



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

A pastor down south likes to ask the question, "How is Jesus messing with you?" It is a question that sometimes takes people aback. How is Jesus messing with me? While his phrasing is colorful, what he is really asking is, "How has Jesus been trying to get your attention lately?" "What has he been showing you?" "How has he made you uncomfortable with your status quo?"

I personally like these questions. For while Jesus accepts us where we are, as we are, He isn't content to make us too comfortable. Jesus likes to get our attention, likes to mess with us. I've come to appreciate these questions more the longer I serve as a pastor. I used to long for keeping the status quo, for developing a routine, for not having the boat rocked by change. What I've come to realize is that my desire for stability can become an obstacle to listening for God's guidance. Routine can blind me to what Jesus is trying to show me. I can zone out and go through the motions

without really paying attention.

In my relationship with Loretta or with my friends, zoning out, routines, and stability can lead to problems. It means I'm not really paying attention to the other person, I'm just coasting along. A vibrant relationship means that I am open to the other—to listening, to paying attention, to adjusting to what they are telling me. Do we pay the same amount of attention to God or do we coast along in a routine? What would you answer if asked, "How is Jesus messing with you?"



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 769-3792

Weekly Worship & Praise Opportunities:

Sunday

10:15 a.m. Worship

Tuesday

11:30 a.m. Prayer Meeting

Thursday

7 p.m. Choir



Congregational Meeting

Sunday, Sept. 30

following the

10:15 a.m. worship service



COUNCIL MINUTES

Peace Lutheran Church Council Minutes August 20, 2018

Call to Order at 6:02 p.m.

Kevin Kunst

Members present: Kevin Kunst, Josh Lochner, Barb Berry, Ed Zajac, Jerry Pliley, Virgil Bennett, Bev So

Also present: Sherry Schmidt, Ken Berry, Becky Carpenter, Pastor Hartten

Members absent: Mark Carpenter, Karen Richardville

Opening devotional/prayer **Pastor Hartten**
Psalm 46—God is leading us into the future. If things are good now, how do I know it will be good in the future? Again, God is leading us. He is leading us now, and leading us into the future.

Approval of agenda
Motion made by Josh, seconded by Virgil. The motion passed.

The July council minutes were approved via email.

NALC conference report **Ken Berry**
Among the points shared are the following:

- The NALC congregations are divided into mission districts. The disaster relief group acts quickly to respond to the areas in need. It was noted that relief was immediately given to areas in California due to the fires and the flooding in the East.
- The majority of the NALC churches are small and rural.
- Some of the subjects discussed were aging, lack of money, less people attending church.
- There are a lot of resources and vendors for our churches to use.
- The youth symposium - we need to be intergenerational. We need to think outside the box to include things that everyone can help and work together. The idea is - we are responsible to bring the youth into adulthood and service to God. We need to make them feel a part of the church.
- We need to invite the youth to be part of the

decision processes including sharing responsibility.

- Suggested readings are both written by Gary and Laurie Pecuch:
 - Faith-webbing: Wrapping Children and Youth in a Web of Faith
 - What's In My Bag? (Outcome based youth ministry)
- The NALC is congregationally focused. We are not alone. The NALC is there for us.

Ken also shared that he gained a greater understanding of the Holy Spirit. He reinforced that the Holy Spirit is what moves us.

Follow-up of the Paul Todd concert

Shari Schmidt

The committee members were very dedicated to organizing the concert.

\$2,750 was raised for concert expenses that included \$2,500 in personal donations and a \$250 Thrivent grant.

The entire proceeds of the concert, \$3,215 were given to the Berrien County Cancer Society.

The committee is to be commended for their implementation and completion of a fine event at Peace.

Treasurer's report

	Current Month	Budget	Becky Carpenter Over(Under) Budget
Income	\$ 16,926	\$ 16,042	\$ 884
Interest	\$ 0	\$ 12	\$ (12)
	\$ 16,926	\$ 16,054	\$ 872
	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	2017 Actual
Income	\$ 115,433	\$ 112,292	\$ 113,774
Interest	\$ 97	\$ 84	\$ 106
	\$ 115,540	\$ 112,376	\$ 113,881

Old Business

Back to Church

- Reviewed the role of each council member and the schedule.
- The day will include worship, lunch (potluck), the ministry fair, and games for all.
- Ministry Fair - A member of each church committee

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Council

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will be given an opportunity to share the focus and responsibilities of their committee.

- The sign up sheets have been posted on the hall bulletin board for the potluck and prizes. Chicken will be provided.

Sylvia's Garden Plan

Kevin has added edging. We need to continue weeding the area until the weather is cool enough to replace the plants that were removed. Anyone is welcome to help with weeding.

Standing Committees

Property

Jerry Pliley

- Dusk to dawn light needs to be replaced.
- Visitor parking signs are in and look nice.
- There have been some expenses on all five air conditioners totaling \$453.60. There will probably be more repairs as our air conditioners are showing their age.
- Jerry needs to purchase a new vacuum. The cost will be \$415.00.
- A cover is needed on the sump pump. Jim Steinbauer and Jerry Pliley will make a cover.
- Members have been pulling weeds in the different areas around the property to help with keeping our gardens looking nice. It is very much appreciated.

Fellowship

Chris Bennett

- The committee members discussed fellowships for the coming year and set dates.
- A sheet will be posted for members and committees to sign up to serve. The first, third, and fifth Sundays have been designated for fellowship.
- The Harvest Dinner will be Sunday, Nov. 18 in the fellowship hall.
- Continued plans and discussion were made for the 25th anniversary dinner to be held on Oct. 27 at the Heritage Center. A meeting with the anniversary committee has been set for Sunday, Aug. 19 following the worship service.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Hartten

- Members were encouraged to sign up for the "I Am a Church Member" book study that will begin this fall. Though the response has been very good, there are still several slots left for members to participate.
- The following are among Pastor's activities for the last month: Soup Kitchen, home and nursing home visits, Lutheran clergy study, office visits, Paul Todd concert, Tuesday prayer meeting, and worship services on Thursdays and Sundays.

In addition, Pastor shared information about the NALC disaster relief response following his participation in the NALC conference in Denver, Colorado.

New Business:

1. Loretta Hartten attended the NALC women's meeting. Bev made a motion to refund Loretta the fee of \$80 for attending the meeting. Virgil seconded. The motion passed.

2. Terrorism Insurance Upcharge

We were notified that our insurance company will now add an additional \$45 to our annual premium to cover what would be considered a terroristic event. Kevin will contact the insurance company to further explain this coverage.

3. Congregational Meeting - Sept. 30

4. Website change Josh Lochner

Josh will review the needs and report at the next meeting.

5. Church laptop

The church laptop is no longer compatible to the technology needed to adequately function with the information screen in the narthex. After discussion a motion was made by Ed to replace the laptop. Virgil seconded. The motion passed. Josh will look for the computer replacement.

The motion to adjourn was made by Barb.

Pastor Hartten closed the meeting with prayer.



Churches who invite people to attend are churches who have guests who come.

It really is that simple.

*Invitations are in the mail for
Peace Lutheran Church's
Silver Anniversary Celebration*



The Heritage Center, Downtown St. Joe

7 p.m. Saturday, October 27, 2018

Cocktail hour 6-7 p.m.

*Buffet Dinner with choice of two entrées
(vegetarian option also available)*

Tickets are \$15 per person. Responses are needed by Oct. 5

**On Sunday, October 28th there will be a Festival Worship to
Celebrate 25 Years of God's Grace**



**Choir practice will resume
Thursday, Sept. 6, at 7 p.m.**

The choir is always looing for new members and this year there is a special need for male voices.

**Books are in for the
upcoming *I Am A
Church Member* study**

If you have signed up the Every Member Book Study, please stop by the church to pick up your book after worship or during office hours.



The cost of the book is \$5. Checks should be made out to Peace. Extra copies of the book are available, so even if you do not want to participate in a study, you can purchase a copy and read the book.

There is also still space available in a few of the groups. If you still would like to participate, please talk to Pastor Steve.

Just as a reminder, the study will begin the week of Sunday, Sept. 9. Please read the first chapter of the book before you meet with your group.

Blessing of the Backpacks Sept. 16



Last year the Blessing of the Backpacks was introduced to recognize our students of all ages and to pray for them and the new school year. This year we are inviting all students who have backpacks (or briefcases!) to bring them to worship on Sept. 16. There will be a time during worship where they will be invited to come up front for prayer and a blessing.

**Blessing of the
Animals**

**Sunday, Oct. 7
3 p.m.**

Invite your friends!



Christian Education will resume the week of Sept. 16

- Sunday School and Confirmation at 9 a.m. on Sundays
- Genesis Study at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays (Fellowship at 7 p.m..)
- Men's Ministry at 8 a.m. on Thursdays



Stuff the Tonka Truck for NALC Disaster Response

Thank you to everyone who participated in Stuff the Tonka Truck. Thanks to your generosity, Pastor Steve delivered \$1,710 in gift certificates to the NALC Convocation. *This was 15% of the total collected at the Convocation! God is working among us!*

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. The worship committee actively seeks feedback or questions from congregation members confused or concerned about worship practices.

“Why Does the Season After Pentecost Last So Long?”

The Season After Pentecost, also known as the “green season” is the longest season of the church year. It begins with the Festival of Holy Trinity Sunday and ends with the Festival of Christ the King. Both these festival days use the color white. In between is a long stretch of green.

The Season After Pentecost emphasizes our response to God's work in and through Jesus Christ. The gift of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost gives birth to the Church. It is by the power of the Holy Spirit that the previously frightened band of disciples find the ability to preach the Good News of Jesus Christ to the people in Jerusalem and eventually

to the ends of the known world. The season that follows Pentecost is a time when the church calendar emphasizes our response to God's grace and (hopefully) our growth in faith and service in response to all that God has done for us. We cannot

earn our salvation, but we most certainly can respond joyfully in worshiping God, loving our neighbor, and serving those in need. This time of growth is emphasized by the color green, the color of growing plants.

All the other seasons, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, and Easter focus on what God has done for us in sending a Savior. These seasons combined constitute approximately one-half of the year. The remaining time is spent focusing on our response to God's grace; hence the long season of green, the Season After Pentecost.



MISSION & MINISTRY AT PEACE

Annual Support for Lutheran World Relief School and Care Kits Collecting now through Oct. 4

Summer is winding down, and school and family routines are ramping up. It's a busy time for all, but Peace family and friends aren't so busy that we've forgotten our annual collection for LWR School Kits. Good sale prices can still be found at Meijer, Walmart, Dollar stores and office supply stores.

Collection bins and detailed shopping cards are available at the table in the narthex. If shopping's not your thing – please feel free to make a donation of Walmart or Meijer Scrip cards, as well as cash or check. If writing a check, please make payable to Peace Lutheran Church, please note “LWR” or “School Kits” on your check and/or envelope.

As well, if you have Personal Care items and missed our Lenten collection – no worries, we can still take those. We'll complete assembly of both collections Oct. 6-12. Delivery to Portage is Saturday, Oct. 13.

Youth to seniors, please join us for our fun kit assembly event - date to be announced later this month.

Education changes the world. LWR School Kits make it possible for children all over the world get the supplies they need when family resources are lacking. FAITH IN ACTION – it's a good thing!

For more information contact Sandy Schuermann at 463-8966 (H) 630-347-3515 (cell)

School Kits Include:



4 Notebooks - 70-sheet - 8" X 10½"
Wide or college-ruled paper; spiral bound only, no loose-leaf



1 Ruler - 30-centimeter or a ruler with both centimeters and inches



1 Pencil Sharpener

1 Blunt Scissors - Safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well



5 Unsharpened #2 Pencils with erasers;
secure together with a rubber band

5 Black or Blue Ballpoint Pens
(no gel ink); secure with a rubber band

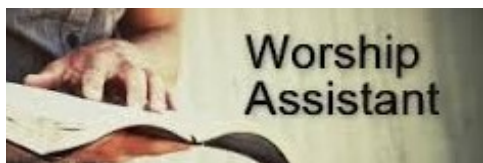


1 Box of 24 Crayons

1 Eraser 2 ½"



1 Sturdy Drawstring Backpack-style Cloth Bag, approximately 14" X 17"
with shoulder straps (no standard backpacks)
[We'll buy bags in bulk for this project.]



SUPPORTING OUR WORSHIP

Serving this Month:

Worship Leaders: Pastor Steve Hartten,
Pastor Ron Schmidt

Organist: Maria Tallman

Choir Director: Debbie Kroening

Audio: Josh Lochner,
Mark Carpenter

Video: Jim Damaske

Usher: Jerry Schlutt

Communion: Lee and Lynn Hornack

Altar Guild: Nan Hacker

September 2

Greeters/Ushers: Lee and Lynn Hornack

Lector: Marty Tallman

Altar Flowers: Open

Fellowship: Open

September 9

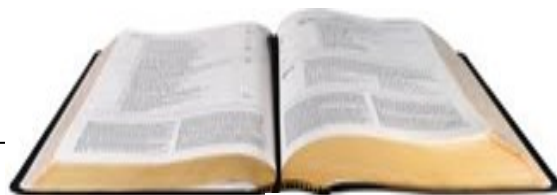
Greeters/Ushers: Greg and Louise Solak

Lector: Louise Solak

Acolyte: Emily Sorensen

Altar Flowers: Open

THIS MONTH'S READINGS



**Sun., Sept. 2– Fifteenth Sunday after
Pentecost**

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9, Psalm 119:129-136
Ephesians 6:10-20, Mark 7:14-23

**Sun., Sept. 9 – Sixteenth Sunday after
Pentecost**

Isaiah 35:4-7a, Psalm 146
James 2:1-10, 14-18, Mark 7:24-37

**Sun., Sept. 16 - Seventeenth Sunday after
Pentecost**

Isaiah 50:4-10, Psalm 116:1-9
James 3:1-12, Mark 9:14-29

September 16

Greeters/Ushers: Ken and Barb Berry

Lector: Nan Hacker

Acolyte: Ainsley Cahill

Altar Flowers: The Cahill Family

Fellowship: Church Council

September 23

Greeters/Ushers: Rich and Norma
Carpenter

Lector: Barb Morgan

Acolyte: Matt Hogan

Altar Flowers: Kevin and Ginger Kunst

September 30

Greeters/Ushers: Doug and Sandy
Landis

Lector: Larry Hacker

Altar Flowers: Sandy and Wayne
Schuermann

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:15 Worship	3 Office Closed for Labor Day	4 P. Steve Vacation Amy Vacation 9-12 Office Hours 11:30 Prayer Mtg	5 P. Steve Vacation 9-12 Office Hours	6 P. Steve Vacation 9-12 Office Hours 10 Quilters 7p Choir	7 P. Steve Vacation Office closed	8 P. Steve Vacation
9 P. Steve Vacation 10:15 Worship with communion 7p Book Study	10 9-12 Office Hours 6p Book Study 7p Worship Committee Mtg	11 9-12 Office Hours 11:30 Prayer Mtg 6p Fellowship mtg 7p Book Study	12 9-12 Office Hours 1p Book Study 2:30 Upton Tutoring	13 9-12 Office Hours 7p Book Study 7p Choir	14 Office closed	15 6p Back to School Bonfire
16 Back to Church Blessing of Backpacks (See below)	17 9-12 Office Hours 6p Book Study 6p Council Mtg	18 9-12 Office Hours 11:30 Prayer Mtg 7p Book Study	19 9-12 Office Hours 1p Book Study 2:30 Upton 7:30p Genesis	20 News Due 9-12 Office Hours 8 Men's Ministry 10 Quilters 7p Book Study 7p Choir	21 Office closed	22
23 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship with communion 7 Book Study	24 9-12 Office Hours 6p Book Study	25 9-12 Office Hours 11:30 Prayer Mtg 7p Book Study	26 9-12 Office Hours 1p Book Study 2:30 Upton 7:30p Genesis	27 9-12 Office Hours 8 Men's Ministry 7p Book Study 7p Choir	28 Office closed	29
30 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:15 Cong. Mtg. 7 Book Study		Sunday, Sept. 16 continued 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:15 Meal and Ministry Fair 7p Book Study				

Birthdays

8 Shirley Chapman
10 Juli Nurbhai
13 Steve Hartten
13 Ricky Roberts
14 Holly Harbin
19 Virgil Bennett
24 Asher Adkins
27 Linda Roberts
28 Carter Nimt

Anniversaries

4 Les & Lonna Collins
9 Cliff & Pat DeSchaaf

18 Todd & Sherri Nitz

19 Michael & Tiffany King

22 Kevin & Ginger Kunst

25 John & Diane Herrman

28 Gary & Barb Walker

30 Wayne & Sandy Schuermann

Military

Brandon M Enders

1061 USS Tennessee Ave
Kings Bay, GA 31547

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.

Albert Beebe
Marian Hogue
Joe Naines
Betty Robbins
Barbara Southland
Mildred Wantz

BACK TO SCHOOL BONFIRE

6 p.m. Sept. 15

Our September Family Fellowship will be a Back to School Bonfire at the church. Everyone is welcome. The church will provide hot dogs, buns, condiments, s'more fixings and some drinks. If you plan to attend, please bring a lawn chair and a dish to share. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you plan to attend.



We will have a potluck meal in the Fellowship Hall following worship. Sign up sheets are on the bulletin board. There will also be games and a Ministry Fair.

Back to
Church
Sunday
SEPT. 16
Who will
you
invite?



Peace
LUTHERAN CHURCH

3590 Lincoln Avenue
St. Joseph, MI 49085

