



Peace Presbyterian Church - Elkhorn, Nebraska

August 2018



From the Pastor's Pen -

Amazing Grace: Trusting God with our future.

Jesus answered his disciples, “*Have faith in God.*” (Mark 11:22)

Finances are tight. Giving is down over previous years as our membership is not what it once was. But, thanks be to God, we have been blessed with new people, new opportunities for healthy and creative change, and we always have God’s vision before us. We must come into each new day as a disciple and a congregation, even in the difficult or unsure times of waiting or change, feeling (or expecting to feel) renewed and even re-invigorated about our present and future. We can do this when we remember how faithful and active God is, has been, and always will be to us—that is God’s promise.

Our faith challenge is to “*Have faith in God.*” Our Session will begin to plan a budget for 2019 in the fall. It is not too early for each of us to begin praying and thinking about our stewardship of our resources in our personal life and for our life together as a church. A prayerful and challenging question we could ask ourselves is, “Are we looking through our vision or God’s vision of what it looks like and means to be Peace Church today and into the future?” God’s vision can be very challenging and sometimes downright unimaginable through our own perspective. Hearing the challenges of discipleship, even Jesus’ followers asked, “...*then, who can be saved?*”

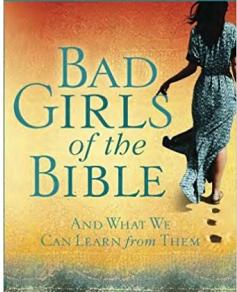
As a congregation, we are called to follow Jesus, at all costs, to the places where there is life for us and others. That means we may have to give up or change some things—things like our understandings about what a church must look like, how a church must function, who should be here, who should lead and serve, what we can and cannot do with or without. Just like the possessions we value, accumulate and hold on to in our own lives – these views can get in the way of following God’s vision. Is it time to “let-go” in order to claim and embrace God’s new way, new relationships, or a new understanding of congregational life? God cannot fill us if we are already full. That means we will have to “empty-out” to make spiritual room for God’s possibilities and salvation. The “Message” translation of the Bible paraphrases Jesus’ words to his disciples who wondered if anyone could be saved in this way: Jesus said, “...*no chance at all if you think you can pull it off by yourself. But, every chance in the world if you let God do it.*”

I am both excited and challenged by what lies ahead for us as a congregation. I believe that God believes in us. God loves us. Jesus loves you. Do you believe that God can do anything God wants with this church or your life? Are you willing to trust God? Remembering the saving act of God’s grace through Jesus Christ should help you to pledge yourself to live and love and give and serve as his disciple. Over the next few months, let our shared prayer of faith be in believing and more fully living by God’s amazing grace. Trust and obey. There is no other way!

In Christ’ service,

Rev. Bonnie Wilkins

LIZ CURTIS HIGGS
One Million Sold in the Series!



*Coming in September-Monthly Women's Book Study:

Join Pastor Bonnie as we read and study Liz Curtis Higgs book, Bad Girls of the Bible (and What We Can Learn from Them). We will meet each month to discuss what we have read (two chapters a month). We will gather the 3rd Tuesday of the month, from 10:30-11:45am and from 6:00-7:15pm. You can choose whichever time best suits your schedule that month. The discussion will be the same. There is a sign-up sheet in the office. Sign-up to let Pastor know that you will be joining the study. NOTE: You will need to buy your own book and read the first two chapters for the first meeting on Sept. 18th. This is a five (5) session book study, so we will meet from Sept. – Jan. Liz ends her book introduction saying, “With the courage of Rahab, the humility of the Sinful Women, and the curiosity of the Women at the Well, let’s press on, my sisters, and see what good news our Lord might have waiting for us within these pages.”



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JULY 22-25

Thanks to all for your hard work and dedication to our 2018 VBS! Without your help our Rolling River Rampage would not have been a success! God bless you for your service!



FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Here's a quick update on where the finances of the church stand through the first six months of the year. We have received \$90,945 in pledged income in 2018 and an additional \$44,367 of prepaid pledges in 2017. The prepaid amount puts us a little ahead of our budget. This amount will need to be spread over 12 months, so in reality, we are only at the target level. Unpledged income was \$26,720. Total income, if it continues at this rate, should be at the budget level for the year.

Our expenses were also meeting our budget. One thing we are behind in is our Per Capita. We are running at approximately 30% of our needs here. Hopefully, giving will not fall behind during the summer months again this year, so if possible, keep your pledges current. Don't forget to pick up your contribution statements available in the narthex.

Thanks for your generosity!

Jim Osterchill, Finance Committee Chairman



A NOTE FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE: THE STATE OF OUR 2018 PER CAPITA

This year our Per Capita dues is \$38.33 per member. Based on 220 members as of January 1, 2018, our apportionment payment is \$8,432.60. Why Per Capita? It is a fundamental way in which nearly all 11,000 congregations and councils of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are connected and participate in the work of the wider church. Peace Presbyterian church, the Presbytery, Synod and then the General Assembly are part of a network. Each of these play a part in the International church and each have expenses to keep them operational. Of the \$38.33 per member, the General Assembly portion is \$7.73; the Synod of Lakes and Prairies portion is \$5.40; and the Presbytery of Missouri River Valley portion is \$25.20. Again this is used to cover the ministry and mission cost of running the Presbyterian Church.

We ask that each member try to pay their own so it is not such a burden on our church. If possible, you may want to increase your giving, donating an extra amount to make up for those who are unable to pay.

In 2017 the amount due was \$7,200. The amount we collected from members was \$1,135. Consequently the \$6,065 shortfall had to be paid from our general funds. As of June 30, 2018 we have collected \$2,005.25 of the \$8,432.60 owed.

We appreciate all you do for the church and now ask that you prayerfully consider this request from the stewardship committee.

Steve Brosz, Stewardship Chairman

HEATING AND COOLNG UPDATE

We completed the installation of four new furnaces and air conditioners at Peace Church the week of June 10th. These cost over \$29,000 and should provide many years of service to the church going forward. (These costs were covered by fund received from the property sale, private donations, and the church garage sale.) This leaves us with two original 30-year-old furnaces that will need to be replaced soon. In the coming years, we'll also be faced with replacing the heating and cooling units on top of Fellowship Hall. Thanks to those who contributed to this project.

Bernie Baker, Michael Young



MANY BLESSINGS ON YOUR SPECIAL AUGUST DAY!

ANNIVERSARIES: 2 Cliff & Patty Karthauser; Drew & Stephenie Metzler; 8 Mark & Michelle Aschenbrenner; 14 Chris & Nancy Robertson; 17 Michael & Shirley Young; 20 John & Penny Dumke; 24 Pastor Bonnie & Thaddeus Wilkins; 25 Jim & Jeanne Weaver

BIRTHDAYS: 2 Pete Hill; 3 Don Davidson, Lyn Ramsey; 6 Jason Fuller; 8 Thomas Weaver; 12 Curt Oran; 13 Aubrey Marsh; 14 Alan Rolfs; 15 Greyson Lake; 16 Colton Bowcott, Pam Huff, Barb Roessner; 18 Ale Oran; 19 Dean Marshall, LaRue Marshall, Glenn Vieselmeyer; 20 Reagan Dreibelbis; 21 Roger Breed; 27 Judy Breed, Elizabeth Hopkins; 31 Kathy Wheeler



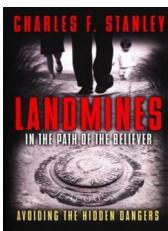
Pastor Bonnie,
You asked us to let you know how we see the life of Christ in our church. Attached is a picture my 5-year-old granddaughter drew for you. She was with us at church the Sunday you spoke to the children about the 23rd Psalm. Her picture is Jesus with the shepherd's hook watching over His sheep. For me, the messages we give to our children are the most important thing we do. Not just at church, but every day, in every way we encounter others, adults and children, sends the message of God's love for us and each other. So many in our church look out for one another on a regular basis. It's not just

a duty, but it is motivated by the love we share together and the command to love one another. Just in case you ever wondered if the kids "get it", the answer is yes they do!

- Liz Baker (Picture by Hayden Hinnerichs age 5)



Aug 5	9:30am	Youth Car Wash Fundraiser
	10:15am	Worship, Communion
Aug 8	12:00pm	Retiree Potluck Lunch
Aug 9	6:00am	Men's Bible Study
Aug 11	9am-3pm	Women's Prayer Retreat, Carson, Iowa
Aug 12	10:15am	Worship, Blessing of Backpacks
Aug 12	11:15am	Cookie Sunday hosted by the Deacons
Aug 16	6:00am	Men's Bible Study
Aug 17-18		Presbytery Meeting at Calvin Crest
Aug 19	10:15am	Worship
Aug 23	6:00am	Men's Bible Study
Aug 25	1:00pm	Peaceful Quilters
Aug 26	10:15am	Worship Service
Aug 30	6:00am	Men's Bible Study



Coming in September – Monthly Men’s Book Study. Join Thaddeus Wilkins as he leads us through Dr. Charles Stanley’s Landmines In the Path of the Believer: Avoiding the Hidden Dangers. The study meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month, from 6:00-7:15pm. **Sign-up in the office to let Thaddeus know that you will be joining the study.** NOTE: You will need to buy your own book locally or online and read the first two chapters for the first meeting on Sept. 18th. Then meet third Tuesday of each month. Satan doesn't usually hit us

with an all-out frontal attack. It's the subtle landmines that do the most damage. They're hidden just below life's surface, and at the slightest misstep - BOOM! Dr. Stanley addresses nine main landmines that every Christian needs to be able to identify. Life may be a minefield, but that doesn't mean you have to live in fear. In the midst of spiritual warfare, this book is a call to live in the strong peace of God.

WEEKLY VOLUNTEERS – AUG-SEPT 2018

Ushers

Aug 5	Terrie Dunavant, John Sander Jane King, Monika Anderson
Aug 12	Penny Dumke, Karen Fulton Julie Tartaglia, Tom Wagner
Aug 19	Michael Young, Matt Marshall Nancy Haack, John Sander
Aug 26	Tom Sladek, Sheryl Ramsey Richard Johanek, Matt Marshall
Sept 2	Terrie Dunavant, John Sander Jane King, Monika Gross
Sept 9	Penny Dumke, Karen Fulton Dean & LaRue Marshall
Sept 16	Julie Tartaglia, Tom Wagner Nancy Haack, Bill Dermeyer
Sept 23	Tom Sladek, Sharon Bossman Jim & Marilyn Schreiner
Sept 30	Sheryl Ramsey, Richard Johanek Bill Dermeyer, Matt Marshall

Acolytes

Aug 5	Harper Bohaboj, Aubrey Marsh
Aug 12	Brynn Marsh, Megan King
Aug 19	Morgan Anderson Brett Vance
Aug 26	Masyn Bunnell, Aubrey Marsh
Sept 2	Brynn Marsh, Megan King
Sept 9	Morgan Anderson, Masyn Bunnell
Sept 16	Brett Vance, Harper Bohaboj
Sept 23	Aubrey Marsh, Brynn Marsh
Sept 30	Megan King, Morgan Anderson

Liturgist

Aug 5	Susan Hall
Aug 12	Sharon Bossman
Aug 19	Marilyn Schreiner
Aug 26	Kim Bunnell
Sept 2	Patty Karthauser
Sept 9	Maia McArdle
Sept 16	Sara Wamsat
Sept 23	Dean Marshall
Sept 30	Ken Bunnell

Pantry Fillers

Aug 5	Ken Bunnell, KJ Bunnell
Aug 12	Linda Hurt, Tom Sladek
Aug 19	Sharon Bossman, Amy Marsh
Aug 26	Jim & Marilyn Schreiner
Sept 2	Dave & Karen Fulton
Sept 9	Mike & Emily Molnar
Sept 16	Bernie & Liz Baker
Sept 23	Ken Bunnell, KJ Bunnell
Sept 30	Nancy Haack, Tom Sladek

Sound Sextons

Aug 5	Grant Fritsch
Aug 12	John Sander
Aug 19	Sheryl Ramsey
Aug 26	Richard Johanek
Sept 2	Bill Dermeyer
Sept 9	Grant Fritsch
Sept 16	John Sander
Sept 23	Sheryl Ramsey
Sept 30	Richard Johanek

PowerPoint

Aug 5	Erica Wagner
Aug 1	KJ Bunnell
Aug 19	Rick King
Aug 26	Erica Wagner
Sept 2	KJ Bunnell
Sept 9	Rick King
Sept 16	Erica Wagner
Sept 23	KJ Bunnell
Sept 30	Rick King

Nursery Helpers

Aug 5	Anna Vance
Aug 12	Maia McArdle
Aug 19	Brett Vance
Aug 26	Brynn Marsh