



March, 2018

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

As a congregation in the North American Lutheran Church (NALC) we are asked to subscribe to the denomination's core values. These are *Christ Centered, Mission Driven, Traditionally Grounded, and Congregationally Focused*. When the NALC states that it is Mission Driven, it uses a very narrow definition of mission: "We believe that the mission of the Church is to preach the Gospel and to make disciples for Christ." Mission work is very focused ministry—preaching the Gospel and making disciples.

At Peace we use the term "mission" very broadly. If an event or program reaches beyond our walls, we call it a mission. When I look at our missions (Soup Kitchen, LWR Personal Care Kits and LWR School Kits, Quilting, etc.), I see valuable ministries but these ministries do not involve preaching the Gospel or making disciples. A better term for these vital and valuable ministries is Outreach Opportunities. Our members are engaged in doing ministry and these ministries are reaching beyond our membership. But these ministries are not missions.

I would like us to start thinking about all the ways this congregation reaches out beyond itself as Outreach. Outreach is an important part of living our faith. At the same time, Outreach Opportunities do not look for a conversion experience, they do not expect someone to be drawn closer to Christ because of the activity. Outreach is valuable in that it addresses needs, but it is not the same thing as mission.

We belong to a church body that values Mission – preaching the Gospel and making disciples. As we integrate this and the other NALC core values into our life together, it is important that we learn to speak the same language. Peace has some wonderful Outreach Opportunities, and I hope that we develop additional options as we clarify our vision and purpose for ministry.



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 Worship

Thursday

7 p.m. Choir

Save The Date

The Peace 25th Anniversary Dinner will be **Oct. 27, 2018**. Please add the date to your calendar. More information will follow as it gets closer to this date. If you have any questions please feel free to ask any of the Anniversary Committee: Rich and Norma Carpenter, and Lee and Lynn Hornack.

COUNCIL MINUTES

Peace Lutheran Church Council Minutes February 19, 2018

Called to order at 6:02 p.m. Kevin Kunst

Devotional/Prayer Pastor Hartten

James 5:7-12 This passage was chosen to remind us to have patience. Like the bow on a ship, it takes a bit to get it to turn. Things are starting to turn, to change, but we must not rock the boat. We need to be sure and steady.

Members Present: Kevin Kunst, Virgil Bennett, Josh Lochner, Eddie Zajac, Jerry Pliley, Mark Carpenter, Karen Richardville, Bev So

Absent: Barb Berry

Also present: Brian Nimtz and Pastor Hartten

Agenda: Jerry Pliley made a motion to approve the agenda. Virgil Bennett seconded the motion. The motion passed.

January 2018 minutes were approved via email.

Treasurer's report Brian Nimtz

	Offerings	Budget	Difference
MTD	\$13,989	\$16,054	(\$2,065)

Old business

Treasurer

Jerry Pliley made a motion for Becky Carpenter to assume the position of treasurer. Karen Richardville seconded. The motion passed.

Mailmax Advertising

Virgil Bennett has volunteered to check out the prices and format for an eighth-page ad. Discussion on having an ad by/for Easter. Virgil will check on it. Kevin will email the rest of us with the prices. We will take a vote via email. (The council voted via email to place an ad in Mailmax for Easter services at a cost of \$85)

Mission Statement for 5 Year Plan Committee

“Our mission is to exclusively pursue, exhaust and present all farmland options for future development and uses to the Church Council for consideration ”.

Worship and Music

Norma Carpenter

Monthly newsletters will be placed in the Welcome Packets. Packets are given out by the greeters. Pastor will be informing the congregation on the purpose of the packets and what is included.

The committee has created ministry descriptions for greeter/usher, lector, greeter only, and lector coordinator. Council read the descriptions and voted to accept the descriptions as written.

Pastor has presented the proposed Worship calendar for April-June 2018.

Debbie Kroening and Maria Tallman would like to have the organ moved. It will be moved on Sunday following the service.

Fellowship

Christine Bennett

Soup and bread suppers during Lent. All are invited. Each committee member will take charge of one Wednesday. Soup suppers are held from 5:45-6:45 each Wednesday evening during Lent. Christine will post a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway for members to volunteer to bring soup and/or bread.

The Chili Cook-off will be on Sunday, March 4. Members wishing to join the cook-off are asked to sign up by Sunday, Feb. 24. The winner will have their name added to the plaque in the fellowship hall and given a gift card to Chili's.

25th Anniversary celebration - The committee continued discussion of the meal planned, facility to be used, and related needs for the evening.

Members are asked to continue signing up for Sunday fellowships. The Cahill family provided fellowship on Sunday, Feb. 18.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Hartten

The Member Care Phone Team is up and running. Members calling on behalf of the congregation are Barb Berry, Jeanette Jeske, Larry Hacker, and Barb Morgan.

We are encouraged to talk a language of faith, rather than fear.

A summary of Pastor's activities during the last month are: Ash Wednesday soup supper, Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen, confirmation classes, congregational meeting, Divine Drama classes, home visits, hospital visits, nursing home visits, office visits. Staff meetings, Tuesday prayer meetings, Thursday

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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 isn’t Holy Communion served on Good Friday?”

Interestingly, there has been little conformity to the practices on Good Friday throughout the centuries. In the early Church, what we today celebrate over three days – Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil was celebrated as one long service on Easter Eve. Over time, the practice of one long worship time was spread over the three days, yet still viewed as one continual worship experience. (That is why there is no dismissal/benediction on Maundy Thursday or Good Friday; the lack of a benediction reinforces the idea of a continuation instead of a brand new worship.)

In the Roman Catholic Church at the time of the Reformation, the priest would take Holy Communion in the form of bread only, and the bread was taken from the tabernacle. In Roman Catholic Churches the

teaching is that the bread is transformed into the Body of Christ, and so any extra bread is reserved in a special vault called a tabernacle. The Lutheran Reformers did not approve of the practice of Holy Communion on Good Friday as it was believed to shift the emphasis from Christ’s death on the cross, and so in Lutheran Churches the practice ceased.



Recently congregations from all aspects of Christianity have begun serving Holy Communion on Good Friday. The justification offered is that it is inappropriate to withhold Christ’s meal from his people. I take the position that since the three days of Maundy Thursday through Holy Saturday are considered one extended event, the practice of serving the Lord’s Supper on Thursday covers Friday’s focus on the cross.

Thursday focuses on Foot washing and the Lord’s Supper. Good Friday is an austere time of reflection and prayer as well as the adoration of Christ, the sacrificial Lamb. Saturday’s Vigil recounts salvation history in preparation for the celebration of the Feast of the Resurrection. The Lord’s Supper is part of the three-day extended worship service.

Council Minutes

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Men’s Bible study, tutoring at Upton, vision discernment opportunities, Lutheran Clergy text study, and NALC Pastors conference in San Antonio. He also had meetings with the Member Care Phone Team and the Mutual Ministry committee.

New Business

Quilting coordinator search **Kevin Kunst**

Kevin will ask Amy to advertise for a coordinator in the weekly news blast, Newsletter, and bulletin. Pastor will announce in church.

Update for QuickBooks **Josh Lochner**

Still needs to be updated.

Voicemail **Pastor Hartten**

Pastor shared that we cannot get voicemail remotely. Pastor will check with AT&T to see how we can get this service.

Term issue for New Council Members **Kevin Kunst**

The terms for the following new council members are as follows: Virgil Bennett, two years, Barb Berry,

two years

PLC Staff payroll review **Kevin Kunst**

Pastor is in the process of reviewing the staff members. Following his review, we will make a decision as to the changes made in wages.

\$2,000 to NALC General Fund or Seminary **Kevin Kunst**

After a brief discussion, Bev So made a motion to send the \$2,000 to the NALC Seminary. Virgil Bennett seconded the motion. The motion passed with one abstention.

YMCA Water Booth

It was decided not to participate this year and use our money in other ways.

Support for MMD Dean Nomination **P. Hartten**

After discussion, a motion was made by Josh Lochner and seconded by Ed Zajac to support Pastor Steve in following through with the MMD Dean Nomination. The motion passed.

A motion to adjourn at 8:17 p.m. was made by Karen Richardville.



Peace Lutheran Church

October 31, 1993 - October 31, 2018

Do you know the story of PEACE ROCK?

When you arrive at Peace, you will see the "Peace Rock" at the Lincoln Avenue entrance of our driveway. The following is the story of the "Peace Rock".

Charter member, Doris Woodward, donated the landscape rock that sits in the north garden, off Lincoln Avenue. Doris lived about a half mile from the church on Lincoln Avenue and had several of these rocks in her yard. She had the idea to donate one of them to commemorate of the founding of our church. She had Hasse's wrecker service move the rock at the church, and Larry Coffey was instrumental in having the rock placed in the garden, where it sits today. Doris had St. Joseph Monument complete the inscription.



Engraving on stone - Peace Lutheran Church Est Oct. 31, 1993



Doris is Connie Byers mother and Kelly Nimtz grandmother Connie (Don) Byers, Brian & Kelly Nimtz, Larry & Karen Coffey have maintained the landscaping surrounding the rock to this date.

If you have any personal recollections of your life experiences at Peace, please note the email addresses of the committee members and send them on to us. Your input is vitally important.

Rich Carpenter, Chair richc@ameritech.net
Norma Carpenter norma936@comcast.net
Lee/Lynn Hornack Lchornack@aol.com

Women's Spring Book Study Contentment: Healing the Hunger of Our Hearts

CALLING ALL WOMEN!

Have you ever wanted to learn more about God's word, but were afraid to commit to a series or thought you didn't know enough to discuss? Have we got the perfect series for you! This 6 week Bible study comes with a study guide, week by week, so you know what is being discussed each week. AND there are hints in the back to the questions asked and the leader's guide too! You miss a week or two? Oh well, jump back in and you will know right where we are. Don't like talking? Do the Bible readings and questions and come to listen.

This series will run Tuesday evenings, April 10 through May 15, 7-8:30.

Cost of the book to be determined (about \$8.00).

Look for more info to come and even MORE reasons for attending!

Questions, contact Loretta Hartten, Debbie Kroening, Bev So, or Louise Solak

Easter Flowers

We'll be selling Easter flowers to decorate the altar for Easter again this year. Watch for the forms Sunday, March 4 through Sunday, March 18.

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



Join us for Lenten Services at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays. Soup Supper at 5:45 p.m.

Easter Egg Hunt

**Saturday, March 24th
10 a.m.**

**More than 1,000 Eggs to Hunt
Treat Bags for Every Child
Snacks, Crafts and a Photo Booth
Bring Your Own Basket!
Dress for the Weather!
Elementary and Younger Children**

**To Register, please visit our website or visit our
Facebook Page at Peace Lutheran Church NALC.**

**Peace Lutheran Church NALC
3590 Lincoln Ave., St. Joseph, MI 49085
(269) 556-7000
www.peacelutheranstjoe.org**



After the hunt, join us for Easter Worship at 10:15 a.m., April 1.
Easter Breakfast 9-10 a.m.



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: Ken Berry

Communion: Autumn McCune and
Marty Tallman

Altar Guild: Mark Carpenter and
Louise Solak

March 4

Greeters/Ushers: Barb and Ken
Berry

Lector: Sandy Warren

Acolyte: Emily Sorensen

Fellowship: Chili Cook-off

THIS MONTH'S READINGS

Sun., March 4 – Third Sunday of Lent

Exodus 20:1-17, Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 1:18-31, John 2:13-25

Sun., March 11 - Fourth Sunday of Lent

Numbers 21:4-9 Psalm 107:1-9

Ephesians 2:1-10, John 3:14-21

Sun., March 18 - Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 119:9-16

Hebrews 5:1-10, Mark 10:32-45

March 11

Greeters/Ushers: Rich Steinbauer
and Tammy Rosolik

Lector: Shari Schmidt

Acolyte: Matt Hogan

Flowers: Connie Byers and
Kelly Nimtz

March 18

Greeters/Ushers: Chuck and Jane
Wilson

Lector: Keith Chapman

Acolyte: Alec Carpenter

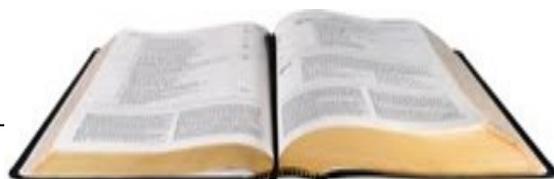
Fellowship: Open

March 25

Greeters/Ushers: The Cahill
Family

Lector: Amy Cahill

Acolyte: Ainsley Cahill



Sun., March. 25 - Palm Sunday

Zechariah 9:9-12, Psalm 118:19-29

Philippians 2:5-11, Mark 14:1-15:47

Thurs., March 29 - Maundy Thursday

Exodus 24:3-11, Psalm 116:12-19

1 Corinthians 10:16-17, Mark 14:12-26

Fri., March 30 - Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Psalm 22

Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9, John 18:1-19:42

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9-12 Office Hours 8 Men's Ministry 7p Choir	2 Office closed	3
4 9 S. School 10:15 Worship 11:15 C. Cook-off 6p D. Drama	5 9-12 Office Hours 1p Divine Drama 7p Fellowship Committee Mtg	6 9-12 Office Hours 11:30 Prayer Mtg	7 9-12 Office Hours 2:40p Tutoring 5:45p Soup 7p L. Worship	8 9-12 Office Hours 8 Men's Ministry 7p Choir	9 Office closed	10
11 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship with communion 6p Divine Drama	12 9-12 Office Hours 1p Divine Drama 7p Worship Committee Mtg	13 9-12 Office Hours 11:30 Prayer Mtg	14 9-12 Office Hours 2:40p Tutoring 5:45p Soup 7p L. Worship	15 News due 9-12 Office Hours 8 Men's Ministry 7p Choir	16 Office closed	17
18 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 6p Divine Drama	19 9-12 Office Hours 1p Divine Drama 6p Council Mtg	20 9-12 Office Hours 11:30 Prayer Mtg	21 9-12 Office Hours 2:40p Tutoring 5:45p Soup 7p L. Worship	22 9-12 Office Hours 8 Men's Ministry 7p Choir	23 Office closed	24 10 Easter Egg Hunt
25 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship with communion 6p Divine Drama	26 9-12 Office Hours 1 p.m. Divine Drama	27 9-12 Office Hours 11:30 Prayer Mtg	28 9-12 Office Hours 2:40p Tutoring	29 9-12 Office Hours 8 Men's Ministry 7p Maundy Thursday worship	30 Office closed 7p Good Friday worship	31

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
14 Mia Nurbhai
15 Jeanine Damaske
17 Kelly NimtZ
24 Mark Carpenter

Anniversaries

1 Keith & Jill
Chapman
12 Jerry & Lorene
Schlutt

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
Mary Dey
Marian Hogue
Joe Naines

Al Reschke
Betty Robbins
Sylvia Schlender
Barbara Southland
Mildred Wantz

**CHURCH CALENDAR IS
LIVE!
VIEW LATEST UPDATES AT**

PeaceLutheranStJoe.org

Congregational Meeting Minutes

Due to mailing constraints, the minutes for the January Congregational Meeting are included in the online edition of the newsletter, but were not mailed. They are posted on the bulletin board at the church, and available online at www.peacelutheranstjoe.org/newsletter or by calling the church office at 556-7000.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES



Peace Lutheran Church Congregational Meeting Sunday, January 28, 2018

Call to order at 11:25 by President Kevin Kunst

Devotional/Prayer Pastor Hartten

Acts 24 “And the disciples devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.”

What is God’s vision for the community of “our” congregation?

There are four marks and these differentiate the church community from any other social gathering. They are as follows:

1. The early church was devoted to the Apostles’ Teaching. This would have included the Hebrew Scriptures as well as Jesus’ earthly teaching, plus what he taught during the 40 days of resurrection appearances.

For us this is summarized in the Bible – Old and New Testaments. The church and its membership devotes itself to Bible study.

2. The early church was devoted to Fellowship
Fellowship often happens around food but it is more than just eating together. It is also sharing together and working on strengthening the bonds of affection between members.

3. The early church was devoted to the Breaking of Bread. This can mean both a fellowship meal – a potluck or a catered banquet; it definitely means the Lord’s Supper.

Frequent celebrations of the Lord’s Supper are part of the life of the church. At the time of the Lutheran Reformation it was assumed that weekly worship was a communion service. In this country, clergy shortages vs. influx of immigrants and other reasons meant that sometimes there wasn’t a pastor to officiate at worship. Communion became infrequent and infrequent became the norm. In the life of the early church through to the last 200 years, weekly communion was the norm.

4. The early church was devoted to prayer.

Prayer wasn’t the pastor’s job, it was part of a believer’s life. Not just private prayer, but group prayer like we do here on Tuesdays at 11:30. The

faithful gathered in prayer time. Through a vibrant prayer life, the church was strengthened

We are called to implement the four marks of the church. When we do, I expect the second verse of Acts 24 will ring true: And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. May awe come upon us as we live into God’s future.

Quorum was established by the raising of hands.

Kevin Kunst

Agenda approval

Kevin Kunst

A motion to approve was made by Pat Nose. Sandy Warren seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Approval of September 24, 2017 meeting minutes.

Kevin Kunst

A motion to approve was made by Margaret Schmieding. Maria Tallman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Financial Update

Brian Nimt

Sandy Warren made a comment thanking the financial committee for making the summaries easy to read.

Brian noted that approximately \$5,000 has been cut for the 2018 budget to help us balance the budget in 2018. Discussion ensued over a balanced budget. Why have some things decreased and others increased? We committed to presenting a fair budget to the congregation. Among items that were changed are cutting lawn fertilization and cutting down water usage for sprinkling. There were some items moved within the budget because they have been incorrectly placed. One item moved was the pastor’s auto reimbursement for church miles driven.

The council and finance committee have been working to present a fair budget. We are blessed that we have cash and property that may be needed for the future. We have to commit to a plan on growing the church.

Larry Hacker noted that the farm ground is now combined with the church building and should be shown on the balance sheet as church building and property. The township now shows the properties as one, with one legal description.

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Congregational Meeting Minutes

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Shawn Cahill made a motion to accept the budget with the following stipulations:

1. We should send an additional \$2,000 to the NALC immediately, either to the general fund or to the seminary. Council would decide where the funds will be sent at their next meeting.

2. The council review the payroll of present employees and report back to the congregation.

The motion was seconded by Larry Hacker.

Discussion. Shari Schmidt asked if we have the funds to do the two items. Brian said it would be a commitment from the congregation. He agrees that we should look at the employee payrolls. Shari suggested we should be reminded of what God can do, not what we can do.

Motion passed, with one nay. Total budgeted operating expenses for 2018: \$205,378.48

Jerry Pliley noted that a lot of leg work on the properties was done by Larry Hacker to combine them. Because of this, a lot of money was saved in property taxes for Peace Lutheran.

Kevin Kunst thanked the financial committee for the hard work they did to prepare the financial statement and budget.

Pastor's report

Pastor Steve Hartten

2017 was a year of changing the congregation's culture. Changes were instituted in how committees functioned, and new committees were formed. Mutual Ministry started anew; a 25th Anniversary Steering Committee was formed to guide us through this year and help us celebrate what God has done over the past quarter century.

There are many new and continued activities for fellowship and outreach. Among these are fellowships following services, Upton tutoring on Wednesday afternoons, VBS, Back to Church Sunday with a service, food, and games, and a special Blessing of the Animals service for our family pets.

Members were given the opportunity to request favorite hymns to be sung during the year and the last Sunday of the year was celebrated with a service of Lessons and Carols.

We are returning to the 1st Century marks of the church, where outsiders were drawn to the faith by how Christians loved and cared for each other and then extended that love to care for the neighbor beyond the bounds of the Church community.

May 2018 continue the progress of looking beyond ourselves to the opportunities we have for serving in

the larger area.

Council report

Kevin Kunst

Kevin introduced Barb Berry, Eddie Zajac and Virgil Bennett as new members.

Barb and Virgil will be replacing the terms of Joe and Judy Novak.

Council officers: Kevin Kunst, President; Karen Richardville, Vice President; Bev So, Secretary.

Kevin discussed our church attitude and God's plan for us. He said the atmosphere at PLC has greatly improved. We are more positive and are focusing on the future.

He talked about when he and Ginger came to Peace. After their first visit, Larry and Karen Coffey stopped by their home with a loaf of bread and said "We're glad you came and we hope you'll come back." That act of kindness impacted them greatly, and they did come back. Again and again. Kevin suggested starting a welcoming committee again.

He said that we should speak positively about Peace. Negativity serves no purpose.

God carries all of us. We ARE a welcoming congregation.

The Back to Church picnic at church was one of the events that gives the perception to the community that we have things going on. We need to continue this and again to be positive in the community and to each other.

Vision Sharing

Pastor Hartten

Kevin - suggests having a contemporary service with a liturgical background. We need to start including younger families.

Shari Schmidt—The Great Commission - to love one another as Christ loved us. Within these walls, we need to love each other. ...to go into the world and make disciples.

Shari suggested that we all listen to Pastor's sermon again. We need to be assisting to our own members.

Peace does a good job in outreach, but we can do better. There is another part - the personal outreach. What are each of us doing? There is a way that each of us can participate. God will make a way. Examples: Neighborhood Bible studies. Get well cards. Get the good news to the lost. Spread the word.

Pastor asked for members to call him, email him, and/or stop by to share the vision God has been speaking to them in prayer. He also set aside several nights for people to stop in to visit with him.

Motion to adjourn was made by Chuck Wilson at 12:48 p.m.

The meeting closed with singing the Doxology.



Our Ninth Annual Chili Cook-off March 4

*Immediately following worship
Everyone is welcome to join us*

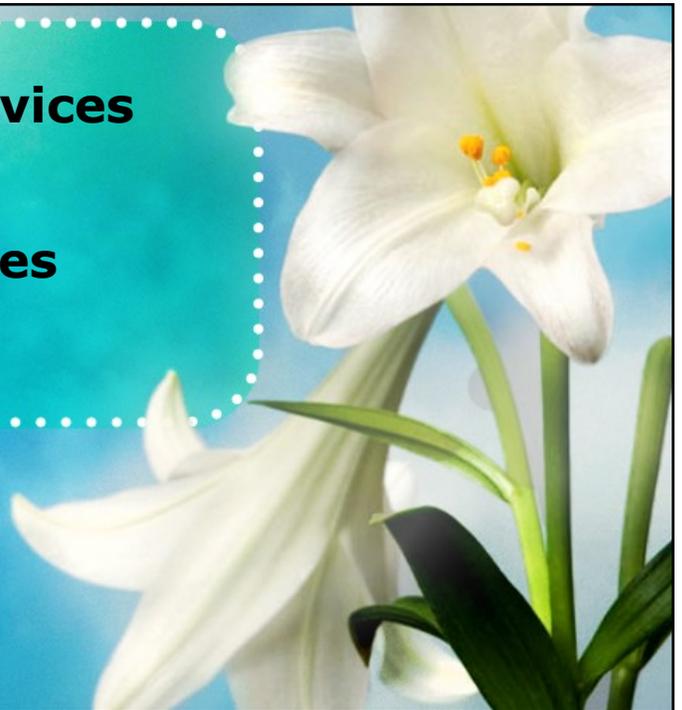
Do you have what it takes to earn a chili pepper on the plaque? Sign up to compete on the bulletin board.

Don't want to enter a chili? Just come for food.
We also need bread and dessert donations.

**Maundy Thursday Services
7 p.m. March 29**

**Good Friday Services
7 p.m. March 30**

**Easter Services
10:15 a.m. April 1**
Easter Breakfast 9-10 a.m.



Peace
LUTHERAN CHURCH

3590 Lincoln Avenue
St. Joseph, MI 49085

