



June, 2017

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

This summer, I'm asking everyone to go and visit another church! I'm serious, I'd like you to go and worship with a congregation you've never visited. Do this at least once this summer. I think it is good practice to place oneself in the role of visitor, to be a stranger in a strange land.

When a routine becomes overly familiar, I can lose sight of the familiar. On my commute to work, do I really notice the houses and farms, or do they just blur together?

If I'm going through the supermarket, I look for the items I want in their customary places; it is almost second-nature.

When I know where "my seat" is in the sanctuary, I may not notice the lack of signage in the narthex that could inform a visitor where bathrooms are located and I may not even notice the stranger among us. I can be too settled in my familiar routine.

Go and visit another church, one that you've never been to before. As you pull in the driveway, is it obvious where visitors park? How easy is it to find the main entrance if there are more than one door?

What type of welcome did you receive? Were there official greeters and if so, how did they greet you? Were you provided instructions or did you just get a hello?

How easy is it to follow the liturgy? Was it fully printed in a bulletin or were there hymnals?

Did anyone acknowledge your presence while you were in the Sanctuary? Is fellowship time inviting for visitors or is it a closed group with all the tables occupied?

Did you learn anything from the bulletin boards? What experiences did you have as the outsider?

Make a mental (or if your memory is as good as mine - a written) list of what it was like; what helped you feel welcome and what made it more difficult to connect with the congregation and feel at ease.

Then come back to Peace and look at our practices with new eyes. Where do our visitors park? If you didn't know where the bathrooms were, would you have to ask a member? Is a visitor acknowledged in the Sanctuary or Narthex beyond the official greeter?

We profess to being a warm and welcoming congregation. It is much easier to build upon strength than to try and tackle weaknesses. I am asking us to look at ways we can build upon our strength by learning what it feels like to be the visitor.

Experience worship as an outsider, bring that experience back with you, and let us see how we can improve the Sunday morning experience for our visitors.



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

10:15 a.m. Worship

Tuesday

11:30 a.m. Prayer Meeting

7 p.m. Genesis Study

7 p.m. Ladies Book Study

Wednesday

7 p.m. - Worship

Thursday

8 a.m. Men's Ministry

9 a.m. LWR Quilters

# COUNCIL MINUTES

## Peace Lutheran Church Council Minutes May 15, 2017

**Members Present:** Joe Novak, Jerry Pliley, Karen Richardville, Paul Wilson, Kevin Kunst, Josh Lochner, Sherri Nitz, Mark Carpenter, Beverly So

**Also present:** Pastor Hartten and Judy Novak, treasurer

**Call to Order** at 6 p.m. by Kevin Kunst.

**Opening Prayer** given by Pastor Hartten.

### Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve made by Joe Novak. Seconded by Paul Wilson. Motion passed.

Final review and approval of April 2017 Council Minutes made via email.

### Treasurer's Report

			Judy Novak
TITHES & INTEREST	BUDGET	DIFFERENCE	
MTD	\$20,402.00	\$19,405.68	\$ 996.34
YTD	\$72,582.46	\$69,906.63	\$2,675.83

### Old Business:

#### Funeral Committee Chair

Kevin Kunst

We are still looking for someone to volunteer for this position.

### Standing Committee Reports:

#### Worship/Music

Eight of the Favorite Hymns voted by the congregation at the start of Lent were used on Mother's Day. The balance will be used throughout the summer as licensing issues allow.

Currently the church pays for OneLicense.

#### Property

The cleanup on Saturday went very well. There were many who helped this year.

The lawn mowing is going great.

We still need to mulch which will help keep the weeds under control.

#### Fellowship

The Easter brunch was again a success and

enjoyed by all in attendance.

Cake, coffee, and punch were served to honor our confirmands Autumn and Patrick, following the service on Sunday, May 7th.

A church potluck will take place following the worship service on Sunday, July 30th.

The committee is looking for a volunteer to take charge of buying the kitchen supplies.

### Pastor's Report

Pastor Hartten

Pastor attended many church and community events, including home and hospital visits, church committees, Men's Bible Study, local Lutheran Clergy Text Study, tutoring at Upton, and worship services.

The Easter Sunday Service was a beautiful celebration of life with the pews filled. There has been one baptism and two confirmed.

The council discussed the doors being closed into the sanctuary before services. We agreed that signs be posted on the windows looking into the sanctuary to remind everyone that the sanctuary is a place to prepare for worship. An explanation will also be put in the bulletin each week.

Pastor's office hours on Wednesdays shift depending on the ecumenical clergy gathering. Proposed hours will be from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. but more information is needed about when the group meets. Tuesdays he will be attending the Lutheran pastors' text study from 9:00 - 10:30 am. Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays will be normal office hours. Amy will still be in the office from 9:00 - 12:00, Monday-Thursday.

The "Favorite Hymn" Sunday on May 14 received many positive comments.

### New Business :

#### Vacation Bible School

Kevin Kunst

A donation has been made towards the cost of the Vacation Bible School.

A Thrivent grant is being applied for that will cover the balance of the cost.

### Motion to Adjourn

Joe Novak made the motion to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. Pastor Hartten closed with prayer.





## **Sandy Schuermann resigns as Choir Director**

May 21 was Sandy Schuermann's last Sunday as the Choir Director at Peace Lutheran Church.

The church council offers Sandy a grateful, "Thank you," for her dedication as the Choir Director.

## **Word at Work Workshop**

The Institute of Lutheran Theology will offer a Martin Luther Life and Theology seminar July 22 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Evart, Mich.

The class will look at the 500th anniversary of the reformation.

Morning coffee and doughnuts, as well as lunch, are included.

For more information, contact Pastor Jamie Strickler at 605-651-0689 or [jstrickler@ilt.org](mailto:jstrickler@ilt.org).



## **CHOIR MEMBERS, Musicians & Audio Guys A HEART-FELT THANK YOU !**

Thank you for your hard work, dedication to weekly practices, support of our worship services and our many seasonal celebrations. As well, appreciation to Maria for her weekly support of our practices and services and others for special music. And, to the often missed AV guys in the corner – thank you for your help!

From September through May, you all have freely shared your hearts, gifts and time in support of our music ministry. Our Peace family and visitors alike have generously shared their appreciation and thanks. Always a blessing to hear.

A personal note to Choir members and my Peace Family – *thank you* for your friendship, encouragement, prayers and support over these last five years - I couldn't have done it without you! I have been truly blessed to have had the privilege of sharing my passion (and yours) for meaningful worship and music.

As this season and my directorship has ended, looking forward - I hope you will want to be a part of it next season with a new director, I will. I'll save you a seat!

*Share your gifts, put your faith into action! 'Make a joyful noise unto the Lord' - it's good for the heart!*

Blessings to all, Sandy Schuermann

## **Closed Doors Mean Prayer is Occurring**

In the March 2017 newsletter, Pastor Steve wrote a column about experimenting with keeping the Sanctuary doors closed until the start of the Prelude on Sunday morning. The closed doors provided for two distinct spaces: one inside the Sanctuary for prayer and quiet reflection, the other out in the Narthex for conversation.

The experiment was a resounding success. What began with a group of about ten people seeking quiet time in the Sanctuary has grown to thirty or more people on a given Sunday. Ushers are positioned outside the doors in the Narthex to welcome worshipers and to interact with those who desire conversation. People who want to talk are free to do so; those who desire quiet time now have a designated space.

Signs have been posted in the windows of the Sanctuary as a reminder of our ongoing practice. Anyone can enter the Sanctuary at any time, the one request is that conversation ceases as the person walks through the doors. In this manner we are honoring the needs of both groups, those who prefer to socialize before worship and those who desire quiet time for reflection before worship. Thank you for your patience and understanding for your fellow worshiper who desires a different practice as he prepares to meet the Lord in His house.



## **Help Needed!**

We are in need of a Soup Kitchen Coordinator and a Fellowship Supply Coordinator. If you're willing to help with one of these important roles in the church, please contact the church office or Council President Kevin Kunst. Thank you to Diana Moulton and Ginger Kunst for volunteering to coordinate funeral dinners.



**Mission Matters at Peace Lutheran Church**  
**BASKETS OF PROMISE and PENNIES FOR PATIENTS!**

*I AM BUT ONE PERSON . . . what difference can I make?*  
Have you said that?

**Did you donate change to PENNIES FOR PATIENTS**  
(April 16 to May 1)?

**WE COLLECTED \$275.00 to help Berrien County Cancer Services  
provide support for patient care and family services!**

During March and April, if you donated a bar of soap or a towel or a toothbrush - you helped turn ordinary items into extraordinary gifts to help people deal with some of life's most difficult situations throughout the world.

**Your Lenten efforts produced 125 Personal Care Kits (100 in 2016).**

In 2016 Lutheran World Relief sent nearly 145,000 Personal Care Kits to relieve the suffering of people throughout the world. Together, what you've contributed along with thousands of others truly changes the world, one person at a time.

THANK YOU for supporting the mission efforts at Peace. As we share and care in Jesus' name, every donation you make sends love and hope to those in need, globally and right here in Berrien County.

***Together, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.***

LWR Personal Care and School Kits    Pennies for Patients    Fabrics for Quilts    Food for Soup Kitchen



Ed and Lisa Zajac invite members of the church to join them for  
**the 2nd Annual Fun & Fireworks, July 3rd, 2017**  
1574 Lemon Creek Road, Baroda  
RSVP at 269-944-7537

Join the Zajacs for a great place to view the Baroda fireworks without the hassle of trying to find parking or waiting hours to leave. Lots of parking by the Zajacs and a quick escape route. Bring a lawn chair, beverages of choice... If you want to join them early, you can bring a plate to pass around. They will be making Hot Dogs and Hamburgers around 7:30 p.m. Fireworks at Dusk

# 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.*

## **“Will Peace Lutheran be holding a Passover Dinner next year?”**

This question has arisen several times in my short tenure as pastor. Since Jesus was celebrating the Passover or Pesach during the week when he was arrested, tried, and executed, why shouldn’t we experience the meal too? I believe that hosting a Jewish Passover outside the context of Jewish relationships does more harm than good.

Christians celebrating our own Passover do unwitting harm to the Jewish people because the act ignores centuries of persecution of Jews, and it does harm to us by ignoring our present-day Jewish

neighbors, treating them as relics rather than people. The horrific fear that so many Jewish people have felt cannot be understated. From Easter traditions that involved hunting down Jews to pogroms to ghettos to the Spanish Inquisition to the Holocaust, history is rife with this violent and fear-inducing legacy.

When Christians read the Haggadah (Jewish instructions for hosting a Seder) we are tempted to explain how Jesus is like the Passover lamb, how Jesus fulfilled all the Old Testament prophecies. This theological exercise does not belong in a Jewish ritual. Because Jewish people do not believe the Christian interpretation of their holy texts, it would not be appropriate for a congregation to host a sacred Jewish meal.

If Peace is willing to befriend a Jewish synagogue in the area, if we are willing to learn about each other’s faith, and if a Rabbi was willing to come and teach about the Seder, then Peace could observe a type of Seder under the direction of a Rabbi. Another option for those who desire to participate in a Seder would be to gain an invitation from a Jewish family to participate in their celebration.



## **NALC launches Holy Families initiative**

The North American Lutheran Church has launched its Holy Families! initiative. Holy Families! offers discipleship resources for families to use at home. Holy Families! is a part of the NALC’s observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation — noting the significant contribution of Martin Luther and the Reformation to nurturing faith in the Christian home.

The Thrivent Foundation provided a generous grant to make Holy Families! possible. Produced by Sola Publishing, this special initiative includes a number of Lutheran discipleship resources for families and congregations, including the Holy Families! website. The centerpiece of the Holy Families! initiative is the website — [www.holyfamilytime.com](http://www.holyfamilytime.com) — featuring a host of resources to aid in promoting discipleship in the home.

Included are online materials, downloadable PDF documents, prayers, educational videos, as well as a daily devotional resource for use by parents and children. Accessible through computer, phone, and tablet, the “Holy Family Time” daily devotional is freely available to the public. The hope is that this website will serve as a gift to enrich the lives of families throughout the world.

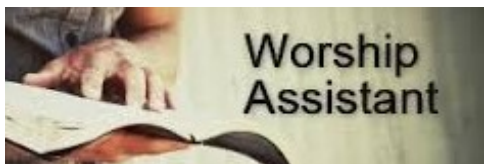
The Holy Family Time devotional was written with these key emphases in mind: 1. Solid Biblical Content. 2. Child- and Family-Friendly Readings. 3. Lutheran Theological Perspective. 4. Questions Asked by the Children. 5. Employing Luther’s Three-fold Approach to Scripture: Prayer, Study, and Struggle.

## **Christian Parenting Aid**

Video Study for Christian Parents “Living as Holy Families” is an online video study by Pastor Marcus Carlson in the form of six videos and downloadable study and leader’s guides.

These resources were written to equip parents to be the first teachers of the Christian faith in their homes, and are freely accessible on the [www.holyfamilytime.com](http://www.holyfamilytime.com) website. For more information visit [www.holyfamilytime.com](http://www.holyfamilytime.com).





## SUPPORTING OUR WORSHIP

Serving this Month:

**Worship Leaders:** Pastor Steve Hartten,  
Pastor Ron Schmidt

**Organist:** Maria Tallman

**Audio:** Josh Lochner, Mark Carpenter

**Video:** Jim Damaske

**Ushers (S):** Nan and Larry Hacker and  
Ed Zajac **(W):** Ron Wilson

**Communion (S):** Shawn and Amy Cahill  
**(W):** Ron Wilson

**Altar Guild (S):** Ginger Kunst  
**(W):** Louise Solak

June 4

**Greeters:** Rich and Norma Carpenter

**Lector:** Barb Morgan

**Altar Flowers:** The Cahill Family

**Fellowship:** Open

June 11

**Greeters:** Joe and Diana Moulton

**Lector:** Joe Moulton

**Altar Flowers:** Open

June 18

**Greeters:** Pastor and Shari Schmidt

**Lector:** Larry Hacker

**Altar Flowers:** Open

**Fellowship:** Open

June 25

**Greeters:** Greg and Louise Solak

**Lector:** Nan Hacker

**Altar Flowers:** Doug and Sandy Landis

**Fellowship:** Choir

## THIS MONTH'S READINGS



### Sun., June 4 - Day of Pentecost

Numbers 11:24-30, Psalm 25:1-15

Acts 2:1-21, John 7:37-39

### Sun., June 11 - Holy Trinity

Genesis 1:1-2:4a, Psalm 8

Acts 2:14a, 22-36, Matthew 28:16-20

### Sun., June 18 - Second Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 19:2-8a, Psalm 100

Romans 5:6-15, Matthew 9:35-10:20

### Sun., June 25 - Third Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 20:7-13, Psalm 91:1-16

Romans 6:12-23, Matthew 10:5a, 21-33

### Wish List

Don't forget to check the Wish List posted on the  
bulletin board.





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9-12 Office Hrs 8 Men's Ministry 9 Quilters	2 Office closed	3 5p Run for the Wall presentation
4 10:15 Worship With communion Grad. Sunday 11:15 VBS Mtg	5 9-12 Office Hours	6 9-12 Office Hrs 11:30 Prayer Mtg 7p Genesis study 7p Women's study	7 9-12 Office Hours 7p Worship	8 9-12 Office Hours 8 Men's Ministry 9 Quilters	9 Office closed 9 Soup Kitchen	10
11 10:15 Worship with communion	12 9-12 Office Hours 7p Worship Committee Mtg	13 9-12 Office Hrs 11:30 Prayer Mtg 7p Genesis 7p Women's study	14 7p Worship	15 News items due 9-12 Office Hours 8 Men's Ministry 9 Quilters	16 Office closed	17
18 10:15 Worship	19 9-12 Office Hours 6p Council mtg	20 9-12 Office Hrs 11:30 Prayer Mtg 7p Genesis 7p Women's study	21 9-12 Office Hours 7p Worship	22 9-12 Office Hours 8 Men's Ministry 9 Quilters	23 Office closed	24
25 10:15 Worship with communion	26 9-12 Office Hours	27 9-12 Office Hrs 11:30 Prayer Mtg 7p Genesis 7p Women's study	28 7p Worship	29 9-12 Office Hours 8 Men's Ministry 9 Quilters	30 Office closed	

### Birthdays

2 Ron Wilson  
4 Albert Beebe  
4 Shawn Cahill  
4 Margy Scott,  
5 Bill Edge  
5 Jerry Pliley  
7 Lisa Zajac  
8 Shelly Fitzpatrick  
9 Keith Chapman  
9 Lorene Schlutt  
10 Sherri Nitz  
17 Christine Bennett  
17 Ruth Lucker  
23 Nolan Fitzpatrick  
25 Bradley Dalrymple  
25 Nan Hacker  
29 Larry Hacker  
29 Jeannette Jeske

### Anniversaries

8 Ray & Marie Lietz  
14 Nancy & Bob Cooley  
14 Joe & Angela Jo Naines  
16 Mark & Becky Carpenter  
16 Brian & Kelly Nimtz  
24 Dominic & Beverly So  
25 Jim & Jeanine Damaske  
25 Doug & Sandy Landis

### Military

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

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

**Sgt. Gary Smith**  
208 Polson Court  
Raeford, NC 28376

### Shut-In's

Albert Beebe  
Lonna Collins  
Mary Dey  
Bill Edge  
Shirley Gano  
Marian Hogue  
Dolores Kraklau  
Ray and Marie Lietz  
Joe and Angela Jo Naines  
Betty Robbins  
Sylvia Schlender  
Barbara Southland  
Ruth Twarucsek  
Mildred Wantz

**CHURCH CALENDAR IS LIVE!**  
**VIEW LATEST UPDATES AT**  
**PeaceLutheranStJoe.org**

# Save the Date!

## Vacation Bible School

### July 17-19

Planning meeting June 4  
following worship



## Run for the Wall Veteran's Presentation



**Harlan Olson**  
of *Run for the Wall*  
to speak at  
Peace Lutheran Church  
**5 p.m. June 3**

May 17-26, 2017, motorcycle riders from across the U.S. gathered in Los Angeles, Calif., for *Run for the Wall*. The riders followed one of three routes across the country to the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington, D.C. Now in its 29th year, the ride is dedicated to Prisoners of War and the Missing in Action. Olson will share information about this healing ministry.

**Peace**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

3590 Lincoln Avenue  
St. Joseph, MI 49085

