



PEACE
NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN CHURCH

November, 2020



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Last month I wrote that it takes prayer and humility to revive a declining congregation. These aren't the only leadership characteristics necessary to reverse decline. This month I will also examine the characteristics of Call and Focus.

When things aren't going well in a church, often the first reaction is to do something. Try something, anything to see if it might produce a result. For example, an aging congregation might try building an addition dedicated to Middle and High School youth (even if there aren't any youth). If people in neighboring congregations are being drawn to less formal worship, maybe the church will add video screens and show funny videos or encourage the pastor to incorporate jokes into the sermon.

Responding to a problem with an activity is usually the wrong move. Activity without strategy is just noise. Let me rephrase that. Keeping busy just to be doing something without a cohesive strategy is just busyness. Without a clear sense of call, an understanding of what is God's purpose for this congregation, the members can stay busy, but keeping busy is not the same as conducting a ministry.

A declining congregation needs to remember that God called this gathering

into existence. The initial leadership had a clear vision from God as to why this particular outpost of God's kingdom exists. The founding vision might no longer be applicable.

Vision needs to change over time as the needs of the community change. The need to proclaim Jesus as Lord, the need to demonstrate love to each other and the surrounding community is a constant. This is our call. How a congregation fulfills its calling is not constant. What is our vision now vs. twenty-five years ago? How have the needs of the larger community changed in the past two decades?

Sometimes doing less is more. It is important to slow down and examine why things are being done. A few ministries focused on a sense of call is better than many scatter-shot events. It is time to examine the congregation's vision, refocus or redefine it and implement it strategically. This provides clarity and direction. Just doing



**SENIOR PASTOR
STEVE HARTTEN**

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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.*

Time Change!!

Sunday, Nov. 1, marks the end of Daylight Savings Time. Remember to "Fall Back" one hour on Saturday night.



COUNCIL MINUTES

Peace Lutheran Church Council Minutes Monday, October 19, 2020 6:30 p.m.

Members present: Virgil Bennett, Barb Berry, Teresa Hogan, Herb Kroening, Bob Phillips, Bev So, Bryan Sorensen, Rich Steinbauer, Eddie Zajac

Also Present: Pastor Steve Hartten, Ken Berry, Deb Kroening, Maria Tallman, Shawn Cahill, Amy Cahill

Call to Order

Bev So called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Opening Devotion/Prayer Pastor Steve Hartten

Pastor delivered the opening prayer asking for guidance and focus.

Approval of October agenda Bev So

Bryan made a motion to approve the October agenda and Rich seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Approval of September 2020 minutes made via email.

Treasurer's report

September	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)
Offerings	\$14,137	\$15,450	(\$1,313)
Thrivent Choice	-	\$67	(\$67)
Soup Kitchen	-	\$33	(\$33)
Fellowship	-	\$25	(\$25)
Misc.	-	\$35	(\$35)
Interest	\$16	\$16	0
Total	\$15,973	\$15,626	(\$1,473)

Year-to-Date	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)
Offerings	\$132,284	\$139,050	(\$6,766)
Thrivent Choice	\$556	\$603	(\$47)
Soup Kitchen	\$500	\$297	\$203
Fellowship	\$632	\$225	\$407
Misc.	-	\$315	(\$315)
Interest	\$145	\$144	\$1
Total	\$134,117	\$140,634	(\$6,517)

Old Business

Internet update

Bev/Bryan Sorensen

We currently have AT&T as our internet provider. It was discussed to change to Comcast which would give us the upload rate needed to successfully stream to both Facebook and YouTube at the same time; and would cost about the same as AT&T. Ed made a motion to change to Comcast for our internet provider and Virgil seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Roof replacement

Virgil Bennett

Last month it was discussed that a new roof is definitely needed in the near future. Virgil has secured two estimates for a new roof. He will get a third estimate. Council will look over the three estimates and will decide on a plan to recommend to the congregation at a Special Congregational Meeting. If we want to replace the roof in the spring, we will have to make a decision in December to order the shingles.

Christmas tree decorating - outside

Bob Phillips/Eddie Zajac

Bob and Ed are putting together a plan for a Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. Date to be determined. There are a couple of options for running power for the tree. Bryan made a motion for Bob and Ed to put together a plan with a cap of \$1,000 to be presented at the November meeting. Herb seconded the motion and the motion was passed. Money will be taken out of SCRIP.

Standing Committee Reports

Fellowship Christine Bennett/Ginger Kunst

No news to report.

Worship committee

Ken Berry, Deb Kroening, Maria Tallman

Worship committee recommended cancelling the Thanksgiving service this year. Herb made a motion to accept the worship committee's recommendation and Ed seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Deb and Maria talked about the challenges they face with the music licensing and how streaming is affecting it. Our current license is limited streaming and we are using music that is now public domain (generally written before 1923). If Peace is going to continue streaming, we can add CCS (Christian Copyright Solutions) license for a fee of \$259 per year

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CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES



Peace Lutheran Congregational Meeting Sunday, September 27, 2020

Call to Order

Bev So called the meeting to order at 11:17 a.m.

Opening Prayer

Pastor Hartten's devotion was based on Psalm 98: 1-3. "Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. The Lord has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations. He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God." Theme of the day is something new, singing a new song. We will receive salvation through Jesus, and grace to transform us to proclaim to the world. Pastor said a prayer.

Approval of Agenda

Sandy Warren made a motion to approve the agenda and Shawn Cahill seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Approval of Minutes of Jan. 26, 2020 Congregational Meeting

Barb Morgan made a motion to approve the congregational meeting minutes from Jan. 26. Jeanette Jeske seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Council Report by Bev So

2020 has been an interesting and unusual year. Since our last congregational meeting, the council held a forum asking members what they felt Peace should focus on in the future.

Council summarized the ideas. One focus was expanding the use of technology in sharing what's happening at Peace. It became an immediate focus with the arrival of COVID-19 virus. Livestreaming on Facebook and YouTube became a new way of life with thanks to Bryan Sorensen, Josh Lochner, and Mark Carpenter for making this happen.

Our worship services in person started again on June 14 with many COVID-19 restrictions. Peace made use of Zoom, a video conferencing application. Council meetings, prayer group meetings, a book

study and Worship Committee have all met on Zoom.

Two clean-ups of the church property were held in June. Twelve members helped. Now we need to have a fall clean up. Please join us.

Even though our fellowship activities have been suspended for now, the fellowship committee hosted a Leap Year party in February. Also we had two successful fundraising events for Eddie Zajac supported by the members of the congregation.

Soup Kitchen has also changed their way of serving. Our church prepared 120 sack lunches in April, June and August. Sack lunches will probably continue in October and December.

There are several committees that are in need of people to serve. The Mutual Ministry needs two new members and the grounds committee needs a chairperson.

In looking to the future, we can do whatever we want to do. We can be servants, Christian soldiers marching for the Lord to bring others into His fold, or we can sit back and bask in His glory just among ourselves.

What will our future hold? During this time are we being called to wake up and look past our own selves and share our love for the Lord with others. What are each of us called to do as we look towards the end of 2020?

Financial Update by Shawn Cahill

Shawn explained the "Cash Flow by Fund" statement. Nearly 50 percent of the cash balance (\$184,148) is held in Major Repairs and the Roof Fund.

Profit and Loss Budget was explained next. Expenses were higher than income. COVID-19 helped save money for salaries and utilities.

Sharon Schmidt asked if money would be sent for the NALC Benevolence Fund for October through December and was assured that it would be sent.

Election of Council

Bev So said there is one vacant position on council since she is finishing her second three-year term. Ed Zajac and Herb Kroening have both agreed to serve another three year term. No one was nominated to fill the vacant spot. The congregation approved both Ed and Herb to serve another term.

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Pastor's Message

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something because we've always done it or trying something just to keep busy is merely making noise.

Focus comes from asking a simple question: "Does this ministry/activity/event help us accomplish our vision?" "Does it help us live into our calling?" Turning around a declining congregation requires only doing what is essential. This means some programs; some ministries will have to go. Staffing will need to be examined. Do we have the correct people with the correct skill sets in place to lead the congregation? Difficult decisions will have to be made as current activity or inactivity is examined in light of the congregation's call. Focus is critical; it moves a congregation from noisy busyness to a clearly defined ministry. It keeps the vision front and center. Some good ideas might not fit the vision. If so, they must be discarded to maintain focus. To reverse decline, all energy must be put into ministries that fulfill God's call and vision for this particular congregation.

Final Quilts distributed

The quilts that have been decorating the Fellowship Hall for the past year will finally reach those who are in need, locally and internationally.

The Schuermanns graciously donated their time in boxing and taking the quilts, along with the school and health kits to a Lutheran World Relief intake point in Portage, where they will then be shipped to LWR.

Two of the quilts were donated to the local Women's Shelter and the remainder to LWR. Many thanks to all who have participated in this charity.

Congregational Meeting Minutes

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Explanation of NALC Constitution Amendments

Pastor Hartten explained the two amendments. Two-thirds of the congregation has to approve the amendments in order to be ratified.

Change 1 would allow the Executive Committee to decide how many baptized members are needed in order to have more than one delegate. Thirty voting members at Peace approved the first change and 0 voting members did not approve.

Change 2 would change "annual" convocations to "biennial" convocations in the constitution. This is an effort to save money in travel expenses, meals and lodging for each church. Thirty voting members at Peace approved Change 2 and 0 voting members did not approve.

Senior Pastor's Report

The NALC Disaster Relief is establishing a new warehouse in Owosso, Michigan. Our church has been challenged to provide 500 Bibles to the warehouse by June of 2021. The church council approved the challenge.

Pastor based his report on Matthew 4: 18-22. This is the story about Jesus calling fishermen to be his first disciples. Fishermen would cast out their nets, sort to keep or throw back into the sea. The Church used to be this way 40 years ago. The goal back then was to have activities for new people to be drawn to the church facility. The church is viewed as an important part of society by fewer people. Congregations see less people attending worship, but churches still try

to fish for people with events and activities.

The congregation at Peace has to make a difficult decision to either adopt new ways of operating or continue the decline. Giving has been going down because of less attendance. In January, Pastor envisioned forming small groups for study, prayer and fellowship that would strengthen the congregation.

Two years ago our church started an all-member book study. Thirty-five people signed up for the study to read "I Am a Church Member." In 2019, fifteen signed up for the book study and in 2020, only 10 are participating.

The good news is that we have cash reserves which gives us time to make needed changes to survive. Churches that are growing are praying about who to invite, building a relationship, connecting with others and then offering an invitation to "come and see."

Starting in October, Pastor is starting a series of columns that explain the traits needed within a congregation to help turn things around. God is the one who will provide the growth and the congregation is asked to prepare itself so growth can occur.

There is a light at the end of the tunnel. If we resist change, the light at the end of the tunnel is a train that is gaining speed. If we look to God to guide us through a time of transition, the light at the end of the tunnel is a bright new future. Prayerfully consider which way it will be.

Motion to Adjourn

Jim Steinbauer made a motion to adjourn.

Closing Prayer

The congregation joined together in praying the Lord's Prayer.

SCRIP Program offers new mobile app, RaiseRight.

For years, using gift cards purchased through the Peace Lutheran SCRIP program has been a convenient way for members to earn personally tax deductible funds for the church, while providing for their families' daily needs. Over the years the program offered enhancements to make the experience easy and convenient, but now they have made huge changes!

SCRIP is introducing the new mobile app, RaiseRight! In the past, SCRIP users were generally limited to ordering cards through the church on Sundays.

However, by using the new RaiseRight mobile app, members can shop whenever and wherever they choose, from the convenience of their phone. Their order will be added to the next church order. In a hurry? Over 100 cards will even be available to ship directly to the user's home address! Also, users can



RaiseRight™

by ShopWithScrip

use a credit card for RaiseRight purchases.

Due to COVID restrictions and virtual worship experiences for most of 2020, only 7,416 cards were ordered, generating \$1,727.52 to date. In 2019 we had sold 10,337 cards and earned \$2,410.93 during the same period.

Now, with the availability of the new RaiseRight mobile app, we may never have to experience that type of loss again.

Interested in hearing more? Stop by the SCRIP desk and talk to Shari. She can direct you to tutorials and information available on the SCRIP website.

Council Minutes

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and a one-time set up fee of \$125. There is a catalog of more than 28 million Christian and secular songs and this will allow us to legally stream copyrighted music. Maria passed out several brochures for the council to read. Council will make a decision at the November meeting.

Building/grounds

No other news

Virgil Bennett

Pastor's Report

The summary of the pastor's activities are as follows: Blessing of the Animals, Church Council, Congregational Meeting, Joining Jesus Book Study, Lutheran Text Study, Michigan Mission District Meeting, Tuesday Prayer Meeting, Home Visits, Sunday Worship

Pastor Hartten

New Business

Greeters for November

November 1 - Bryan and Bev
November 8 - Barb and Teresa
November 15 - Bob and Herb
November 22 - Virgil and Bryan
November 29 - Rich and Ed

Bev So

Basement waterproofing

PowerPoint demonstration was presented by EverDry. Pictures were taken from our basement

Virgil Bennett

showing a lot of the problem areas and EverDry's solutions. We have an estimate from EverDry and one other business. Virgil will have a third estimate within the next week.

Council will look at the information and discuss it at the November meeting. Council's recommendation will be presented to the congregation for their approval at a Special Congregational Meeting.

Annual Christmas gift giving to the needy

For this year only, Norma Carpenter has suggested "Operation Christmas Child" instead of buying and wrapping presents for needy families through the Salvation Army as we have done in the past, Operation Christmas Child would involve building a box online from a website for a cost of \$25 per box. No individual handling for us. The company will do it all.

Virgil made a motion to implement "Operation Christmas Child" for this year. Teresa seconded the motion and the motion passed. Norma will be getting more information out to the congregation.

Amy Cahill has given her two week notice of resignation. There will be an interviewing process set up to find a replacement for her. Amy is going to help with questions to ask during the interview to help us find the right person.

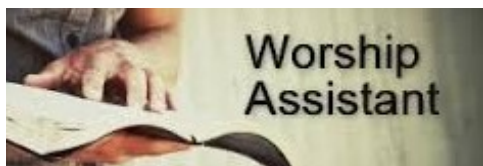
Motion to Adjourn

Bryan made a motion to adjourn.

Closing prayer

Prayer by Pastor Hartten

Pastor Hartten



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

Communion: The Tallmans

November 1

Lector: Virgil Bennett

Welcome Center: Ginger Kunst

Altar Guild: Ginger Kunst

Altar Flowers: The Tallmans

November 8

Lector: Larry Hacker

Welcome Center: Barb Berry

Altar Guild: Louise Solak

November 15

Lector: Teresa Hogan

Welcome Center: Jeannette Jeske

Altar Guild: Margaret Schmeiding

November 22

Lector: Marty Tallman

Welcome Center: Ken Berry

Altar Guild: Mark Carpenter

November 29

Lector: Keith Chapman

Welcome Center: Margaret Schmeiding

Altar Guild: Pastor Hartten

THIS MONTH'S READINGS



Sun., Nov. 1 - All Saints Sunday

Revelation 7:2-17, Psalm 149

1 John 3:1-3, Matthew 5:1-12

Sun., Nov. 8— Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 5:18-24, Psalm 70

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Matthew 25:1-13

Sun., Nov. 15 - Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Zephaniah 1:7-16, Psalm 90:1-12

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11, Matthew 25:14-30

Sun., Nov. 22 - Christ the King Sunday

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24, Psalm 95:1-7a

1 Corinthians 15:20-28, Matthew 25:31-46

Thurs., Nov. 25 - Thanksgiving Eve

(we will not have worship this evening)

Deuteronomy 8:1-10, Psalm 67

Philippians 4:6-20, Luke 17:11-19

Sun., Nov. 29 - First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 64:1-9, Psalm 80:1-7

1 Corinthians 1:3-9, Mark 13:24-37

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:15 Worship w/communion	2 9-12 Office Hours 2p Joining Jesus 6:30p Fellowship Mtg	3 Election Day 9-12 Office Hours	4 9-12 Office Hours 7p Prayer Mtg via Zoom	5 9-12 Office Hours 7p Joining Jesus 7p Choir	6 Office closed	7 10 Mutual Ministry
8 10:15 Worship w/communion	9 9-12 Office Hours 2p Joining Jesus 7p Worship Committee Mtg	10 9-12 Office Hours 7p Prayer Mtg via Zoom	11 9-12 Office Hours	12 News Due 9-12 Office Hours 7p Joining Jesus 7p Choir	13 Office closed	14
15 10:15 Worship w/communion	16 9-12 Office Hours 2p Joining Jesus 6:30p Council Mtg	17 9-12 Office Hours 7p Prayer Mtg via Zoom	18 9-12 Office Hours	19 9-12 Office Hours 7p Joining Jesus 7p Choir	20 Office closed	21
22 10:15 Worship w/communion	23 9-12 Office Hours	24 9-12 Office Hours 7p Prayer Mtg via Zoom	25 9-12 Office Hours	26 Office Closed for Thanksgiving	27 Office closed	28
29 10:15 Worship w/communion	30 9-12 Office Hour					

Birthdays

5 Sally Hoffman
8 Barb Durlinger
17 Jim Damaske
21 Barb Walker
22 Dennis Lietz
23 Lynn Hornack
24 Doug Landis
25 Tammy Gaul
26 Carrie Kutchie
27 Megan Adams
27 Steven
Chapman

Anniversaries

2 Marty and Maria
Tallman

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.*

Marian Hogue
Ruth Retzke
Elaine Sirk
Mildred Wantz

A Message from Amy

As many of you know, I've accepted a full-time position as a Senior Communications Specialist at Spectrum Health Lakeland and my last day at Peace will be Nov. 2.

I want to thank each and every one of you for the generosity and care you have shown me over the last five years. I've loved working with all of you, and am sad I will no longer be serving on the staff at Peace.

It was the perfect place for me to transition from being a stay-at-home mom and freelance writer to working outside the home. However, it is now time for me to return to working full time, which means making a change.

Although I will no longer be serving on the staff, I will continue to work alongside all of you as a member of Peace.

Blessings, Amy

Operation Christmas Child



In years past, Peace has generously donated gifts to families through the Salvation Army. This year, in order to eliminate the need for shopping in crowded stores with potential health risks, we are taking a different approach. Samaritan's Purse is a nondenominational organization founded by Franklin Graham. It is an outreach program which includes their Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry. The concept is simple and easy. It is all done online. You are able to pick the gender and age of the child. You are able to choose from a variety of items for that particular child, and it automatically goes into your shoebox and they send it off! You can leave a message in the box if you wish and if you are really computer savvy, you can post your picture! The cost of one filled shoebox is \$25. There will be a tree in the narthex with tags. On those tags will be the user-friendly instructions on how to fill your shoebox online. Look for the tree coming soon!

THANK YOU!

(and a BIG VIRTUAL HUG to all)

**FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS, PRAYERS
AND CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR
LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF MINISTRY**

**A TOTAL OF 200 SCHOOL and PERSONAL CARE KITS
and nearly a DOZEN QUILTS
22 BOXES WERE DELIVERED ON OCT. 17, 2020 !**



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

