



March, 2019

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Our Wednesday night Lenten services will focus on attendees writing a seven word summary of the Gospel. I've been asked, "What's the point?" "Why bother?" "What can a person say in seven words?"

In the past several months, multiple members have forwarded me emails lamenting the decline of the Church in North America. Some articles estimate that more than 100 congregations close each week due to the decline in church attendance. While this is a sobering statistic, lamenting that people don't worship on Sundays like they did when we were kids isn't going to reverse the decline. What will reverse the decline are personal invitations to attend worship.

We can no longer assume that those of us involved in a congregation speak the same language or have the same faith-based reference points as the unchurched. It is up to us to present the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a concise, meaningful manner. We need to provide a reason to the unchurched to change their Sunday morning behaviors. It is now a necessity to be able to tell others who don't believe what we find meaningful, why we invest time and

money in service to our Lord. One way to do that is to have a short-hand way of presenting the Gospel.

I realize that seven words will not convey the entire breadth and depth of the Gospel. But it can highlight one facet of the truth, one sliver of the good news contained in God's self-giving act of salvation through Jesus. Seven words can be the start of a longer conversation. So beginning on Ash Wednesday and running through the Wednesday mid-week services in Lent, we will be working together to craft our own Gospel summaries. I hope you will embrace this challenge to equip yourself so that you are better prepared to share the Good News of Jesus. You might find that this exercise of summarizing the Gospel also strengthens your own faith in God!



SENIOR PASTOR
STEVE HARTTEN

Peace Lutheran Church

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Church Office Email:
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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

Thursday
7 p.m. Choir



Easter Egg Hunt Planning Meeting
Sunday, March 3 Following Worship
Candy donations will begin March 17

COUNCIL MINUTES

**Peace Lutheran Church
Council Minutes
Monday, January 21, 2019**

Call to Order at 6 p.m. Kevin Kunst

Psalm 63 Pastor Hartten
Sometimes we try to get things, we get derailed a bit, and again. David wrote this Psalm when he was in the wilderness. In a weary land, he wished to reconnect to God. In council, we need to remember to always follow God's lead.

Members present: Ed Zajac, Josh Lochner, Jerry Pliley, Barb Barry, Mark Carpenter, Virgil Bennett, Kevin Kunst, Bev So

Incoming member: Rich Steinbauer

Also present: Pastor Hartten, Jon Kooiman, Pat Nose, Sharon Schmidt, Ken Berry

Absent: Karen Richardville

Agenda Kevin Kunst
Barb made a motion to approve the agenda. Virgil seconded. The motion passed.

Approval of December minutes was made via email.

Treasurer's report Jon Kooiman (Acct Mgr.)

Current Month	Current Month Budget	YTD Actual	Budget YTD
\$ 26,457	\$ 16,054	\$203,873	\$192,644

Special Guest (Adopt - Family) Pat Nose
Gifts were given to four mothers and 10 children. Christmas cards were mailed to 183 families.

Scrip Update Shari Schmidt
This year, 9,646 cards with a face value of \$79,515.00 were sold. The sales generated \$3,221.54 in tax-deductible rebates for the church.

Hat and Glove Update Shari Schmidt
Three hundred and seventy-five hats and gloves were delivered to Lybrook Elementary School in Eau

Claire.
Twenty hats and gloves were also given to Maureen Pliley's preschool class in Niles.

Youth Group Update Ken Berry

Deb is in the process of starting a contemporary youth choral group. They will meet once each month and plan to sing on Easter.

The council is extremely thankful for Deb's contributions to the music ministry at Peace.

2019 Budget Projections Shawn Cahill, Barb Walker, Jesse Spiker

The committee shared the projected budget. After a question and answer session, a motion was made by Jerry Pliley and seconded by Josh to approve and present the budget to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on Jan. 27.

Old Business Building Manager Kevin Kunst

A motion was made by Mark Carpenter to hire Virgil Bennett, seconded by Ed Zajac at the rate of \$11 per hour and a maximum of 12 hours per week, with extra hours being approved as needed. Kevin welcomed Virgil as the new building manager.

Standing Committee Reports Worship/Music Ken Berry/Nan Hacker

The worship schedule has been prepared for April through June and given to the council for approval.

Jim Steinbauer, Nan Hacker and Pastor will visit the Stevensville Methodist church to see their storage used for name tags. Pastor will investigate options for having the storage unit built.

A recommendation was made to the council for communion to be given by intinction from June 23 through August. Pastor presented the idea and noted that two chalices would be used.

He asked that we purchase a ceramic chalice for serving the grape juice.

Barb made a motion to purchase a ceramic chalice. Virgil seconded. The motion passed.

Fellowship report Christine Bennett

Holiday of Hearts dinner and entertainment will be in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday evening, Feb. 9,

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Roller Skating at Lakeshore Roller World

5567 Red Arrow Hwy,
Stevensville

3-5:30 p.m. March 17

Skating is \$6 per person, and skate rentals are \$2.

Following roller skating, we'll be heading to the Stevensville Pizza Hut for dinner.

Don't want to skate?

It's free to observe or you can just join us for dinner! Sign-up on the bulletin board or Facebook.



Easter Flowers available

March 17- April 7

We'll be selling Easter flowers to decorate the altar for Easter again this year. Watch for the forms in the bulletin March 17-April 7.

Pots of Easter Lilies, Tulips, Daffodils and Hyacinths will again be \$10 each.



Council Minutes

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from 6-9 p.m. The dinner will be catered by Harding's at a cost of \$10 per person.

Line dancing will be led by Margaret O'Neill and Loretta Hartten. Tickets are available for purchase through Jan. 27.

Lenten Soup and Bread suppers begin on Ash Wednesday, March 6.

The Chili Cook-off is Sunday, March 31 following the service.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Hartten

On Jan. 6 members were asked to purchase Scrip cards to assist the local Coast Guard members stationed in St. Joseph. The congregation responded with \$775+ in gift cards that were graciously accepted by the unit.

The class on Prayer focusing on using the Psalms was completed the week before Christmas.

A six-week course, "Disciples of the Cross" began the week of Jan. 14.

Following is a summary of pastor's activities: Altar guild meeting, annual review, Soup Kitchen, Church Council meeting, Worship Committee meeting, Confirmation Classes, Disciples of the Cross class, Family Fellowship, home and hospital visits, Lutheran clergy text study, nursing home visits, surveys to NALC congregations, Thursday Men's Bible study, Tuesday prayer meeting, tutoring at Upton Middle school, and eight worship services.

New Business

Upgrade Amy's QuickBooks password

Kevin Kunst

Amy's password would change her access to administrative assistant. Virgil made the motion to upgrade Amy's password. Mark seconded. The motion passed.

Update of 2018 Soup Kitchen

Barb Berry and Bev So

Five hundred and ninety-one adults and 26 children were served by Peace during 2018. Twelve members helped serve throughout the year. The food drive last February was a great success and helped provide the necessary items for the lunches. A food drive for 2019 will take place during February again.

Nominate/vote executive committee

Kevin Kunst

President - Bev So, Vice-president - Kevin Kunst, Secretary - Barb Berry The secretary voted by acclamation to approve the slate of nominees.

Approve salary increases for Pastor and Amy

Kevin Kunst

Bev So made a motion to approve a salary increase of \$3,000 for Pastor Hartten, Barb Berry seconded. The motion passed.

Ed made a motion to increase Amy's salary by \$1.50 an hour. Virgil seconded. The motion passed.

Josh made a motion to adjourn at 8:12 p.m.

Closed with prayer

Pastor Hartten

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES



Peace Lutheran Congregational Meeting Sunday, January 27, 2019

Meeting called to order at 11:45 a.m.

Opening devotional and prayer Pastor Hartten
Proverbs 22:1

*A good name is more desirable than great riches;
to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.*

We are slowly through the grace of God rebuilding our name in the community.

Quorum established at 11:50 a.m. Kevin Kunst

Approval of agenda Kevin Kunst

Sandy Warren made a motion to approve the agenda. Maria Tallman seconded. The motion passed.

**Approval of Minutes of September 2018
Congregational Meeting** Kevin Kunst

Margaret Schmieding made a motion to approve the minutes. Sandy Landis seconded. The motion passed.

Financial Update Shawn Cahill, Barb Walker

Total income for 2018 \$203,872.63 Budgeted for 2018 192,644.00. Difference 11,228.63

Barb Morgan: Where is the quilting fund?

Shawn: It does not show on the balance sheet fund, but is an expense line item. There is a fund the quilters can draw on to complete their projects.

Jim Priebe: Why is payroll under by \$7,660.00?

Shawn: I am still checking on that, however the decrease in evening services and the change in building manager are two areas that have affected it.

Sherry Schmidt: Where is the money we received and then gave to Berrien County Cancer society shown?

Shawn: It is noted in the "other income" and "other expenses" on the spreadsheet.

Approval of 2019 budget

Jeanette Jeske made a motion to approve the 2019 budget. Gary Walker seconded. The motion passed.

Senior Pastor's Report Pastor Hartten

The anniversary was a very enjoyable weekend.

The event was well planned and everyone enjoyed themselves.

Last year 31 people were involved in a book study. In the fall a class on prayer was offered. Nine people participated. Eight people are now attending a discipleship class. Attendance at Advent services greatly decreased. Pastor is wondering about the change in participation for the classes and attendance at evening services.

It is to be noted that Sherry Schmidt is also leading a women's book study now. There are seven participating in the class.

How can we make it so people will come? Is the weather causing the drop in attendance?

We need to keep moving forward. We must not retreat. Please keep Peace in your prayers.

Council report Kevin Kunst

As Pastor stated, we are making progress and moving forward. There are more positives.

Introduction of new officers: Bev So - president, Kevin Kunst - vice president, Barb Berry - secretary

Introduction of the new building manager: Virgil Bennett

Upcoming constitutional amendments Pastor Steve

After further review it was determined that our constitution is built on the model of the NALC, and meets the NALC requirements. Our 501(c)3 status is compliant.

Every three years the constitution needs to be reviewed. We will need to review the constitution this year.

Recognition of outgoing council members

Kevin Kunst

Jerry Pliley and Josh Lochner for their three years of service on the council.

Ed Zajac

Recognized the choir and Debbie Kroening for their wonderful music.

Motion to adjourn

Kevin Kunst

Ted Hollacher made the motion to adjourn at 12:25 p.m.

Closed with singing the Doxology.

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 a Funeral Pall?

In January 2018 there was a column about Peace’s new funeral pall, the white cloth placed over a casket as it enters the worship space of the church. 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.”

When we gather in the church building for a funeral, it is important to remember that we are having a Christian funeral, not a state funeral or 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 not gathering to commemorate civil service. We gather to celebrate 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.

It is important that the symbols used in a Christian service remind us of our hope in Jesus Christ. If we are gathering because the deceased was a wonderful person, we might as well utilize a local funeral chapel. If we are gathering because of service rendered to country, we do not need the Church. We gather in the Church to remind ourselves (and possibly evangelize others) that it is through the work God has done on our behalf that we look forward to a new life lived fully in God’s presence. It is an opportunity to proclaim the Gospel: In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth, God came to dwell among us and deliver us from the power of sin and death and give us new life. All the symbols used in a Christian funeral need to point clearly to this truth.



New Kid’s Activity Bags

Have you noticed the colorful pencil near the Greeter’s Desk in the narthex? This bright new stand is holding a collection of updated activities for youth who attend worship.



If you are bringing guests to worship who have little people in their family, please make sure you grab a bag off the pencil tree so that when the child gets bored, there will be

some activities to keep them busy. If possible, please have the bags returned at the end of worship. They will be checked for completeness and restocked on a regular basis.

Want to increase your SCRIP Rewards?

If so, you need to take advantage of ordering at home using Presto Pay. Scrip often offers increased rebate percentages on many cards we all buy regularly. It’s a great way to increase your donation to the church and, at the same time, increase the benefit of your purchase for Peace. Recently, Chili’s increased their rebate percent from 11 percent to 16 percent for one day only. Wow.... what a bonus! However, the bonus was available only for orders placed that day, so only members who use Presto Pay on their computers could benefit from the promotion.

One member’s hot water heater went out and they needed to purchase one on the spot. They went to Lowe’s for their purchase, but, because they did not have physical Scrip cards, they missed the rebate available to them. They could have entered an instant order on their computer. Because they did not, it was a rebate loss for the member and the church.

If you are interested in learning how to order Scrip on the spot from your home computer, sign your name on the list on the bulletin board in the hallway. There will also be information how to get started next to the sign up sheet. On March 10 Beverly So and Shari will answer your questions and show you how to do it yourself. It’s easy to sign up and easy to place orders. Any questions? Ask Shari anytime... you don’t have to wait until March 10.

BASKETS OF PROMISE



Annual LWR campaign kicks off on Ash Wednesday

Please join us during our 2019 Lenten journey as we gather items for Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits. Today and every day, Lutheran World Relief Care Kits give families around the world some of life's essentials and a reminder they are not alone.

Collections run from Ash Wednesday through Palm Sunday.

Each PERSONAL CARE KIT contains:

Week 1 - Two bath-size bars of soap, (4 to 5 oz. each) Any brand, in its original wrapping.

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

Week 3 - One sturdy comb (no picks or fine-toothed combs), remove packaging.

Week 4 - One metal nail clipper (large or small), remove packaging.

Week 5 - One light-weight bath-size towel, a dark color is recommended (20" x 40" or 52" x 27" accepted)

See samples of specific products needed and a completed care kit on our table in the narthex.

Shopping not your thing? No problem! We are happy to do the shopping. Your financial support can make a great difference. You may place your cash, check or Scrip card donations in an envelope marked LWR Mission. Checks should be written to Peace Lutheran Church (please note LWR Mission on the memo line). If you prefer donating through Scrip, Walmart or Meijer cards will be most appreciated.

Weekly Holy Communion distribution begins

With the start of the Lenten Season, Peace will begin the practice of celebrating Holy Communion on a weekly basis. Every Sunday morning worship will feature the full liturgy that builds to the self-giving of Jesus to His community in the bread and wine.

Wednesday evening worship will utilize the Joyous Light Vespers/Evening Prayer liturgy. Special days like Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday will have Holy Communion.



Church Council Retreat planned for March

Please pray for our Church Council members as they meet to set goals for the coming year. We will be discussing the book, "Becoming a Welcoming Church" by Thom S. Rainer. There are extra copies available for \$5 each if you would like to read the book.

Michigan Mission District Dean resigns

Pastor Philip Nordstrand, our Michigan Mission District Dean has resigned his position due to health reasons. Pastor Nordstrand was elected to a three-year term last Spring at a special meeting of the Mission District. Dr. Wendel of the NALC is consulting with the pastors of the Mission District to decide how best to proceed. The Dean serves as the Bishop's representative to the congregations in Michigan's Lower Peninsula.

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.

Peace sent nearly \$7,000 in support to NALC in 2018

The North American Lutheran Church recently recognized our congregation's support in 2018. Peace and its members donated a total of \$6,912.40 to our church body including: \$3,194.40 to the general fund; \$3,318 to the North American Lutheran Seminary; and \$400 to NALC Disaster Response. In addition, we sent \$1,710 in gift cards earmarked for the NALC Disaster Response with Pastor Steve to the NALC Convocation.



Ministries funded include: travel for Bishop John Bradosky and the NALC executive staff to visit and work with the NALC's more than 425 congregations; the NALC Missions Team, which provides seed funding for new congregations; and support of NALC missionaries serving in Belarus, Congo, and Tanzania.



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: Jim Steinbauer

Communion: Marty Tallman and
Autumn McCune

March 3

Greeters/Ushers: Jeannette Jeske and Teresa
Hogan

Lector: Teresa Hogan

Acolyte: Ainsley Cahill

Altar Guild: Ginger Kunst

Nursery: Sandy Schuermann

Fellowship: Open

Altar Flowers: Open

March 6

Lector: Amy Cahill

Altar Guild: Nan Hacker

March 10

Greeters/Ushers: Jim Priebe and Ken Berry

Lector: Jim Priebe

Altar Guild: Louise Solak

Nursery: Autumn McCune and Ainsley
Cahill

Altar Guild: Louise Solak

Altar Flowers: Open

March 17

Greeters/Ushers: Barb and Gary Walker

Lector: Greg Solak

Acolyte: Emily Sorensen

Altar Guild: Margaret Schmieding

Nursery: Barb Morgan

Fellowship: Open

Altar Flowers: Open

March 24

Greeters/Ushers: Rich and Tammy
Steinbauer

Lector: Marty Tallman

Altar Guild: Mark Carpenter

Nursery: Louise Solak

Altar Flowers: Open

March 31

Greeters/Ushers: Chuck and Jane Wilson

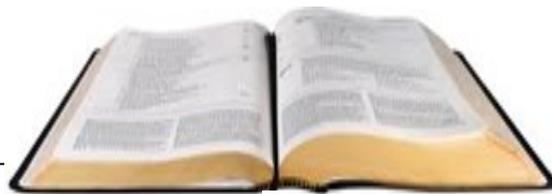
Lector: Nan Hacker

Altar Guild: Steve Hartten

Nursery: Open

Altar Flowers: Open

THIS MONTH'S READINGS



Sun., March 3 - Transfiguration

Deuteronomy 34:1-12, Psalm 99

Hebrews 3:1-6, Luke 9:28-36

Wed., March 6 - Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:12-19, Psalm 51:1-19

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Sun., March 10 - First Sunday in Lent

Deuteronomy 26:1-11, Psalm 91:1-13

Romans 10:8b-13, Luke 4:1-13

Sun., March 17 - Second Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 26:8-15, Psalm 4

Philippians 3:17-4:1, Luke 13:31-35

Sun., March 24 - Third Sunday in Lent

Ezekiel 33:7-20, Psalm 85

1 Corinthians 10:1-13, Luke 13:1-9

Sun., March 31 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 12:1-6, Psalm 32

2 Corinthians 5:16-21, Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Office closed	2 11 A New Direction
3 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:13 EEH planning mtg	4 9-12 Office Hours 6p Fellowship Committee Mtg	5 9-12 Office Hours 11:30 Prayer Mtg 1:15p D. Class 7p Disciple Class	6 9-12 Office Hours 2:30p Upton 5:45p S. Super 7p Ash Wed.	7 9-12 Office Hours 8 Men's Ministry 7p Choir	8 Office closed	9
10 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:15 Scrip Teaching Mtg	11 9-12 Office Hours 7p Worship Committee Mtg	12 9-12 Office Hours 11:30 Prayer Mtg	13 9-12 Office Hours 2:30p Upton 5:45p S. Super 7p Lent Worship	14 News Due 9-12 Office Hours 8 Men's Ministry 7p Choir	15 Office closed	16
17 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 3p Roller Skating	18 9-12 Office Hours 6p Council Mtg	19 9-12 Office Hours 11:30 Prayer Mtg	20 9-12 Office Hours 2:30p Upton 5:45p S. Super 7p Lent Worship	21 9-12 Office Hours 8 Men's Ministry 7p Choir	22 Office closed	23
24 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	25 9-12 Office Hours	26 9-12 Office Hours 11:30 Prayer Mtg	27 9-12 Office Hours 2:30p Upton 5:45p S. Super 7p Lent Worship	28 9-12 Office Hours 8 Men's Ministry 7p Choir	29 Office closed	30
31 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:15 Chili Supper						

Birthdays

2 Connie Byers
2 Cathy Dalrymple
2 Margaret O'Neill
2 Gloria Siewert
6 Pat DeSchaaf
6 Margaret Schmieding
8 Sandy Pliley
10 Eddie Zajac
13 Haley Kutchie
14 John Herrman
14 Mia Nurbhai
15 Jeanine Damaske
17 Kelly Nimtzt

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.

Albert Beebe
Marian Hogue
Joe Naines
Ruth Retzke
Betty Robbins
Barbara Southland
Mildred Wantz



Ash
Wednesday

March 6

Soup Supper
5:45-6:45 p.m.
Worship 7 p.m.



Our Tenth Annual Chili Cook-off

Sunday, March 31

*Immediately following worship
Everyone is welcome to join us*

Do you have what it takes to earn the Tenth chili pepper on the plaque? Sign up to compete on the bulletin board.

Don't want to enter a chili? Just come for food.

Join us for Lenten Services and Soup Suppers

Ash Wednesday, March 6—April 10

Soup Supper - 5:45-6:45 p.m. Worship - 7 p.m.

This year's theme is "The Gospel in Seven Words or Less". During this season of Lent, we're going to prepare to celebrate Holy Week by sharing why Holy Week is so important. Our midweek worship services will serve as opportunities to consider the many ways in which the Scriptures proclaim Jesus. During the week, each of you will be working on your own summary, with the hopes that all of us are more prepared to share the good news of Jesus. Join us.



Peace
LUTHERAN CHURCH

3590 Lincoln Avenue
St. Joseph, MI 49085

