



PEACE  
NORTH AMERICAN  
LUTHERAN CHURCH



January, 2020

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

As we enter the year 2020, I would like to take this time to present a vision for Peace. I would like to see us expand our venture into small group ministry, by actually forming stable, lasting small groups by the beginning of September. I see this as a critical piece of preparing the congregation for growth. Small groups foster familiarity, allow people to share their faith, and create small cells that care for existing members and welcome in new members.

Peace took a tentative step toward small groups with the Every Member Book Study, "I Am a Church Member" in preparation for our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. Though not every member joined a group to read and discuss the book, a sizeable percentage of our membership did participate. The results were positive. This Winter/Spring we will once again have an opportunity to join in an Every Member Book Study. Members of the Church Council are currently reading a possible choice, as of this writing it isn't clear if it will be used. I can say that we will have a book that can be used in small group settings.

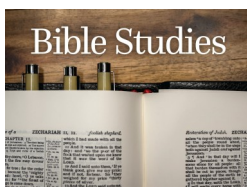
My long-term goal is to provide

materials for groups to use for study as well as fellowship. The earliest congregations were house churches where small gatherings of the faithful would meet to share a meal and study the Word. This model has been successfully applied by many of the non-denominational churches. By faithfully gathering with other believers in member's homes, a congregation can grow deeper in faith in ways that attending Sunday worship alone doesn't provide.

I am sure that this vision will result in trepidation among some members. I'm open to listening to your concerns. I hope that we can adopt the small group model here at Peace, providing additional opportunities for God to guide and direct this ministry.



SENIOR PASTOR  
STEVE HARTTEN



We will be starting an every-member Book Study with small groups later this winter. Watch for details.

### 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

Thursday  
7 p.m. Choir



# COUNCIL MINUTES

## Peace Lutheran Church Council Minutes Monday, December 16, 2019 6:30 p.m.

**Members present:** Bev So, Barb Berry, Kevin Kunst, Virgil Bennett, Herb Kroening, Rich Steinbauer

**Also present:** Pastor Hartten, Bob Phillips, Jon Kooiman

**Absent:** Ed Zajak, Mark Carpenter

**Call to Order:** Bev So called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Opening Devotion/Prayer** **Pastor Hartten**  
Pastor brought in a picture of a bridge in Honduras. The weather changed the course of the river and the bridge was no longer over the water. It was useless. We as a church have to adapt where we are going. Pastor said a prayer asking that we go in the right direction in the changes we make.

**Approval of December agenda** **Bev So**  
Kevin made a motion to approve the December agenda and Virgil seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Approval of November 2019 minutes made via email.

**Treasurer's report** **Jon Kooiman (Acct. Mgr.)**  
Nothing really stands out, the expenses were straightforward this month.

	Current Month	Current Month Budget	Over (Under) Budget
Offerings	\$18,435	\$16,042	\$2,393
Interest	\$ 16	\$ 12	\$ 4
Total	\$18,451	\$16,054	\$2,397

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Over (Under) Budget
Offerings	\$165,463	\$176,458	(\$10,995)
Interest	\$ 163	\$ 132	\$ 31
Total	\$165,626	\$176,590	(\$10,964)

### Old business

Updates - Tammy Steinbauer has mailed the Christmas cards.

### Standing Committee Reports Worship Committee

No report this month

### Fellowship sent via email **Christine Bennett**

Fellowship will be sponsoring a potluck on Jan. 26 for the Congregational meeting. Leap year party is in the planning stages for Feb. 29. Sandy Schuermann was the winner for the chili cook-off this year. The Konars made more wooden chilies for the winner sign. Christine will add this year's winner and re-do the sign for more years.

### Building & Property

Discussed having a water meter usage review from the city. Virgil will contact the city of St. Joseph to schedule our meter for a usage review to make sure our meter is working as it should.

### Pastor's report

The summary of pastor's activities are as follows: Church Council, Come Holy Spirit class, Dean's Meeting in Columbus, Executive Committee Meeting, Home Visits, Hospital Visits, Install Pastor Glenn Sokolowski at Cross Lutheran, Intercessory Prayer Team Meeting, Lutheran Clergy Text Study, Men's Thursday Bible Study, Mutual Ministry, "No Regrets Ministry" Preview, Nursing Home Visits, Office Visits, Tuesday Prayer Meeting, Tutoring at Upton Middle School, Visit Faith Landing in Davison, Worship Committee, Sunday Worship services, Midweek Advent services, Thanksgiving Eve service, Youth Sunday School.

### New Business

**Council greeters for January** **Bev So**  
Council chose Sundays in January to greet. Bev will send out reminders to the greeters.

### Congregational meeting - Sunday, Jan. 26

**Bev So**  
Fellowship planning potluck. New members will be introduced.

*Continued on Page 3*



# No Regrets Men's Conference

How often can you attend a national Men's Ministry Event without ever leaving home?



On Saturday, Feb. 1, join with other men from southwest Michigan and attend the No Regrets conference at The Chapel. There are three main presentations and multiple options during the two break-out sessions. The conference is from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and the \$20 registration (if paid by Jan. 26) includes a boxed lunch. Visit [www.YourPlaceToBelong.com/No-Regrets](http://www.YourPlaceToBelong.com/No-Regrets) for more information including a tentative schedule, registration form, and a video by the keynote speaker Vince Miller.



## What goes up, must come down

Join us after worship on Epiphany, Jan. 5, and help remove the Christmas decorations. The more people who help, the faster the job will go.

## Council Minutes

*Continued from Page 2*

### February council retreat

2020 retreat will be on a Saturday in late February. Date has not been chosen.

### 2020 Budget

**Bev So**

Shawn Cahill sent out a projected budget based on the information from the various committees. Council will be looking at the information to see where our budget can be trimmed for 2020.

### Approval of Job Descriptions for Pastoral Staff

**Bev/Pastor Hartten**

After much discussion, the executive committee

decided job descriptions should be written for the senior pastor and the staff pastor. All others on staff have job descriptions and the council felt job descriptions were in order for the pastors also. This will help communications between the pastors. The executive committee presented the job descriptions to the council for discussion. Kevin made a motion to approve the job descriptions as written and Rich seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### Motion to adjourn

Barb made a motion to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.

### Closing prayer

**Pastor Hartten**

The meeting ended with the Lord's prayer.

**S**isters  
**I**n the  
**S**pirit

## Calling all women of Peace Lutheran Church

Come join your fellow sisters in the Spirit to support one another in our faith walk.

Saturday, Jan. 18, 2020—10 a.m. Loretta Hartten's home- 1652 N. Riviera Dr., Stevensville

Learn about the three legged stool that keeps us faithful with God.

- Short Bible Study
- Pray together
- Support one another

Refreshments and fellowship with our sisters. Sign up at the church.

More information to come. Or, call Loretta at 720-231-9200.





From new choir robes to hats and mittens...  
...December was a busy month here at Peace



# Bringing Your Friends To Jesus

D. Scott Hildreth

*This article originally appeared on LifeWayVoices.com.*

The miracle story in Mark 2 is a powerful one. Jesus confounds his critics and confirms his divinity when he tells a paralyzed man to take his mat and walk home. Each time I read this story, I am struck by the humor—Jesus is teaching and all of a sudden, the roof opens up. The crowd that made it impossible for the men to get to Jesus apparently had no problem stepping aside to let him walk out. However, the most stunning element is the activity of the friends who carried the man to Jesus. I think there are three evangelism principles we can learn from these brave, unnamed individuals.

## 1. THEY HAD A PLAN.

One part of this story that is easy to overlook is that four men were carrying a friend to Jesus. If you have ever tried to get four men to move *anything*, you know this is no small feat. Getting volunteers to help you move usually requires weeks of planning and free pizza.

Now I don't want to over-spiritualize a part of the story that is not in the Bible, but I do think we must realize that if we're going to introduce our friends to Jesus, we need a plan. Each friend is different, and every evangelism encounter is unique.

Have you ever asked yourself, "Why is my friend not a Christian?"

- Lack of Adequate Knowledge
- Bad Experience
- Rejecting Belief or Life Requirements
- Apathy

When we know why our friends are not Christians, we can have a plan for addressing their concerns. For example, if my friend has adequate knowledge of the gospel but doesn't want to change his life, then his problem is not apologetic. If I dump a bunch of information on him, he may say, "I know, stop preaching to me." He needs to see the error of his ways, the pain of sin and the blessing of following Christ. My life and testimony become a vital part of the plan.

Think about those in your life who don't know Jesus. Why are they still not believing? What is your plan for addressing their unique concerns?

## 2. THEY OVERCAME A PROBLEM.

As the friends approached the house, they realized

they had a problem but refused to allow this problem to deter them. I imagine they tried ways to get through the door—after all, breaking someone's house is usually not the first thing we think of doing! When that didn't work, they climbed to the roof.

Evangelism always requires determination. Keep this in mind:

- It is always easier *not* to share Christ.
- It is more comfortable to stay silent.
- There are always reasons why now isn't the best time.
- You always have something else you could be doing at the moment.

If we are going to bring our friends to Jesus, then we cannot give up too quickly. There will be times when the words flow freely, and our friend is engaged in the conversation. There will be other times when we will forget John 3:16, and it will feel as if the Holy Spirit has abandoned you (hint: he hasn't). But in every evangelistic encounter be prepared to overcome obstacles and press through. Trust the Lord to use your efforts to accomplish his will.

## 3. THEY UNDERSTOOD THEIR ROLE.

Without the help of his friends, the paralyzed man was hopeless. We don't know much about his physical condition, but we know that he could do nothing to get to Jesus. It is evident that these men loved their friend. They wanted him to be able to get up and walk, but his healing was not within their power. They needed to get him to Jesus.

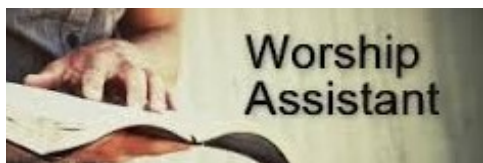
The Bible teaches us that God is not willing that any should perish, but all come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Tim. 2:4) and that anyone who calls on the name of the Lord can be saved (Rom. 10:13).

However, God's plan for salvation always requires an evangelist, a person who presents the gospel and leads the person to Christ. Your role is to share Christ with your unbelieving friends, not to be their savior. "*How, then, can they call on him they have not believed in? And how can they believe without hearing about him? And how can they hear without a preacher?*" —Romans 10:14

Our unbelieving friends are like the paralyzed man in this story. Left to themselves, they are unable to get to Jesus. Before we can bring our friends to Jesus, we need to settle the fact in our hearts and minds that if we do not bring them, they will likely not find him.

*This article originally appeared on LifeWayVoices.com.*





## SUPPORTING OUR WORSHIP

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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:** Keith and Jill  
Chapman

January 5

**Greeters:** Jim and Judy Priebe

**Lector:** Jim Priebe

**Altar Guild:** Ginger Kunst

**Altar Flowers:** Open

January 12

**Greeters:** Rich and Tammy Stein-  
bauer

**Lector:** Sandy Warren

**Altar Guild:** Louise Solak

**Altar Flowers:** Open

January 19

**Greeters:** Virgil and Chris Bennett

**Lector:** Marty Tallman

**Altar Guild:** Margaret Schmieding

**Altar Flowers:** Open

January 26

**Greeters:** Lee and Lynn Hornack

**Lector:** Amy Cahill

**Altar Guild:** Mark Carpenter

**Altar Flowers:** Open

**Fellowship:** The Fellowship  
Committee

## THIS MONTH'S READINGS

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**Sun., Jan. 5 - Second Sunday after  
Christmas**

1 Kings 3:4-15, Psalm 119:97-104

Ephesians 1:3-14, Luke 2:40-52

**Sun., Jan. 12 - Baptism of our Lord**

Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalm 29

Romans 6:1-11, Matthew 3:13-17

**Sun., Jan. 19 - Second Sunday after  
Epiphany**

Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm 40:1-11

1 Corinthians 1:1-9, John 1:29-42a

**Sun. Jan. 26 - Third Sunday after  
Epiphany**

Isaiah 9:1-4 Psalm 27:1-14

1 Corinthians 1:10-18, Matthew 4:12-25

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Office closed	2 9-12 Office Hours	3 Office closed	4
5 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	6 9-12 Office Hours 6p Fellowship Committee Mtg	7 9-12 Office Hours 11:30 Prayer Mtg	8 9-12 Office Hours 7:30p Mark Study	9 9-12 Office Hours 8 Men's Ministry 7p Choir	10 Office closed	11
12 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	13 9-12 Office Hours 7p Worship Committee Mtg	14 9-12 Office Hours 11:30 Prayer Mtg	15 9-12 Office Hours 7:30p Mark Study	16 News Due 9-12 Office Hours 8 Men's Ministry 7p Choir	17 Office closed	18
19 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 1 p.m. Tubing	20 9-12 Office Hours 6:30p Council	21 9-12 Office Hours 11:30 Prayer Mtg	22 9-12 Office Hours 7:30p Mark Study	23 9-12 Office Hours 8 Men's Ministry 7p Choir	24 Office closed	25
26 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:15 Cong. Mtg	27 9-12 Office Hours	28 9-12 Office Hours 11:30 Prayer Mtg	29 9-12 Office Hours 7:30p Mark Study	30 9-12 Office Hours 8 Men's Ministry 7p Choir	31 Office closed	

## Birthdays

1 Jim Bauer  
5 Keegan Kutchie  
5 Karen Richardville  
7 Judy Konar  
9 Jill Chapman  
10 Dominic So  
14 Denise Mahler  
15 Dolores Kraklau  
16 Evelyn Chevrette  
16 Joe Moulton  
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

**Lt/jg Chad Knipschild**  
301 Maple  
Edgewater, MD  
21037

**Jacob Tallman**  
(address coming soon)

## Shut-In's

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

Marian Hogue  
Joe Naines  
Ruth Retzke  
Betty Robbins  
Roger and Elaine  
Sirk  
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.

# Tubing at Five Pines 1 p.m. Jan. 19

**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 \$10 per person for tubing.**



## ***PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL MEETING***

**Jan. 26 following the  
10:15 a.m. service  
Fellowship Hall**

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

