

Pastor's Message

In early June the results of a Change Readiness Survey were distributed during worship. The survey came from a book used by the Church Council, "Who Moved My Pulpit." A series of fifty statements were provided and the respondents were asked to rank their reaction to the statement on a scale from Strongly Agree to Strongly Disagree. The results of the survey are found on pages 2 and 3 in this newsletter.

What is important to remember is that this survey represents a snapshot in time. It is similar to a person visiting a doctor and being told of an ailment that is affecting his health. The patient then has a choice to make: make adjustments to his lifestyle or let the ailment take its toll. For example, a patient might be advised to change her diet to avoid the onset of diabetes.

The members of Peace Lutheran Church have a choice to make. Based on the responses, we are a congregation that is very resistant to change. This resistance is contributing to our slow decline. During Pastor Schmidt's interim ministry and since my arrival we have stabilized the rapid decline of previous years. But stable isn't the end result; it just means that we are dying slower than we were before. Are we willing to make some changes that will move us towards health (and hopefully growth!) or are we content to let the ailment take its toll? I understand that

answering this question results in a difficult choice. Some things that need to change are our belief in the myth that we are a poor congregation. There is approximately \$70,000 in undesignated funds sitting in the checking account.



SENIOR PASTOR STEVE HARTTEN

That is about four times the average church's reserves. How best can we utilize what God has provided for us?

Another change comes in how we relate to each other. Can we maintain fellowship gatherings at least twice a month throughout the year? The simplified approach of cookies or cake or a fruit and veggie tray means that two or three individuals can sponsor an afterworship fellowship.

How many of us are engaged in a Bible or book study? Spending time with God's Word will impact how we interact with each other and the larger community.

Are we willing to entertain changes in worship- a blend of more contemporary music while maintaining a liturgical service?

How would someone who is **Continued on Page 4**

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:

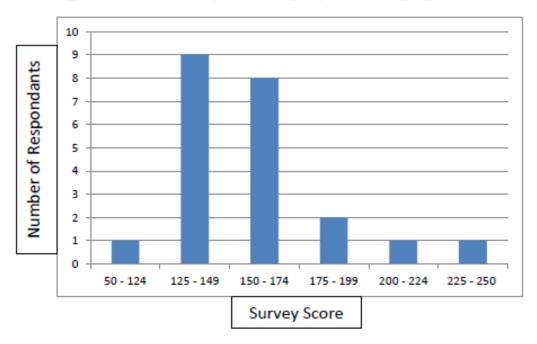
Sunday 9:15 a.m. Worship

Thursday
7 p.m. Worship

Tuesday 11:30 a.m. Prayer Meeting



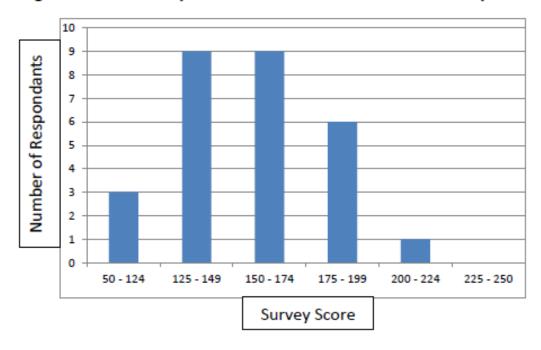
Change Readiness Survey from May 20, 2018 Congregational Meeting



A total of 23 Surveys were returned, one did not have answers on the last 2 pages so it was not included in the data.

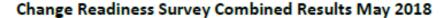
The Average Readiness for Change Score was 160 with a low of 114 and a high of 225.

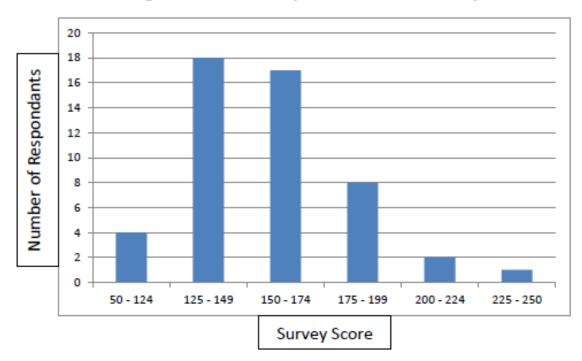
Change Readiness Survey from Church Council & Education Groups March 2018



A total of 28 Surveys were collected.

The Average Readiness for Change Score was 156 with a low of 117 and a high of 204.





The Average Change Readiness Score is 158 for the 50 Surveys that were completed.

The Readiness for Change Scores are explained below:

- RFC 50-124: Highly resistant to change. The death of the congregation is likely near. Possibly time to consider giving the facilities to a healthier congregation before the doors close.
- RFC 125-149: Change could cause the congregation to implode. Likely a dying church; radical change needed; little willingness to make changes.
- RFC 150-174: Average potential for change. "Average" is not good because the average church is losing ground in its community. Many improvements are required if the church plans to be around in 20 years.
- RFC 175-199: Above average potential; several improvements are required before significant change will occur.
- RFC 200-224: Very good potential to handle change. Improvements could be made, congregation is well above average in implementing change.
- RFC 225-250: The congregation can handle change exceptionally well. Only 2% fall into this category.



$P_{ m eace}$ $L_{ m utheran}C_{ m hurch}$

October 31, 1993 - October 31, 2018

Do you know the story of Peace's Interior Design?

As you come into the sanctuary, the altar, pulpit, and baptismal font are clearly seen as the focal points of the whole interior. The chancel background is meant to set the proper religious tone for the whole interior. But first and foremost they are grounded clearly in principles of faith based theology from Eugene Potente, Jr. President of ASID (American Society of Interior Designers), and Thomas E McGranahan, VP of The Studios of Potente, Inc.

The **chancel** furnishings are seen against a large chancel center wall section with buttresses at the sides and a large cruciform unit that serves as the immediate background for the cross. This background is covered in a special metallic material with a variegated finish. This is a symbol of all of us who are pilgrims, who are still *in via* whose cry is the "Come, Lord Jesus!" of the Book of Revelation (Rev. 22:20)

The central large **cross** is constructed from antique brass covered wood. It is installed six inches or so from the wall to give it depth and accent. This cross is empty to imitate the empty tomb symbolizing the fact that our Savior is risen indeed! The material finish of the cross, and the custom-made wallpaper emphasize the glorious nature of the resurrection mystery. When a person approaches the chancel, the lines imprinted in the wallpaper become visible and give the impression that light is shining out from the intersection of the cross members. The light of the Risen Lord shines forth from the empty cross.

The **altar** is one of the main foci in the chancel (altar area). It is seen to be a "table style" which is symbolic of our "gathering around the table of the Lord". This is symbolic of the unity of the Christian assembly that is the preparation for the result of the communion with the Lord which Christian worship entails.

The **pulpit** is the focal point of the Word. Hearing the Word of God and reacting to it in word and song is the heart of Christian worship. The pupil is both the place from which the Word is proclaimed and the symbol of that Word.

The **baptismal font** completes the chancel area. This baptism "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: initiates us into the mystery of the Three who are One. Water, itself, is the biblical symbol of "life", especially that new life which is bestowed on us by faith in what Jesus has done for us at such great cost to himself.

All the chancel furnishings have bases that are accented with the antiqued metal finish in addition to the symbols of the Word on the pulpit, symbols of the Eucharist on the altar, and symbols of baptism on the font. Even the textured base of these furnishings emphasizes the union of all the faithful in Christ who is the Word, the Bread of Life, and the Water of Salvation.

Now you can look at Peace Lutheran Church Sanctuary with a new vision.

Peace Lutheran Church's Silver Anniversary Celebration

The Heritage Center, Downtown St. Joe
7 p.m. Saturday, October 27, 2018

Cocktail hour 6-7 p.m.

Catered Dinner with choice of entrée
(vegetarian option available)

Tickets are \$15 per person

25"ANNIVERSARY

On Sunday, October 28^{th} there will be a Festival Worship to Celebrate 25 Years of God's Grace

Pastor's Message

Continued from Page 1

unchurched or never even raised in a church connect with our worship style?

There aren't easy answers to these questions. In fact, it will take prayer and intentional dialogue among ourselves to listen for what God is asking of us. It is time to get the conversation started if we desire to alter the outcome that will result from an unwillingness to change. I believe that this can be an exciting time for this congregation. For by intentionally listening for God's direction, we can live into the future God has planned for us.

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 does the congregation collect an offering during worship?" Part III

Last month we looked at tithing as a teaching tool to remind us to put God first in our lives. That brought up the question, "Does God need our tithes?" Surprisingly the answer is "no!" In speaking through the Psalmist, God

says, "For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is mine. If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and its fullness are mine." (Psalm 50: 10-12)

God does not need our tithes. God never relinquished ownership of this planet. In Genesis 1: 28 God said, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish

of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." As sinful creatures we have misused the charge of exercising dominion to mean using for our benefit. As Christians, we are to exercise dominion understanding that the creation has value in and of itself, not just as a resource for us to exploit. We are to be stewards of

the creation, caretakers of it for the owner. The key in all this is that God retains ownership. God never signed over the title, instead He entrusts us with caring for what He has made and what He still owns. We tithe not because God needs it, but because we need the discipline of reminding ourselves of what is of utmost importance. Sin tends to limit our vision, keeping the focus on what is best for me,

what I can get out of a specific situation. God asks us to live lives of service for others, recognizing that in the other we meet Jesus (Matthew 25: 37-40). Everything we have comes from God. God is allowing us to keep ninety percent and share ten percent. We are giving back to the owner a portion of what has been entrusted to us. God doesn't need it. We need the reminder as to where we rightly belong in the order of creation.

Sign up now for "I Am A Church Member" Bible Study

Beginning the week of Sept. 9, our congregation will be meeting in small groups to discuss Tom S. Rainer's book, "I Am a Church Member". There are currently six small groups forming with a maximum capacity of ten people per group. The cost of the book is \$5. It is an easy read and an important first step in addressing our resistance to change highlighted in the Change Readiness Survey found on pages 2 and 3 of this newsletter. It is also a great way to bring the 25th Anniversary Year to a close.

Topics covered in the six-week book study are unity, preferences and desires, prayer, family, and interconnectedness. The small group sessions will explore congregational membership from a Biblical perspective, using extensive Bible references to support the book's teachings.

Couples are welcome to sign up for the same small group or to divide into different small groups, depending on the personality of the couple. If both partners have strong opinions and like to talk, perhaps joining separate groups would be beneficial. There isn't a "right" way to participate in this book study. What is important is a willingness to examine longheld beliefs about what it means to be a member of a

congregation.

The institutional church we were raised in drifted away from its mission, which is to make disciples who actively follow Jesus. In one sense the church became lazy. People went to church because that was the norm - there wasn't much else to do on



Sunday morning. Expectations of members was low (take Holy Communion once per year and make an offering of record). There isn't a biblical basis for this understanding of being part of the Body of Christ. It is time to get back to the biblical understanding of what it means to be a member for Peace to adjust course.

Sign-up Sheets for the small groups are now available. Groups will fill up on a first-come, first-serve basis. Groups will be meeting in the afternoon as well as in the evening and on multiple days of the week. Please consider looking anew at what it means to be a Church Member as we prepare to celebrate our 25th Anniversary with a festive banquet and special worship service.



Peace Lutheran Church Council Minutes June 18, 2018

Call to Order at 6 p.m.

Kevin Kunst

Members present: Karen Richardville, Jerry Pliley, Kevin Kunst, Josh Lochner, Barb Berry, Bev So

Also present: Pastor Hartten

Absent: Ed Zajac, Mark Carpenter, Virgil Bennett

Opening Prayer

Pastor Steve

Treasur	er's Report		Becky Carpenter			
	Current		Over(Under)			
	Month	Budget	Budget			
Income	\$ 17,599	\$ 16,042	\$ 1,557			
Interest	\$ 32	\$ 12	\$ 20			
	\$ 17,631	\$ 16,054	\$ 1,577			
	Actual	Budget				
	YTD	YTD				
Income	\$84,085	\$ 80,208				
Interest	\$ 80	\$ 60				
	\$84,165	\$ 80,268				

Old Business:

Guest Parking Sign Placement Pastor Steve/Jerry

Two signs have already been posted. The others will be put up once the posts are delivered and installed.

NALC sign on marquee

Kevin/Jerry

Discussed reusing the old one, but cutting it down to a smaller size.

Standing Committee Reports: Property

The signs are here. Waiting for Mich Dig to mark the electrical/gas lines.

Jerry is working on the bannister for the new steps to the altar.

Herb Kroening and Jim Steinbauer are going to have a clean-up prior to the Paul Todd concert.

Pastor, Bev, and Barb are going to clean up the side garden. Kevin will bring edging that will be installed to keep out the weeds.

Both dehumidifiers in the basement no longer

work. Jerry said he will look for replacements.

Pastor's Report

Attended the "Renew, Share, Grow" Mission event hosted by First United Lutheran Church in Hammond, Ind. The workshop was interactive and provided resources for believers to verbally share their faith with a non-believer.

Small group leader training for the fall congregation book study is meeting weekly and will be completed by the end of June.

Tutoring at Upton Middle School has been completed for the year. This ministry will continue, but more participants from Peace are needed. Another church may be able to jointly participate.

The Thursday evening services have been well received with 26-28 attendees.

Pastor has requested vacation for the following dates: July 23-29 and September 3-9. Bev made a motion to approve the requested days for vacation. Barb seconded. The motion passed.

The following is a brief summary of activities since the last council meeting: one funeral, Soup Kitchen, book leader training, home and hospital visits, Lutheran clergy text study, mutual ministry meeting, nursing home visits, office visits, Men's Bible study.

New Business:

Keys for Sharon Schmidt and Loretta Hartten Kevin Kunst

Jerry made a motion to issue keys for Shari and Loretta to the church. Josh seconded the motion. Loretta will also be given a key to the classrooms for Women's Book Study. The motion passed.

Policy manual updating

Kevin Kunst

Tabled until next meeting.

Council Host for VBS Ice Cream Social Kevin Kunst

The council will serve ice cream on the final night of VBS following the evening service.

A motion to adjourn was made by Barb at 7:05. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.



Peace Lutheran Church Council Minutes May 21, 2018

Call to Order at 6:02 p.m.

Kevin Kunst

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

On vacation: Pastor Hartten

Also present: Sharon Schmidt and Sandy

Schuermann

AGENDA

Karen Richardville showed the "Military Outreach Kit" given to her by Pastor Hartten with the suggestion that each council member review it for possible later use for PLC outreach. Motion by Karen Richardville to approve the agenda as amended. Barb Berry seconded All ayes. Motion carried.

CONCERT UPDATE

Sharon Schmidt and Sandy Schuermann gave an update/progress report on the upcoming July 19 Paul Todd concert at PLC. She summed-up the considerable progress her committee has made in the various advertising-promotion and logistics efforts to date. Council members agreed that the beneficiary of concert proceeds (Berrien County Cancer Service) was a good choice. Member comments were favorable, some related questions were answered and this presentation concluded.

Jerry expressed concern that concert guests might bring outside food and beverages into the building. It was universally agreed that this would be forbidden with signs placed on the entrance doors to that effect. Ed brought up the need for clean-up following the concert and it was agreed that the concert committee should be made aware of this aspect of their responsibilities.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Since this report was given the day before at the special congregational meeting, it was agreed no report was needed at this time. Members agreed that Becky's report at the congregational meeting was handled very well and its concise form was appreciated.

OLD BUSINESS

Guest Parking sign information was presented by Jerry who reported that each metal sign and post combination would cost \$60 and that a total of 6 (six) signs would be needed. Location of the signs and how the signs should be affixed was discussed. A motion to approve Jerry to order the signs was made by Virgil and seconded by Josh. All ayes. Motion carried.

Kevin began discussion of the NALC signage needed at roadside on the marquee. It was suggested that a portion of the old wood sign be cut off and placed on top of the marquee. Kevin will talk with pastor about this idea.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

All Standing Committee Reports were approved as presented without comment or changes

NEW BUSINESS

Congregational Meeting feedback - none received. Email votes from Council (Y or N) must be quickly received by Kevin. Kevin will note each such email with special heading

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Karen . All ayes. Motion carried. Prayer.

Role of the Mutual Ministry Committee

The Mutual Ministry Committee is a constitutionally required committee. The purpose of the committee is to provide an open, concerned and trustworthy group from the congregation to interface with the church staff and Pastor. It will be their purpose to be aware of attitudes and conditions within the congregation as it may relate to the staff.

If conflict should arise within the staff group or if a staff member experiences a problem, the committee shall serve as a sounding board for their concerns.

Mutual Ministry members are a buffer, a sounding board, a liaison between the staff – not just the Senior Pastor - and members of the congregation. They meet in even months, usually on a Saturday morning. The next meeting is Aug. 25. The current committee members along with the year their term ends are: Shawn Cahill -2019; Sandy Landis- 2020; Joe Moulton-2019; Jim Priebe -2020; and Lisa Zajac -2019.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES



Peace Lutheran Church Special Congregational Meeting Sunday, January 28, 2018

Opening Prayer

Pastor Hartten

Establishment of Quorum President Kevin Kunst

Approval of Agenda

Pat Greenburg made a motion to accept the agenda. Pastor Schmidt seconded. The motion passed.

Change Readiness Survey Pastor Hartten

Pastor explained the survey and requested that members take a few minutes to complete it. The survey will be used to chart how our members feel about the atmosphere and culture of Peace. Is change needed? Are we ready to make changes? This will be used in conjunction with the vision set by the council and our church plans moving forward in the next 25 years.

Council Report Kevin Kunst

As voted at the last congregational meeting, a contribution has been made to the NALC seminary. Following an annual review, Amy Cahill and Jerry

Pliley have received raises.

Kevin reviewed the vision put out by the council. He reminded us that we need to be an active working church, always ready to move forward.

5-year Land Use planning committee

Shari Schmidt

Mission Statement: Our mission is to exclusively pursue, exhaust and present all farmland options for future development and uses to the church council for consideration.

Possibilities are:

Peace youth pavilion, picnic tables, gazebo and prayer garden, garden below the bluff, sell portions of the property, a walking path incorporated with a memorial garden.

Cost will be a factor in deciding the uses for this property.

Finance Committee Becky Carpenter

Difference YTD Budget YTD \$66,534 \$64,215 \$2,319 Income (Including interest) (Offerings and Interest)

Motion to Adjourn

Motion made by Evelyn Chevrette.

Soup Kitchen crew served 98 people on June 8, 101 people on April 13

Soup Kitchen update: Peace served 95 adults and 6 children on April 13, and 96 adults and 2 children on June 8.

The menus were as follows:

Friday, April 13—Spaghetti, Corn, Peaches, Chopped Salad w/tomatoes and ranch dressing, Bread/Butter, Ice cream with pastel sprinkles and Soda

Friday, June 8—Sloppy Joes with Buns, Baked Beans, Mac and Cheese, Pears, Dessert and Soda

The time spent preparing the meals is truly a joyful time of fellowship for our members and the Soup Kitchen employees.

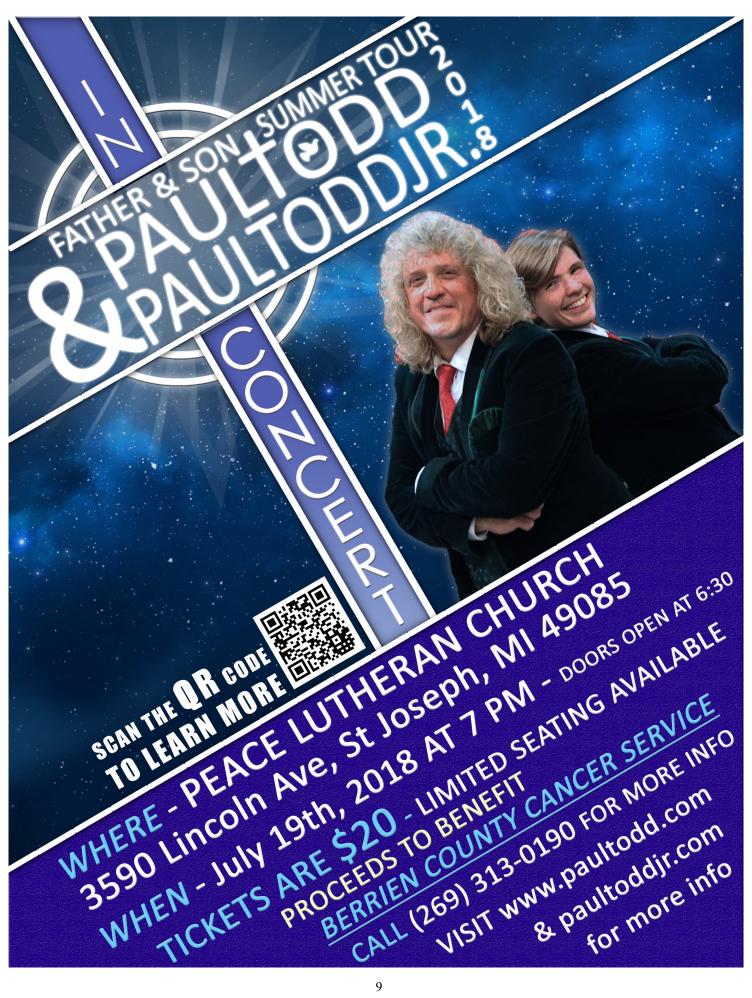
When serving begins, it only gets better. Barb Morgan is always the person who greets at the window with a huge smile, positive words, and choice of desserts. She knows many of the Soup Kitchen patrons month. We usually begin food preparation around 9 by name and they definitely know her.

All members of Peace are welcome to help. We serve 6 times a year on the second Friday of the



a.m. and begin serving the meal at 11:30, preceded by

Service and clean-up are finished by 1 p.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 Ushers: Jim Steinbauer (Th:) Ron Wilson

Communion: Les Collins and Ted Hol-

lacher (Th:) Ron Wilson Altar Guild: Loretta Hartten

(Th): Jerry Pliley

July 1

Greeters/Ushers: Louise and Greg Solak

Lector: Greg Solak

Fellowship: Worship Committee

Altar Flowers: In Memory of Don Byers

from his family

July 8

Greeters/Ushers: The Cahill Family

Lector: Amy Cahill

July 15

Greeters/Ushers: Bev and Dominic So

Lector: Bev So **Fellowship:** Open

July 22

Greeters/Ushers: Chuck and Jane Wilson

Lector: Sandy Warren

July 29

Greeters/Ushers: Barb and Gary Walker

Lector: Shari Schmidt

This Month's Readings

Sun., July 1 - Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Lamentations 3:22-33, Psalm 30 2 Corinthians 8:1-9, 13-15 Mark 5:21-43

Sun., July 8 - Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 2:1-5, Psalm 123 2 Corinthians 12:1-10, Mark 6:1-13

Sun., July 15 - Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 7:7-15, Psalm 85: 1-13 Ephesians 1:3-14, Mark 6:14-29



Sun., July 22 - Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 23:1-6, Psalm 23 Ephesians 2:11-22, Mark 6:30-44

Sun., July 29 - Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 9:8-17, Psalm 136:1-9 Ephesians 3:14-21, Mark 6:45-56



JULY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9:15 Worship	9–12 Office Hours 6 p Fellowship Committee Mtg	9–12 Office Hours 11:30 Prayer Mtg Fireworks at the Zajacs	Office closed	9–12 Office Hours 9 Quilters 7p Worship with communion	Office closed	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9:15 Worship with communion	9–12 Office Hours 7p Worship Committee Mtg	9–12 Office Hours 11:30 Prayer Mtg	9–12 Office Hours 7:30p Genesis Study	9–12 Office Hours 9 Quilters 7p Worship	Office closed	
15 9:15 Worship	16 9–12 Office Hours 6p Council Meeting	17 9–12 Office Hours 11:30 Prayer Mtg	9–12 Office Hours 7:30p Genesis Study	19 News due 9–12 Office Hours 9 Quilters 7p Paul Todd concert	20 Office closed	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:15 Worship with communion 2p Pool Party at Cahills' house	P. Steve vacation 9–12 Office Hours	P. Steve vacation 9–12 Office Hours 11:30 Prayer Mtg	P. Steve vacation 9–12 Office Hours 7:30p Genesis Study	P. Steve vacation 9–12 Office Hours 9 a.m. Quilters 7p Worship	P. Steve vacation Office closed	P. Steve vacation
29	30	31		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	
P. Steve vacation 9:15 Worship	9–12 Office Hours	9–12 Office Hours				1

<u>Birthdays</u>

- 1 Pam Bauer
- 1 Betty Robbins
- 2 Katie Davis
- 4 Ayla Adkins
- 4 Diane Herrman
- 8 Audrey Bauer
- 11 Matt Hogan
- 12 Diana Moulton
- 12 Barbara Southland
- 25 James Priebe
- 25 Jane Wilson
- 29 Judy Wilson

Anniversaries

- 5 Gary & Karen Richardville
- 9 Dennis & Janet Lietz
- 14 Kevin & Shelly Fitzpatrick
- 14 Joe & Diana Moulton
- 14 Marilyn & Bernie Riley
- 18 Chuck & Jane Wilson

Military

Brandon M Enders 1061 USS Tennessee Ave

Kings Bay, GA 31547

Lt/jg Chad Knipschild 301 Maple

Edgewater, MD 21037

<u>Shut-In's</u>

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

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

The minutes for the May and June Council meetings and the May Special Congregational Meeting are included in the electronic version of the newsletter, but were not mailed to save on postage. If you receive the newsletter in the mail and would like the minutes, please contact the church office and a set will be mailed to you, or visit www.peacelutheranstjoe.org/newsletter.

Pool Party at the Cahills' house

July 22 2 p.m. Everyone welcome

Our July Family Fellowship will be a pool party at the Cahills' house, 11671 Red Bud Trail. We'll get started at 2 p.m. and plan to eat about 4 p.m. The Cahills will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, brats, buns, condiments and drinks. If you plan to attend, please bring a dish to share and sign up on the bulletin board.





