

Peace

LUTHERAN CHURCH



News



January, 2018

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Last Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent, I challenged the congregation to pray for a vision for this portion of the Body of Christ, our congregation. While some have expressed gratitude for this challenge, others have expressed confusion. What kind of vision are we asking for?

I am asking us to pray that God reveal to us His purpose and plan for Peace. I believe it is only in knowing God's will for our future will we be able to live into the future God has planned for this congregation. What will that future look like? At present, I do not know. What I am hoping is that we are willing to be surprised by God's purpose for this ministry.

The early Church struggled with the question of how to include Gentiles into the fellowship. Some members believed that non-Jews had to first become Jewish in order to follow Jesus Christ. Others claimed that a non-Jew should be welcomed into the faith community without first having to become Jewish. In the middle of the muddle and confusion between the two parties, God provided a vision to a Roman Centurion named Cornelius and the Apostle Peter (Acts 10). Both men were praying, and God revealed to both

men a course of action. Cornelius was instructed to send men to bring the Apostle to Cornelius' home; Peter was instructed that Jewish dietary laws were being overturned by God. As the two men shared their visions, it became clear God did not want Gentiles to first become Jews in order to follow Jesus Christ.

God has blessed this congregation with ample land and a large building. I do not believe that these blessings are for us to keep to ourselves. I believe the land and the building are tools to be used for ministry. What type of ministry? Some congregations choose to feed the hungry, others to work on social justice issues, others to have a renowned music ministry. The congregation Loretta and I worshiped at before moving to Michigan had a vision to be a neighborhood center. They served lunch to college students, hosted



SENIOR PASTOR
STEVE HARTEN

Continued on Page 3

Peace Lutheran Church

3590 Lincoln Avenue
St. Joseph, MI 49085
Phone: 269-556-7000
Church Office Email:
PeaceLutheranSt.Joe@sbcglobal.net
Church Website:
Peacelutheranstjoe.org

Church Office Hours:
Monday through Thursday
9 a.m.—12 p.m.

Pastoral Contact Info:
Rev. Steve Harten
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



COUNCIL MINUTES

Peace Lutheran Church Council Minutes December 18, 2017

Call to Order at 5:55 p.m.

Kevin Kunst

Members present: Kevin Kunst, Karen Richardville, Josh Lochner, Mark Carpenter, Jerry Pliley, Bev So

Also present: Pastor Hartten, Judy Novak - Treasurer, Ed Zajac - new member

Opening devotional and prayer **Pastor Hartten**

Reading from Luke 1. We should not be surprised by God, by what he is doing, and by what he is doing here in our lives. We all need to pray for God to unite us, maybe in ways we are not looking for. Think about the many ways God is already working within our congregation. We need to be ready for what God wants for Peace.

Approval of Agenda

Bev made a motion to approve the agenda. Josh seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Final review of November 2017 minutes was made via email.

Treasurer's report

Judy Novak

	TITHES	BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
MTD	\$ 20,793.25	\$ 15,524.53	\$5,268.72
YTD	\$182,267.98	\$186,294.35	(\$4,026.37)

The budget for 2018 was presented. It was decided to put a condensed version of the proposed budget in the January newsletter so members have an opportunity to review it before the January 28th congregational meeting.

Old Business:

Treasurer replacement

We are looking for a replacement. If anyone is interested or knows someone who would be, please contact any council member.

Judy will be willing to help the new treasurer through Feb. 28, 2018.

Copier update

The old copier was taken back by the company. We did not have to finish paying the \$800 owed on the old lease.

The base price is \$194.70/monthly for the new machine. The new machine staples, folds, and prints

on cardstock. Also, we have 2,000 extra black and white copies per month that were not included with our old contract.

The charge for the old copier was \$133.15 per month with an additional \$64.90 per month for service, toner and number of copies for a total of \$198.05. Since we generally went over on our black and white copies by roughly 2,500 copies per month, we ended up paying more than the rate of \$198.05.

25 year font issue

Discussion. Ed will continue working on this with Amy.

MailMax Advertising rates

Kevin will check on rates.

Standing Committee Reports:

Worship

Norma Carpenter

The idea of a "welcome package" for greeters to hand out to visitors was proposed. Suggestions were made for items to be included. It is hoped the welcome package will be in place by Christmas Eve.

People to light the advent candle have been contacted and Christmas Eve children's treats will be ready.

The children's activity bags are still good and will be checked periodically.

Ministry descriptions for greeters and lectors will be finalized at the January meeting and submitted to council for review.

The Christmas caroling itinerary has been set and songbooks are in place.

Fellowship

Chris Bennett

Final preparations were made for the greening of the church on Sunday, Dec. 10.

There was continuing discussion of the logistics for the 25th Anniversary celebration.

The soup and bread suppers during Lent were discussed. The tradition of a chili cook-off is still considered a popular event, but may be held on a fellowship Sunday in February.

It was suggested that the kitchen be cleaned in the new year.

Property

Nothing to report

Continued on Page 3

2018 Budget available for your review on Page 4 of the newsletter

This year the Church Council decided to distribute the proposed budget in the monthly newsletter instead of at the January Congregational Meeting scheduled for Jan. 28, 2018.

One reason for releasing the budget early is the ongoing move toward transparency. It is important for members to have time to review the budget so that informed questions can be asked at the congregational meeting.

A second reason is the financial status of the congregation. During 2017 the number of

contributing households decreased from 81 in January to 69 at the end of November. This is a decrease of 12 households. Seven of the 12 are attributed to death or release from membership. The decrease in the number of giving households is reflected in the projected income for 2018. This projection is a conservative projection; income can certainly increase with new families and an uptick in attendance.

Please use these weeks to look over the numbers and ask questions of your Council Members so we can have a good discussion at the Congregational Meeting.

Council Minutes

Continued from Page 2

Pastor's report

The greening of the church was a success. More than 40 people were busy with various activities to ready our congregation for Christmas festivities. This included decorating the tree, the sanctuary, and the narthex, wrapping presents for the adopted families, singing carols, and enjoying a lunch of pizza and cookies.

Undecorating of the church will be Sunday, Jan. 7, following church.

The following are some of the activities other than church services for Pastor since the last council

Pastor Hartten

meeting: two funerals, principal speaker at Starks Funeral Home Remembrance Service, three church meetings, multiple Bible/book studies, home visits, hospital visits, and office visits, confirmation class, Lutheran Clergy Text Study, family fellowship, greening of the church and Upton Middle School tutoring.

New business:

Replacements for Judy & Joe Novak

Council is looking for members to replace these two positions.

Motion to adjourn was made by Jerry Pliley at 7:20.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Birthday, Anniversary Prayers ending

In September, the Worship Committee introduced a three month experiment in praying for people's birthdays and wedding anniversaries. The goal was to satisfy multiple requests for recognizing people in worship. Everyone has a birthday, so all could be honored throughout the year.

Sadly, while those who stood to acknowledge their special day have enjoyed the opportunity, more often than not people remain seated and do not take advantage of prayers to celebrate their special day and the coming year. Starting Jan. 7 we will discontinue this experiment. Once the announcements are completed worship will move directly to the Confession and Absolution as before.

Pastor's Message

Continued from Page 1

the Boy Scouts, allowed their Fellowship Hall to be a communal room for craft fairs and other community activities. Their vision was to be a living, dynamic presence in the neighborhood. I am not suggesting this be Peace's vision, I am only providing an example.

I am waiting for God to reveal His purpose to us. When I write "us" I mean the congregation. I am not just looking for God to show me or Pastor Schmidt what He has in store, I am asking God to reveal it to multiple people, possibly to the entire congregation. I'd like us to be sure that we are hearing from God and not implementing a pet project.

Would you join with me in praying daily that God reveals His vision, His plan, His purpose for our ministry beyond the confines of our "space" – to this city, this region, this state? Let's not limit God in his use of us. May we pray for a future that all can rally around? That the way forward becomes clear? In this Season of surprises (Elizabeth and Mary's pregnancies, God taking on human form) may we be open to a vision beyond anything we could have imagined, as God reveals His purpose for us. We will gather together to discuss what God has revealed to us during the first months of 2018. We will then take steps to prayerfully begin implementing God's vision.

**Peace Lutheran Church - Proposed 2018 Budget Summary
Comparing 2017 to 2018**

	2017 Budget (Operating Fund)	Proposed 2018 Budget (Operating Fund)
Total Income	205,885.00	192,644.00
Expenses:		
Christian Missions	5,708.00	5,190.00
Christian Education	1,250.00	1,700.00
Christian Fellowship	1,390.00	795.00
Christian Worship	3,300.00	1,850.00
Advertising and Promotion	785.00	825.00
Automobile	3,520.00	6,180.00
Operating	11,660.00	10,051.48
Building & Grounds	16,513.00	13,500.00
Land	3,586.48	893.00
Office Supplies	6,795.00	5,925.00
Payroll	151,946.00	142,781.00
Utilities	14,510.00	14,368.00
Total Actual & Budgeted Expenses	220,963.48	204,058.48
Total Net Non-Budgeted Income over Expense		
Net Income/(Loss)	(15,078.48)	(11,414.48)
Less: Mortgage Principal Payments	(20,993.06)	(22,017.52)
Cash Flow; Net Cash Decrease	(36,071.54)	(33,432.00)
This is how much over budget we are for 2017 & 2018		

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. Often when one person raises a question, others have similar thoughts but do not want to ask the question.

“Why is the casket covered with a white cloth during the funeral service?”

The white cloth is called a Funeral Pall. The pall represents being clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In Isaiah 61:10 we read, “I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.”

It has become common usage to refer to a funeral as a “celebration of the life of the



deceased.” When the Church gathers for a funeral, we are not gathering in the hope that the deceased lived well enough to get into heaven; we are celebrating the work of Jesus Christ. His grace, given to us in baptism, exchanged our sinful nature for his holy nature. We are gathering in the hope of the resurrection, of the life to come when we are fully united with our risen Lord.

The Church is burying the dead while at the same time proclaiming the hope of the resurrection and recalling the work of Christ in the deceased’s life. This may seem like playing with semantics, but it is a major theological point. We die because of sin and it is important to face the reality that we die.

A funeral is one way to confront the reality of death. We acknowledge death in a culture that works very hard to avoid this reality. In the face of this unwelcome intrusion, we also proclaim what God has done for us in Christ. He has delivered us from the power of sin and given us new life. That is our hope and that is what we gather to celebrate.



Peace Lutheran Church

October 31, 1993 - October 31, 2018

Acquisition and dedication of our flagpole

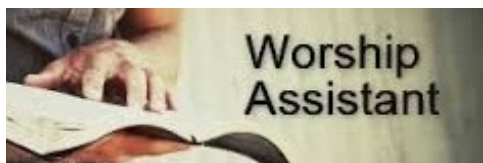
The original 110 foot pole originally stood behind Berrien County Courthouse. Its base was more than 22 inches tall with a wall thickness of 1½ inches. This mammoth ‘Texan’ (manufactured in Texas) was the largest pole in Berrien County and quite possibly the tri-county corner of southwest Michigan. As purchase protocol requires, the pole was placed on a ‘sealed bid’ and given 30 days to gather any offers. Ray Damaske won the bid over local fabricators and scrap companies.

A special thank you went to John Broderick for his providing the lift trucks and the l-o-n-g trailer. The pole was cut into an approximate half. On the day of transport from the courthouse to PLC, a police escort was used for traffic control! All of the labor, use of a crane and all required equipment, were donated.

The pole, when installed at our church by Pearson Construction (Burt Pearson and his father, Burton Sr.), had the rigging converted by Kyle Laukus of American Pride Flag Company, into an ‘internal’ halyard rigging, which required a ground-level locked door to access the rope’s operation on the pole itself. The pole was secured with 9½ yards of concrete!

Other thank yous go to Starks Menchinger for their generous donation of an inscribed permanent marker stone commemorating the flagpole’s dedication. Members and attendees, as they all stood around the pole, witnessed a 21 gun salute performed by Stevensville American Legion Post 568. A special message was given by Pastor Koehneke and a few inspiring songs were sung by soloist Patti Kenworthy, and her daughter Chelsea. The dedication epitaph concludes with the famous words, “A Grateful Nation Remembers”.





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: Jerry Schlutt

Communion: Shawn and Amy Cahill

Altar Guild: Margaret Schmieding

January 7

Greeters/Ushers: Lee and Lynn
Hornack

Lector: Sandy Schuermann

Acolyte: Emily Sorensen

Fellowship: Choir

January 14

Greeters/Ushers: Keith and Steven
Chapman

Lector: Steven Chapman

Acolyte: Ainsley Cahill

January 21

Greeters: Pat and Frank Nose

Ushers: Nan and Larry Hacker

Lector: Herb Kroening

Acolyte: Alec Carpenter

Fellowship: Loretta Hartten

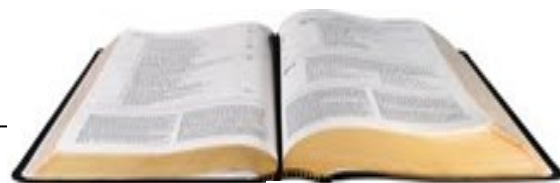
January 28

Greeters/Ushers: Nan and Larry Hacker

Lector: Jim Priebe

Acolyte: Matt Hogan

THIS MONTH'S READINGS



Sun., Jan. 7– The Feast of Epiphany

Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:1-11

Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12

Sun., Jan. 14 - Second Sunday after

Epiphany

1 Samuel 3:1-20, Psalm 139:1-10

1 Corinthians 6:12-20, John 1:43-51

Sun., Jan. 21 - Third Sunday after

Epiphany

Jonah 3:1-5, 10, Psalm 62

1 Corinthians 7:29-35, Mark 1:14-20

Sun., Jan. 28 - Fourth Sunday after

Epiphany

Deuteronomy 18:15-20, Psalm 111

1 Corinthians 8:1-13, Mark 1:21-28



The NALC, in conjunction with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and the Lutheran Church – Canada, has prepared *Reading the Word of God*, a daily Bible reading guide, for Lutherans to use over the next three years. Also included is a year-long series of weekly readings on Martin Luther's approach

to the Scriptures. The readings can be found on the NALC website at www.thenalc.org

On Jan. 18, the NALC will be hosting the 2018 NALC Life Conference at Annapolis Evangelical Lutheran Church, in Edgewater, Maryland. The theme is "Love Saves Lives." On Dec. 19, the group will participate in the Memorial for the Preborn Service in Washington D.C. and then join the March for Life. For more information or if you'd like to participate, contact Pastor Dennis DiMauro at 703.568.3346.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Office Closed	2 9-12 Office Hours 7p Women's Book Study	3 9-12 Office Hours	4 9-12 Office Hours	5 Office closed	6
7 9 S. School 10:15 Worship with communion 11:15 Decor down 6p Divine Drama	8 9-12 Office Hours 1p Divine Drama 7p Worship Committee Mtg	9 9-12 Office Hours 11:30 Prayer Mtg 7p Women's Book Study	10 9-12 Office Hours 2:40p Tutoring 7:30p Genesis	11 9-12 Office Hours 8 Men's Ministry 9 Quilters 7p Choir	12 Office closed	13
14 9 S. School 10:15 Worship with communion 1p Tubing 6p Divine Drama	15 9-12 Office Hours 1p Divine Drama 6p Council meeting	16 9-12 Office Hours 11:30 Prayer Mtg 7p Women's Book Study	17 9-12 Office Hours 2:40p Tutoring 7:30p Genesis	18 News due 9-12 Office Hours 8 Men's Ministry 9 Quilters 7p Choir	19 Office closed	20
21 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 6p Divine Drama	22 9-12 Office Hours 1p Divine Drama	23 9-12 Office Hours 11:30 Prayer Mtg 7p Women's Book Study	24 9-12 Office Hours 2:40p Tutoring 7:30p Genesis	25 9-12 Office Hours 8 Men's Ministry 9 Quilters 7p Choir	26 Office closed	27
28 9 S. School 10:15 Worship with communion 11:15 Cong. mtg 6p Divine Drama	29 Pastor Steve at NALC conference 9-12 Office Hours	30 P. Steve NALC 9-12 Office Hours 11:30 Prayer Mtg 7p Women's Book Study	31 P. Steve NALC 9-12 Office Hours 2:40p Tutoring 7:30p Genesis	CHURCH CALENDAR IS LIVE! VIEW LATEST UPDATES AT PeaceLutheranStJoe.org		

Birthdays

1 Jim Bauer
5 Keegan Kutchie
5 Karen Richardville
7 Judy Konar
9 Jill Chapman
10 Dominic So
13 Gloria Harbin
14 Denise Mahler
15 Dolores Kraklau
16 Evelyn Chevrette,
16 Joe Moulton
18 Mary Dey
18 Kevin Kunst
18 Wayne Schuermann
21 Margarete Hahn
24 Hilde Boozer

27 Shelley Wilson
30 Mo Nurbhai

Anniversaries

19 Frank & Delores Gaul
26 Bob & Linda Roberts

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

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

Albert Beebe
Lonna Collins
Mary Dey
Marian Hogue
Ray and Marie Lietz
Joe Naines
Betty Robbins
Sylvia Schlender
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 with a photo and details.

Tubing at Five Pines 1 p.m. Jan. 14

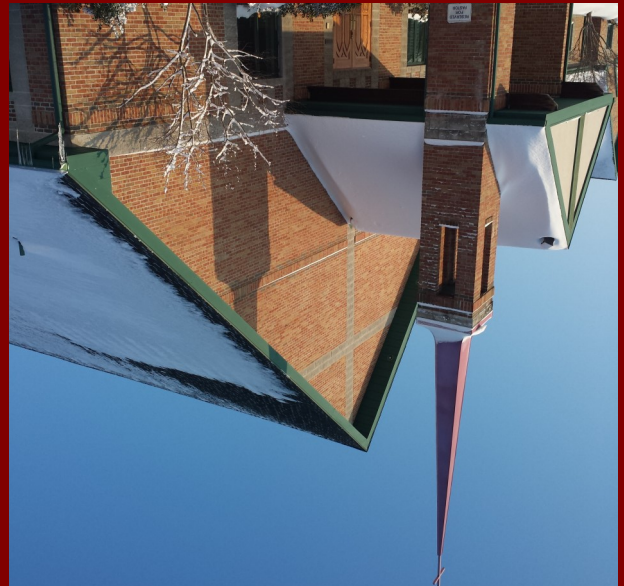
Meet at Five Pines
6597 Smith Road, Berrien Center



Afterward, warm up with chili at the Cahills' house - 11671 Red Bud Trail, Berrien Springs
Don't want to tube? Enjoy the fire at the Five Pines lodge or just meet us for chili.
Please sign-up on the bulletin board if you plan to attend and bring a dish to share for dinner. Cost is \$8 per person for tubing.

**Jan. 28 following the
10:15 a.m. service
Fellowship Hall**

**PEACE LUTHERAN
CHURCH
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING**



Peace
LUTHERAN CHURCH

3590 Lincoln Avenue
St. Joseph, MI 49085



Decorate the Halls was a huge success





Dec. 21 was Sherri Nitz's final day as head of the Peace Lutheran Church Quilters. We are so thankful for all the time and effort she has put into this mission. She leaves behind warm hearts and bodies everywhere from local nursing homes to the far reaches of the globe.

Our 2018 Hats Mission meant the world to kids at Lybrook Elementary

