

Peace Lutheran Church
2355 Clark Rd., P.O. Box 655
Dresser, WI 54009



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Treasurers

Cheryl Bjornstad
Pete Peterson (Interim)
Payroll Clerk: Krissy Gregory

News from Peace!

September 2020

Peace Family & Friends,

I presided over a baptism this past week at Peace and what struck me while celebrating this joyous event was how much COVID has taken away. Over the years I have lost count of how many baptisms I've presided over but I have always looked forward to them. The last few, though, I haven't been able to do the parts of the sacrament that involves touch. I couldn't hold the babies, I couldn't pour the water, I couldn't bless them by making the sign of the cross on their tiny little forehead...I was there to offer the words.

It got me thinking, then, about communion and the loss of contact there, as well. I miss terribly being able to look each of you in the eyes as I place the wafer into your hand. I miss hearing the whispered Amens and Thanks Be to God's. I miss blessing those who are not yet communing.

And beyond that I miss the holy space created by being with people when they are sick, when they are preparing for surgery, and when they are nearing end of life. Those times are places where the Holy Spirit is always so present.

Yet, even as I mourned the loss of these points of contact-the beautiful Spirit showed up and began to point me towards the miracles of Jesus. When his mother Mary tells him to help when they run out of wine-he doesn't go and touch the water-through his word he tells the steward how to bring the miracle about. In Matthew, when the paralytic man's friends bring him to Jesus, it is by his word that he tells him to get up, take his mat and go home. When the 5,000 are fed he does not touch the bread or fish, his disciples do the distributing. In Luke, when the 10 lepers are healed-Jesus simply tells them to go present themselves at the temple.

I am reminded that the Spirit moves and works and does the work of God in many ways, not just through touch. And it wasn't only through Jesus' hands that the miracles came to be-often it was through the hands of his disciples or friends or people in the crowd. When I have the privilege to preside at baptisms right now and I am the bearer of the words but the families and sponsors are the hands that move in the water and the oil, together we are bearing witness to the history of the power of God at work in many and mysterious ways. When we break bread together without our hands meeting we are reminded how the disciples broke bread around the table. And when we are kept separate during times of struggle or heartache we know that the space does not become any less holy but that the Spirit expands to surround us.

In all, it has been a reminder to me that the powers of this world will never overtake our God. No matter what COVID or other illness may try to take away from us God will provide a new way forward.

Thanks Be to God. *Pastor Melissa*



Worship with us online at www.youtube.com/peacelutherandresser on Sunday mornings beginning at 8am.

Reopening Plans

God has brought this community of people together as Peace Lutheran Church and He continues to work in and through us in all that we do. We are excited to begin weekly worship together again, even though it will look different than the past. A task force, composed of doctors, health care professionals, teachers, administrators, and other community members who work closely with COVID, who will be leading us through different phases of reopening. Council unanimously approved Phase 1 of the reopening plan at the last council meeting, which can be found in its entirety in this newsletter. In summary, this means, that we will be worshipping outdoors each week during the month of September (weather permitting) and plan to begin worshipping in the building in October. Through our reopening phases, we will continue to make worship available online through prerecording or live-streaming our services, so if you are not comfortable worshipping in person, you will still be able to worship on our YouTube channel.

This task force has taken into account our county, our members and our community and feels that we can open the building in a safe and responsible way beginning in October. Of course, this could all be subject to change depending on what happens with our schools and in our county in the next couple of weeks. I ask that you support and encourage both the task force and council in this decision, and decisions moving forward, as they have all spent a good amount of time together to collectively decide what is best for Peace Lutheran Church.

We continue to live into this pandemic together, listen to the Holy Spirit, acknowledge that God is at work, and be church together in new ways. The church has never been closed, but I am certainly excited to be present with all of you again soon.

Blessings!

Pastor Melissa



Returning to Worship Proposal

(During Covid-19 Pandemic)

Phase 1:

- * Worship Inside to begin Oct. 4th at the earliest. If, at any point, either OS or SCF schools shut down (or a state/county mandate takes effect), we will follow suit and not hold inside worship.
- * Worship times will be 8:30am and 9:30am, with worship services lasting approx 35-40min. We encourage elderly and immunocompromised to worship at 8:30am and everyone else to worship at 9:30am.
- * Masks Mandatory
- * Operate at 1/4 capacity (60-80 people/service)
- * 1st Service will be held in Sanctuary, 2nd service in Fellowship Hall
- * One way traffic, filling in pews front to back. Encourage people to exit via kitchen door (high risk and elderly may exit front door)
- * Hand sanitize upon entering
- * Disposable/take home children's worship bags
- * maintain 6 feet apart upon entrance
- * Ushers will be needed to guide people
- * No Coffee/Fellowship
- * People will be asked to arrive no more than 15 min. prior to worship
- * Follow state & County guidelines - subject to change
- * Bathroom doors open, no drinking fountains
- * Communion will be served 1st & 3rd Sunday of every month (pre-packaged style)
- * Provide High risk area/section at 9:30am worship

September:

outdoor services, weather permitting

October:

8:30 Over 60 and underlying health issues (Sanctuary)

9:30 All others (Fellowship Hall) with a "safe space" for immunocompromised

Phase 2: (TBD)

- * Incorporate Sunday School and Wednesday night programming (plans in progress...)
- * Move to 1/2 Capacity per service

Members of the Task Force are: PLC Staff, Ronda Haley, Maria Gjovig, Heidi McNitt, Joe Rysdam, Melissa Hall & Jeff Simpkins

Our next scheduled meeting is Thursday, September 10th at 6:30 pm.

THANK YOU, MUSICIANS!!

Since we went into lockdown in March, you all know we have had to adjust our worship experience together to being an online one. Music is a big part of our worship services and many musicians stepped up to help us make these weekly services possible. We thank each of them for sharing their God-given gifts with all of us!



Singers:

Mary Cotch, Pete Peterson, Kayla Stankowski, Rebecca Wampfler, Linda Ferris, Gene Jaremczuk, Michelle Ward, Joe Rysdam, Margo Langer, Dawn Tunison, Sharon Wampler, John Lee, Karen & Jeff Elkin, Tara Adam, Mary Swenson

Praise Band:

Michelle Ward, Linda Ferris, Gene Jaremczuk, Morgan Gjovik, Ronda Haley, Jim Kirby, Craig Nelson, Mary Cotch, Diane Reeck, Dawn Western

Special Music:

Sylvia Mills, Marley Peer, Jim Kirby, Dennis & Ronda, Bekah Robinson, Ayda Carufel, Michelle and Caysie Ward, Dawn Tunison, Blake Slater, Sunday School Children (Ada & Lucy Haines, Marley Peer, Madelyn Lechman, Otto Ferris)

Accompanists:

Dennis Alfveby, Jackson Dvorak, Ronda Haley

And a HUGE thank you to Dallas Wynne and Stephanie Lechman for producing the weekly services for us! It takes many hours to create and upload the service each week. Thank you also to Pat for getting the weekly bulletin emailed and for helping with the music for the singers. And last but not at all least, thank you to Pastor Melissa and to all the Peace members who have sent in recordings for the services, making each week unique and inspirational.

These weekly recordings have been a fabulous way to stay connected with our congregation during this pandemic. Without everyone coming out of their comfort zones and allowing themselves to be recorded, these services would not have happened in the way they did. We look forward to continuing online worship even as we return to worshiping in person. We are a very blessed church family.

To God be the Glory!
The Worship Ministry

SEPTEMBER 2020

SUNDAY	MON.	TUES.	WEDS.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
		1 9:00 am Staff Mtg	2	3	4	5
6 9:30 Outdoor Worship (weather permitting)	7	8 9:00 am Staff Mtg	9	10 6:30 pm Reopening Task Force	11	12
13 9:30 Outdoor Worship (weather permitting)	14 7:00 pm Internship Mtg	15 9:00 am Staff Mtg	16	17 7:00 pm Council Mtg	18	19
20 9:30 Outdoor Worship (weather permitting)	21	22 9:00 am Staff Mtg 1:30 pm Rachael Circle	23	24	25	26
27 9:30 Outdoor Worship (weather permitting)	28	29 9:00 am Staff Mtg	30			

Crossword and Word Find Challenge

September 6 will complete our worship series, Generosity Through the Generations.

If you have completed the challenges, send us a picture (text to: 715-222-9404 or email the office at: plcdresseroffice@gmail.com) or send in your completed form and you will be entered for a drawing*.

*Two \$50 gift cards for the Crossword Puzzle and two \$25 gift cards for the Word Find!!

PARISH NURSE NOTES

PLANNING AHEAD FOR MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT - Each year from October 15th through December 7th (Medicare's Open Enrollment Period) you have the opportunity to review and change your Medicare Part D Plan or Advantage Plan for the upcoming year. For most people, this is the only time of year you may be able to change your plan. Some individuals have found substantial cost savings by comparing and switching plans. If you are happy with your current plan (and make sure to look at the Annual Notice of Change you are required to receive that will outline any proposed changes to the plan you have now) you don't need to do anything. As long as you don't make any changes to your enrollment, your coverage will automatically switch to the new coverage effective January 1st. If you would like to switch to a different plan, you would need to do that between October 15th and December 7th.

Due to COVID19 concerns, there will be no in-person appointments this year at the Aging & Disability Resource Center of Northwest Wisconsin (ADRC). However, you can make appointments for get assistance from them via phone, mail or email. If you currently receive certain Medicare benefits, watch for a reminder letter with an *Open Enrollment Screening Form* that will be going out in September which will indicate how to request the ADRC's help. If you're just looking to compare Medicare Part D plans (prescription drug coverage), **I'd be happy to help you** with that over the phone while I'm online. Just call PLC's office to get that set up.

SPAM & PHISHING: No, I'm not talking about Hormel's canned pork product or trolling for walleyes. Rather it's unwanted junk emails and/or emails that may look legitimate but infect computers with viruses or trick people into providing personal information. There are more of these deceptive and potentially dangerous messages out there than ever. A few red flags that should cause you to pause and act, so you don't fall prey to a scam or loss of your identity are:

- ◆ The email uses words like "urgent" or "Click here" or "Important"
- ◆ Spelling and grammar are incorrect
- ◆ The email is confusing, lacks information or an explanation
- ◆ It threatens you with a negative outcome (owing money, losing access, etc.)
- ◆ The email doesn't mention your name but is sent/meant just for you
- ◆ The sending address doesn't match the name or business in the email

If something looks suspicious, DON'T click on any attachments or links (even "unsubscribe"), DON'T forward to colleagues or friends, and DON'T reply with any information.

Mask Hygiene:

It's great for each of us to have more than one cloth mask in our possession; we now have some at church to give away for those who would like to have a spare or two (to wear while your other ones are being washed.) Cloth masks can be put in with your regular laundry and detergent using warm water, and can be put in the dryer. If you wash your mask by hand, mix 5 tablespoons of bleach with one gallon of water, soak for 5 minutes and air dry.

Blessings and good health to all as we enter this uncertain fall season, *Karen*

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

"There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your fellow Israelites who are poor and needy in your land."
Deuteronomy 15:11.

Jesus quotes the first half of this verse in response to criticism from Judas Iscariot (and perhaps some other Disciples) when Jesus allows Mary (the sister of Lazarus and Martha) to anoint Him with "expensive perfume." Although Judas' motivation was not as pious as the words he spoke, his objection seems logical to us, and Jesus' justification of Mary's gift seems uncharacteristic, given Jesus' compassion for the poor which is so frequently and passionately expressed.

But we seldom hear the full story behind Jesus' quote. God speaks it through Moses as part of God's instructions to see to it that needy people are cared for. Our church, as a congregation of God's people, offers multiple opportunities to carry out this mission. We would do well to obey God's will as expressed in Deuteronomy 15:10a to "Give generously to them and do so without a grudging heart."

See you next month!

The Mission of the Stewardship Ministry of Peace Lutheran Church is to educate all Peace members about God's Scriptural teachings regarding stewardship; namely, that our lives and our property belong to God, and that our grateful response should include generously, intentionally, proportionately, and joyfully sharing our time, talent, and treasure for use in His service.

PLC Financial Update (as of 7/31/2020)

Offering & Rent Received YTD: \$251,197

Budgeted Expenses YTD: \$299,544

Actual Expenses YTD: \$223,199

OTHER NEWS

It was with regret that the Council accepted the resignation of Stephanie Lechman at their August council meeting. Stephanie faithfully served Peace for 4 years as Director of Christian Education. The Sunday School & Confirmation students and teachers, Adult Bible Study groups & staff will miss her greatly. You are welcome to send Stephanie a note or card of appreciation for her service.

In addition to sewing the dresses, Peace also collects shorts for little boys in Africa. Stores are beginning to put summer clothing on clearance. If you want to donate shorts, we are collecting sizes 4-16/18, elastic waist shorts. Please drop them off at church or in one of the coolers by the doors.

Luther Point Bible Camp Summer Celebration

Luther Point Bible Camp held their Summer Celebration and Quilt Auction last Sunday. Peace Quilter's submitted two quilts for the auction of which the proceeds are for the ministries of the camp. One of the quilts was sewn by Sally Wulf with material donated by Vicki Simpkins and machine quilted with help from Doris Johns. This quilt had the highest bid of all and sold for \$1,105. Vicky Koehler also made a quilt and entered it as a Peace donation. Her quilt incorporated many of the t-shirts from Luther Point over the years and sold for over \$350. Thank you for sharing your gifts and supporting Luther Point Bible Camp!

Maple Syrup Ministry:

During the month of September, if you spend \$50 or more on syrup (any size), you will get your choice of a glass or plastic half pint free. The syrup will be for sale on Sunday mornings or by calling the church office.

Pastoral Duties:

June 7th: Baptism of Eva Marie, daughter of Alex & Jamie Wente

July 22nd: Private Burial Service for Myra Johnson

Aug. 30th: Baptism of Eva Lenore, daughter of Jason & Kelly Waalen

Peace is Hiring!

- ◆ Director of Education (25 hours/week)
- ◆ Director of Technology & Social Media (15 Hours/week)

Job descriptions and applications are available by contacting the church office.

Sunday School Families!!

While we may not be back in the building quite yet, watch your mailboxes for fun faith journals to help you grow in your faith! More information will be available soon regarding plans for Sunday School this year.

Confirmation Families!

Emails are heading your way regarding plans for confirmation this fall. We will begin confirmation in October and it will look a little bit different this year, but will still be amazing!! More information coming soon...

High School Youth...

Get ready for a fun year of youth group!! We will be having youth group at church AND off-site this year and we will start meeting in October!! Lots of fun headed your way. Watch for more information coming out soon!

Siding/Fascia/Window Fundraiser:

We have received enough in donations to begin the siding project. Thank you to all who have so generously given! We are still fundraising for monetary donations to be able to replace the large windows over the Sanctuary when the siding is put on the upper part. Please mark your donations: Siding or Window Fund.

Thank You, Property Ministry

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1st Megan Hall
Rowan Prokop
Griffin Demulling
2nd Clara Hagen
4th Addison Warner
Kara Carlson
5th Barb Kloetzke
Ben Peterson
6th Sunday Olson
7th Magdalen Peer
Alyssa Chapman
8th Morgan Gjovig
Aubrey Renslow
9th Meredith Nelson
Hannah Burrows
Natalie Gorres
Cora Renslow
10th Clayton Hanson
Erin Martinson
11th Roy Basham
12th Doris Johns
Karrie Swenson
13th Dan Johnson
Olivia Pederson
14th Ryan Roytek
15th Yvonne Swenson
Denise Sinclear Todd
Patty Willeman
Sara Haase
Ross Lechman
16th Cindy LaMirande
17th Ramona Paulson
Trinity Greenquist
18th Jim Rosengren
Craig Brunclik
Lucy Hahn
19th Bennet Kneath
20th Tom Moore
21st Otto Ferris

22nd Gloria Hutton
23rd Susan Mayer
Melissa Carmack
24th Martin Tangen
Jeff Hall
Erek Gorski
Caitlyn Vitalis
25th Danielle Bliese
Mason Campbell
Ethan Behning
Natalie Behning
Alex Malm
26th Gail Fox
28th Nancy McElfresh
Bev Johnson
Cathy Ellefson
Keri Campbell
Nicole Annunziata
29th Craig Nelson
Stephanie Whittaker



Peace Prayer List

-this month we especially prayed for:

Gwen Anderson (Rosella Geving's niece)
Jeffery Bird (Betty Miller's son)
Jordan Braund (Dave & Jackie Berg's niece)
Chris Gilchrist (Dale & Carol Rhoë's son)
Fred & Lisa Haines
Presley & Alexa Hall (nieces of Jeff & Melissa Hall)
Julie Hendrickson (Trina Hendrickson's sister)
Lee Johnson (Ronda Haley's sister-in-law)
Sharon Johnson (Danielle Nelson's aunt)
Jim Kirby
Cindy Klotzbach (Linda Ferris' mother)
Chris Nelson (Craig Nelson's brother)
Mary Nelson (Craig Nelson's mother)
Ken Peterson (friend of Dick & Rosella Geving's)
Kylie Peterson (Peggy Basham's niece)
Barb Plumley (Ilene Chapman's daughter)
Adrian Smith (great nephew of Tim DeMenge)
Joel Wigstadt (Kathy Clark's nephew)
Chris & Wendy Wilson (Jodi Swenson's brother & wife)
Jim Wynne, Jr. (Dallas Wynne's cousin)
Teachers, school district employees and students returning to school
Serving in the Military: Collin Western
Family of Kaili Rambow (Keith & Cheryl Bjornstad's granddaughter)
Family of Gary Landgren (Connie Landgren's husband)
Family of Marlys Zehm
Family of Mike Shannon (Robi Hollman's father)

Divine Rehab & Nursing, SCF: Merlin Johnson, Opal Parel

CCH, Osceola: Ramona Paulson, Bob Larsen, Betty Brust, Margaret Vaala

Golden Age Manor, Amery: Chuck Siltberg

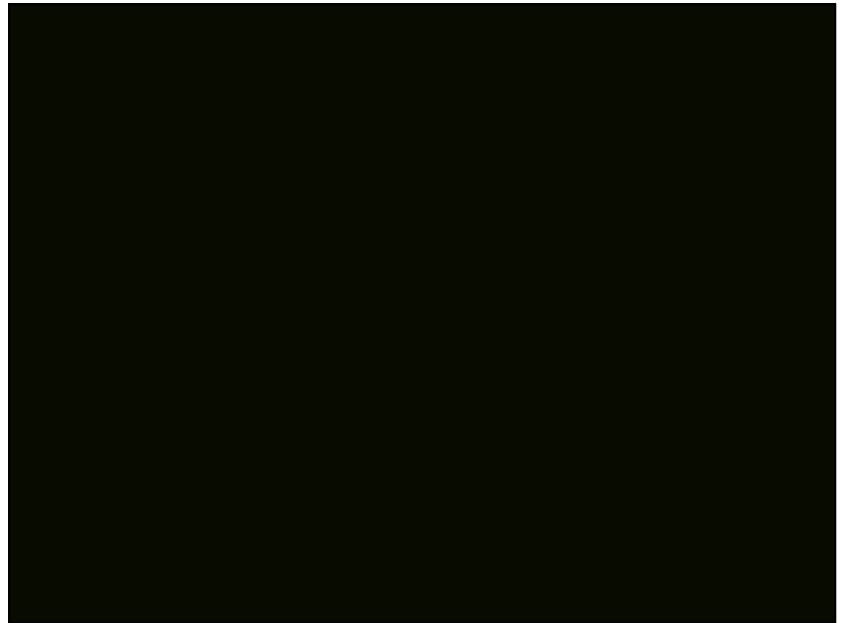
Evergreen Sr. Apartments, Amery: Anita Siltberg

Internship committee

The following members of Peace have committed to walk alongside of Ben Nelson, our Intern for one year, helping him grow into his calling as a Pastor. Please continually pray for this committee and our intern:

Lynn Lindholm, Anne Miller Solsrud, Bjorn Neumann, Lisa Schiebel, Andy Willeman





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Church Office: 715-755-2515

Website: www.plcdresser.org

Find us on facebook!

Worship Services: youtube.com/peacelutherandresser

PLEASE use our Post Office box (not our street address)
when mailing something to Peace!