



PEACE
NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN CHURCH

September 2021



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

It is often said that faith is a journey. For most of us the journey began as an infant when God claimed us in baptism. Over time, we came to learn stories about Jesus, hopefully at home and in Sunday School. Through Confirmation classes we came to a deeper understanding of our faith, and then we were given the opportunity to affirm the promises our parents and sponsors made on our behalf at our baptism. As the years passed each of us followed a journey that was intended to draw us closer to Jesus. As we learned to trust Jesus, we came to realize that we can surrender ourselves to his care. We learn that our Lord watches over us and sustains us through the ups and downs of life.

The original disciples learned this in a crash course. Jesus sent his disciples out two by two and charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff – no bread, no bag, and no money in their belts. (Mark 6:7,8) They were forced to rely on God to care for their needs; it was a life-long faith journey crammed into a few weeks! They had to look to God for their daily sustenance which would be provided by the hospitality of strangers. They couldn't bring any possessions or belongings in a bag. And they were instructed to leave behind any money; they were to leave behind the ultimate

security blanket. Money is the hardest thing for us to relinquish. We worked hard for our wages, we invested well in retirement, we've earned what we have. It takes a leap of faith to view money as

belonging to God, just as our lives are in God's hands and our possessions are in God's hands. Even Martin Luther didn't include money in the hymn A Mighty Fortress. In writing about how we can be content when the Devil and demons attack us he wrote: "Were they to take our house, goods honor child or spouse, though life be wretched away, they cannot win the day, the Kingdom's ours forever." It looks like the Devil can avail himself of every one of our possessions including our very lives- except money! One lesson I've learned over the last thirty years is that letting go of the belief that it is my money, is by tithing I've grown closer to Jesus. I've come to understand I'm just giving back to God a portion of what I've been entrusted with.

(Continued on page 4)



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:
The Church Office 556-7000

Weekly Worship & Praise Opportunities:

Sunday
10:15 a.m. Worship
also streamed on
Facebook Live
or
YouTube Live
Permission to podcast/stream
the music in our services
obtained from One License
with license #A-722704.

Corrie Ten Boom, the Dutch evangelist who survived the horror of a Nazi concentration camp once wrote: "Yesterday is a cancelled check, today is cash, and tomorrow is a promissory note to them that accept the victory of Jesus."



COUNCIL MINUTES

Monday, August 23, 2021
6:30 p.m.

Members present: Virgil Bennett, Teresa Hogan, Bob Phillips, Bryan Sorensen, Ed Zajac

Absent: Herb Kroening, Barb Berry, Rich Steinbauer

Also Present: Pastor Hartten , Bev So, Christine Bennett

Call to Order: Ed Zajac called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Open Devotion/Prayer Pastor Steve Hartten
 Pastor Hartten’s devotion was based on Prover 13:20 “Listen to advice and accept discipline, and at the end you will be counted among the wise”. There is a lot of wisdom around the table and all are encouraged to speak their opinion.

Approval of August agenda
 Bryan made a motion to approve the August agenda and Teresa seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Approval of July 2021 minutes made via email.

Treasurer’s report	Jon Kooiman (acct. mgr)		
Curr.	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)
Offerings	\$13,896.09	\$15,666.66	\$(1,770.57)
Thrivent Choice		\$45.83	\$(45.83)
Soup Kitchen	\$35	\$33.33	\$1.67
Fellowship	\$111	\$11.66	\$99.34
Interest		-	
Total	\$14,042.08	\$15,757.48	(\$1,715.36)
Year-to-Date	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)
Offerings	\$99,562.07	\$109,666.70	\$(10,104.63)
Thrivent Choice	\$1,000	\$320.85	\$679.15
Soup Kitchen	\$1,135	\$233.35	\$901.65
Fellowship	\$153.19	\$81.70	\$71.49
Interest	\$16.50	-	\$16.50
Total	\$101,866.76	\$110,302.60	(\$8,435.84)

CDM Contract to be completed this week with Money to be deposited in Honor account full transition to take approx. 2 months

Guest Speakers Bev So, Christine Bennett
 Projects for Peace Property
 Purchase of playground equipment offers little benefit with no justification
 Construction of pavilion offers benefits and visibility to passerby
 First consideration should be a 5-year plan with more spiritual guidance from Pastors/Council/NALC
 Virgil stated the congregation needs to consider a potential sale of approx. 4 acres.
 Committee to be formed to discuss property. Ken Berry has agreed to this

Old Business
COVID-19 update and discussion
 Covid 19 is not going away. Health Dept is recommending wearing masks indoors, as this is not a mandate at this time we will continue to social distance, masks optional based on personal preference. If the infection rates continue to rise, we will revisit at next meeting.

Audio/Video Room Clean Up (July) Ed
 All equipment is cleaned up and stored in the back of the fellowship hall. Everything will be sold (Donations Requested) or recycled. Piano and Organ to be sold to update the Electronic Piano in the Sanctuary. Any questions please see Bob, Bryan or Ed

Playground Items for Purchase Bob
 To be discussed once committee is formed.

Charity Event
 Sept 18th 4:00 to 7:00 \$10 Adults \$8 Kids. Hot Dogs/ Pulled Pork and Corn on the Cob. Banner to be created by Oscars, Facebook and Church website to send information, Sign up sheet to help run to be presented to congregation. Indoor / Outdoor seating with Take out available. Advance tickets and Donation to be set up online

Outside Cleanup Ken Berry
 See Grounds Committee standing report.

Continued on page 3

Update on Flag Pole

Virgil

Received Quote of \$542.80 on updates to the Flagpole to make it safer to raise/lower the flag, Pictures will be sent to the company with approval for the work not to exceed \$600 church to give an estimate when time permits.

Standing Committee Reports

Worship

Ken Berry

No meeting

Fellowship

Teresa

Hosting the Mission District meeting, Oct 2nd 930 to 10:00 Coffee/Snacks, Communion Service, Q&A with Bishop Selbo. Men/Women/Clergy small meetings.

Grounds Committee

Ken Berry

The grounds committee requesting line item in next year's budget, to include Sprinkler- spring activation and fall winterization, water cost, mowing, snow removal, mulch and lawn fertilization/emergent/weed killer. Work on vision plan for existing bush /flower beds. Committee is respectfully requesting a Council member serve on the Committee to be a liaison with Council.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Hartten

The summary of the pastor's activities are as follows: Church Council, Confirmation Instruction, Ethiopia Fundraiser, Home Visits, Lutheran Text Study, NALC Convocation, Office Visits, PCAT Team- Bethel, Pre-Marriage Counseling, Tuesday Prayer Group, Worship Committee, Sunday Worship.

Ethiopian - Mekane Yesus Church

The seminary has a vision of constructing a multi-level building to rent out retail space on the first floors and the upper level set aside for training pastors and Bible translators. Pastor Hartten would like to set aside a Sunday to promote this cause. This church is experiencing 40,000 baptisms per month. It is the fastest growing Lutheran Church in the world. Video to be shown at Congregational meeting and / or during Services.

New Business

Bob introduced a Prison Ministry program – Crossroads ministry- Crossroads sends lesson books to prisoner, who write down questions then form is sent to mentor- no personal information exchanged. www.CPMinistry.org

Booth at Berrien County Youth Fair

Booth at fair was successful, Pastor questioned brochure stated we were starting a Monday service, that has not been established as of yet

Second Worship Service

Pastor Steve asked Council to prayerfully consider a Monday night worship service. Church Council has given approval; the next step is approval from the congregation at September meeting.

September Greeters

Barb

September 5th Ed / Bob
September 12th Teresa / Bryan
September 19th Herb / Barb
September 26th Rich / Ed

Amy C. Little, General Secretary to NALC

We have received the Recommendation Report from the PCAT Team. Full Council meeting to be held September 7th

Motion to Adjourn

Bryan made a motion to adjourn.

Closing prayer

Pastor

Pastor prayed.

Pastor's Message

(Continued from page 1)

God allows me to keep 90% of what he's entrusted to me for my own use; He asks that I give back 10% to further God's ministry on this Earth. In so doing, I learned to trust Jesus that I can live on 90% and still have my needs met.

Where are you in your faith journey? What have you learned to relinquish to God's care? What are you still holding onto? Holding on in a way that provides an obstacle to being closer to Jesus? This Fall, try letting go of the security blanket that gets in the way of Jesus. In doing so you will find a new joy in life.



Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting is Sunday, September 26th

Peace Lutheran will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting after worship on Sunday, September 26, 2021. Please mark your calendars so that we have a good turnout for the meeting. Watch for a potluck sign-up sheet to assist with meal planning during the meeting.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



Pastor Steve Hartten will be on vacation from September 6th to September 19th. If you are in need of Pastoral care while he is gone, please contact Pastor Ron Schmidt.

**THIS MONTH'S
READINGS**



**Sunday, Sep 5 - Fifteenth Sunday after
Pentecost**

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

**Sunday, Sep 12 – Sixteenth Sunday after
Pentecost**

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

**Sunday, Sep 19 – Seventeenth Sunday
after Pentecost**

Jeremiah 11:18-20, Psalm 54
James 3:13-4:10, Mark 9:30-37

**Sunday, Sep 26– Eighteenth Sunday after
Pentecost**

Numbers 11:4-6,10-16,24-29 Psalm
104:27-35
James 5:1-20, Mark 9:38-50



- 9/5 Ed Zajac & Bob Phillips
9/12 Bryan Sorensen & Teresa Hogan
9/19 Herb Kroening & Barb Berry
9/26 Rich Steinbauer & Ed Zajac



**Our Church's New Mobile
App is Here!**

Peace Lutheran Church is pleased to announce we have an upgraded mobile app! Vanco, our eGiving provider, has launched an updated mobile app called Vanco Mobile.

This new mobile app will be replacing GivePlus Mobile. With Vanco Mobile, you can send one-time donations or set recurring gifts.

**How Do You Download Vanco
Mobile?**

It's easy! Head over to the App Store or Google Play to download Vanco Mobile for free. **Be sure to download this app soon, as GivePlus Mobile will be retired as of September 30, 2021.**

To give using Vanco Mobile, follow these five easy steps:

- Search for our church by name.
- Select your gift amount, fund and frequency.
- Enter your payment method. (You can save this information for future use!)
- Choose whether you want to cover processing fees.
- Click **Submit** to complete your donation.

Please stop by the church office or call Brandi if you have questions or need assistance.



**PLEASE JOIN IN OUR ANNUAL
LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF
SCHOOL KIT PROJECT**

AGAIN THIS YEAR, OUR GOAL IS 200 KITS

***DONATIONS & SUPPLIES ARE NEEDED
Collecting now to September 30***

***Shopping lists, a donation box, supply collection bin and
sample kits are available in the narthex.***

***If donating, please write your check to Peace Lutheran Church
and note **LWR KITS** on your check memo line or envelope.***

We are half-way there – please help us meet our goal.

SCHOOL SUPPLY LIST

- | | | |
|---|---|---------------------|
| 4 | Notebooks -Spiral 70-sheet, Wide or College Ruled, 8" X 10 ½ | |
| 1 | Blunt-Nose Scissors (Safety with embedded steel blades work well) | |
| 1 | Ruler – 12 inch/30 centimeters | 1 Box of 24 Crayons |
| 5 | Black or Blue Ballpoint Pens (no gel ink) | 1 Eraser/2 ½" Pinks |
| 5 | #2 Pencils with Erasers – Unsharpened | 1 Pencil Sharpener |
| * | We purchase backpacks in volume for best savings. | |



**With good sales and your help – the average cost per school kit is \$5.00
Your help allows children in need to do the most normal thing in the middle
of loss and crisis – *go to school*. Your gift is truly appreciated.**

Thank you for your continued support of this important global ministry.

Bishop Selbo to Attend Michigan Mission District Meeting

Our congregation has a wonderful opportunity this Fall. Our members not only have the opportunity to visit with other NALC Lutherans from across Michigan's Lower Peninsula, we have the opportunity to spend time with our denominational Bishop! Peace Lutheran is hosting this year's Annual Michigan Mission District meeting on Saturday, October 2nd. Gathering time starts at 9:30 a.m. and the meeting begins at 10:00 a.m. with a Service of Holy Communion. Worship is followed by a question and answer session with the Bishop. After lunch we will hear a presentation on overseas mission from Pastor Samar Ghandour on Victory Ministry's work in Liberia, Guinea, Sierra Leone, and the Ivory Coast. We will also have the opportunity to break into small groups of men, women, and clergy to make plans for events/gatherings between annual meetings. The day ends at 3:00 p.m. to allow time for attendees to return to their home congregations. Please plan to attend. Sign up in the Hallway so the Fellowship Committee knows how many will be attending from our congregation.

Fellowship Committee Requests Assistance for the Bishop's Visit

The Fellowship Committee is gearing up for Bishop Selbo's visit on October 2nd. Assistance is still needed from the congregation at large to make the Mission District meeting a success.

The first need is lodging; some pastors and lay delegates will be traveling a long distance to attend this meeting. Some will desire to come down Friday afternoon (October 1st) and spend the night. Beds are requested to house visitors and the Fellowship Committee is willing to coordinate placements, but members beyond the committee are requested to provide housing. The second area where help is needed is the luncheon on October 2nd. The host congregation is required to provide lunch for all who attend. If you would like to lend a helping hand in the kitchen, please contact a committee member. The Fellowship Committee is: Ginger Kunst, Chirs Bennett, Loretta Hartten, Teresa Hogan, Laurie Quardokus, and Tammy Stienbauer.



A Few Thoughts on the Lord's Prayer

I cannot pray *Our*, if my faith has no room for others and their need.

I cannot pray *Father*, if I do not demonstrate this relationship to God in my daily living.

I cannot pray *who art in heaven*, if all of my interests and pursuits are in earthly things.

I cannot pray *hallowed be thy name*, if I am not striving, with God's help, to be holy.

I cannot pray *thy kingdom come*, if I am unwilling to accept God's rule in my life.

I cannot pray *thy will be done*, if I am unwilling or resentful of having it in my life.

I cannot pray *on earth as it is in Heaven*, unless I am truly ready to give myself to God's service

here and now.

I cannot pray *give us this day our daily bread*, without expending honest effort for it, or if I would withhold from my neighbor the bread that I receive.

I cannot pray *forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us*, if I continue

to harbor a grudge against anyone.

I cannot pray *lead us not into temptation*, if I deliberately choose to remain in a situation where I

am likely to be tempted.

I cannot pray *deliver us from evil*, if I am not prepared to fight evil with my life and my prayer.

I cannot pray *thine is the kingdom*, if I am unwilling to obey the King.

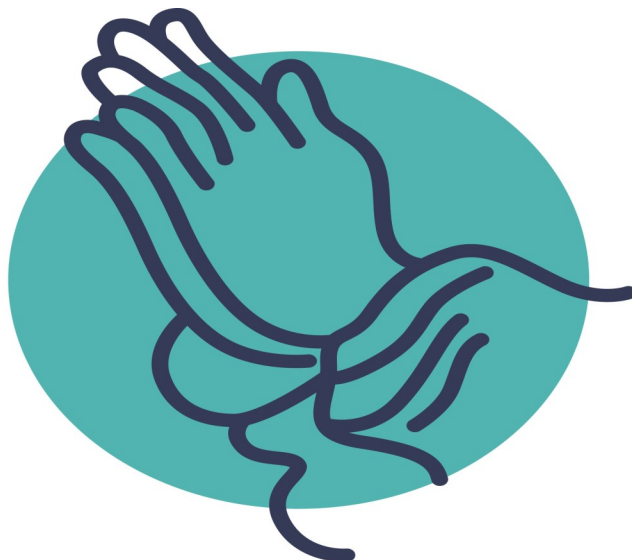
I cannot pray *thine is the power and the glory*, if I am seeking power for myself and my own

glory first.

I cannot pray *forever and ever*, if I am too anxious about each day's affairs.

I cannot pray *Amen*, unless I honestly say, "Cost what it may, this is my prayer."

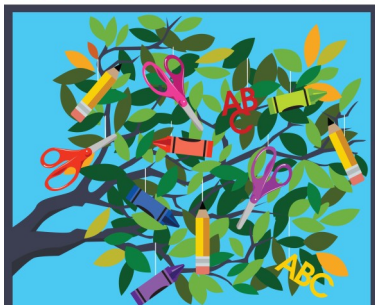
Anonymous



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9-12 Office Hrs	2 9-12 Office Hrs	3 Office Closed	4
5 10:15 Worship w/communion	6 Labor Day Office Closed ***	7 9-12 Office Hrs 7p Prayer Mtg via Zoom ***	8 9-12 Office Hrs 6pm Dinner club @ Coach's ***	9 9-12 Office Hrs *** 7p Choir practice	10 Office closed ***	11 ***
12 10:15 Worship w/communion ***	13 9-12 Office Hrs 7p Worship Committee ***	14 9-12 Office Hrs 7p Prayer Mtg via Zoom ***	15 9-12 Office Hrs ***	16 9-12 Office Hrs *** 7p Choir practice	17 Office closed ***	18 ***
19 10:15 Worship w/communion ***	20 9-12 Office Hrs 6:30p Council Mtg	21 9-12 Office Hrs 7p Prayer Mtg via Zoom	22 9-12 Office Hrs	23 9-12 Office Hrs 7p Choir practice	24 Office closed	25 1pm Afternoon Tea @ Apothica Teas
26 10:15 Worship w/communion	27 9-12 Office Hrs	28 9-12 Office Hrs 7p Prayer Mtg via Zoom	29 9-12 Office Hrs	30 9-12 Office Hrs 7p Choir practice		

***Pastor Steve on vacation

SEPTEMBER



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

8 Shirley Chapman
10 Juli Nurbhai
11 Mark Mahler
19 Virgil Bennett
24 Asher Adkins
27 Linda Roberts

Anniversaries

9 Cliff & Pat
DeSchaaf
18 Todd & Sherri
Nitz
25 John & Diane
Herrman
28 Gary & Barb
Walker
30 Wayne & Sandy
Schuermann

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.

Ruth Retzke
Elaine Sirk



**Breakin' Bread Dinner Club
Wednesday, September 8 at 6pm
Coach's Restaurant**

Join us for the first meeting of the Peace supper club. Each second Wednesday of the month, we will meet at a different restaurant to enjoy good food and fellowship with each other. To become a member, all you have to do is join us one time for dinner. A sign-up sheet will be placed in the narthex. Guests are definitely welcome. If you have any questions, please call Bev So at 574-360-9535 or email, sojive5@gmail.com

**Peace Lutheran Church Fellowship
Committee is hosting a women's day
fellowship at**

**Apothica Teas
222 East Main Street
Niles, MI
on
September 25th at 1pm**

**\$12 per person
(max: 20 women)**

**Be sure to look for the sign-up sheet in the
hallway!**



 **PEACE**
NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN CHURCH
3590 Lincoln Avenue
St. Joseph, MI 49085

