



PEACE  
NORTH AMERICAN  
LUTHERAN CHURCH



December, 2019

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

I heard the following last year on a radio broadcast of "A Prairie Christmas." I cannot think of a better Christmas message.

Dear Children,

It has come to my attention that many of you are upset that folks are taking My name out of the season.

How I personally feel about this celebration can probably be most easily understood by those of you who have been blessed with children of your own. I don't care what you call the day. If you want to celebrate My birth, just get along and love one another.

If it bothers you that the town in which you live doesn't allow a scene depicting My birth, then just get rid of a couple of Santas and snowmen and put in a small Nativity scene on your own front lawn. If all My followers did that, there wouldn't be any need for such a scene on the town square because there would be many of them all around town.

Stop worrying about the fact that people are calling the tree a holiday tree, instead of a Christmas tree. It was I who made all trees. You can and may remember Me anytime you see any tree.

If you want to give Me a present in remembrance of My birth, here is my wish list:

1. Instead of writing protest letters objecting to the way My birthday is being celebrated, write letters of love and hope to soldiers away from home.

They are terribly afraid and lonely this time of year. I know, they tell Me all the time.

2. Visit someone in a nursing home. You don't have to know them personally. They just need to know that someone cares about them.

3. Instead of giving your children a lot of gifts you can't afford and they don't need, spend time with them. Tell them the story of My birth and why I came to live with you down here. Hold them in your arms and remind them that I love them.

4. Pick someone that has hurt you in the past and forgive him or her.

5. Did you know that someone in your town will attempt to take their own life this season because they feel so alone and hopeless? Since you don't know who that person is, try giving everyone you meet a warm smile—it could make the difference. Also, you might consider supporting the local Hot-Line: they talk with people like that every day.

6. Instead of nit-picking about what the retailer in your town calls the holiday, be patient with the people who



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



*Continued on Page 3*

# COUNCIL MINUTES

## Peace Lutheran Church Council Minutes Monday, November 18, 2019 6:30 p.m.

**Members present:** Bev So, Barb Berry, Kevin Kunst, Virgil Bennett, Herb Kroening, Mark Carpenter, Ed Zajak Also present: Pastor Hartten, Bryan Sorensen, Bob Phillips

**Absent:** Rich Steinbauer

**Call to Order:** Bev So called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Opening Devotion/Prayer** **Pastor Hartten**  
The open devotion was from 1 Thessalonians 3: 6-10. God is encouraging us to use our abilities, study his word through Bible studies, stay on track to serve and pray.

**Approval of November agenda** **Bev So**  
Kevin made a motion to approve the November agenda and Virgil seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Approval of October 2019 minutes made via email

<b>Treasurer's report</b>	<b>Jon Kooiman(Acct. Mgr.)</b>		
	Current Month	Current Month Budget	Over (Under) Budget
Offerings	\$15,991	\$16,042	(\$ 51)
Interest	\$ 16	\$ 12	\$ 4
Total	\$16,007	\$16,054	(\$ 47)
	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Over (Under) Budget
Offerings	\$147,028	\$160,417	(\$13,389)
Interest	\$ 147	\$ 120	\$ 27
Total	\$147,175	\$160,537	(\$13,362)

### Old Business

**Christmas services** **Bev So**  
Council discussed the option that the Worship Committee brought to Council to change Christmas Eve service to one service only instead of two services at 4:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. After discussing some of the congregation's comments from the survey, pros

and cons of changing, Kevin made a motion to continue with two services on Christmas Eve. Herb seconded the motion and the council approved.

**Book study for congregation** **Virgil/Bev**  
Pastor brought a book that was discussed at a seminar at Lakeland Healthcare's Grand Rounds called "Waking up White". He wanted council to look at the book for a possible future book study. Virgil and Bev read the book and discussed it. Council decided that this would not be a good study for our church. There is another book that Council will be looking at for a future book study called "Joining Jesus on His Mission" by Greg Fink.

**Veterans Day Fellowship** **Bev**  
Council discussed the Veteran's Day fellowship and thought that everything went well and met the expectations. Next year the church will probably do something similar.

**Welcome Center Sign** **Bev/Ed**  
Ed and Bev are both looking into different options for the sign for our Welcome Center in the narthex. Virgil will look into the weight limit for the ceiling and different materials that can be used for the sign. Virgil made a motion for a capped price of \$200 for the new sign, Ed seconded the motion and the council agreed.

**Mural in Youth Room** **Bev**  
Ainsley Cahill has graciously volunteered to paint a mural on one wall in the youth room. A picture of her plan for the mural was shown to council. Kevin made a motion for Ainsley to go ahead with her plan to paint a mural on one wall in the youth room. Barb seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

**Calls to members** **Bev**  
Council discussed the five week phone calls to absent members. Council member should send a message to all when he or she makes the call.

### Standing Committee Reports

**Fellowship Sent via email** **Christine Bennett**  
Trunk or treat was a huge success. Some of Fellowship's activities were the Chili Cook-off on Nov. 3 and the Harvest Dinner on Nov. 17. Looking ahead, fellowship will be hosting a taco bar and

*Continued on Page 3*



# Pastor's Message

*Continued from Page 1*

work there. Give them a warm smile and a kind word. Even if they aren't allowed to wish you a "Merry Christmas" that doesn't keep you from wishing them one. Then stop shopping there on Sunday. If the store didn't make so much money on that day, they'd close and let their employees spend the day at home with their families.

7. If you really want to make a difference, support a missionary, especially one who takes My love and Good News to those who have never heard My name. You may already know someone like that.

8. Here's a good one. There are individuals and whole families in your town who not only will have no "Christmas" tree, but neither will they have any presents to give or receive. If you don't know them, buy some food and a few gifts and give them to some charity that believes in Me and they will make the delivery for you.

9. Finally, if you want to make a statement about your belief in and loyalty to Me, then behave like a Christian. Don't do things in secret that you wouldn't do in My presence. Let people know by your actions that you are one of mine.

P.S. Don't forget. I am God and can take care of Myself. Just love Me and do what I have told you to do. I'll take care of all the rest. Check out the list above and get to work; time is short. I'll help you, but the ball is now in your court. And do have a most blessed Christmas with all those you love and, remember, I love you.

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## Council Minutes

*Continued from Page 2*

cookies for the "Greening of the Church" on Sunday, Dec. 1.

### **Building/Property**

### **Kevin/Virgil**

Virgil will be putting in a timer for the steeple lights. Council also discussed having a removable sign in the front lawn of the church for upcoming events. Kevin will be looking into various options for the "event" sign.

### **Pastor's Report Sent via email Pastor Hartten**

The summary of pastor's activities are as follows: Adult Sunday School, Call from NALC Bishop, Chili Cook-off, Come Holy Spirit Class, Dean's Meeting Columbus, Home Visits, Hospital Visits, Install Pastor Glenn Sokolowski Cross, Intercessory Prayer Team Meeting 1, Lutheran Clergy Text Study, Men's Thursday Bible Study, Nursing Home Visits, Office Visits, Staff Reviews, Trunk or Treat, Tuesday Prayer Meeting, Tutoring at Upton Middle School, and Worship Committee.

Council discussed having a Christmas ad in the Mail Max again this year. Herb made a motion to purchase 1/4 page advertisement for \$175 and Virgil seconded the motion. The council members were in favor of the Mail Max Christmas ad.

Worship committee postponed due to weather.

### **New Business**

#### **Change of council meeting time**

**Bev**

The council has agreed to change the time of the council meetings to 6:30 p.m.

#### **Council greeters for December**

**Bev**

Council members chose Sundays in December to greet at the doors.

#### **Care Bears mission**

**Bev**

Our little care bears have been gathering dust in the Fellowship Hall. They will be joining the congregation for worship services and given to our needy Christmas families along with a little note. Council discussed it and agreed it was a good idea.

#### **TV and a DVD player for the youth room**

The youth began a 4-week Bible Study series that also has a weekly video. There is no TV in the youth room at this time. Someone has donated a TV for the youth room and another person has donated a DVD player. A shelf is needed for the equipment and the cost will be under \$120. Herb made a motion to put up the needed shelf. Ed seconded the motion and all approved.

#### **Motion to adjourn**

Virgil made a motion to adjourn.

#### **Closing prayer**

Pastor gave the closing prayer.



On Sunday, Dec. 29, Peace will offer a service of Lessons and Carols at 10:15 a.m. This traditional service has been offered on the Sunday after Christmas for years. It is a great opportunity to sing Christmas Carols and hear the Biblical story of salvation.

# How To Share Faith with others

By Aaron Earls

Talking with a non-Christian can be intimidating for many followers of Jesus, but it doesn't have to be that way. We know it's an amazing thing we have the privilege to do, but we want to just get through it as quickly and safely as possible. Instead of viewing talking with a non-Christian as a life-risking endeavor, keep these eight steps in mind.

## 1. VALUE THEM AS PEOPLE.

We need to see those who disagree with us as people. This helps us to not be so frightened of them that we never start that conversation. It also keeps us from seeing them as a project or task on our to-do list. Your neighbor, cousin, barista, or person you pass on the street are created in God's image, have inherent dignity, and were created to worship.

## 2. LISTEN.

This is an easy next step, but one we often ignore and miss how important it can be. Just listen to what they have to say. Often times, you can stand out simply by paying attention when they talk. In a noisy world full of loud voices, sometimes a listening ear can speak the loudest. This not only affirms their worth but allows you to better understand them and move to the next step.

## 3. FIND POINTS OF CONNECTION.

As you listen to them, you will find some common ground—a shared experience, a sports fandom, a favorite book or movie, a fun parenting story, a heartbreaking tragedy. Any of these can form a bond between you and the other person. Those bonds allow the relationship to grow deeper and move to other topics, including faith.

## 4. UNDERSTAND THEIR PERSPECTIVE.

As you listen to them, hear why they are a non-Christian at this point in their life. Maybe they grew up Muslim or converted to Hinduism in college. Perhaps they used to go to church but left because of a theological disagreement or damage to a relationship. Don't instinctively judge them or their current position. Try to understand why they arrived at the point they did, so that you can better show how the gospel will reach them there.

## 5. AVOID USING CHRISTIAN JARGON.

Christians use phrases and lingo that can either mean nothing to a person outside of the church or it can

raise unnecessary questions and concerns. Don't stress out about every word you use in the conversation. But when you move to spiritual matters, think about how you can describe those things in ways that will bring clarity, not more confusion.



## 6. WELCOME QUESTIONS.

Instead of trying to avoid questions, welcome them. It means the other person is listening and engaged in what you are saying. Even if they are hard questions or misleading ones, it at least lets you know they're thinking through the conversations you've been having. If they haven't asked questions, bring it up yourself. Ask if they have any questions. Maybe even bring up some questions they may have but haven't asked.

## 7. ADMIT IGNORANCE.

When they ask questions, they may well ask something that you don't have the answer to right off the top of your head. That's OK. If your neighbor is a top-notch scientist and he asks deep questions about the relationship between science and faith that make your brain hurt, don't feel like you have to address those issues yourself. Feel free to say, "That's a great question. I don't really know the answer, but I'll work to find something for you." You've shown humility and you've already primed them for an additional conversation on the topic. This could lead to inviting the other person to speak with another Christian who has expertise in the subject matter or reading a book on the topic with you.

## 8. PRAY.

In reality, this shouldn't be the final step. This should be part of every step you take before, during, and after your conversations with the other person. Pray that the Holy Spirit will work in their life. Pray that the Holy Spirit will give you the words you need to say and help you remain quiet when that would be best. Regardless of how long the conversations go on, continue to pray for the other person that one day they will respond to Christ and will be thinking about how they will have conversations with their non-Christian friends and family.

## Greening the Church—Dec. 1 following worship

Plan to remain after worship on Sunday, Dec. 1, for the “Greening of the Church.” We will decorate the Christmas Tree, hang wreaths and garland, and put up the window displays. As a bonus, we will be having a Taco Bar for lunch. Those planning on staying are asked to sign up to bring an item for the Taco Bar.



### Mid-Week Advent Series

This year’s mid-week Advent services will feature a new setting of Vespers by Pr. Mathew Magera, formerly of St. Thomas, Trufant, Mich. Pastor Magera has set the traditional Vespers wording to tunes of familiar Christmas Carols. Pastor Steve hopes this will be a way to blend people’s desire to observe Christmas during Advent with other member’s desires to observe Advent. The sermon series will focus on the theme of “home.” What does it mean to come home; how is home a meeting place; and the emotion of joy being our true home.

### Intercessory Prayer Team update

Did you know that there is a group of 13 people at Peace Lutheran who have committed to praying regularly and specifically for our members, families and friends in need? To date we have prayed for 25 different people with a variety of needs. Members of the team receive an email each week informing them of the new requests and noting which requests have been updated/answered.

You may submit a request for prayer by going to the Peace Lutheran website and finding the “Prayer Requests” link on the home page, between “Map to Peace” and “Newsletter”. You can also submit a request by filling out the prayer request form in the pew. These requests can be placed in the offering plate or handed directly to the pastor.

If you would like to join the Intercessory Prayer Team, please contact Pastor Steve.



### SCRIP CARDS FOR CHRISTMAS - THE PERFECT SOLUTION!

*By Shari Schmidt*

**GIVE GIFT CARDS AS GIFTS** ... to teachers, teens and hard to buy for folks who love to do their own shopping with gift cards! Cards range in value from \$10 and up. *While supplies last, 16 vendors are offering low denomination cards starting at \$5 and \$10.*

**PURCHASE GIFT CARDS TO PURCHASE GIFTS** ... it's easy to purchase gift cards to use when you want to buy the gifts yourself. We have cards for more than 250 vendors from all the major department stores, specialty stores, restaurants, gasoline, groceries..... you name it... we probably have it!

**USE SCRIP FOR HOLIDAY TRAVEL NEEDS** ...airline tickets, cruise tickets, hotel tickets, car rentals, gasoline.

**REMEMBER!** ... by using Scrip you benefit Peace by generating a rebate on every purchase.

### Remaining LWR Quilts are nearly done

*By Barb Morgan*

**THANK YOU, JESUS, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!!**

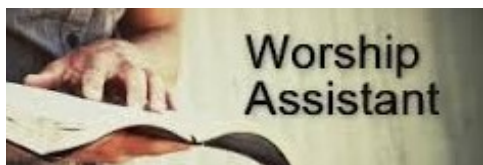
On Saturday, Oct. 16, five ladies, one grandson and one dog met at Peace to finish tying the remaining unfinished quilts. Yes, all the unfinished quilts have now been tied!

A couple of ladies will now trim, pin, and bind these tied quilts. With God's help, the set goal of finishing ALL 20 unfinished quilts by the end of this year **WILL BE MET**.

Thanks to all who helped this goal become a reality throughout this past year. Thank you for your time and unselfish service in serving God, helping those in need.

There are still a number of lap quilts available. If you know of anyone who would be blessed in receiving one, please contact Elaine Chartrand or the church office.

The new goal for next year will be to donate these finished quilts to those in need in our community (fire, flood, etc.). Please let us know of anyone whom we may serve in this effort of love.



## 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:** Richard Steinbauer

**Communion:** Lee and Lynn Hornack

December 1

**Greeters:** Gary and Barb Walker

**Lector:** Barb Morgan

**Altar Guild:** Amy Cahill

**Fellowship:** Fellowship Committee

**Altar Flowers:** Open

December 8

**Greeters:** Kevin and Ginger Kunst

**Lector:** Nan Hacker

**Altar Guild:** Nan Hacker

**Altar Flowers:** Open

December 15

**Greeters:** Barb and Ken Berry

**Lector:** Herb Kroening

**Altar Guild:** Loretta Hartten

**Fellowship:** Open

**Altar Flowers:** Open

December 22

**Greeters:** Norma and Rich Carpenter

**Lector:** Larry Hacker

**Altar Guild:** Loretta Hartten

**Altar Flowers:** Debbie and Herb Kroening

December 24

**Greeters:** 4:30 p.m. - Open

7 p.m. - Open

**Lector:** 4:30 p.m. - Open

7 p.m. - Open

**Altar Guild:** 4:30 p.m. - Ginger Kunst

7 p.m. - Loretta Hartten

**Altar Flowers:** The Congregation

December 29

**Greeters:** Teresa Hogan and Janette  
Jeske

**Lector:** Teresa Hogan

**Altar Guild:** Pastor Steve Hartten

## THIS MONTH'S READINGS

**Sun., Dec. 1 - First Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 2:1-5, Psalm 122

Romans 13:8-14, Matthew 24:36-44

**Sun., Dec. 8 - Second Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 11:1-10, Psalm 72:1-7

Romans 15:4-13, Matthew 3:1-12

**Sun., Dec. 15 - Third Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 35:1-10, Psalm 146

James 5:7-11, Matthew 11:2-15



**Sun. Dec. 22 - Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 7:10-17, Psalm 24

Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-25

**Tues., Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve**

Isaiah 7:10-14, Psalm 110:1-4

1 John 4:7-16, Matthew 1:18-25

**Sun., Dec. 29 - First Sunday of Christmas**

Isaiah 63:7-14, Psalm 111

Galatians 4:4-7, Matthew 2:13-23



# DECEMBER 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:30 Greening 6p H. Spirit Class	2 9-12 Office Hours 6p Fellowship Committee Mtg	3 9-12 Office Hours 11:30 Prayer Mtg	4 9-12 Office Hours 7p Advent Worship	5 9-12 Office Hours 8 Men's Ministry 7p Choir	6 Office closed	7
8 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 6p H. Spirit Class	9 9-12 Office Hours 7p Worship Committee Mtg	10 9-12 Office Hours 11:30 Prayer Mtg	11 9-12 Office Hours 7p Advent Worship	12 News Due 9-12 Office Hours 8 Men's Ministry 7p Choir	13 Office closed 9 Soup Kitchen	14
15 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 3p Caroling 6p H. Spirit Class	16 9-12 Office Hours 6:30p Council	17 9-12 Office Hours 11:30 Prayer Mtg	18 9-12 Office Hours 7p Advent Worship	19 9-12 Office Hours 8 Men's Ministry 7p Choir	20 Office closed	21
22 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	23 9-12 Office Hours	24 Christmas Eve Office Closed 4:30p Worship 7p Worship	25 Christmas Day Office Closed	26 Office Closed	27 Office closed	28
29 10:15 Lessons and Carols	30 Office Closed	31 Office Closed				

## Birthdays

2 Marilyn Riley  
4 Brian Nimitz  
7 Josh Lochner  
9 Jesse Spiker  
10 Larry Coffey  
12 Sharon Schmidt  
16 Gary Richardville  
22 Olivia Carpenter  
24 Marilyn Hettig  
31 Jerry Schlutt

## Anniversaries

1 James & Elaine  
Chartrand  
11 Larry & Karen  
Coffey

18 Jim & Pam  
Bauer  
27 Keith & Betty  
Hettig

## 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  
Joe Naines  
Ruth Retzke  
Betty Robbins  
Roger and Elaine  
Sirk  
Barbara Southland  
Mildred Wantz

Our Salvation Army  
Adopt-a-Family tree is now  
in the church narthex  
decorated with ornaments  
with gift needs for our  
families. Please select one  
or more ornaments and  
purchase a  
gift for the  
person listed  
on the  
ornament.  
Please return  
the  
unwrapped  
presents with the tags  
attached no later than Dec.  
15.



Norma Carpenter and  
her crew will be taking the  
gifts to the Salvation Army  
on Dec. 18.

# CHRISTMAS CAROLING



**3 p.m. December 15**

Meet at the church to join us as we brighten the holiday season for our shut-ins. Songbooks are provided and there's no judgement on your singing ability. After singing, we'll have dinner at the St. Joseph Pizza Hut. This will be our Family Fellowship for December.

**Join us for worship on  
Christmas Eve**

**4:30 p.m. or 7 p.m.**

**This year we will not have a  
service on Christmas Day.**



3590 Lincoln Avenue  
St. Joseph, MI 49085

