase the book. You can either buy a digital download or have the book sent to your home. It is also available on Amazon.com. You are encouraged to invite friends to join us for this study



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