



PEACE
NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN CHURCH

August 2021



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

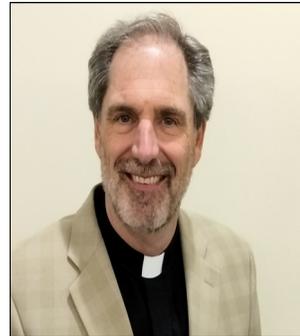
Near the end of June Loretta and I had conversations with different individuals over the course of several days. Both conversations involved parents who were in their mid 30's – mid 40's. Each discussed a desire to connect with a congregation, and both explained how with both parents working Sunday morning just doesn't fit in their routine. When the option of a Sunday evening service was presented, the response was that Sunday night was a time to get children and schoolwork prepped for the coming week. The question was then asked, "Does the church have anything on Monday night?"

When "coincidences" like this happen, I've learned to pause and take note. I've never considered a Monday night worship service; neither Loretta nor I presented that option in our conversations. I've been prayerfully trying to discern if this God talking? Is Peace being called to offer an alternative worship time for young families?

I have asked the Church Council to spend time between our July and August meetings in prayer to see if the members get the sense that we are being called to engage a new ministry opportunity. Now I am asking the congregation to also prayerfully consider whether or not God is calling us to a new venture. I am not

asking if people think this is a good idea. I am asking us to discern through prayer if this is where God is leading us. I am well aware that a group of people can accomplish anything if the group puts its mind to the task. That isn't the point. The biblical story of the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11) should serve as a caution in approaching a ministry opportunity in this manner. I'm also aware that answering God's call, (if indeed this is God's call), will stretch us. There will be additional costs, our standard meeting night will have to change, and adjustments will be required. There will be plenty of opportunities to dismiss Monday night worship as a bad idea. When God calls, God also equips. Our task is to discern if indeed God is calling and how best we can answer in the affirmative, trusting that God will provide what is needed. Please take time in your daily devotions to ask God to reveal His will to you.

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**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:
The Church Office 556-7000

Weekly Worship & Praise Opportunities:

Sunday
10:15 a.m. Worship
also streamed on
Facebook Live
or
YouTube Live
Permission to podcast/stream
the music in our services
obtained from One License
with license #A-722704.

The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.
Psalm 145:18



COUNCIL MINUTES

Monday, July 19, 2021
6:30 p.m.

Total \$87,824.42 \$94,545.12 (\$6,720.70)

Members present: Barb Berry, Virgil Bennett, Teresa Hogan, Bob Phillips, Bryan Sorensen, Rich Steinbauer, Ed Zajac

Absent: Herb Kroening

Also Present: Pastor Hartten , Ken Berry

Call to Order: Ed Zajac called the meeting to order at 6:32pm.

Open Devotion/Prayer Pastor Steve Hartten
 Pastor Hartten’s devotion was based on Matthew 6:24. “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.” Jesus gave the sermon on the mount talking about dividing loyalties. There will always be a preference. We need to find how God is working in our church and follow God’s lead.

Approval of July agenda
 Bryan made a motion to approve the July agenda and Teresa seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Approval of June 2021 minutes made via email.

Treasurer’s report		Jon Kooiman (acct. mgr)	
Curr.	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)
Offerings	\$13,392.53	\$15,666.66	\$(2,274.13)
Thrivent Choice		\$45.83	\$(45.83)
Soup Kitchen	\$45	\$33.33	\$11.67
Fellowship		\$11.66	\$11.66
Interest		-	
Total	\$13,437.53	\$15,757.48	(\$2,319.95)
Year-to-Date	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)
Offerings	\$85,665.99	\$94,000.04	\$(8,334.05)
Thrivent Choice	\$1,000	\$275.02	\$724.98
Soup Kitchen	\$1,100	\$200.02	\$899.98
Fellowship	\$42.19	\$70.04	(\$27.85)
Interest	\$16.24	-	\$16.24

Old Business
COVID-19 update and discussion
 Covid 19 is not going away. We, as a church, will have to keep looking at the numbers and maybe make some hard decisions in the future in figuring out what to do. We only hope and pray that everyone in our church has either had the vaccination or are wearing a mask.

Audio/Video Room Clean Up (July) Ed
 Bob, Bryan and Ed brought up the electronics to either sell if they work or recycle if they do not work. There is lots of paperwork from the past to look through and decide whether to keep or discard. The council asked if Brandi would be willing to work an extra four hours a week to sort paperwork. Pastor will talk to her about this.

Playground Items for Purchase Bob
 The cost for new playground equipment will be about \$1,200.00. The council plans to add this to the agenda for the Congregational Meeting in September asking for donations. Ken Berry suggested having a committee to submit a master plan for the future of the property. Ken agreed to serve on the committee along with Ed and Bob. Ken will talk to the other members of his ground committee to see if they would also like to serve on the planning committee.

Congregation communication via phone Ed/Pastor
 Tabled until the August council meeting.

Outside Cleanup Ken Berry
 See Grounds Committee standing report.

Update on Flag Pole Virgil
 No information at this time. The company in Goshen is extremely busy but will come to our church to give an estimate when time permits.

Pig Roast
 The council is tentatively planning a pig roast in September. There has been a discussion on
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giving the money to more than one charity. Ed is looking into the different options for the food.

Standing Committee Reports

Worship

Ken Berry

No meeting

Fellowship

Teresa

Fellowship is planning an afternoon tea for the ladies in our church. This will be held on a Saturday in September at Apothica Teas, which is a tea room in Niles.

Fellowship will post a sign up sheet in August. The tea room can accommodate up to 25 ladies and the cost will be \$12 per person.

Building and Grounds

Virgil

Virgil contacted Future Construction about the leftover shingles from the roof, but they have not responded. The coffee maker and the garbage disposal in the kitchen are not working and are past the point of repair. It will cost about \$1,500 for a new coffee maker and about \$150 for a garbage disposal. Bob made a motion to replace the two items and Virgil seconded the motion. The motion was approved for up to \$1,500 for a new coffee pot and \$150 for new garbage disposal. Bryan will handle the purchase of the coffee pot and Virgil will purchase the garbage disposal.

Grounds Committee

Ken Berry

The grounds committee will be developing a checklist. They will coordinate workshops and clean ups all in the same day and time. The committee will be replacing the shrubs in the front. Beverly So has started hydrangeas to be planted in the front where the irrigation system will help watering. Ken asked for a copy of the water bill from Brandi to compare what was spent last year. Ken asked the council for approval to hire Tru Green to apply the late summer fertilizer and broadleaf control to build roots for the winter. The cost would be \$165. The council did not approve of this final application.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Hartten

The summary of the pastor's activities are as follows: Church Council, Confirmation Instruction, Ethiopia Fundraiser, Funeral for Leon Miller, Home Visits, Lutheran Text Study, Mission District Zoom Meeting, Office Visits, Owosso - Disaster Warehouse, Pre-Marriage Counseling, Tuesday Prayer Group, Sunday Worship.

Bookkeeper Business

Brenda Engel is an independent CPA recommended by Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Niles. Our church is currently using two different programs for data entry which both are operating past their prime with no support. Ms. Engel has suggested an all inclusive database that was designed for churches. The council has decided to have a sub committee of the council to set up a meeting with her. CDM costs \$50 per month and provides live customer service support and Ms. Engel would charge approximately \$120 per month as our treasurer. The council has decided to look into this new system. Ed will call her and set up a meeting with Bryan, Brandi and Ed to discuss the new system.

Ethiopian - Mekane Yesus Church

The seminary has a vision of constructing a multi-level building to rent out retail space on the first floors and the upper level set aside for training pastors and Bible translators. Pastor Hartten would like to set aside a Sunday to promote this cause. This church is experiencing 40,000 baptisms per month. It is the fastest growing Lutheran Church in the world.

Second worship service

Pastor has been prayerfully considering how and when to start a second worship service at Peace. Several people both in and out of our congregation suggested a Monday night service. Bob Phillips and Deb Kroening are trying to start a Praise Band and this would also fit well on Monday evening. Pastor asked the council to pray about this and see if God is leading us in this direction.

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New Business

Booth at Berrien County Youth Fair

Bob suggested renting a booth at the Berrien County Youth Fair. We would have flyers listing our church and some of our events. We could shoot a commercial including a snippet of our service and possibly a DVD. The cost would be \$310. The fair runs from August 16th through 21st. Teresa made a motion for Bob to contact the fairgrounds about the booth. Virgil seconded and the motion carried.

August Greeters

August 1 - Bryan and Bob

August 8 - Ed and Virgil

August 15 - Barb and Teresa

August 22 - Rich and Herb

August 29 - Bryan and Bob

Barb

Amy C. Little, General Secretary to NALC

She will be at Peace Lutheran Church for a visit on August 13th. She will have a discussion with our two pastors and the church council to talk about the future direction of our church.

Motion to Adjourn

Bryan made a motion to adjourn.

Closing prayer

Pastor prayed.

Pastor

Pastor's Message

(Continued from page 1)

It may be a sensation of peace when praying about this decision. It may be names of people surfacing in your mind that you could invite. It may be as simple as repeating Samuel's words, "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening," and then sitting in silence to listen for God's message.

I've learned that coincidences are often God's way of getting my attention. Not always, but often. Please join with me in taking this before the Lord to discern if indeed we are being called to a new ministry.

Mekane Yesus Seminary Project

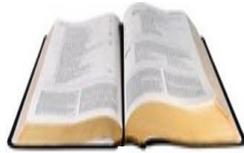
Would you become excited about a church denomination that is experiencing growth at a rate of 40,000 new members per month? How about a Seminary that has a new vision for sustainability? Would you be motivated to be part of a project to train Bible translators so that people could read the Word of God in their native/heart language?

The Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (House of Jesus) is the world's largest Lutheran Church with 10.3 million members. It is the fastest growing Lutheran Church in the world, averaging 40,000 new members per month since 2015. The Mekane Yesus Church is committed to reaching every tribe in Ethiopia with the Gospel- no small feat since 80 different languages are spoken in Ethiopia!

The Seminary is located in the capital city of Ethiopia, Addis Ababa. Originally located on the outskirts of the metropolitan area, due to urban growth, the seminary now finds itself in a desirable retail section of the city. Three years ago a dream began to take shape: build a multi-use facility that would generate income from retail shops while providing space for training Bible translators. Construction began in 2020 and is scheduled to be completed on-time and within budget by the spring of 2022. The building will feature underground parking, several floors of commercial retail space, and two floors for Bible translation. Lease income will fund student scholarships, building maintenance and future additional development.

God is on the move, the Holy Spirit is at work and exciting opportunities for mission and evangelism are taking place. You'll be hearing more about this important project in the weeks ahead. If you have any questions, or want to know how you can be involved, please feel free to contact Pastor Steve.

**THIS MONTH'S
READINGS**



**Sunday, Aug 1 - Tenth Sunday after
Pentecost**

Exodus 16:2-15, Psalm 145:10-21
Ephesians 4:1-16, John 6:22-35

**Sunday, Aug 8 – Eleventh Sunday after
Pentecost**

1 Kings 19:1-8, Psalm 34:1-8
Ephesians 4:1-16, John 6:22-35

**Sunday, Aug 15 – Twelfth Sunday after
Pentecost**

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18 Psalm 34:12-22
Ephesians 5:6-21, John 6:51-69

**Sunday, Aug 22 – Thirteenth Sunday after
Pentecost**

Isaiah 29:11-19, Psalm 14
Ephesians 5:22-33, Mark 7:1-13

**Sunday, Aug 29 - Fourteenth Sunday after
Pentecost**

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, Psalm 119:129-136
Ephesians 6:10-20, Mark 7:14-23



I once heard a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody. There was an important job to be done, and Everybody was sure Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did. Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. In the end, Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

The moral of the story is simple: If you see that something needs to be done and you have the ability to do it, be thankful for the opportunity God has given you and go be the change that everyone else is waiting for.

-excerpt from "The Power of Being Thankful," by Joyce Meyer



Did You Know...

...since 2011, Berrien County has averaged 22 completed suicides each year?

...those 22 deaths translate to 550 suicide attempts?

...each week, on average, 10 people in Berrien County attempt to take their life?

The tragedy is these attempts and deaths can be prevented. In 2012, a group of concerned citizens and representatives of local organizations met to discuss the problem of suicide. 2 years later, the Berrien County Suicide Prevention Coalition (BCSPC) was born. Their mission is

to connect the people of Berrien County to the information and resources they need for emotional wellness, thereby preventing suicide.

The BCSPC invites you to join in this important effort.

1. **Visit their website:** At BerrienCares.org, you can learn about crisis resources related to suicide, training, local services, and more.
2. **Subscribe to their email list.** Visit their homepage to quickly sign-up and stay informed about important events.
3. **Attend their monthly meetings.** Held the third Thursday of the month, from noon to 1pm (currently held online). Request a link by sending an email to Berriencaresmi@gmail.com.

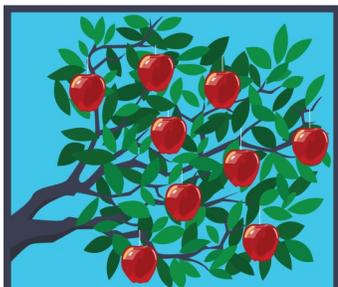
You can also find their brochure hanging on the bulletin board in the church hallway.



Berrien County
**Suicide
Prevention
Coalition**
Advancing Resiliency to End Suicide

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:15 Worship w/communion	2 9-12 Office Hrs 7p Fellowship Mtg Pr. Steve - TX	3 9-12 Office Hrs 7p Prayer Mtg via Zoom Pr. Steve - TX	4 9-12 Office Hrs Pr. Steve - TX	5 9-12 Office Hrs Pr. Steve - TX	6 Office Closed Pr. Steve - TX	7 Pr. Steve - TX
8 10:15 Worship w/communion	9 9-12 Office Hrs 7p Worship Committee	10 9-12 Office Hrs 7p Prayer Mtg via Zoom Pr. Steve - Indy	11 9-12 Office Hrs Pr. Steve - Indy	12 9-12 Office Hrs Pr. Steve - Indy	13 Office closed	14
15 10:15 Worship w/communion	16 9-12 Office Hrs 6:30p Council Mtg	17 9-12 Office Hrs 7p Prayer Mtg via Zoom	18 9-12 Office Hrs	19 9-12 Office Hrs Pr. Ron - Vacation	20 Office closed Pr. Ron - Vacation	21 Pr. Ron - Vacation
22 10:15 Worship w/communion Pr. Ron - Vacation	23 9-12 Office Hrs Pr. Ron - Vacation	24 9-12 Office Hrs 7p Prayer Mtg via Zoom Pr. Ron - Vacation	25 9-12 Office Hrs Pr. Ron - Vacation	26 9-12 Office Hrs Pr. Ron - Vacation	27 Office closed Pr. Ron - Vacation	28 Pr. Ron - Vacation
29 10:15 Worship w/communion Pr. Ron - Vacation	30 9-12 Office Hrs Pr. Ron - Vacation	31 9-12 Office Hrs 7p Prayer Mtg via Zoom Pr. Ron - Vacation				

AUGUST



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

2 Ginger Kunst
3 Rich Carpenter
7 Betty McKee
9 Herb Kroening
10 Elaine Chartrand
20 Tiffany King
21 Rob Harbin
22 April Lochner
23 Ray Dalrymple
25 Karen Coffey
28 Christian Nitz
29 Beverly So

Anniversaries

14 Rob & Holly
Harbin
16 Shawn & Amy
Cahill
19 Herb & Debbie
Kroening
19 Bryan & Heidi
Sorensen
20 Bill & Judy
Konar

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.

Ruth Retzke
Elaine Sirk

Pastor Steve Hartten will be in Texas from August 2nd to August 7th, for Lutheran Week/NALC Convocation. If you are in need of Pastoral care while he is gone, please contact Pastor Ron Schmidt.

LUTHERAN WEEK 2021



Mark your calendars!

Fellowship is planning an afternoon tea for the ladies in our church. This will be held on a Saturday in September at Apothica Teas, which is a tea room in Niles. Fellowship will post a sign-up sheet in August. The tea room can accommodate up to 25 ladies and the cost will be \$12 per person.

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