



PEACE  
NORTH AMERICAN  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

March, 2020



## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

The idea for this column came from a church website in Georgia. I found it appropriate for Lent.

It turns out the world isn't an easy place for a cross. That's why I'm proud of the one that stands on our church property in Sylvia's Garden. So let's not forget what it represents as it stands there before the changing seasons.

Our cross—once an instrument of torture—stands proudly in defiance of those who would ridicule the peaceful meekness of the man it failed to kill. Our cross—once an emblem of state power—stands as an almost mocking reminder that the powers of this world will not have the last word.

Our cross—once a shameful implement of cruelty, humiliation and death—is now re-purposed to stand as an emblem of Christian hospitality, love and life.

Our cross—once a tool to be feared—is now a beacon of hope and healing wherever it is found.

Our cross still stands on Lincoln Avenue because God's peace is stronger than war; because God's love is stronger than hatred; because God's grace is stronger than exclusion; because God's hope is stronger than fear; and because God's life is stronger

than death.

Our cross stands under the shadow of Peace Lutheran's steeple through wind and rain, hail, snow and sleet; in cold and heat because no matter what the world throws at our cross, God's redemption, God's restoration and God's resurrection are real.

The cross may be a little worse for wear compared to when it was first erected, but its imperfections remind me of my own. It's been coated with stain to prevent decay, yet mold and mildew still grow on its surface.

I've watched members work to fix it, to keep it upright and strong against the Michigan winds.

I've wondered as the repairs are made, is the cross fixing those who are working to repair it?

Of course, there's only one way the cross fixes us and there's only one way *Christ's* cross becomes *our* cross. We'll have to do what Jesus said, and take it up, and follow Him.



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

*Wednesday*

7 p.m. Lenten Services

*Thursday*

7 p.m. Choir



Don't forget that Sunday, March 8 is the start  
of Daylight Savings Time!



# COUNCIL MINUTES

## Peace Lutheran Church Council Minutes Monday, February, 2020 6:30 p.m.

**Members present:** Bev So, Rich Steinbauer, Barb Berry, Bryan Sorensen, Virgil Bennett, Bob Phillips, Herb Kroening

**Also present:** Pastor Hartten, Jon Kooiman

**Absent:** Mark Carpenter, Ed Zajac

### Call to Order

Bev So called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

### Opening Devotion/Prayer

Pastor Hartten's devotion was taken from Ephesians 4: 26, 27. "In your anger do not sin". Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. Pastor said prayer after devotion. Approval of February agenda Virgil made a motion to approve the February agenda and Rich seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Approval of January 2020 minutes** made via email

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

	Current Month	Current Month Budget	Over (Under) Budget
Offerings	\$13,202	\$15,450	(\$2,248)
Interest	\$ 16	\$ 16	\$ 0
Total	\$13,218	\$15,466	(\$2,248)

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Over (Under) Budget
Offerings	\$13,202	\$15,450	(\$2,248)
Interest	\$ 16	\$ 16	\$ 0
Total	\$13,218	\$15,466	(\$2,248)

### Old business

- **Church website review.** Council looked over the projected website. The basic content will remain as shown, but we cannot have the bold colors that were originally chosen. This new website will have a tracker that will tell us how many visits were made to our website.

- **Zajac benefit** will be held on April 25. Virgil Bennett, Bryan Sorensen and Rich Steinbauer have agreed to serve on the committee. They will talk to other veterans about joining the committee. The committee will decide on a menu by March 1. Posters will be made and sent out in March.

- **The council retreat** will be held on March 14 at 8 a.m. at Bev So's home. We will be discussing the ideas that were generated as a result of the Congregational forum on Feb. 2. Also the council called all the members who were not able to attend the Forum in order to get everyone's input for the future of our church.

Pastor Hartten gave each council member a book to read before the council retreat. The title of the book is *Autopsy of a Deceased Church* by Thom S. Rainer. The book discusses consistent themes among those churches that have died and gives lessons on how to keep our church alive.

### Standing Committee Reports

- **Worship Committee** sent via email **Ken Berry**

Theme for Ash Wednesday will be "Son of God goes Forth to War." Palm Sunday will be April 4 and foot washing on Maundy Thursday, April 9. The council gave Ken the approval to go ahead with the Welcome Center sign.

- **Fellowship** sent via email **Christine Bennett**

The Leap Year dinner/dance will be Feb. 29. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. and dinner will be served at 6 p.m. with Contra Dance to follow until 10 p.m. Cost is \$12 per person.

Lent Soup and Suppers will start on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 26 through April 1. There is a sign up sheet for the congregation to bring soup.

Palm Sunday brunch will be held on April 5. There will be a sign up sheet to bring food.

- **Building/Property** **Virgil Bennett**

Virgil had nothing to report at this time.

- **Pastor's Report** sent via email **Pastor Hartten**

Pastor Hartten brought in a brochure for "Pennies for Patients Day". We have done this in the past and the council decided we should do this again. We will

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# CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES



**Sunday, January 26, 2020**

## **Call to Order**

**President Bev So**

The meeting was called to order at 11:35 a.m.

## **Opening Prayer**

**Pastor Steve Hartten**

Pastor Steve opened the meeting with a prayer.

## **Establishment of Quorum**

**Bev So**

*(12 eligible voters needed for a quorum)* Quorum was established.

## **Approval of Agenda**

Evelyn Chevette made a motion to approve the agenda and Sandy Warren seconded the motion. The motion passed.

## **Approval of Minutes of Sept. 22**

Jill Chapman made a motion to approve the congregational meeting minutes from Sept. 22. Jeanette Jeske seconded the motion. The motion passed.

## **Council Report**

**Bev So**

Since last meeting in September, there have been many activities happening here at Peace. Our newest very successful activity was the Trunk or Treat on October 26. Other activities include the Chili Cook Off, Harvest Dinner, and Greening of the Church. Hats and mittens were given to children at Lybrook Elementary school in Eau Claire. We hosted lunch at the Soup Kitchen in October and December, and gave Christmas gifts to two families through the Salvation Army. Also a big thank you to Sharon Schmidt and participants in the successful SCRIP program.

Improvements have been seen in the church, such as the updated nursery, new energy-saving lights in the sanctuary and hallways, updated website and the new youth room.

Bev talked to the congregation about how and why a church is formed. Christ looked at the needs of the people, provided it and then began to preach out the good deeds. The church today must live up to its true billing of meeting the needs of the people.

Our congregation has some difficult decisions to make and questions to answer in the near future. Questions such as "Why are we here? What

should we do going forward? Are our minds and hearts open to each other?" We pray that Peace may enter a new age of loving and understanding, of outreach into the lives of our members and our community.

## **Financial Update**

**Shawn Cahill**

### **2020 Proposed Budget**

A financial packet was passed out to the congregation which included a balance sheet by fund, profit and loss statement, and budget detail. Shari Schmidt asked about fund raising amounts for Juli Nurbhai and Shawn explained how that was paid out.

Elaine Chartrand asked about the quilting and Shawn explained quilting was under operating expense and not a separate fund.

Dominic So asked about the length of time left on the mortgage and found out there is four years left on the mortgage. Barb Morgan asked about the major repairs and maintenance and Shawn explained what is included in that fund.

There was a discussion about a new roof. Virgil Bennett is getting estimates for repairs to last for awhile.

Dominic asked about the attendance data which was an average of 97 people in 2013 and about 66 in 2019. Margaret Schmieding made a motion to accept the budget as written. Ginger Kunst seconded the motion and the motion passed.

## **Senior Pastor's Report**

**Pastor Steve**

There are many highlights for our congregation. We were the first church to raise money for the Coast Guard when they were without pay, and other churches followed our lead. Our Fellowship Committee was very successful in the new community event in sponsoring the Trunk or Treat. They are also getting geared up for a new member activity. They are planning a Leap Year Dinner/Dance. The Easter Egg Hunt went well and also the new Palm Sunday Brunch was a hit with the members.

Louise Solak and Jill Chapman were instrumental in starting the Intercessory Prayer Team. Council began greeting outside on Sundays at both the fellowship door and the main door. Name tags have seen positive results.

There have been updates to the Narthex, such as

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# Council Minutes

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ask Sandy Schuermann if she would like to head this project after March 1.

Pastor Hartten passed out a document titled "Recognizing (and Channeling) People's Fear of Change". It talks about how leaders should deal with change with a sense of urgency. Leaders should accept their role as change agent, don't procrastinate, help everyone see the realities of the present situation, pray, keep mission in mind, focus on gains rather than losses, communicate and celebrate.

The summary of pastor's activities are as follows: Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen, Bud Talbot Funeral, Church Council, Congregational Forum, Dean's Responsibilities, Family Fellowship, Home Visits, Hospital Visits, Lutheran Clergy Text Study, Men's Thursday Bible Study, No Regrets Men's Conference, Nursing Home Visits, Office Visits, Tuesday - Prayer Meeting, Tutoring at Upton Middle School, Worship Committee, Sunday Worship Services, Youth Sunday School

## New Business

### • Council greeters for March.

The council members chose Sundays in March to greet at the Narthex door and Fellowship door.

March 1 - Bryan and Bob.

March 8 - Rich and Mark.

March 15 - Herb and Barb.

March 22 - Bev and Virgil.

March 29 - Bryan and Bob.

### • Five week absent phone calls

Council members will take turns making the five week absent phone calls.

### • Soup Kitchen yearly update Barb Berry/Bev So

Peace Lutheran Church served 670 adults and 23 children in 2019. Our food drive from 2019 was able to fund the costs for the Soup Kitchen for the whole year. The 2020 food drive is underway to hopefully fund the Soup Kitchen costs for this year.

### • Benevolence catch-up Pastor Hartten

Peace Lutheran Church did not pay the December payment of our agreed amount to NALC. The amount was \$800. Virgil made a motion to send an additional \$200 each quarter and Bryan seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### • Flocknote.com Pastor Hartten

Church Communications. Churches using Flocknote can reach more of their people at a moment's notice, giving them higher attendance, increased stewardship and a more connected church. Council decided to table any decision until next month. Bryan also explained podcasts and how that might work to our advantage.

## Motion to adjourn

Herb made a motion to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

## Closing prayer

The council joined together in praying the Lord's Prayer".

# Congregational Meeting

*Continued from Page 3*

the Welcome Center and the new SCRIP desk. Other updates include the nursery room and the youth room.

Pastor Steve compared our church to an image of a sailing ship. The winds are changing; and as we are preparing for new guests and other changes, our sailing ship needs to readjust the sails. Our church needs many hands on deck to change the course successfully.

With that being said, the church is planning an all-member forum to be held on Sunday, Feb. 2, following the morning service. At that time council members will facilitate at each table. The members will discuss three paths to follow and which path

should be taken by Peace Lutheran Church. All ideas are welcomed and needed.

## Recognition of Outgoing Council Members and New Bev So

Bev thanked Kevin Kunst for his service through the past six years. Kevin spoke a few words to the congregation. Bev introduced the new council members, Bryan Sorensen and Bob Phillips. Bev announced the council's executive committee as follows: Bev So as president, Rich Steinbauer as vice president, Barb Berry as secretary.

## Motion to Adjourn Bev So

Ed Zajac made a motion to adjourn.

## Closing Prayer Pastor Steve

Andrews University is planning a Passion Play this Easter and is looking for actors. For more information, [passionplay.andrews.edu](http://passionplay.andrews.edu).

# LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF ANNUAL COLLECTION FOR BASKETS OF PROMISE



Once again, we invite you to join us throughout this Lenten season as we gather items for Personal Care Kits. Collections run 6 weeks through the week of Palm Sunday. This year's goal is 200 kits!

Every day, LWR Personal Care Kits give families around the world some of life's essentials, things we can't imagine doing without here. The simple items included in a Personal Care Kit provide the much-needed self-care critical for germ fighting and the chance to regain dignity amidst situations of loss, fear and uncertainty. Giving is our PROMISE that they are not alone. Please help us keep that promise.

## EACH PERSONAL CARE KIT CONTAINS:

**Week 1** – Two bath-size bars of soap (4 oz. each).  
Any brand, in original wrapping.

**Week 2** – One adult-size toothbrush in original packaging.  
Please note, NO toothpaste.

**Week 3** – One large sturdy comb, (no picks or fine-toothed combs).

**Week 4** – One metal nail clipper (large or small).

**Week 5** – One light-weight bath-size towel – a dark color  
(between 20" x 40" or 52" x 27").

**Your partnership is most appreciated.** Samples of specific products as well as a shopping list of needed items can be found on our table in the narthex. Shopping not your thing? No problem, we are happy to do the shopping. Walmart and Meijer Scrip cards are most helpful.



Lutheran World Relief  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

For information on this project, call Sandy Schuermann at 463-8966.

More information on this LWR program and others can be found at [lwr.org](http://lwr.org).

## Time to start saving your pennies!

This year's *Pennies For Patients* event is May 14. Our donation jar here at Peace will be out through the week of May 17 to be counted toward this year's 2020 campaign.



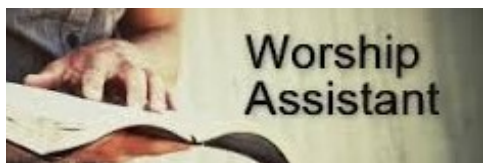
Did you donate to our 2019 Pennies for Patients jar? Our contributions totaled \$200 to Berrien County Cancer Services to provide support for patient care and family services free of charge! 2020 is our fifth year to support BCCS and their annual "Pennies For Patients" fundraiser. LET'S MAKE IT OUR BEST YEAR YET.



Sisters in the Spirit will meet at 10 a.m. March 21 at the Stevensville Martin's. All women are encouraged to join in this Bible Study and fellowship time.

## Men's Group to meet March 21

The men are organizing a Men's Group, which will meet from 8-9:30 a.m. on March 21 in the Fellowship Hall. Pancakes are on the menu. Call the church office for more information.



## SUPPORTING OUR WORSHIP

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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:** Jim Priebe  
**Communion:** The Cahill Family

March 1

**Greeters:** Gary and Barb Walker  
**Lector:** Barb Morgan  
**Altar Guild:** Ginger Kunst  
**Altar Flowers:** Open

March 8

**Greeters:** Ginger and Kevin Kunst  
**Lector:** Greg Solak  
**Altar Guild:** Louise Solak  
**Altar Flowers:** The Kroenings

## THIS MONTH'S READINGS

**Sun., March 1 - First Sunday of Lent**

Genesis 3:1-21, Psalm 32:1-7  
Romans 5:12-19, Matthew 4:1-11

**Wed., March 4 - The Hidden Warrior**

Psalm 16, John 11:33-37

**Sun., March 8 - Second Sunday of Lent**

Genesis 12:1-9, Psalm 121  
Romans 4:1-8, 13-17, John 3:1-17

**Wed., March 11 - Skirmishes**

Psalm 3, Hebrews 2:14-18

March 15

**Greeters:** Ken and Barb Berry  
**Lector:** Herb Kroening  
**Altar Guild:** Margaret Schmieding  
**Altar Flowers:** Open

March 22

**Greeters:** Bev and Dominic So  
**Lector:** Bev. So  
**Altar Guild:** Mark Carpenter  
**Altar Flowers:** Open

March 29

**Greeters:** Teresa Hogan and Jeanette  
Jeske  
**Lector:** Teresa Hogan  
**Altar Guild:** Pastor Steve Hartten  
**Altar Flowers:** Open



**Sun., March 15 - Third Sunday of Lent**

Exodus 17:1-7, Psalm 95:1-9  
Romans 5:1-8, John 4:5-30, 39-42

**Wed., March 18 - Know Your Enemy**

Psalm 18:1-19, 46-50, Ephesians 6:10-13

**Sun., March 22 - Fourth Sunday of Lent**

Isaiah 42:14-21, Psalm 142  
Ephesians 5:8-14, John 9:1-41

**Wed., March 25 - The Warrior Rejected**

Psalm 22:1-18, John 6:63b-68

**Sun., March 29 - Fifth Sunday of Lent**

Ezekiel 37:1-14, Psalm 130  
Romans 8:1-11, John 11:1-53

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:45 Youth Group	2 9-12 Office Hours 6p Fellowship Committee Mtg	3 9-12 Office Hours 11:30 Prayer Mtg	4 9-12 Office Hours 5:45p S. Supper 7p Lenten Worship	5 9-12 Office Hours 8 Men's Ministry 7p Choir	6 Office closed	7
8 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:45 Youth Group	9 9-12 Office Hours 7p Worship Committee Mtg	10 Election Day 9-12 Office Hours 11:30 Prayer Mtg	11 9-12 Office Hours 5:45p S. Supper 7p Lenten Worship	12 9-12 Office Hours 8 Men's Ministry 7p Choir	13 Office closed	14 Council Retreat
15 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 3p Bowling	16 9-12 Office Hours 6:30p Council	17 9-12 Office Hours 11:30 Prayer Mtg	18 9-12 Office Hours 5:45p S. Supper 7p Lenten Worship	19 News Due 9-12 Office Hours 8 Men's Ministry 7p Choir	20 Office closed	21 8 Men's Group 10 Sisters in the Spirit
22 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:45 Youth Group	23 9-12 Office Hours	24 9-12 Office Hours 11:30 Prayer Mtg	25 9-12 Office Hours 5:45p S. Supper 7p Lenten Worship	26 9-12 Office Hours 8 Men's Ministry 7p Choir	27 Office closed	28
29 9 S. School 10:15 Worship 11:45 Youth Group	30 9-12 Office Hours	31 9-12 Office Hours 11:30 Prayer Mtg				

## Birthdays

2 Connie Byers  
2 Cathy Dalrymple  
2 Margaret O'Neill  
2 Gloria Siewert  
6 Pat DeSchaaf  
6 Margaret  
Schmieding  
10 Eddie Zajac  
13 Haley Kutchie  
14 John Herrmann  
14 Mia Nurbhai  
15 Jeanine  
Damaské  
17 Kelly Nintz  
23 Brett Genovese  
24 Mark Carpenter

## Anniversaries

1 Keith & Jill  
Chapman  
12 Jerry & Lorene  
Schlutt

## Military

**Lt/jg Chad  
Knipschild**  
301 Maple  
Edgewater, MD  
21037

## Shut-In's

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

Marian Hogue  
Ruth Retzke  
Betty Robbins  
Roger and Elaine  
Sirk  
Barbara Southland  
Mildred Wantz



If you have a loved  
one serving in the  
military, we'd like to  
know about it!

We recognize  
service members on a  
special bulletin board  
in the Narthex and  
include them on our  
prayer list. Please  
contact the church  
office or Ted  
Hollacher.



# Bowling Kelly's Bowl 3 p.m. March 15

**Meet at Kelly's Bowl**  
2705 Cleveland Ave., St. Joseph



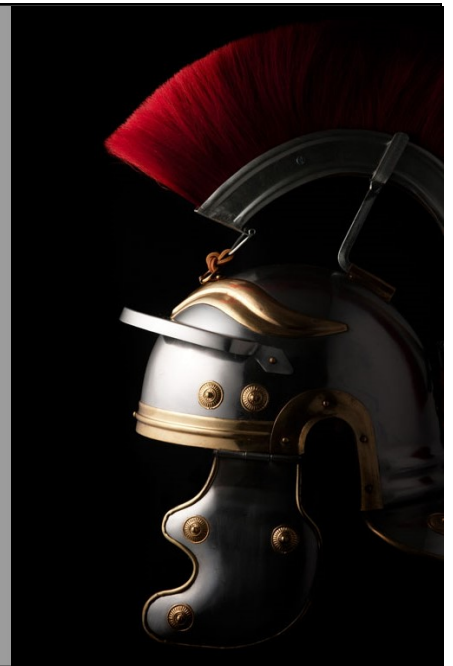
*Afterward, we'll have dinner as a group at Culver's.  
Cost is \$8.50 for two games and shoe rental.  
Please sign-up on the bulletin board if you plan to attend.*

## THE SON OF GOD GOES FORTH TO WAR

Lenten Worship  
7 p.m. Wednesdays in March, April 1  
5:45 p.m. Soup and Bread Supper

### **Holy Week:**

Palm Sunday - April 5, 10:15 a.m.  
Maundy Thursday - April 9, 7 p.m.  
Good Friday - April 10, 7 p.m.



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