

Peace Lutheran Church – Rogers City, MI
Congregational Officer Orientation
Tuesday of Epiphany 4
January 31, 2017

Agenda

1. Opening Devotion & Prayer

2. Why are we here tonight?

- a. To continue a Peace practice
- b. To help us to be on the “same page” – pastor & congregational leaders
- c. To help us to get to know each other better
- d. To re-orient ourselves at the beginning of a new year & to review how we operate as a congregation
- e. To answer your questions & concerns
- f. Board & Committee Chairs or representatives: please share this info. with members not present

3. What is the purpose of the Church?

- a. **The purpose of the church is to make _____.**

¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and **make disciples of all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” – Matthew 28:18-20

- b. **The purpose of the church is to _____ the body of Christ.**

¹¹And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹²**to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ**, ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. – Ephesians 4:11-16

- c. **The purpose of the church is to reach the _____.**

¹Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.” ³So he told them this parable: ⁴“What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? ⁵And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸“Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? ⁹And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” – Luke 15:1-10

4. What is the purpose of this congregation?

- a. **Mission Statement: Our mission as a caring family is to reach out to all, share Christ’s love, and teach God’s Word. (Caring- Reaching – Sharing – Teaching)**

Questions to consider:

- (1) All of us: How can we as a congregation be more caring and do a better job of reaching, sharing and teaching?
- (2) Is what you/your Board or Committee are doing right now helping us do these things or do them better?
- (3) How might you/your Board or Committee help us do these things better in the future?

Our congregational constitution also addresses our purpose:

- (1) In Article 2: Purpose (pages 2-3)
- (2) In By-Laws Articles 4-9: Boards (pages 20-23)
- (3) In By-Laws Article 3: Standing Committees (pages 16-19)

- b. **Our vision flows from our mission:**

- (1) The Planning Team has not yet been able to put this into a concise statement. **But what kinds of things are we going to be doing in 3-5 years if we were**

successfully caring out our mission: if we were effectively (or more effectively) caring, reaching, sharing and teaching?

- (2) **What kinds of things does our “vision” include that we aren’t currently doing?** Identifying that helps us to start to identify the steps necessary in order to get there.

c. Our Core Values flow from our mission & vision – separate handout

- Question to consider: are we upholding these values and providing the right kinds of opportunities for them to be practiced?

5. What is your job?

- a. See the By-Laws – Constitution, pages 13-23
- b. As you are carrying out your responsibilities, please keep the bigger picture in mind:**
- (1) Is what you/your Board or Committee are doing right now helping us to care, reach, share, and teach or to do these things better?
- (2) How might you/your Board or Committee help us do these things better in the future?
- c. Board & Committee Chairs: do you want to share anything with the whole group about what you are currently or will be working on this year?**
- d. Don’t be afraid to work together:**
- (1) Church Furnishings + Board of Education + Trustees – recent discussion
- (2) Board of Education + Board of Evangelism – family-friendly activities
- e. Questions about your positions or responsibilities?**
- f. If you have questions after tonight, ask those who have served before you or the Church Council.**

6. What does it mean to be a congregational officer?

- a. You are a leader (see Core Value #5).
- b. You are an example – both inside (participation, church attendance, Bible Class/Study) & outside the church.
- c. You represent the congregation and, more importantly, Christ.
- d. Please speak well of the congregation, its ministry, its staff, fellow leaders, etc.
- e. You are part of a team – a “body” of believers (see 1 Corinthians 12:12-27).
- (1) It is important to work together – we need each other.
- (2) It is important to support, encourage, & assist each other – and not to compete against one another, vie for control, tear each other down, etc.
- (3) It is important to be patient with each other when we have differing perspectives & approaches and to communicate with each other.
- (4) It is important to be able to admit that you were wrong when necessary, to apologize when necessary, and to be ready & willing to forgive.

- (5) The church is a **place of grace!** We are recipients of grace & need to be dispensers of grace.
- (6) The church in general, and our meetings in particular, should be **safe spaces:**
Quote: “For me, the model of a place that welcomes people as they are is Alcoholics Anonymous. Everybody who goes says, “I’ve blown it,” and everyone else smiles and says, “Yeah, we know what that’s like. Come on in and join us.” Nobody tells anybody what to do; they just share what their struggles are and what they’ve found that helps and doesn’t help. Everybody’s open about their brokenness and failure, and they heal. That process is the only thing I know of that heals addictions. What happens in most of our churches is just the opposite. We all get dressed up on Sunday, and we go there and we say, “Isn’t it great, all these good people!” So I don’t dare share my pain and my brokenness with you because you might reject me. We sit there with our pain and our brokenness, and we never share it and we don’t heal. Our church’s real challenge in the next decade or two is to find out how we can change from being congregations of pretense to being healing communities; we have to work toward becoming the kind of communities where it’s safe to tell your life story.” – quoted in Bruce Hartung, *Building Up the Body of Christ: Supporting Community Life in the Church*

For more information about safe spaces and a model of how to utilize prayer in the midst of a meeting, see also Hartung, *Building Up the Body of Christ*, pages 88-91.

For suggestions for dealing with conflict, including suggestions for creating a healthy church culture and promoting positive member behaviors, see the *Parish Paper* article, “How to Deal with Church Conflict.”

Quote from this article: “The first step is to accept that conflict is normal. ... Research shows that growing congregations exhibit and deal with more conflict than declining churches.”

7. Communication

a. Office Hours

- (1) Peggy – Wednesdays 9-1
- (2) Pastor’s Schedule:
 - Best times to catch me: Tuesdays & Thursdays, app. 10-2
 - Worst times: M (not in office), W (Confirmation) & F (sermon)
 - By appointment preferable. However, my door is open, even when it isn’t.

b. Meeting Schedule

- (1) Church Council – 1st Thursday after Elders 7:00 p.m.

(2) Voters – 4th Sunday of odd-numbered months (+ December) following service

(3) Boards

- (a) Elders – 1st Tuesday 7:00 p.m.
- (b) Trustees –
- (c) Education – 1st Sunday following Christian Education Hour
- (d) Sunday School – 4th Thursday 6:30 p.m.
- (e) Evangelism –
- (f) Stewardship – 3rd Thursday 6:00 p.m.

(4) Committees

- (a) Church Furnishings –
- (b) Fundraising – 1st Thursday 6:00 p.m.
- (c) Music Ministry – currently meeting as needed
- (d) Planning Team – 3rd Thursday 7:15 p.m.
 - *Autopsy of a Deceased Church: 12 Ways to Keep Yours Alive* – copies available by request
 - Slow Erosion
 - The Past Is the Hero
 - The Church Refused to Look Like the Community
 - The Budget Moved Inwardly
 - The Great Commission Becomes the Great Omission
 - The Preference-Driven Church
 - Pastoral Tenure Decreases
 - The Church Rarely Prayed Together
 - The Church Had No Clear Purpose
 - The Church Obsessed Over the Facilities

(5) **All Boards & Committees: Please consider beginning with a devotion & always begin with prayer. See me for help.**

Quote: “God does the planning; we do the preparing. It is God who declares, ‘I know the plans I have for you’ (Jeremiah 29:11). He does not say, ‘I am waiting for you to develop plans I can bless. ... We can settle for our imaginations, our plans, and our dreams. ... But we are desperate for God to show up and to do something that only He can get the credit for. God wants us to pray and to prepare for His intervention.’” – Reggie McNeal, *The Present Future: Six Tough Questions for the Church*

(6) Minutes

- (a) Please complete & distribute to your members within a week (or so).
- (b) Please place a copy in your binder in the narthex – for congregational reference.

c. Publication Deadlines

- (1) Weekly bulletin – Wednesday 1:00 p.m.
- (2) Monthly newsletter – last Wednesday of the month 1:00 p.m.

d. Other Means of Communication

- (1) Web Site: www.peacelcms.org
- (2) E-mail:
 - Peggy: peggyschautd@peacelcms.org
 - Pastor: pastorjdriddle@peacelcms.org
- (3) Facebook: Peace Lutheran Church – Rogers City, MI
- (4) List of Congregational Officers (separate handout) – **please check for accuracy**

8. How should we conduct ourselves and treat each other?

- a. See the 8th Commandment: put the “best construction” on everything
- b. See Matthew 18:15-17 – one-on-one; not behind-the-back
- c. See Philippians 2:3-4 – humility; look to the interests of others
- d. See James 3:9-10 – our “tongues” should not be used to tear each other down

9. Final Questions & Concerns

10. Closing Prayer & Blessing – from the Rite of Installation

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, we give thanks that You have raised up these servants for work among Your people. We humbly implore You to grant them, by Your Holy Spirit, those gifts needed for the faithful carrying out of their tasks, most especially wisdom, strength, and willing hearts. Let Your blessing rest on this congregation. Strengthen the faith, quicken the love, and enkindle the zeal of its members, so that Your name may be glorified and that here and in all places under heaven the kingdom of Your Son may be advanced. We pray that in the end of days we, with all Your faithful people, may hear the voice of Christ saying: “Come, you who are blessed by my Father; inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world”; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

L: Amen.

P: Go in the name of the Lord. Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. The almighty and most merciful God, the Father, the T Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

L: Amen.

T Soli Deo Gloria T