

February, 2017

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

I awoke one morning last month to the usual morning darkness. When I peered out the window, I could tell there was a dense fog that had settled upon the land. Our dog was asking for his morning walk, so I got dressed and headed out into the mist.

What struck me was how dense the fog was. There are houses at the far end of our street that leave several exterior lights on overnight. Peering through the water droplets, I could barely make out the faint glow of lights in the distance. As Argos and I walked, I thought about this passage from 1 Corinthians 13:12, "For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then we will see face to face."

Ancient mirrors were made of bronze. While polished bronze will produce a reflection, the image is nowhere near as clear as the silver-backed glass mirrors we use today. The image reflected in a bronze mirror will provide a partial view of the original object.

A dense fog or a blurry mirror is a good image for walking in faith. I believe that God walks alongside me, guiding me down the path I am to follow. At the same time, the path ahead isn't always very clear. I may be able to see the next couple of steps, but I usually cannot decipher the long-range trajectory of the trail.

God asks me to step out in faith, to trust where He is leading, even though I don't know what is involved in the journey.

Argos and I completed our morning

walk, though it wasn't much of a faith journey. We tread a familiar route, though one distorted by the limited visibility. Stepping out in faith is not the same as rehashing the familiar, trying once again what we've done before.

It is being open to new possibilities and new ways of functioning; all the while trusting that God is still leading. Stepping out in faith is pushing against the familiar boundaries that we know, expanding our understanding of what is possible and being willing to be surprised by what God reveals to us.

Sermons Now Available Online

Sunday morning sermons at Peace Lutheran Church are now available online. On Peace's home page, go to the Sermon button on the drop-down bar. Sermons from the past several weeks are available. This has the potential to be a great outreach tool as you can introduce worship to people who don't attend.

NALC Pastor's Conference

I will be out of the office Feb. 13-17 to attend the NALC Pastor's Conference in Orlando, FL



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:
Jim Damaske 428-0711

Weekly Worship & Praise Opportunities:

Sunday
9 a.m. Sunday School
10:15 a.m. Worship

Tuesday
11:30 a.m. Prayer Meeting

Wednesday
5:45 p.m. Genesis Study
7 p.m. - Worship

Thursday
8 a.m. Men's Ministry
9 a.m. LWR Quilters
7 p.m. Choir

COUNCIL MINUTES

Peace Lutheran Church Council Minutes Monday, December 19, 2016

Members present: Kevin Kunst, Josh Lochner, Karen Coffey, Jerry Pliley, Sherri Nitz, Mark Carpenter, Bev So

Member absent: Karen Richardville

New member present: Joe Novak

Also present: Pastor Hartten, Judy Novak - church treasurer, Amy Cahill - church secretary, and Julie Chubb

Meeting called to order at 6:03 p.m. by President Kevin Kunst.

Opening devotional/prayer Pastor Hartten
1st Peter, Chapter 2, Verse 6

Approval of agenda - Motion to approve was made by Mark Carpenter. Bev So seconded. Motion passed. Review of November 2016 Council Minutes was made via email

Treasurer's report	Judy Novak	
INCOME	BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
MTD \$ 20,976.50	\$ 16,457.34	\$4,519.16
YTD \$195,664.62	\$187,820.74	\$7,843.88

Josh Lochner made a motion to increase the contribution to the NALC by 10 percent for the 2017 budget. Bev So seconded. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Jerry Pliley to make a gift of \$500 to Julie Chubb for the many hours spent helping to update the budget and provide professional consultation to Judy Novak. Mark Carpenter seconded. Motion passed. One member abstained.

A motion was made by Sherri Nitz to purchase \$100 in Scrip cards to thank Judy for the many hours spent working on the budget and financial reports. Mark Carpenter seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business

- 1. **Aerial Property pictures** Kevin Kunst
Update by Kevin. Shared who we could get to take the pictures.
- 2. **Organist Duties** Sherri Nitz/Bev So/Karen Richardville

Motion made by Jerry to approve the policy as written. Josh Lochner seconded. Motion passed.

3. Church Office hours Amy Cahill

Council discussed options for office hours. It was agreed the open hours for the office will be 9-12, Monday -Thursday, with flexible hours for additional work as needed. The new hours will begin on Jan. 2, 2017. The motion to approve was made by Sherri Nitz. Karen Coffey seconded. Motion passed.

It was also noted that the office computer is in need of technical support. Amy will communicate to the congregation the need for anyone knowledgeable to help trouble-shooting the problems that arise. If no one is available from the congregation, we will start looking to hire outside help for technical support.

4. A/V Project Expenditure Terms Mark Carpenter

An update was given on the AV equipment. As reported in November, the AV equipment is original to the church and needs to be replaced. Amplifiers will be ordered this year for an approximate cost of \$1,500. The hearing assisting equipment and DVD duplicator will be ordered in January.

5. Election of Council Officers Kevin Kunst

Discussion of future officers.

Standing Committee Reports:

Fellowship Karen Coffey

Pebblewood Thanksgiving gathering has been scheduled again for 2017.

Church decorating was Dec. 3. "Un-decorating" will be Jan. 6 from 5-7.

The Christmas event at the Titan Center on Dec. 11 was another success.

Pastor's installation service will be followed by cookies, coffee and punch in the narthex.

Debbie Kroening shared updates on the Upton tutoring program.

Pastor's Report Pastor Hartten

Pastor participated in many activities/events during the past weeks including participation in the Wednesday morning Lutheran pastor's Bible studies, Soup Kitchen, church decorating, and distribution of children's hats and gloves. Pastor is continuing to look for avenues for re-building ties into the community. Visits to shut-ins, hospital, and members continue with help from Pastor Schmidt. He also is attending committee and prayer meetings.

COUNCIL MINUTES

Peace Lutheran Church Council Minutes Monday, January 16, 2017

Members present: Sherri Nitz, Josh Lochner, Jerry Pliley, Mark Carpenter, Karen Richardville, Karen Coffey, Kevin Kunst, Bev So

New members present: Joe Novak, Paul Wilson

Others present: Pastor Hartten, Judy Novak - Treasurer, Shari Schmidt, Pat Nose

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Kevin Kunst

Opening Prayer Pastor Hartten

Approval of Agenda Kevin Kunst

The motion to approve the agenda was made by Karen Richardville. Karen Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed. Approval of December minutes was made via email.

Presentations:

Soup Kitchen Pat Nose

\$65.69 was spent from the budget for the soup kitchen. The rest came from donations. A lot of items were purchased through the food bank at a huge savings. There was an average of 125-150 people served each time.

Christmas cards Pat Nose

203 Christmas cards were mailed this year. Included in the mailings were cards to 88 neighbors, 5 friends of the church, 7 military, businesses, and to members that have not attended in the last year. The cost of \$55.00 was made to print the cards and \$103.00 was spent on postage.

Adopt a Family Pat Nose

The Salvation Army was contacted earlier in the year. We were given two mothers and five children. Each person received multiple gifts. Each family also received a ham and a box of food. Pat asked for council's approval for Peace to do this outreach again in 2017.

Fundraisers Shari Schmidt

Hats: Over 400 hats and gloves were donated to Lybrook elementary in Eau Claire, Preschool - Fifth grade. However there were 100+ hats/gloves left because of the change in enrollment since fall, especially with migrant workers and their families leaving. Thrivent gave a grant for purchasing materials and gloves for the upcoming year.

Shari also shared information about the Easter and Christmas flowers, bedding plants, and Scrip. All fundraisers were very successful.

Treasurer's Report

Judy Novak

2017 Budget

We discussed changes and additions to the 2017 budget in preparation for the January congregational meeting.

	December 2016		
	INCOME	BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
MTD	\$ 27,610.80	\$ 25,647.34	\$1,963.46
YTD	\$ 222,975.42	\$213,468.08	\$9,507.34

Old Business

Council Officer Elections

Sherri Nitz

A motion was made by Bev So and seconded by Mark Carpenter to elect Kevin Kunst president. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Josh Lochner and seconded by Paul Wilson to elect Karen Richardville vice-president. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Kevin Kunst and seconded by Karen Richardville to elect Bev So secretary. The motion passed.

Add Ons: Wish List

Donations are consistently being made to items on the wish list. Enough money has been donated to purchase a new refrigerator for the kitchen. Jerry Pliley made a motion to purchase the refrigerator for \$515.00 Mark Carpenter, seconded. The motion passed. Sherri Nitz will contact Bill Konar to move forward with the purchase from Whirlpool.

Standing Committee Reports:

Worship/Music

Pastor Hartten

Services for Lent have been approved. The services for Sundays and Wednesdays will be different. The theme for Lent will be based on the Lord's Supper.

Property

Kevin Kunst/Jerry Pliley

Discussion of the overhead view of the property to be posted in the narthex. The congregation will be asked to vote on moving forward with having a professional survey done at the meeting on Sunday, Jan. 29.

Fellowship

Karen Coffey

Many members helped with the un-decorating of the church. The fellowship committee reorganized

Continued on Page 4

Peace Quilters continue to warm hearts around the world

Peace Lutheran Quilters is one of the oldest mission efforts of our church. Last year we sent 96 quilts to Lutheran World Relief. Five of our quilts were sent to Kokomo, Ind. for domestic disaster relief.

Approximately 50 small Comfort Quilts were distributed locally to shut-ins, hospital patients and baptism families. A total of 1,554 hours were spent by people dedicated to the mission. Quilts were also sold to monetarily help continue our efforts.

Please consider joining us on Thursday morning to help in this wonderful mission. Sewing skills are a great addition to our group but not necessary. Sewing can also

be done at home. If you can tie your shoe, you can be a Peace Lutheran Quilter.

Also, please remember us when going to garage sales or cleaning closets. We can always use sheets, material and crochet thread.

Hope to see you on a Thursday morning.



December Council Minutes

Continued from Page 2

New Business:

1. Pastor's compensation changes Pastor Hartten
Pastor would like to make some minor shifts in the compensation package that would help his taxes for the coming year. Also requested was to turn in mileage expenses each month. There would be no additional expense to the congregation. He believes his monthly travel expenses, etc., will be less than what is budgeted. A motion to accept the changes to pastor's disbursements was made by Mark Carpenter and seconded by Jerry Pliley. Motion passed.

2. Dismiss Previous Mutual Ministry under Pastor Wade Kevin Kunst
A motion to dismiss was made by Jerry Pliley and seconded by Sherri Nitz. Motion passed.

3. Fellowship/Worship Committee Liaisons

Kevin Kunst

After discussion it was decided that minutes of the committee meetings could be forwarded to the council president by the committee chairperson, well in advance of the monthly council meeting. Council members were urged to frequently attend committee meetings but a permanent liaison assigned to each committee was not necessarily beneficial.

4. Convention in 2017

Pastor Hartten

Pastor made a request to attend the pastor's convention in Florida. Jerry Pliley made a motion to approve fees and expenses for the convention. Josh Lochner seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Sherri Nitz at 9:15. The closing prayer was given by Pastor Hartten.

January Council Minutes

Continued from Page 3

items in the basement.

Everyone enjoyed the informal fellowship of coffee and baked goods on Sunday, Jan. 15.

The next fellowship meeting is Monday, Feb. 6, 7 p.m. at Peace.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Hartten

Pastor shared with council that there were many positive comments about the services during the Advent season. A video course on the dangers of Islam is running for three weeks, which began Sunday, Jan. 15, at 6:00. Pastor Hartten made many visits to church members, hospitals and hospice, along with Pastor Schmidt. Pastor also continues to meet with local Lutheran clergy during the month.

Amy Cahill has suggested we look into having an updated church directory done for Peace. Karen Richardville made a motion for Amy to move forward with finding a suitable company for this service. Jerry Pliley seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Pastor thanked Mark Carpenter and Josh Lochner

for setting up the weekly sermons online.

New Business

Veterans "Run for the Wall"

Pastor Hartten

The Vice President of "Run for the Wall" would be willing to give a presentation on June 2 or 3 at Peace, on his return from Washington D.C. Josh Lochner made a motion go forward with the presentation. Jerry Pliley seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mutual Ministry Selection

Kevin Kunst

The group is in the process of being formed.

"Green" Hymnals

Pastor Hartten

The hymnals have been brought in from the shed for possible use in the future.

Agenda add-ons

Kevin Kunst

Kevin reminded everyone to place items on the agenda for discussion before the agenda is approved rather than expecting to randomly add in items during the meeting.

Motion to Adjourn

Jerry Pliley made the motion to adjourn at 8:31 p.m. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

What Does This Mean to Me?

This regular newsletter feature—playing on Luther’s famous line in the Small Catechism—is designed to help us all better understand why things happen as they do at Peace. There has been much confusion the past couple of years as different pastors introduced different worship practices. The worship committee actively seeks feedback or questions from congregation members confused or concerned about worship practices. This portion of the newsletter will share an issue raised at the worship committee and provide an answer for the congregation. Often when one person raises a question, others have similar thoughts but do not want to ask the question.

“Why do we have different colors on different days and what do the colors mean?”

The Church uses color to enhance the worship experience. Worship involves all the senses: sight, hearing, taste, smell, and touch. Traditional church buildings are designed to create a sense of awe; soaring ceilings that raise our eyes heavenward, dramatic altars or crosses and sometimes stained glass windows. All are ways in which sight plays a part in worship.

The altar and the pastor’s stole are color coordinated with the Seasons of the Church or Liturgical year. Each season has its own focus and a color was selected to visually emphasize that focus. (See Pastor Steve’s column in the December 2016 Newsletter). In alphabetical order, here are the colors and their meanings:

Black is the symbol of death and of the underworld and was in use before Jesus. In Christian symbolism it represents the Prince of Darkness and in the Middle Ages it was associated with witchcraft. Black has also been affiliated with mourning, sickness and death. As the color of mourning it is the liturgical color for Good Friday, the day of Christ’s crucifixion.

Blue is the color of the sky. It symbolizes Heaven and heavenly love. It is the color of truth, because blue always appears in the sky when the clouds clear, suggesting the unveiling of truth. In the Church, blue has become the color of the Virgin Mary; she is traditionally depicted wearing a blue mantle. The Lutheran Church of Sweden designated blue as the color of hope. In the 1970s the Season of Advent was revised to its original emphasis of hope after years of being seen as a mini-Lent. As the penitential nature of

the Season was replaced with hope, the color of Advent changed from purple to blue.

Gold is the color of the sun and of divinity. The backgrounds of many Renaissance paintings glow with a golden yellow, symbolizing the sacredness of the scene. Gold is used on the Festival of the Resurrection- the first Sunday in the Easter Season.

Green is the color of vegetation and of spring and it symbolizes the triumph of spring over winter, or of life over death. Green is used for the Season of Epiphany when the lessons direct us to the truth of Jesus’ identity as King of kings and Son of God. Green is also used for the Season of Pentecost where the life of the Church is lived in the time after Jesus’ resurrection.

Purple has always been associated with royalty, and is the accepted sign of imperial power. It is also the color for Lent, the Season of preparation and penitence where

the lessons point to our need for a Savior. During his Passion, Jesus was dressed in a royal robe before being mocked by his captors. He is given the title “The King of the Jews” at his crucifixion. Purple is used as the color for repentance as well as symbolizing the Kingship of Jesus.

Red was the color of sovereign power in the Roman Empire and was adopted by the Roman Catholic Church as the color for the cardinals. Red is also the color of the martyred saints, recalling the blood shed to defend the Christian faith. Red also symbolizes fire, recalling the tongues of fire that settled on the disciples’ heads at the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Red is used for the commemoration of saints and for the festivals emphasizing the work of the Holy Spirit such as Pentecost and Reformation.

White is symbolic of innocence, purity and holiness of life. In Psalm 51 we read, “Wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.” At the Transfiguration, Jesus is clad in a “dazzling white” garment. The angel who rolled back the stone from Jesus’ grave was dressed in apparel “whiter than snow.” Roman vestal virgins wore white as a symbol of innocence and purity, a custom perpetuated in the dress of brides and in the gowns for baptism. In the early Church, clergy wore white and this color has remained in liturgical use for the Seasons of Christmas and Easter, as well as The Transfiguration, Holy Trinity Sunday, All Saints Sunday, and the Festival of Christ the King.





SUPPORTING OUR WORSHIP

Serving this Month:

Worship Leaders: Pastor Steve Hartten, Pastor Ron Schmidt
Organist: Maria Tallman
Choir: Sandy Schuermann
Audio: Josh Lochner, Mark Carpenter
Video: Jim Damaske
Ushers (S): Barb and Ken Berry and Eddie Zajac
(W): Jerry Pliley
Communion (S): Margaret Schmieding and Marty Tallman
(W): Jerry Pliley
Altar Guild (S): Margaret Schmieding
(W): Jerry Pliley

Feb. 5

Greeters: Rich and Norma Carpenter
Lector: Norma Carpenter
Acolyte: Patrick Cahill
Altar Flowers: The Tallman family
Fellowship: Open

Feb. 12

Greeters: Lee and Lynn Hornack
Lector: Jim Priebe
Acolyte: Ainsley Cahill
Altar Flowers: Open
Fellowship: Open

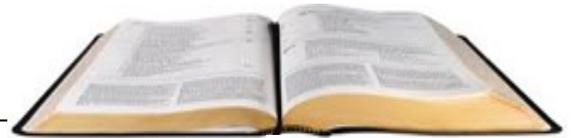
Feb. 19

Greeters: Deb Kroening and Margy Scott
Lector: Herb Kroening
Acolyte: Autumn McCune
Altar Flowers: The Kroening Family
Fellowship: Open

Feb. 26

Greeters: Gary and Barb Walker
Lector: Nan Hacker
Acolyte: Emily Sorenson
Altar Flowers: Open
Fellowship: Open

THIS MONTH'S READINGS



Sun., Feb. 5- Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 58:3-9a, Psalm 112:1-9
 1 Corinthians 2:1-16, Matthew 5:13-20

Sun., Feb. 12 - Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Psalm 119:1-8
 1 Corinthians 3:1-9, Matthew 5:21-37

Sun., Feb. 19 - Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18, Psalm 119:33-40
 1 Corinthians 3:10-23, Matthew 5:38-48

Sun., Feb. 26 - Transfiguration of Our Lord

Exodus 24:8-18, Psalm 2:6-12
 2 Peter 1:16-21, Matthew 17:1-9

ASH

WEDNESDAY IS MARCH 1



IF YOU HAVE PALMS LEFT FROM LAST EASTER, RETURN THEM TO THE CHURCH BY FEB. 19 AND PASTOR WILL BURN THEM TO CREATE THIS YEAR'S ASHES.

Wish List Update

Peace Lutheran has been collecting money on the Wish List for a new refrigerator in the kitchen. At the January Church Council meeting, a motion was passed to purchase a new refrigerator with the monies that have been collected!



Thank you to all who help fund this item on the wish list. The new refrigerator was delivered Wednesday morning.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9-12 Office Hours 5:45p Genesis 7p Worship	2 9-12 Office Hours 8 Men's Ministry 9 Quilters 7p Choir	3 Office closed Tallman wedding	4
5 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	6 9-12 Office Hours 7p Fellowship Committee Mtg	7 9-12 Office Hours 11:30 Prayer Mtg 2p Upton tutoring	8 9-12 Office Hours 5:45p Genesis 7p Worship	9 9-12 Office Hours 8 Men's Ministry 9 Quilters 7p Choir	10 Office closed 9 Soup Kitchen	11 7p Valentine Dinner
12 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship with communion	13 Pastor NALC 9-12 Office Hours 7p Worship Committee mtg	14 Pastor NALC 9-12 Office Hours 11:30 Prayer Mtg 2p Upton tutoring	15 Pastor NALC 9-12 Office Hours 5:45p Genesis 7p Worship with communion	16 News due Pastor NALC 9-12 Office Hours 9 Quilters 7p Choir	17 Pastor NALC Office closed	18
19 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	20 9-12 Office Hours 6p Council Meeting	21 9-12 Office Hours 11:30 Prayer Mtg 2p Upton tutoring	22 9-12 Office Hours 5:45p Genesis 7p Worship	23 9-12 Office Hours 8 Men's Ministry 9 Quilters 7p Choir	24 Office closed	25
26 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship with communion 1p Tubing	27 9-12 Office Hours	28 9-12 Office Hours 11:30 Prayer Mtg 2p Upton tutoring				

Birthdays

1 Ray Lietz
6 Jim Chapman Jr.
7 Maria Tallman
9 Burt Pearson
11 Jacob Tallman
12 Alison Adkins
12 Mary Momany
13 Ken Berry Jr.
13 Becky Carpenter
14 Tammy Bundy
18 Ben Herrman
19 Judy Novak
20 Berkeley Davis
20 Joshua Dohm
20 Marian Hogue
20 Gerhard Krajewski
21 Debbie Kroening
21 Autumn McCune
28 Joe Naines
28 Rev. Ronald Schmidt

CHURCH CALENDAR IS LIVE!

VIEW LATEST UPDATES AT

PeaceLutheranStJoe.org

Anniversaries

14 Joe and Judy Novak

Military

Brandon M Enders
1061 USS Tennessee
Ave
Kings Bay, GA 31547

Lt/jg Chad Knipschild
301 Maple
Edgewater, MD 21037

ENS Christian Nitz

353 S. Amsterdam Ct
Virginia Beach, VA
23454

SSgt. Richard Brooks

379 Eces Office Simble
Unit 61205
APO AS 09309-1205

Sgt. Gary Smith

208 Polson Court
Raeford, NC 28376

Shut-In's

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

Albert Beebe - member
Mary Dey - member
Everett Dray - member
Shirley Gano - member
Marian Hogue - member
Ray and Marie Lietz -
members
Joe and Angela Naines -
members
Bob Reinking
Betty Robbins - member
Sylvia Schlender -
member
Barbara Southland -
member
Ruth Twarucsek -
member

Tubing at Five Pines 1 p.m. Feb. 26

Meet at Five Pines
6597 Smith Road, Berrien Center



Afterwards, warm up with chili at the Cahills' house - 11671 Red Bud Trail, Berrien Springs
Don't want to tube? Enjoy the fire at the Five Pines lodge or just meet us for chili.
Please sign-up on the bulletin board if you plan to attend and bring a dish to share for dinner. Cost is \$8 per person for tubing.



Peace Lutheran Valentine Dinner

7 p.m. Feb. 11 at D'Agostino's
Restaurant

Red Arrow Highway in Bridgman

*Not part of a couple? Not a problem!
Singles are welcome!*

We'll have a private area with entertainment with piano vocals, dancing and a door prize! We'll order off the menu and everyone is responsible for their own tab and tip. Sign-up on the sheet in the church hallway is mandatory because the restaurant needs a head count. **Deadline to sign up is Feb. 8.**

Questions? Contact Karen Coffey at 429-6288, text: 985-3709 or e-mail: twoforcoffey@comcast.net

Peace
LUTHERAN CHURCH

3590 Lincoln Avenue
St. Joseph, MI 49085

