



PEACE  
NORTH AMERICAN  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

July, 2020



## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

In late June, a map of the United States was posted on an evening news channel. The map was color-coded, indicating the trends for COVID-19 infection rates in each state. For that one day, Michigan had the largest weekly drop in viral infections in the USA. Our State had the lowest infection rate in the nation; I pray that we can maintain this status.

What caught my attention was the map's posting on social media and the accompanying comments related to the graphic. In and among the run-of-the-mill comments was the following observation: "The west side of the state suffered for the east side." It is a true statement. We on the western side did suffer for the east, and our suffering helped to contain the spread of the disease. It is the biblical implication of this comment that I want to explore.

Jesus' suffering on the cross gave meaning and purpose to suffering. Suffering for the sake of another can be holy work. It can have redemptive value. Jesus suffering humiliation and torture during his Passion for the sake of my sin makes me pause. If God was willing to subject Himself to such treatment for me, then I will hopefully be willing to suffer for another's benefit.

Making a sacrifice for the greater good and suffering the consequences is held up by the Apostle Paul in almost all of his letters. Granted, Paul encourages

believers to voluntarily enter into sacrifice and suffering instead of a government mandate that brought about this recent suffering. Perhaps the pain, inconvenience and suffering of the past months can be understood as an act taken for the good of the whole, for the love of neighbor.

Jesus taught us to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. To insure that we didn't narrowly define "neighbor" to mean somebody we like or agree with, Jesus told the Parable of the Good Samaritan. Samaritans were despised by the Jews, yet they were used in the parable to broaden the understanding of "neighbor."

We in Southwest Michigan did suffer for our fellow citizens on the eastern side of the state. We were asked to make sacrifices for people we probably will never meet. We suffered for people we didn't know, people who still are our neighbors.

When I view the events of the past 4 months through the lens of caring for my neighbor, it makes the changes I've been forced to deal with, the suffering I've had to go through, well worth the effort.



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*  
(see Page 4 for info)

*Permission to podcast/stream  
the music in our services  
obtained from One License  
with license #A-722704.*



# COUNCIL MINUTES

## Peace Lutheran Church Council Minutes Monday, June 15, 2020 6:30 p.m.

**Members present:** Virgil Bennett, Barb Berry, Bob Phillips, Bev So, Bryan Sorensen, Rich Steinbauer, Ed Zajac

**Also present:** Pastor Hartten

**Absent:** Herb Kroening

### Call to Order

Bev So called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

### Opening Devotion/Prayer

Pastor Hartten's devotion was taken from Nehemiah 6:15-16. "So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul in fifty-two days. When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence because they realized that this work had been done with the help of God." This Bible verse is full of hope. We are making a new start here and God is working with us. There was a good turnout at the church cleanup day and also 55 people worshiped in the sanctuary on Sunday, June 14.

### Approval of June agenda

Bryan made a motion to approve the June agenda and Virgil seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Approval of May 2020 minutes** made via email.

### Treasurer's report

April	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)
Offerings	\$13,809	\$15,450	(\$1,641)
Thrivent Choice	\$462	\$67	(\$67)
Soup Kitchen	-	\$33	(\$33)
Fellowship	-	\$25	(\$25)
Misc.	-	\$35	(\$35)
Interest	\$16	\$16	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13,825</b>	<b>\$15,626</b>	<b>(\$1,801)</b>

Year-to-Date	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)
Offerings	\$67,844	\$77,250	(\$9,406)
Thrivent Choice	\$462	\$335	\$127
Soup Kitchen	\$450	\$165	\$285
Fellowship	\$632	\$125	\$507
Misc.	-	\$175	(\$175)
Interest	\$80	\$80	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$69,468</b>	<b>\$78,130</b>	<b>(\$8,662)</b>

### Old business

#### Discussion of opening service

Our first service on June 14 went well. Everything was organized, everyone wore masks and all attendees seemed really happy to be back at church.

#### Booth at Berrien County Youth Fair **Bob Phillips**

The decision was made by the council to table this event until next year.

#### Fundraiser for Eddie **Rich, Virgil, Bryan**

The committee is ready to start meeting together again to formalize the plans. The target date is Aug. 29, 2020.

#### Better Utilization of the North Property

**Bob, Ed and Herb**

The committee gave a report about the many different things being looked at to utilize the North Property. Tony Gano is in charge of permits for St. Joseph Twp. One idea is a playground, although equipment for the playground is quite expensive. A gazebo or a small pavilion could be used for family fellowships as well as other things. Also a Living Nativity scene for the Christmas season has been discussed.

#### Establish Small Group/Cells to strengthen faith and provide fellowship among members

**Bev, Barb, Virgil**

The committee has presented the council with suggestions for upcoming events. Some of the ideas that have been suggested are as follows:

- Bible Studies for Women as a luncheon study or a dinner study (Sharon Schmidt)
- Tuesday Night Book Study for women (Bev and Loretta)
- Wednesday Night Bible Study for men and women (Pastor Schmidt)

*Continued on Page 3*

# Make God the one thing you pursue above anything else

As a new season begins, here are five spiritual disciplines you can practice to make time with God a daily habit.

## Give thanks

"We give thanks to you, O God; we give thanks, for your name is near. We recount your wondrous deeds." – Psalms 75:1

Have you experienced healing? Answered prayers? Breakthrough in the life of someone you love? Salvation? As you seek God's heart for this new season, take a moment to thank Him for what He's already done.

## Spend 5 minutes in silence

"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me." – John 15:4

Abiding in Jesus starts with stillness. Pause, take a deep breath, and give anything concerning you over to God. Spend 5 minutes centering your heart on the One who matters most.

## Remember Whose you are

"You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body." – 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

God loves *you*. (Let that sink in.) The price He paid

for you cost Him everything. Remind yourself of Whose you are, and then confidently dream big with God for this new season.

## Meditate on God's Word

"Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day." – Psalms 119:97

How does Jesus want you to live? One of the best ways to find out is to spend time in Scripture. As you do, ask God to speak to you through His Words about what your next right step should be.

## Focus on what is excellent

"...If there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things." – Philippians 4:8

You have been given the mind of Christ. If you're not sure of what you should do in your next season, try asking yourself: What is praiseworthy? What decisions would honor God? Make a list of whatever comes to mind, and intentionally pursue those things.

By practicing these 5 steps every day, you can actively create keystone habits: acquired patterns of behavior that form the basis of your daily routines.

Imagine what good, personal habits you might be cultivating a year from now because you purposefully chose to pursue intimacy with God today!

---

## Council Minutes

*Continued from Page 2*

- Thursday Morning Men's Bible Study (Pastor Schmidt)
- "Choir" cell
- "Helping Hand" cell
- "Agape Agri(culture)" cell
- "Dinner of 8" cells
- "Senior lunch" cell
- "Senior visiting" cell

The council welcomes more ideas from the congregation. If you have any ideas, please contact one of the council members.

## Amend Policy and Procedure Manual to allow communal use of the Fellowship Hall.

**Brian, Virgil, Rich**

The committee is working on this to get everything in line.

## Standing Committee Reports

### Building/Property

**Virgil Bennett**

Kevin is resigning as the Building/Property coordinator. We want to thank Kevin for all his hard work through the years,

## Pastor's Report

The summary of pastor's activities are as follows: Church Council, Home Visits, NALC Disaster Relief Coordination, Office Visits, Philippians Bible Study, Telephone calls, Tuesday Evening Prayer Meeting, Virtual Lutheran Clergy Text study, Sunday Worship (virtual), Worship/Council Review Meeting

Pastor has vacation time scheduled for July 20 through August 9. However, if the NALC has a virtual convocation, the dates would fall on Pastor Hartten's last week of vacation. If this happens, he will attend the convocation and take his third week of vacation the following week, ending on August 16. (*Update: The NALC will meet Aug. 7-8, and Pastor Steve will return Aug. 11.*)

## New Business

Next clean up date and mulch delivery will be on June 27 at 9 a.m. The mulch will be spread in the center island. Helping hands are always welcome.

## Motion to adjourn

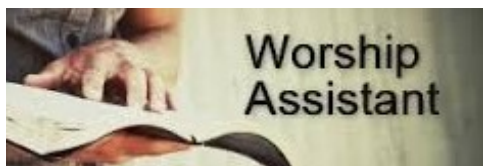
Bryan made a motion to adjourn.

## Closing prayer

**Pastor Hartten**

Council joined together in praying the Lord's Prayer.





## 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

**Live streaming:** Bryan Sorensen

July 5

**Welcome Center:** Chris Bennett

**Lector:** Shari Schmidt

July 12

**Welcome Center:** Heidi Sorensen

**Lector:** Shawn Cahill

July 19

**Welcome Center:** Teresa Hogan

**Lector:** Herb Kroening

July 26

**Welcome Center:** Tammy Steinbauer

**Lector:** Barb Morgan

## THIS MONTH'S READINGS



**Sun., July 5 - Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

Zechariah 9:9-12, Psalm 145:1-14

Romans 7:14-25a, Matthew 11:25-30

**Sun., July 12 - Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

Isaiah 55:10-13, Psalm 65:1-13

Romans 8:12-17, Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

**Sun., July 19 - Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

Isaiah 44:6-8, Psalm 119:57-64

Romans 8:18-27, Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

**Sun., July 26 - Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

Deuteronomy 7:6-9, Psalm 125

Romans 8:28-39, Matthew 13:44-52

While we've returned to worshiping in person, we continue to offer live-streamed services for those who prefer to worship from home.

Find us Sundays at 10:15 a.m.  
on the Church Facebook Page:

**Peace Lutheran Church NALC**

or on the church YouTube channel:

**Pastor Peace**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeIZ8L41wJIGdyn8Ki818dA>

*Permission to podcast/stream the music in our services obtained from One License with license #A-722704.*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9-12 Office Hours	2 9-12 Office Hours	3 Office closed	4
5 10:15 Worship	6 9-12 Office Hours	7 9-12 Office Hours 7p Prayer Mtg via Zoom	8 9-12 Office Hours	9 9-12 Office Hours	10 Office closed	11
12 10:15 Worship	13 9-12 Office Hours 7 p Worship Committee Mtg	14 9-12 Office Hours 7p Prayer Mtg via Zoom	15 9-12 Office Hours	16 News Due 9-12 Office Hours	17 Office closed	18
19 10:15 Worship	20 P. Steve vacation 9-12 Office Hours 6:30p Council	21 P. Steve vacation 9-12 Office Hours 7p Prayer Mtg via Zoom	22 P. Steve vacation 9-12 Office Hours	23 P. Steve vacation 9-12 Office Hours	24 P. Steve vacation Office closed	25 P. Steve vacation
26 P. Steve vacation 10:15 Worship	27 P. Steve vacation 9-12 Office Hours	28 P. Steve vacation 9-12 Office Hours 7p Prayer Mtg via Zoom	29 P. Steve vacation 9-12 Office Hours	30 P. Steve vacation 9-12 Office Hours	31 P. Steve vacation Office closed	

### Birthdays

1 Pam Bauer  
1 Betty Robbins  
2 Katie Davis  
4 Ayla Adkins  
4 Diane Herrman  
8 Audrey Bauer  
9 Brody Adkins  
11 Matt Hogan  
25 James Priebe  
25 Jane Wilson

### Anniversaries

5 Gary & Karen  
Richardville  
14 Kevin & Shelly  
Fitzpatrick  
14 Marilyn & Bernie  
Riley

### Military

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

*church office for  
mailing addresses.*

Marian Hogue  
Ruth Retzke  
Betty Robbins  
Roger and Elaine  
Sirk  
Mildred Wantz

### Shut-In's

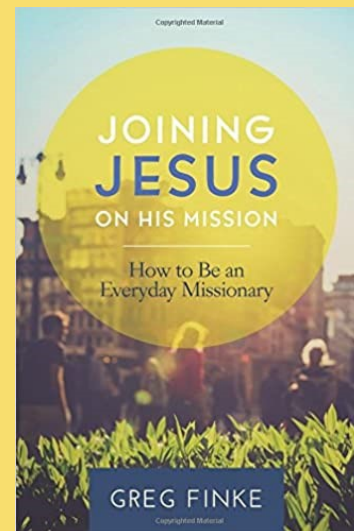
*To keep our shut-ins  
safe, please call the*

## Pastor Steve on Vacation

Pastor Steve will lead worship on July 19 and then begin three weeks of vacation time. Two of those days are the North American Lutheran Church's Virtual Convocation, so he will return to the office Aug. 11. Pastor Schmidt will cover the daily operations of the congregation as well as preach and lead worship on the Sundays that Pastor Steve is away.

## “Every Member Book Study” coming in September

Beginning the week of Sept. 13, Peace will once again host an “Every Member Book Study.” This year’s book is *Joining Jesus on His Mission – How to Be an Everyday Missionary* by Greg Finke. Greg is a lay member of a Lutheran Church in Texas and together with his wife offers coaching, consulting and training experiences for congregations and their leaders in discipling, living missionally, and multiplying mission communities. The book is easy to read and offers down-to-earth practical insights into how to live out one’s faith in everyday situations. The study will last 7 weeks, concluding by Nov. 1.



## Benefit Dinner for Ed Zajac

Save the Date: Saturday, Aug. 29  
Peace will host a benefit dinner  
for Ed Zajac.

The proceeds will assist with his medical bills. More details will follow in the August Newsletter.

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

