

News of Peace



Peace Lutheran Church, Camdenton, MO

Published monthly by Peace Lutheran Church

February 2019

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Happening This Month!

Feb. 3	Worship	9:00 am
	SS/Bible Study	10:30 am
Feb. 10	Worship	9:00 am
	SS/Bible Study	10:30 am
Feb. 11	Elder's Mtg.	9:00 am
Feb. 12	Council Mtg	6:30 pm
Feb. 13	LWML Meeting	9:30 am
Feb. 14	Happy Valentine's Day	
Feb. 17	Worship	9:00 am
	SS/Bible Study	10:30 am
Feb. 18	Newsletter Deadline	9:00 am
	President's Day	
Feb. 24	Worship	9:00 am
	SS/Bible Study	10:30 am

Message from Our President

My message in the June 2018 newsletter was written about the frequently heard comment "we need to target young people with children," to increase our church membership. That June newsletter was the longest article I had ever written. I covered two full pages, and everything that was said in the article remains true today. I am going to reprint part of that article in this message, so here it goes.

Frequently heard

Unfortunately over the past twenty years, I along with most of the membership of our congregation have said the same thing... "we need to target young people with children" to increase our church membership.

Like most people, I get defensive and uncomfortable when we start talking about who and how we target a group of people, to get them to come to our church. I have gone to the Lutheran Church for seventy years of my life, and I have always felt our members go out of their way to make visitors and newcomers comfortable with their being here.

Like most people, I have always felt if we can get them to Peace, they will feel the love and want to come back.

We have a beautiful traditional church; a beautiful altar, if they feel the need, a quiet room for parents to take their children too, a magnificent organ, a master organist, and we sing lustily (at least with enthusiasm). We follow the Lutheran Service Book, almost to the letter. We primarily use Divine Services I and III in our weekly worship. We throw in Corporate Confession and Litany to break



worship. We throw in Corporate Confession and Litany to break things up. We have a long time Pastor who is a Bible scholar.

*So whether we realize it or not, we have an **established target market**. It is traditional Lutherans, it is old time religion. Everything about our church and our church service identifies what our target audience is, and who we are going to appeal too.*

What are those things that establish our current target audience?

- The physical building.
- The traditional service.
- Our music.
- Our existing church membership.
- Our Pastor preaching the law and gospel.

continued on page 2

Newsletter DEADLINE

The **deadline** for the **March** newsletter is **Mon., Feb. 18 at 9 am**. If you have an article you want published, or information you want to get out to the whole congregation, prepare it and send it to plccamdenton@gmail.com. The newsletter is as good as you make it.



Peace Lutheran Church

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Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday
8:30 to 11:00 am

Church email:

plccamdenton@gmail.com

Website:

www.plccamdenton.org

Our Mission

"We the members of Peace Lutheran Church gather and grow together as God's children and rejoice in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, proclaim His word, and reach out with his love to: each other, our community, and the world."

At the moment we must face the truth of our target audience. By practice, our current target audience is people who are interested in a traditional Lutheran congregation, with traditional services and music.

The June article goes on into depth about the issues of changing our target audience, and candidly questions whether we have the inclination or support of the majority of the congregation to make any changes in our existing target market.

This will be a major question as we work through the feedback we received from the congregational survey, begin our participation in the PLUS One Initiative. A word or two about PLUS One. The PLUS One Initiative will assign us a coach, and hopefully show us how we can engage and become a better part of our community. Engaging in our community will bring us into contact with the younger people in our community

bring us into contact with the younger people in our community and hopefully allow us to become more attractive as a church home.

The Congregational Survey was the first step and the PLUS One Initiative is the second step as we continue the long journey to obtaining a new pastor. I certainly do not have the answers, but I am committed to asking the questions and trying to determine the answers. It *"ain't"* going to be easy, but it should be an interesting journey for all of us...and it is going to take all of us, to cross this Rubicon.



NOW TO THE MONTHLY MESSAGE!

All is definitely not doom and gloom when we look at 2018. In fact, 2018 may have given us the impetus to address the issues and to make the necessary changes in our target market, should that be the direction we choose.

First, the doom and gloom!

On June 9th (a Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m.) when the Elders met with Pastor Pepper and he asked us for his peaceful release, most of us were pretty shaken. By June 24th when most of us became aware of the real reason for Stewart Pepper wanting to leave, many of us were angry and sad. We were angry at ourselves as much as anything, because most of us had not seen this coming. The signs were there,

but I for one did not heed them. We were sad, because two friends were leaving us and getting divorced. Candidly the whole thing made no sense.

Second, the resolve!

We had followed good corporate procedures when we called Everett Pepper, but we had not followed the counsel of our Circuit Counselor or the District Office. Now we determined we were going to follow the book to find a new Pastor. To this point we have followed the direction of our Circuit Counselor and District Office, and I anticipate we will continue.

Through this process we have had *excellent* coverage of our services, primarily by recently retired pastors. Good pastors, good men, good families. Just the dose of what we needed.

We have made great strides in getting ourselves prepared for the future. Our webpage may not yet be the model for other churches, but it is informational and well done. As Rev. Geis said its come a long way from when he first saw it in July or August and this is going to be the methodology that most people use today to find a church...a website.

We have completed the congregational survey. I do not think any of us were surprised at what it told us. We are soon starting the PLUS ONE Initiative.

The appointed Call Committee demographics pretty much reflects our congregation's demographics, and it has old guard and new guard. They will be doing much of the plowing of the fields and they will keep the complete congregation in the loop.

Finally the future

I don't think any of us can see the future. What we can see is a core of 40 to 50 people who are willing to participate in a process. The process is going to take much longer than any of us want it too. However, we need to take the time to go through the process to make sure we understand what our future could be and to work toward accomplishing that future and our goal to be a viable house of God and His Son Jesus, and to reach as many of the people as we can. At the moment there is no outline to follow to accomplish the goals we set. We are going to have to identify the goals, develop a plan to implement those goals and then implement the plan.

Hang in there, it's going to be interesting and I suspect a rocky ride, but we are doing the work of our Father, so it will be successful.



ride, but we are doing the work of our Father, so it will be successful.

Now I apologize. This is now two paragraphs longer than the longest message I have had the privilege to prepare for you.

Mic Carlson, *President*

Call Committee Survey Results

Historically when Peace has had a pastoral vacancy we have appointed a Call Committee to work through the Circuit Counselor, with the District President to obtain a list of candidates from the District President. This is of course an oversimplification of the process. The last time we went through this process, we were without a pastor for nearly 20 months.

The appointed Call Committee (Jeff Emery, Bob Mueller, Carol Murrell, Rita Reimann, Mic Carlson) has meet numerous times. Our first meeting was with the Circuit Counselor and President of the Missouri District. At that meeting we were encouraged to follow a process that would include participating in a Congregational Survey and participating in the PLUS One Initiative. At the July 17 Voters Meeting participation in the PLUS One program (strategic planning and community involvement), was approved.

My take on the survey after hearing the results for a second time are the following:

1. We had good participation.
2. We identified our current focus leans toward a congregational focus.
3. We felt our focus needs to be more directed toward our community.
4. That in addition to worship, we believe our congregation exists:
 - As a "fellowship and gathering place"
 - To "provide a loving, caring atmosphere"
 - To "support member needs"
 - Provide "a place of prayer"
5. Ministry areas that should be important to our congregation.
 - Community outreach.
 - Children, youth and family ministry.
 - Fellowship activities.
 - Senior adult ministry.
6. The five greatest strengths of our congregation are:
 - Welcoming and inviting.
 - Worship.
 - Praying for People and Ministry.
 - Facilities.
 - Members are confident in their faith.
7. The five areas needing the most improvement in our congregation.
 - Community and outreach services.
 - Clarity of vision for the future.
 - Children, youth and family ministry.
 - Lay leadership and volunteerism.
 - Financial generosity.

8. Assuming our next pastor is the regular worship leader and preacher of our Sunday Services, these are statements where we are open to further consideration.
- I would consider sharing a pastor with another Lutheran Church if the relationship was mutually supportive and respected.
 - I would consider having a part-time (approximately 20 hours/week) retired or bi-vocational pastor.
 - I would support homebound/hospital visits by other trained people when the Pastor is unavailable, or a part of a shared pastor experience.

I feel it is important to remember the Congregational Survey was designed to listen and learn from YOU (congregation), as the call committee continues its work in this process. The survey is one of the tools in Peace's planning process.

There were several things that Rev. Geis brought out during the presentation, that I feel are real nuggets.

1. In his experience the senior population was good at working with families and youth ministries. That is something we have a great plenty of.

2. Included in our strengths was our facilities. He asked how much of the time were our facilities in use, and the response was less than 10 percent. Let's look at that. The offices, narthex, chapel or fellowship hall are occupied approximately four hours a day, four days a week (MTWS). The fellowship hall is occupied: four hours a month by the LWML; three hours a month by Church Council; five hours a quarter by Voters Meetings and twelve hours one to four times a year as a Camden County Polling place. We also have an occasional four hours for a fund raiser, ie., spaghetti dinner. Roughly that totals up to 950 hours, and if you consider the church could be utilized 12 hours daily, seven days a week, we actually use the church 22 percent of the time and half of that is only utilizing the office. Rev. Geis is absolutely correct; we have a real asset in our facilities. We need to find ways to capitalize on making better use of the facilities. Doing so would get Peace greater exposure.

3. That we need to develop a clarity of vision for the future. Two comments were "we needed to bring young people with children into our congregation" and "it seems that those churches that are growing have contemporary services and music." All would agree with the first statement, the real issue is developing a plan of greater participation in our community, how do we tap the Camdenton market, which has that youth population and recognition by the congregation that this is not going to be something that happens by just bringing in a new pastor. The PLUS One Initiative, which we have committed to, but not yet embarked on, is an outreach initiative in our community. That definitely means Camdenton. As soon as our "coach" is assigned, we need to throw ourselves into this program. We need to understand the program and what we can do to make ourselves a part of Camdenton, Sunrise Beach and Laurie.



The LWML will meet on February 13 (weather permitting) at 9:30 AM. The roll call Bible verse word will be friend/friendship. Diane Borgmann is the hostess and will lead us in a Bible study. Please come with ideas for mission projects for 2019.

Thrivent Meeting

The next Thrivent meeting will be held on February 21 (weather permitting) in the fellowship hall beginning at 5:30 p.m.



The LASSIE Approach to Evangelism

LASSIE is an acronym for listen, ask, seek, share, invite, encourage. It is an educational tutorial designed to help us in bringing people to faith in Jesus Christ and fellowship with them in our churches. It is administered by the *Everyone His Witness* evangelism program on the lcms.org website. For those interested, there are several posts on our Facebook page giving a short explanation on each facet. We will also endeavor to print more about this subject in future newsletters. Remember that we are all on the Evangelism Committee.



BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

3 Ed Heinlein
12 Sarah Sosnowski
20 Hayden Carlson



In Our Hearts & Prayers

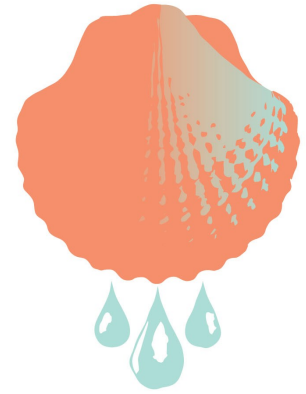
Lee Benson, Shawn Carlson, Greg & Mary Cordry, Jolene Feeler, Norma Flenker, Jim Janssen, Chuck Kral, Bob Mueller, Dale Murrell, Dick & Barb Ollek, Barb Powell, Mark & Rita Riemann, Russell Schulz, Shirley Truelove, our visitors, those members who recently moved away, those celebrating anniversaries, birthdays, those in the nursing home and care facilities, the peacemakers and protectors and their families, those traveling, and all others who are troubled, lonely, ill or recovering from illness. We pray that our loving God will bless and comfort them.




Bible Quiz

According to the fourth Gospel, "There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the _____."

- A. love
- B. life
- C. light
- D. Lord



Last month's Bible quiz answer is A; Matthew 2

What's Cooking?



Strawberry Pecan Pretzel Salad Dessert

- 1 cup crushed pretzels
- ½ cup chopped pecans
- ¾ cup brown sugar
- ¾ cup butter, melted
- 3 cups diced strawberries
- 8 oz cream cheese
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 8 oz whipped topping

Mix together crushed pretzels, chopped pecans, brown sugar and melted butter.

Spread on a large baking sheet with sides (jelly roll pan) and bake at 400 degrees for seven (7) minutes. Allow the mixture to cool and then break it into small pieces.

Beat together softened cream cheese, granulated sugar and vanilla.

Fold in whipped topping.

Before serving, stir the diced strawberries and sugared pretzels and pecans into the cream cheese mixture.

Note: The first time I made this, I thought there was too much butter. I used a stick and got along fine.

submitted by Sheryl Bald

February Worship Schedule

February 3 – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Pastor Anderegg

Liturgy and Creed: Divine Service I, Apostles' Creed

Hymns: 591 (1-2), 655, 650, 591 (3-4)

February 10 – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Pastor Brandt

Liturgy and Creed: Divine Service III, Nicene Creed

Hymns: 742 (1-2), 735, 740, 742 (3-4)

February 17 - Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Pastor Brandt

Liturgy & Creed: Divine Service I, Apostles' Creed

Hymns: 395 (1-3), 398, 633, 395 (4-6)

February 24 - Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Pastor Brandt

Liturgy & Creed: Divine Service I, Apostles' Creed

Hymns: 575 (1-2), 588, 611, 575 (3-4)

Servants of God for February

Elder: Earl Hartenstein

Altar Guild: Vicki Stauch

February 3

Organist: Jerry Schwab

Greeters/Coffee Servers:

Ushers; Robert Hansen, Paul Bartels, Jeff Emery, Mark Reimann

Counters: Bob Mueller

Flowers:

February 10

Organist: Jerry Schwab

Greeters/Coffee Servers:

Ushers: Earl Hartenstein, David Bald, Rodney Schulz

Counters: Bob & Diane Borgmann

Flowers:

February 17

Organist: Jerry Schwab

Greeters/Coffee Servers:

Ushers: Bob Borgmann, Mic Carlson, Dale Murrell

Counters: Mic Carlson

Flowers:

February 24

Organist: Jerry Schwab

Greeters/Coffee Servers:

Ushers: Jeff Hedberg, Bob Mueller, Russell Schulz

Counters: Ed & Jacey Heinlein

Flowers:



It is no secret that God calls us to be generous with the gifts He has given us. Throughout the Bible, we read that just as God has generously given to us, so are we to give generously one to another. As Jesus said, “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35) and “Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful” (Luke 6:36).

But God also calls us to give to Him. And He, who does all things well, presses it into service for the benefit of all the people of God. See for example what God spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, after he and the people were safely brought out of Egypt across the Red Sea on dry land:

The Lord said to Moses, “*Speak to the people of Israel that they take for me a contribution. From every man whose heart moves him you shall receive the contribution for me. And this is the contribution that you shall receive from them: gold, silver, and bronze, blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen, goats' hair, tanned rams' skins, goatskins, [a] acacia wood, oil for the lamps, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense, onyx stones, and stones for setting, for the ephod and for the breast piece. And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst. Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it.* (Ex. 25: 1-9)

Notice in verse two that the Lord instructs Moses to tell the Israelites to “take for me a contribution” and that from everyone motivated from gratitude for what God has just accomplished and given to them, Moses is to gather up “the contribution for me.”

Pay attention, though, why the Lord wants the people of Israel to gather up these contributions for Him. God tells Moses precisely why: “*let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst.*” The purpose for the contribution of the Israelites was so that He may dwell with them that He would live among them. Through the tabernacle and the priesthood, through their rites and ceremonies, through their feasts and festivals, as through means, the Lord God, who brought them out of the bondage of Egypt would live and dwell among them and be their God, and lead them into the promised land, which flowed with milk and honey.

God dwells among us still. In the fullness of time, God's son was born of woman, born under the law to

redeem those under the law. He brought us out of bondage to sin, death, the devil, and Hell and He did this by His obedient suffering and death, his resurrection and ascension. But He is not gone. He dwells with us through the means of His Word and His sacraments, through the preaching and the teaching of our pastors, through the rites and ceremonies of our liturgy. He dwells with us in the Church through those means. And He is leading us to the true promised land, to the new heavens and the new earth in the new creation.



In the meantime, as God, even now, continues to call us to give to Him, let us, who have been saved from slavery to sin and death, the devil and hell, be so moved in our hearts as to give generously to Him so that the means of grace, the means of His gracious dwelling among us, would continue now and into the future. For just as He did then so does He do now. He presses the gifts given to Him into service for the benefit of all His people. He puts it to use so that we may have Him with us always, even unto the end of the age.



Council Minutes

January 8, 2019

President Mic Carlson called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. via telephone. Dawn Hedberg opened with prayer.

The following board members were present: Mic Carlson, (via phone), Susan Kral, Rita Riemann, Bob Mueller, Chuck Kral, Diane Borgmann, Bob Borgmann, and Russell Schultz. Absent: Dale Lawson, and Vicki Stauch.

The minutes from the December 8, 2018 meeting were reviewed and approved as amended. nominations for vacant council offices will be made at the January 15, 2019 Voters meeting.

President: Mic Carlson reported the following:

Both Pastor Anderegg and Pastor Brandt represented Peace Lutheran at the circuit meeting. Both Pastors visited Jerry Schwab when he was hospitalized. We are grateful for their dedication and caring. The report was accepted and approved.

Financial Secretary: Mic submitted a written report for Vicki Stauch. The report was accepted and approved.

Treasurer: Rita reported that our checking account balance is healthy at this time. Bob Borgmann noted that the fact that we are not paying a full-time pastor at this time is the reason for the larger than usual balance. The report was accepted and approved.

Elders: No report

Ushers: Bob Borgmann passed out the 2018 attendance figures. Total attendance in 2017 was 2827; total attendance in 2018 was 2521. Music CDs will be used for Sunday worship while Jerry is unable to play the organ. Bob's report was accepted and approved.

Member at Large: No report

Trustees: Chuck Kral reported the following:

- Lee Sperry, Paul Bartels and Mark Riemann, and he put the outdoor manger scene back in the garage. Thanks to those gentlemen for assisting.
- Peace Lutheran was offered \$50.00 for the barbeque unit that has been unused for many years. Mic Carlson and Chuck pulled it out of the garage. It is ready for pick up.
- The new furnace is to be installed on Friday, January 18th. Installation will take at least two days.
- The outdoor cross light is not working. Chuck will ask Mark to check that light. The report was approved and accepted.

Education: Vacant

Evangelism: Russell Schultz reported the following:

- Russell has visited a website that offers suggestions for evangelism and education that can be included in the newsletters and/or bulletins.
- Russell learned that The Main Street Opry has screens that are available for advertising. The cost is \$450.00 per season. The next season begins in March.
- Russell has contacted Lake News Online and The West Side Star asking them to remove Pastor Pepper from our listing and to correct the phone number that is listed. His calls and emails have been ignored. Susan Kral offered to stop into the office in person to make the requests.
- There will be a Bible lesson question in the next newsletter. The report was approved and accepted.

Stewardship: No report

Cemetery: Diane Borgmann reported that there is a balance of \$2,457.12 in the cemetery checking account.

The cemetery CD total is \$20,167.38. She stated that it now costs \$28,000 to place the cemetery in perpetual state care. The report was accepted and approved.

Pastor: Vacant.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- Mic will ask members to approve an increase in the evangelism budget at the January voters meeting.
- Bob Borgmann suggested that the money collected from aluminum can recycling in 2019 be given to evangelism efforts. The board voted unanimously to approve his suggestion.

The meeting was adjourned and The Lord's Prayer was recited.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Kral, *Secretary*



Rev. Bill Geis attended our voters' meeting to review the results of our survey.

Voters' Meeting January 15, 2019

After enjoying a pot luck dinner, President Mic Carlson called the meeting to order with 26 members and two guests, Pastor Gary Brandt and Pastor Bill Geis present. He opened with prayer.

The minutes from the October 16, 2018 voters meeting were approved as printed. There is a question regarding the correct sum needed to put the Peace Lutheran Cemetery in perpetual care with the state of Missouri. With that exception, the January 8, 2019 Council Minutes were approved.

Organizations:

LWML: Jacy reported via email that LWML will meet again on February 13 (weather permitting) at 9:30 AM. The roll call Bible verse word will be friend/friendship. Diane Borgmann is the hostess and will lead us in a Bible study. She asks that ladies come with ideas for mission projects for 2019. The report was approved and accepted.

Thrivent: Jacy's report stated that the next meeting will be held on February 21, 2019 (weather permitting) in our fellowship hall beginning at 5:30 p.m. Attendees are asked to come with great ideas and lots of enthusiasm. Her report was accepted and approved.

Pastoral Office: Vacant

President's Report: Mic thanked all members for their work and support to keep Peace Lutheran operating. He asked that all members continue to invite others to join in our worship services.

He thanked Reverend Freeman for helping find fill-in pastors. We all appreciate the efforts of Pastors Anderreg and Brandt. Their sermons and Bible studies are

informative and enjoyable. His report was accepted and approved.

Old Business:

Mic's application to the State of Missouri to place the recognition of the Peace Lutheran Cemetery to be maintained in perpetuity has not been completed. The state is slow to respond.

New Business:

President Mic Carlson nominated Jeff Emery to complete Dale Lawson's term as Vice President. Mic also nominated Penny Jost Hansen to complete Bob Borgmann's term of member at large. He thanked Dale and Bob for their service. Members approved both nominations.

Reverend Bill Geis, from our Missouri district, reviewed the Peace Lutheran Church Mission and Pastoral Survey that was completed by 31 members. He addressed each question and commented on the results. Comments from those attending the meeting were welcomed and addressed.

Mic asked voters to approve an increase of \$600.00 in the evangelism budget. A motion was made and seconded to do so. The motion passed unanimously.

Mic reported that he received a request for us to allow a fund raiser for individual who is in need of medical tests. After discussion, it was decided that we would not participate.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned, and we closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Kral, *Secretary*