



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

A question that has been occupying my time is "How do we as a congregation embrace change and encourage participation from our youth?" As I've wrestled with this question, I find that there aren't any easy answers. There is no one way that everyone will agree to. I am hoping that this column gets some discussion going among our membership since it is a pressing question.

If all goes as planned, at the end of April we will be treated to an anthem sung not by the choir, but by a group of our middle and high school students. The song that they are preparing, *Lord I Lift Your Name on High*, is new by our congregation's standards; it was composed in 1989. It gained notoriety in contemporary music circles and has been covered by Gospel, R&B, Soul, Rock, Reggae, Rap, and a Cappella groups. The song is not cutting edge, but it certainly will move us out of our familiar style of worship.

How can we embrace and support our youth's efforts to find a voice and a style of music to praise our Lord? Do guitars and percussion demean the use of organ or piano? I believe that the style of music is secondary to utilizing the Church's Liturgy to provide structure and depth to our communal worship. Peace will not cease to be a liturgical, sacramental congregation, but it might move to a blended style of hymnody where we mix the greatest hits of the 1600s with the best of the past 20 years. Moving to this style of worship is still a change. Are we able to embrace this change for the sake of giving voice to our youth?



SENIOR PASTOR
STEVE HARTTEN

Peace Lutheran Church

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Church Office Email:
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Church Website:
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Church Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday
9 a.m.—12 p.m.

Pastoral Contact Info:

Rev. Steve Hartten
Senior Pastor
Phone: (H) 281-0307
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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

Favorite Hymn Sunday Voting

Favorite Hymn Sunday will be Sunday, May 12. Balloting for Favorite Hymn Sunday will take place on the first two Sundays in April, April 7 and 14. Once again we will use the honor system; one ballot per person. Each ballot allows for up to five hymn/praise song selections. The songs receiving the most votes will be used to replace the liturgical music on May 12. The balance will be used throughout the summer, as our licensing allows.



COUNCIL MINUTES

Peace Lutheran Church Council Minutes Monday, March 18, 2019

Call to Order

Kevin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Opening Devotional/Prayer

Virgil read 2 Timothy, verse 14. Paul offers Timothy words of wisdom emphasizing that Timothy's calling and behavior have nothing to do with the acts of others. Timothy should continue with what he had learned and believed.

Members present: Kevin Kunst, Bev So, Karen Richardville, Mark Carpenter, Virgil Bennett, Rich Steinbauer, Barb Berry

Absent: Pastor Hartten, Ed Zajac

Approval of agenda Virgil made a motion to approve the agenda, Karen seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

Approval of February 2019 minutes made via email.

Treasurer's report Jon Kooiman(Acct.Mgr.)

Tithes and offerings are down in February. Building and grounds are over budget. Jon had a question on a property tax amount that was paid. Kevin will get clarification on why the church has that tax bill.

	Current Month	Current Month Budget	Over (Under) Budget
Offerings	\$12,821	\$16,042	(\$3,221)
Interest	\$ 16	\$ 12	4
Total	\$12,837	\$16,054	(\$3,017)

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Over/Under
Offerings	\$26,475	\$32,708	(\$6,233)
Interest	\$ 32	\$ 27	5
Total	\$26,507	\$32,735	(\$6,228)

Old Business

Update on Constitution review

Rich and Mark will get together with Pastor to work on the Constitution in order to complete it in a

timely manner. The changes have to be voted on twice, in May and in September

HVAC update

Pastor and Virgil will get together with D. A. Dodd to get an estimate for new furnaces and air conditioners. This will be a major replacement that will have to be made within the next four or five years. Ventilation systems will need replacing at that time and plumbing work will need to be done.

Council Retreat

The Council Retreat will be at Bev's house from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. March 30. Bev reminded the council members to read "Becoming a Welcoming Church" before March 30.

Standing Committee Reports Worship

The worship committee did not meet in March. Ken Berry gave a letter and two attachments to be distributed at the council meeting. One handout was information about rural and small churches for the council to read. The other attachment was Youth Ministry Notes from NALC Symposium 2018. After looking over the information, Virgil made a motion to begin a youth ministry at Peace, Kevin seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Fellowship (via email) Christine Bennett

No questions. Events are the Lenten Soup and Bread Suppers, serving on Wednesdays at 5:45 p.m. Chili cook-off will be March 31. The congregation can sign up to make chili or to bring something else. Fellowship will organize a brunch after church on Palm Sunday, April 14.

Building/Property

Al will be mowing again this year, same price as last year. Our sprinkler system needs to be reevaluated in order to make it more efficient. Virgil asked that the snow plow move the snow over another 10 feet. Kevin will schedule spring clean up when weather is better.

Pastor's Report (via email) Pastor Hartten

The summary of pastor's activities are as follows:

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Ten Marks of a Happy Church – by Chuck Lawless

Once in a while, I get to know a church that genuinely seems “happy.” I know that term is subjective, but I trust you get my point – these churches are just different from the church that is dealing with dysfunction and turmoil.

Here are some markers of happy churches:

1. Nothing seems to hinder their worship. They gather together, sing God’s praises, and express their love for Him with enthusiasm. They make you want to know their God.

2. The people actually smile. Sure, some folks don’t—but they’re the exception rather than the rule in these churches. In happy churches, smiles reflect joy that is genuine and obvious.

3. The staff have fun together. You can tell it in the office during the day and from the platform on Sunday morning. Nobody’s competing with others or speaking against them behind their back. The staff are friends. Real friends.

4. The people share burdens through prayer. This may not sound “happy,” but shared burdens are always lighter burdens. Even from the stage, church leaders take time to pray deeply for their church family.

5. They trust each other first when they deal with disagreement. That is, they don’t assume the worst about one another. They might disagree—even strongly—but they work through the issues because they trust each other’s heart.

6. They hang out before and after the service. Few people run out the door when the service ends. Instead, they stick around and talk. And talk some more. And then decide to have lunch together. They just like being together.

7. They have strong small groups with caring leaders. It’s in their small groups that they share their concerns, seek prayer, and support one another. They share life together, building up the family of Christ rather than tearing it down.

8. Their members give sacrificially. They do that not only because they want to give to God’s work, but also because they trust their church leaders and their vision. Giving is fun when you know it supports work you believe in.

9. They don’t have a lot of business meetings – and the meetings they do have are friendly and encouraging. Their meetings are about praising God for what He’s done and casting vision for what the future may hold. They’re unifying rather than divisive.

10. They invite unchurched friends to join them. They don’t protect “their church” from outsiders; instead, they so love what’s happening that they want others to be a part. Invitations come easy.

I admit that I don’t find many churches who fit these characteristics. Perhaps that’s why they so grab my attention when I do – and why I want other churches to experience the same.

Council Minutes

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Choir practice for new liturgy, Confirmation Class, Disciples of the Cross Class, Home Visits, Hospital Visits, Lenten Soup Suppers, Lutheran Clergy Text Study, meet with outgoing District Dean, NALC Pastors’ Conference, Nursing Home Visits, Office Visit, Sound System Update Meeting, Thursday Men’s Bible Study, Tuesday Prayer Meeting, Tutoring at Upton Middle School, worship on four Sundays and two Wednesdays.

The Disciples of the Cross class completed the first of two units. The second unit is six sessions and will begin the Tuesday after Easter Sunday. A sign-up sheet is posted for those who would like to take the course.

Pastor asked for permission for a (non-paid) ministry position for a Prayer Coordinator. This is an important step in faith development for our members. Kevin made a motion for a Prayer Coordinator, Karen seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

New Business

Sharon Schmidt asked the council to reinstate the “Emergency Meal Preparation Team” at Peace. The purpose of the group would be to provide meals to families experiencing short-term needs such as surgery or other life interruptions. Barb Morgan has agreed to organize the team.

Sharon Schmidt asked the council about the possibility of bringing Paul Todd and Paul Todd, Jr. back for a second concert this summer. Council discussed the success of the first concert. Mark made the motion to give permission for a committee to go ahead with another concert this summer, Barb seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Virgil suggested to purchase a quarter page from Mail Max again this year for Easter advertising.

Kevin made a motion to advertise with a quarter page from Mail Max, Virgil seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Motion to adjourn Virgil made a motion to adjourn

Closing Prayer - Lord’s prayer

COUNCIL MINUTES

Peace Lutheran Church Council Minutes Monday, February 18, 2019

Call to Order

Beverly So

Opening Devotional/Prayer

We read a bulletin titled "Prayer is a waste of time"
The purest sign of our love for God is that we are prepared to "waste" our time with him. Bev said the opening prayer.

Members present: Ed Zajac, Rich Steinbauer, Barb Berry, Kevin Kunst, Bev So and Karen Richardville

Also present: Deb Kroening, Ken Berry

Absent: Virgil Bennett, Mark Carpenter, Pastor Hartten

Approval of agenda Kevin made a motion to approve the agenda, Ed seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Approval of January 2019 minutes made via email.

Treasurer's report

Jon Kooiman(Acct Mgr)

	Current Month	Current Month Budget	Over (Under) Budget
Offerings	\$13,654	\$16,667	(\$3,013)
Interest	\$ 16	\$ 15	1
Total	\$13,670	\$16,682	(\$3,012)

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Over/Under
Offerings	\$13,654	\$16,667	(\$3,013)
Interest	\$ 16	\$ 15	1
Total	\$13,670	\$16,682	(\$3,012)

Need acknowledgement of pensions to be given out monthly. Jon will print and distribute.

Kevin made a motion that pastor's salary increase will be distributed to his housing allowance. Karen seconded the motion and the motion passed

Old Business

2018 Strategic Vision for Peace Bev So
Council reviewed the goals set at last year's

council retreat. Remaining items to be completed were discussed. Council would like to encourage members if they have ideas or concerns to contact Mutual Ministry. We also would like to organize a visiting team for first-time guests.

Standing Committee Reports

Worship (via email)

Ken Berry

Nan updated the children's activity bags and the Book of Bible stories is now a part of the nursery.

Deb Kroening attended the council meeting. She talked about the "Singsperation", which will involve six or seven churches to be part of the concert. Each church will sing their own selections and all will sing together at the end. Deb and others will be hand-delivering letters to churches to ask for participation. Target date for the concert is a Saturday in June.

Another new group is the "New Direction" youth group. Deb holds practices with fun for them as a group afterwards. Council agreed that she could use budgeted money for youth group.

The Brass is planned for Easter and budget money is available for that purpose. Deb also expressed a desire for new choir robes.

Fellowship (via email)

Christine Bennett

Some of the things discussed at the Fellowship meeting were the soup suppers during Lent. They will begin serving at 5:45-6:45 pm. The Chili Cook off will be March 31. They will have games and bingo. Upcoming events are Brunch after church on Palm Sunday and May 5 is the date for confirmation

Building/Property Kevin Kunst/Virgil Bennett

We will look at other HVAC companies to compare prices for servicing our HVAC system Rich explained we need to contact companies that work with churches or other commercial places. Members need to be reminded that the furnaces and air conditioners will need to be replaced in the next few years.

Pastor's Report (via email)

Pastor Hartten

The events and activities listed are from the previous Council meeting to the Thursday before the current meeting The summary of pastor's activities are as follows: Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen, Church

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Council Minutes

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Council Meeting, Confirmation Class, Congregational Meeting, Disciples of the Cross Class, Family Fellowship (game day), Holiday of Hearts Dinner/Dance, Home Visits, Hospital Visits, Lutheran Clergy Text Study, Memorial Service (Vera Kunst), MLK Breakfast at LMC, Mutual Ministry Committee, Nursing Home Visits, Snow Closure, Thursday Men's Bible study, Tuesday prayer meeting, tutoring at Upton Middle school, Work Visit, and 4 worship services.

New Business

Missions

Sandy Schuermann

(sent to Bev via email) Sandy is in the process of forming a Mission Committee and is looking for committee members. Among the projects for missions are Lutheran World Relief and researching NALC projects for Peace. Also requested is to continue the "Pennies for Patients" The motion was made by Karen to continue this mission and was seconded by Ed. Motion was passed

Update/repair AV equipment

**Deb Kroening/
Ken Berry**

With the new direction for the "Singsperation" and plans for the youth to form a group, Deb brought it up that our equipment is very outdated, speakers are on the ceiling and facing the wrong way, and some of the speakers don't seem to be working. The "New Direction" children's group will be on the opposite side of the choir. They will need microphones and a better sound system. We have a budget item for the AV equipment. Deb has been asked to talk to Mark

and Josh about getting an evaluation of what is needed and how much it will cost.

Soup Kitchen

Barb Berry/Bev So

Soup Kitchen Feed America evaluation was completed on Feb. 14 by Suzanne Burke from the regional Feeding America in Grand Rapids. She evaluated our space to store food items for the Soup Kitchen. We need to get locked storage cabinets for the Food Bank food items and need to move it out of the maintenance room. There was a motion by Ed to purchase two locking security cabinets for soup kitchen use, for an amount up to \$1,000 This will be taken out of the Scrip fund. Kevin seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Council Retreat

Our annual council retreat will be held on Saturday, March 30 at Bev's house. Pastor supplied a book for each of us to read before the retreat.

Constitution review

Need two council members to review the constitution. Every three years it is to be reviewed. Pastor and Amy will help with the suggestions, but the council needs to be in charge. Ed and Mark have agreed to review the constitution. The goal is to be in line with having the 503(c) in order, non profit status by the end of 2019.

Closing

Bev So

Motion to adjourn

Kevin made a motion to adjourn

Closing Prayer - Lord's Prayer

Peace SCRIP Program gets a facelift for Spring!

We have a new helper on Sundays and when Shari is away.... Please welcome Margaret Schmeiding to our program! Thanks, Margaret!

CASH AND CARRY CHANGES ~ We have carried the same cards in our cash and carry box for years! But it's time to make a change.

We plan to eliminate cards from the box because they are not as popular as they once were. Possible eliminations include Burger King, Bob Evans, CVS, Parable Books, Penny's, Subway and Target.

New additions have already started! We now carry BP \$100, Outback (includes Carrabba's and Bonefish Grill) \$25, and Clementines \$25. Did you know that

the card we order for Clementines can be ordered for over 40 different restaurants? We will have a list of those restaurant posted at church.... Lots of cool places!

Do you have any suggestions for adding products to our cash and carry box? Just let Shari, Margaret or Amy know and we'll take them into consideration!

ONLINE PURCHASING! At least 6 people are interested in this! The possibilities are endless... even having a 'Scrip Wallet' on your phone so you always have your cards handy when you are out shopping! (If you have your phone with you...lol.)

Let us know if you are interested in learning more about this program!

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 do we use lilies on Easter Sunday?

It wouldn't look like Easter Sunday without at least a few Easter lilies decorating the Sanctuary. There are many myths and traditions that have sprung up around this beloved flower.

Tradition states that the Easter lily originated in the Garden of Eden by the teardrops of remorse Eve cried as she and Adam were being driven from the Garden. Wherever Eve's tears fell, white lilies sprang from the ground.

The lily is also associated with the Virgin Mary. In Christian artwork Mary is often depicted receiving a bundle of white lilies from the angel Gabriel.

In the Sermon on the Mount from Matthew's Gospel, Jesus refers to the "lilies of the field. . . they do not toil, nor do they spin; and yet. . . Solomon in

all his glory was not arrayed like one of these." While these may not have been the pure white Easter Lily, (there are a variety of wild lilies), tradition holds that Jesus was referring to the pure white lily.

The moniker "white-robed apostle of hope" comes from the events of Holy Week and Easter. It is claimed that when Jesus sweated blood in the Garden of Gethsemane as he was prayerfully awaiting his arrest, Easter Lilies sprang up wherever his blood landed on the dirt. With Jesus' resurrection several days later, the lilies were seen to be a sign of hope that death is not the end for those who believe.

In the United States, it is only since the early 1900s that the lily became a common adornment in congregations and homes during the Easter season.



Women of the NALC Meeting set for April 27

Start planning now to spend a Saturday in Owosso, Mich. Women from NALC congregations in the Lower Peninsula of Michigan are invited to gather at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Owosso, Mich., on Saturday, April 27 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This is the first attempt to gather women from our Mission District together to discuss possible joint ministry options. More information will be available as the day draws near.

Perhaps we can get several women to carpool together to this event! Contact Pastor Steve for more information.

Looking ahead to Barbott's plant sales

Nicer weather is just around the corner.... literally! Long range forecasts are definitely beginning to moderate! It's still too early to plant, but not too early to start thinking about what we want! We have not set our prices for 2019, but are planning to lower them to continue to be competitive in the market.

Barbott's has changed the way they distribute certificates to Fundraisers so we need to plan ahead on what we want.

~ Peace can order certificates for our 'stock' between April 1 and April 30
~ Barbott's will honor them beginning May 1

Sherri Schmidt hopes to order enough Certificates to cover the entire season but needs your help! If you have ordered before, you probably have an idea on what you need (especially those of you who order lots of certificates!) Sherri will have newly priced order sheets on the Welcome Desk in the Narthex for you to complete starting March 24.

Please complete your orders as early as possible so Sherri knows how many certificates she can safely purchase for our 'stock' of certificates. She will order extra certificates to, hopefully, have enough to last through May!



**RETURNING IN AUGUST:
PAUL TODD AND PAUL TODD JR.
WATCH FOR CONCERT DETAILS
IN UPCOMING MONTHS!**



Easter Egg Hunt

**Saturday, April 13
10 a.m.**

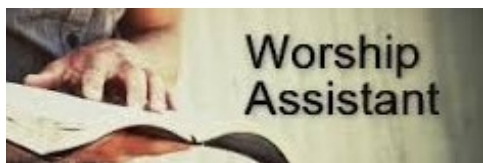
**More than 1,500 Eggs to Hunt
Treat Bags for Every Child
Snacks, Crafts and a Photo Booth
Bring Your Own Basket!
Dress for the Weather!
Elementary and Younger Children**

**To Register, please visit our website or visit our
Facebook Page at Peace Lutheran Church NALC.**

**Peace Lutheran Church NALC
3590 Lincoln Ave., St. Joseph, MI 49085
(269) 556-7000
www.peacelutheranstjoe.org**



**After the hunt, join us for Easter Worship
at 10:15 a.m., April 21.**



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: Gary Walker

Communion: Lee and Lynn Hornack

April 7

Greeters/Ushers: Lee and Lynn Hornack

Lector: Barb Morgan

Altar Guild: Nan Hacker

Fellowship: Open

Altar Flowers: Open

April 14

Greeters/Ushers: Chris and Virgil
Bennett

Lector: Larry Hacker

Acolyte: Ainsley Cahill

Altar Guild: Amy Cahill

Altar Flowers: Open

Fellowship: The Fellowship Committee

THIS MONTH'S READINGS



Sun., April 7 - Fifth Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 43:16-21, Psalm 126

Philippians 3:4b-14, Luke 20:9-20

Sun., April 14 - Palm Sunday

Deuteronomy 32:36-39, Psalm 118:19-29

Philippians 2:5-11, Luke 19:41-44

Thurs., April 18 - Maundy Thursday

Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 116:12-19

Hebrews 10:15-25, Luke 22:7-20

April 18

Lector: Amy Cahill

Altar Guild: Nan Hacker

April 21

Greeters/Ushers: Keith, Jill and Steven
Chapman

Lector: Steven Chapman

Altar Guild: Karen Richardville

Acolyte: Emily Sorensen

Altar Flowers: The Congregation

April 28

Greeters/Ushers: Brian and Heidi
Sorensen

Lector: Ainsley Cahill and Emily Sorensen

Altar Guild: Loretta Hartten

Altar Flowers: Open

Fri., April 19 - Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Psalm 22

Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9, John 18:1-19:42

Sun., April 21 - Resurrection of Our Lord

Isaiah 65:17-25, Psalm 16

1 Corinthians 15:19-26, Luke 24:1-12

Sun., April 28 - Second Sunday after Easter

Acts 5:12-32, Psalm 148

Revelation 1:4-18, John 20:19-31

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 9-12 Office Hours 6p Fellowship Committee Mtg	2 9-12 Office Hours 11:30 Prayer Mtg	3 9-12 Office Hours 5:45p S. Super 7p Lent Worship	4 9-12 Office Hours 8 Men's Ministry 7p Choir	5 Office closed	6
7 10:15 Worship	8 9-12 Office Hours 7p Worship Committee Mtg	9 9-12 Office Hours 11:30 Prayer Mtg	10 9-12 O. Hours Noon EEH bags 2:30 Upton 5:45p S. Super 7p Lent Worship	11 9-12 Office Hours 8 Men's Ministry 7p Choir	12 Office closed 9 Soup Kitchen	13 10 Easter Egg Hunt
14 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Palm Sunday 11:30 A New Dir.	15 9-12 Office Hours 6p Council	16 9-12 Office Hours 11:30 Prayer Mtg	17 9-12 Office Hours 2:30 Upton	18 News Due 9-12 Office Hours 8 Men's Ministry 7p Maundy Thursday	19 Office closed 7p Good Friday Worship	20
21 10:15 Easter Worship	22 9-12 Office Hours	23 9-12 Office Hours 11:30 Prayer Mtg 7p Discipleship Class	24 9-12 Office Hours 2:30 Upton 7:30p Genesis Study	25 9-12 Office Hours 8 Men's Ministry 7p Choir	26 Office closed	27
28 9 S. School 10:15 Worship	29 9-12 Office Hours	30 9-12 Office Hours 11:30 Prayer Mtg 7p Discipleship Class	9-12 Office Hours 2:30 Upton 7:30p Genesis Study	9-12 Office Hours 8 Men's Ministry 7p Choir		

Birthdays

2 Bill Konar
2 Judy Priebe
5 Vicki Hettig
7 Les Collins
7 Kevin Kutchie
9 Gary Walker
10 Kevin Fitzpatrick
12 Harold Lick
13 Bob Roberts
15 Cliff DeSchaaf
19 Barb Morgan
19 Richard Steinbauer
25 Pat Greenburg
26 James Chartrand
26 Marguerite
Halverson
26 Ted Hollacher
28 Sandy Schuermann

Anniversaries

20 Rich & Norma
Carpenter
24 Jim & Shirley
Chapman Jr.
26 Larry & Nan Hacker
26 Eddie & Lisa Zajac

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.*

Albert Beebe
Marian Hogue
Joe Naines
Ruth Retzke
Betty Robbins
Roger and Elaine Sirk
Barbara Southland
Mildred Wantz

**Easter Flowers
available to order
March 17- April 7**

Pots of Easter Lilies,
Tulips, Daffodils and
Hyacinths will again be
\$10 each. Order forms are
available in the bulletin.





**Join us for Brunch
following worship on
Palm Sunday.**

**If you plan to attend, please
sign up on the bulletin board
and bring a dish to share.**



**Maundy Thursday
Services**

7 p.m. April 18

Good Friday Services

7 p.m. April 19

**Easter Services
10:15 a.m. April 21**

Peace
LUTHERAN CHURCH

3590 Lincoln Avenue
St. Joseph, MI 49085

