



*Peace Lutheran Church
Newsletter
Love God, Love People,
and Serve the World!
July 2021*

New Summer Worship Format:

Beginning on July 4th, we will move to a single worship inside at 10:00 am for the rest of the summer.

Even though the sanctuary won't be fully completed, we will set up chairs and break down the space for work to continue throughout the week. However, we'll be able to worship in the comfort of air conditioning out of the summer heat.

We give thanks for the ways we have been able to worship God and stay connected throughout the pandemic and the building renovation.

- No more 8:00 am parking lot worship
- 10:00 am in-person and livestream worship in the sanctuary.

Covid Regathering Chart

We are currently in phase five of our regathering plan which is essentially a return to pre-pandemic practice. You can find our regathering chart at www.peacenb.org/pages/covid-19-updates which maps out our policy of returning to in-person activities. Vaccinations are widespread and available for adults although not for children, so we remain vigilant. Remember to use your best judgment and do what works for you and your family. We will not mandate rules other than the greatest commandment that Jesus taught us, "Love your neighbor as yourself."



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A Message from the Pastor

Incarnational Regathering

¹In the beginning was the Word
and the Word was with God
and the Word was God.

¹⁴The Word became flesh
and made his home among us.
We have seen his glory,
glory like that of a father's only son,
full of grace and truth.

John 1:1, 14

As I write this article the building is moving closer to final stages of reconstruction. My hope is that on July 4th we will move into the building and resume in-person worship. Continue to stay tuned in as we finalize these plans.

The summer schedule and the soft relaunching of our gathered community seems appropriate to offer one worship service at 10:00 am. This enables us to focus our efforts on that time together and rebuild a sense of in-person community.

While I am grateful for our online presence and encourage you to utilize that arena, I know there is a key piece missing of the incarnational regathering – that is, the body of Christ being fully present.

Incarnation is this wonderful theological point that the Word of God becomes flesh. It's the recognition that God is with us in the real stuff of life.

Some key things that this time away has taught me:

- **Being fully engaged** in a mind, body, and spirit endeavor. I love talking to my friends and family over the phone when we can't be in close proximity, but there's something deeper about being there and sharing an experience fully embodied. Screens have been a useful tool, but just as God became fully human incarnated in Jesus, we are an incarnational people meant to live in deep, meaningful relationships. How much did we miss seeing our own extended families and rejoiced at the opportunity for that first hug? We get to do this again with our church family!
- **Hybrid church** is living in the online and in-person community. Online community is here to stay. Our lives were busy before the pandemic. Conflicting schedules and finding the "right" time has become increasingly challenging. The pandemic forced us to adapt to meet people in their homes. We will continue to meet people both in-person and online because we spend much of our lives in both domains. It's not an either/or, rather a both/and for the gospel to be shared.
- **The church is the people.** If church is designed as solely a Sunday morning experience, then the pandemic and building flooding effectively killed the church. After all, if you can't "get to church" then it's dead. However, as the famous children's song puts it:



The church is not a building;
the church is not a steeple;
the church is not a resting place;
the church is a people. I am the church! You are the church!
We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus,
all around the world!
Yes, we're the church together!

Our building is a wonderful resource of community space, but the church has and will always be the people of God working to advance God's mission of faith, hope, and love to the world.

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Abundant Blessings

July Birthdays

01	Lillie Braune
02	Cason Miller
04	Zac Fain
05	Judy Clark
06	Art Woytek
09	Keenan Stallings
10	Sharon Podojil
10	Heidi Brundrett
11	Natanael Lizarazo Florez
12	Kez Wold
13	Caleb Simmont
15	Michael Amori
16	Joanne Mathis
19	Kay Skaggs
19	Shelley Simmont
19	Scott Weese
20	Cathy O'Shea
20	David Martin
24	Stella Leissner
24	Leslie Tippens
25	Richard Kawazoe
27	Kathy Smith
28	Mitch Fain
29	Brenton Davenport
30	Michele Bauman
30	Sharky Anderson
31	Wil Voges

July Anniversaries

Michael and Linda McClintock
July 1, 1967
Tim and Pam Kurczewski
July 14, 1993
Rick and Kathy Smith
July 17, 1982
David and JoBeth Oestreich
July 19, 1986
Glenn and Kerri Clausen
July 20, 1996
Matt and Shelley Simmont
July 23, 2005
Alvin and Helen Bravenec
July 26, 1957
Brian and Courtney Peebles
July 27, 2013

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Les Valentine and Kellen Lasseter, who were married on May 4th. Blessings on their new life together.

Prayers

Trice Kastein
Lindsay Friedrich
Martin Franz
Ron Podojil
Rhonda Schmidt
Cody Smith
Helen Probst
Bob Schlabach

Holy Baptism

Jackson Weems Anderson and Aspen Rose Anderson were reborn children of God and inheritors of eternal life, through baptism, on May 30, 2021. Jackson is the son of Christopher and Beverly Anderson. Aspen is the daughter of Mark and Danielle Anderson.

We welcome Jackson and Aspen into the Lord's family. We receive them as fellow members of the body of Christ, children of the same heavenly Father, and workers with us in the kingdom of God.

Standing in the Need of Prayer

In spite of all the challenges we have endured these last few months, our Prayer Ministry has flourished. It has been such a blessing to see how we have been more open to publicly ask for prayers and give thanks for answered prayers.

Are you ready to be a part of our Prayer Ministry? Look at your options.

*We have a Prayer Chain that has 28 people ready to pray for or with you.

*We have a "Sweet Hour of Prayer" Group that meets every Monday morning at 9:00 a.m., via Zoom.

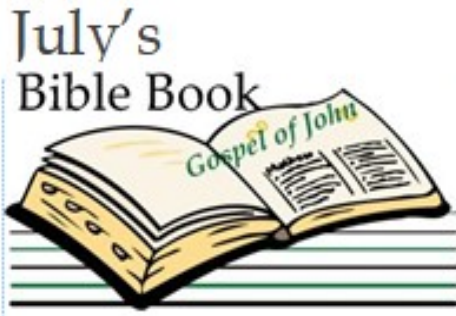
*A Prayer Loom has been introduced in worship where prayer concerns are posted every Sunday. These prayer requests are then prayed over on Monday mornings.

*We recently gave each family Prayer Partners, hopefully you got yours.

If you would like to be a part of our Prayer Ministry, please contact me at beckyvoges@yahoo.com or call or text me at 830-587-4003.



A Message from the Deacon



The Gospel of John

The Gospel of John gives us a beautiful glimpse into the mystery of the person of Jesus, his eternal origin and divine nature. This gospel differs from the other three gospels in the Bible (often referred to as the “Synoptic Gospels”) of Matthew, Mark and Luke in style, order, and content, both in what it contains, as well as what it doesn’t contain. It does not differ, however, in presenting Jesus as the Son of God, the crucified and exalted savior of humanity, through whose innocent self-giving death the power of sin, death, and the devil are destroyed.

Some interesting aspects of the Gospel of John:

- Length: Twenty-one chapters.
- Authorship: Popular tradition assigns the authorship of this gospel to John, son of Zebedee and brother of James, one of Jesus’ original twelve disciples. It is also possible that the Gospel of John went through a series of stages of composition and editing, by the hands of several authors from the Johannine community.
- John’s gospel claims to be based on the testimony of someone referred to as “the beloved disciple” (21:23-24), who we meet several times throughout the text (chapters 13, 18, 19, 20, and 21).
- Date: John is believed to be the last of the four gospels, written some time at the end of the first century.
- John’s gospel begins with a hymnic prologue that presents Jesus as the pre-existent Word made flesh, and makes clear that Jesus was not simply with God, but that Jesus IS God. (John 1:1-18). John’s gospel therefore provides the foundation for the doctrine of incarnation, that, in the person of Jesus, God became human.
- Scholars estimate that about 90% of the material in John’s gospel is unparalleled in Matthew, Mark or Luke
- It is only in John’s gospel that we find the stories of the wedding at Cana, Jesus’ conversations with Nicodemus and also the woman at the well, the raising of Lazarus, Jesus’ washing his disciples’ feet, and Jesus’ post resurrection appearance to his disciples by the shore of a lake as they were fishing.

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A Message from the Deacon (continued from page 4)

- In John, there is no story of Jesus' birth, no parables, no accounts of Jesus casting out demons, no account of the transfiguration, and no record of the Jesus' institution of the Eucharist.
- It is from the Gospel of John that we get the clearest understanding that Jesus' public ministry lasted approximately three years (describes three different annual Passover celebrations)
- Like Luke, John gives particular attention to women characters (Mary Magdalene, the Samaritan woman, Mary and Martha, Lazarus' sisters, among others)
- There are several notable "I Am" sayings of Jesus which use symbolic imagery: Jesus says, "I Am...the bread of life" (6:35), "the light of the world" (8:12; 9:5), "the gate" (10:7,9), "the good shepherd" (10:11,14), "the resurrection and the life" (11:25), "the way the truth and the life" (14:6), "the vine" (15:1,5)
- In John, Jesus' miracles are referred to as "signs" which serve to reinforce Jesus' teaching and reveal Jesus' glory. John makes clear that Jesus did many other signs that were not written in this book.
- The Gospel of John states the purpose of its composition, that it was "written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name".



Peace,
Deacon Andrew



Church Camp Night!

Friday, July 16th

7:30 pm Camp Song Sing-Along

8:30 pm Movie: "Mary Poppins" (original)



We are expanding our summer movie nights to include a time for singing, worship and fellowship. In July our theme will be "Summer Church Camp". Bring your lawn chairs, your favorite drinks & snacks, and your requests for your favorite church camp songs! We may even break out some s'mores and snow cones! **ALL** ages are invited! This is a great opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to enjoy some Peace Lutheran hospitality, too!

A Message from the Pastor (continued from page 2)

- **It's all about discipleship.** Again, if church stopped this past year, it's time to examine the discipleship question of how are we called to grow closer to God's heart in a multitude of ways: prayer, study, worship, service, giving, encouragement. A disciple is one who follows Jesus and is actively walking with the Lord especially in the storms of life. The antidote to adversity is not hunkering down and weathering the storm – it's following Jesus into the storm and trusting he has the power over even the wind and the rain.
- **Focus on what matters.** Trying to find the bandwidth to stay afloat was challenging to say the least. The church had to cut back on a lot of things in order to navigate the shifting landscape. We discovered there were plenty of things that we spent a lot of time on, that weren't essential. My guess is in your life, you experienced that in some fashion. In order to be the church in the 21st century we don't have to pretend we are good at everything. The entertainment industry does a better job of entertainment (although you can find joy as church); the movie business makes higher quality movies (although we became amateur cinematographers); many nonprofits do are better equipped to serve (although our sacred partnerships enable us to serve together). But what we do as the church that nobody as else can imitate is foster a beloved community grounded in the good news of Christ seeking to share that gift of God's unconditional love.

The reality is that the church has gone through all kinds of shifts throughout its long history, but the constant has been that God's reconciling love through Jesus Christ remains.

I'm looking forward to seeing us together again, incarnating the love of God face to face once again. But I'm also looking for the transformation of becoming deeper followers of the way of Jesus and that happens when we find ourselves in the crucible of life.

Peace always,
Pastor Jake

Prayer Clusters

Our Care Team joined together pondering how might we engage our community life together in this in-between time of pandemic "physical distancing" and our building renovation and returning to in-person activity. During the month of June, you received a Prayer Partner card with five households of pray partners to lift up.



We hope during this time you have grown closer to one another spiritually. Perhaps you have written a note to your group or picked up the phone and reached out to them? Or maybe someone has reached out to you and made a connection. Prayer connects us to the Lord, but it also meant to connect us to one another.

Even though our goal was the month of June, remember to keep praying and listening to the Spirit's voice connecting us to the one another as God's people. You are prayed for and you are loved!

The Care Team

Noisy Offering

The Noisy Offering is back! Peace will be collecting donations for the following Noisy Offering Sundays:

Sunday, July 25 - Peace Mission Endowment Fund

The Noisy Offering will be collected a little differently though. **We will not actually collect coins, rather, we will collect cash and/or check donations.*****

In Person Worship Service attendees can drop off their donation at that time. Livestream Worship Service attendees can drop off donations in the church mailbox or mail their donation directly to the church. Please make your check out to Peace Lutheran Church and put Noisy Offering in the memo.



*****Giving online is always a great option as well. Go to the church website, peacemb.org, and click on the Ways To Give Tab. Choose**

Online Giving and follow the instructions. Please remember to designate Noisy Offering in the memo.

Thank you for your continued support.

Take a Seat

Would you like to help a musician with worship? Peace Lutheran is looking for youth in the congregation that would like to TAKE A SEAT! sitting next to either Jeannie Kawazoe or myself during worship.

You would be able to help us get our music for the worship service in order by going through the bulletin together, handing the music to us so we can be ready to play at the appropriate time, and possibly even turn pages. We also, occasionally need someone to chase down the music that the wind blows off the keyboard. If this describes you, please contact Marianne Gould, Director of Music Ministry, at marianne@peacemb.org. We will get you signed up to TAKE A SEAT!



Marianne Gould,
Director of Music Ministry

Stephen Ministry

Despair

Despair or disappointment can occur for any number of reasons. Do you ever have those moments when you realize that you are not feeling just right? Maybe you are anticipating some news and you are not sure if it will be good or bad. The anticipation of news can be overwhelming at times, especially when you feel that your world has turned upside-down, and you are just being overwhelmed by gloom and darkness. How do you get ready to face another challenge when the door keeps closing on you.



From “Facing the Darkness”, in Our Daily Bread, (May 18, 2021) the people of God found themselves in the darkness of impending exile. They waited, unsure of what would take place. The prophet Isaiah used darkness as a metaphor for their disorientation and as a way of speaking about God's judgment. But a light would come. “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. In the land of deep darkness, a light has dawned” (Isaiah 9:2).

From “Got Plans”, in Our Daily bread, (May 24, 2021) dreams that don't come to fruition can bring disappointment, but our limited vision for the future can never compete with God's all-knowing ways. As we yield ourselves to Him, we can be certain that He's still lovingly directing our steps even when we don't see the path ahead.

Those who are experiencing difficulties with feeling despair or disappointment, contact the church or a Stephen Minister. If you would like some help, contact Pastor Jake or our Referral Coordinator Bill Purcell at 210-846-3315. For more about Stephen Ministry at Peace Lutheran Church, see the web pages at www.peacenb.org/Stephen-Ministry

Ron Podojil,
Stephen Minister

Church Council 2021

Don Hodde - President
Lisa Harrison - Vice President
Matthew Simmont - Secretary
Megan Wenzel - Treasurer

Carol Franz - Member At-Large
Hayden Kaufman - Member At-Large
David Thomas - Member At-Large
Amy Tiemann - Member At-Large
Forrest Willis - Member At-Large

AmazonSmile

AmazonSmile Can Support Peace Lutheran Church

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com. The difference is that when customers shop on AmazonSmile (**smile.amazon.com**), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organizations selected by customers.



The AmazonSmile Foundation is a 501(C)(3) private foundation created by Amazon to administer the AmazonSmile program. All donation amounts generated by the AmazonSmile program are remitted to the AmazonSmile Foundation. In turn, the AmazonSmile Foundation donates those amounts to the charitable

organizations selected by our customers. Amazon pays all expenses of the AmazonSmile Foundation; they are not deducted from the donation amounts generated by purchases on AmazonSmile.

When first visiting AmazonSmile, customers are prompted to select a charitable organization from over one million eligible organizations. In order to browse or shop at AmazonSmile, customers must first select a charitable organization.

The link <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/74-2480937> will take people directly to smile.amazon.com in support of Peace Lutheran Church. You do have the option to search for Peace as well on the Smile website, if you do not want to use the link.

If you have questions, contact the church office at 830-620-0618.

Valerie Wood
Finance Administrator

Giving at Peace

There are several giving options at Peace: Offering Envelopes; Online Giving (Website); AmazonSmile Program; Bank Drafts. If you would like more information on any of the options listed above, please give our Financial Administrator, Valerie Wood, a call at 830-620-0618.



Finances May 2021

FUND	BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSE	TRANSFERS	ENDING BALANCE
General Fund	\$ 86,406.58	\$ 28,938.05	\$ 32,137.26		\$ 83,207.37
Building Fund	\$ 73,950.07	\$ 78,690.35*	\$ 10,356.30**		\$ 142,284.12
Endowment Fund	\$ 3,867.58	\$ 161.61	\$ 0.00		\$ 4,029.19
Endowment Investment Fund	\$ 152,697.44	\$ (0.08)	\$ 0.00		\$ 152,697.36
Deferred Maintenance Fund	\$ 5,777.28	\$ 0.49	\$ 0.00		\$ 5,777.77
Designated Funds	\$ 31,880.84	\$ 1,010.00	\$ 3,940.00		\$ 28,950.84
Total Funds	\$ 354,579.79	\$ 108,800.42	\$ 46,433.56		\$ 416,946.65

*\$78,690.35: \$125.00 - Building Fund Offerings; \$28.32 - Interest; \$64,972.03 - Insurance Check; \$13,565.00 - Flood Repair Donations

**\$10,356.30: \$1,493.50—Fire Sprinkler Repair; \$4,804.40 - Electrical Work; \$3,108.41 - Laundry and Shower; \$500.00 - Mold Assessment; \$449.99 - Ice Maker



Peace Lutheran Church
1147 S. Walnut Ave.
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Web address: www.peacenb.org
830-609-8359 - Valerie Wood
830-312-8797 - Pastor Jake Fain

Office Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 am - 12:00 pm 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Summer Worship Services

Sunday
10am Indoor Worship and
Livestream @ Peace



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