

Good News of Peace

July 2015 A.D.

A Caring Family ✦ Reaching Out ✦ Sharing Christ's Love ✦ Teaching God's Word!

From the Pastor's Desk

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. – Philippians 1:3-4

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I sit down to write this, it is the end of a day that was busier than I expected and in the middle of a week that was busier than I expected. I began the day today by chasing one of our cats, who snuck out the front door, through our neighbors' yard, and into the next neighbors' yard and finally onto their porch, so I should have known at that point, I suppose, what kind of day it was going to be. Sometimes I am amazed at how much time I spend, from day to day and from week to week, dealing with things that were not on my to-do list. On the one hand, that can be a bit exasperating, especially when I remember that things are supposed to slow down a little bit during the summer months. On the other hand, as I stop to reflect upon the week and the month of June, there are a number of things that come to mind for which I am particularly thankful. I'd like to use this space this month to share a few of them with you.

Last evening, we were privileged to host Rev. Dr. Rick Wolfram of the Michigan District, who gave a short presentation to church leaders and interested members entitled, "One Size Doesn't Fit All." Pastor Wolfram helped us to think about where we are here at Peace in terms of our current size, and how our size impacts how we operate as a congregation. This information will help us to ask and to try answer some important questions as we continue our strategic planning process. One of the things for which I am especially thankful is that we have a committed core of lay leaders and volunteers who were willing to give up their time in order to be in attendance that evening and to continue to be a part of the planning process.

As that meeting was beginning in the Fellowship Hall, a separate meeting of our Sunday School staff and Board of Education members was finishing in one of the classrooms. The Sunday School staff is in the process of planning a different kind of Sunday School curriculum for the coming school year. And while I was not able to sit in on their meeting for long, I am also thankful for all of them – for their creativity, their enthusiasm, their excitement, and their dedication to our Sunday School children and families and to the teaching of God's Word. I am also always excited to see multiple activities taking place in the church at the same time!

Today was also the first of three days this week of photography sessions for our new pictorial directory. It made for a chaotic afternoon and evening around the church, and tomorrow and Friday will bring more of the same. But how

exciting it was to see and hear the activity in the church building throughout the day! I am thankful that so many of our members have chosen to be included in the directory. (It is not too late, by the way – a make-up date will be scheduled for late July or early August.) And I am also thankful to our many willing volunteers. Brenda Karsten and Linda Scranton, in particular, have been a tremendous help in coordinating the directory process and have made numerous phone calls. And many others have agreed to volunteer their time in order to assist with registration. Thank you to all of you!

Earlier this evening, while today's photography sessions were winding down, we also held the third session of our Summer Wednesday Evening Bible Study, entitled "Christianity and the Competition," in the sanctuary (since the Fellowship Hall was already in use). Over the first three weeks, we have considered the "credentials" of Christianity that make it unique amongst world religions, the third- and fourth-largest religious groups in the world – Hinduism and Buddhism, and Judaism. The material we have been considering has been enlightening and our discussion interesting. I am thankful for the opportunity to teach, and to learn, both of which I love, and for the handful of members who have made it a priority in their busy lives to be in attendance and to participate in this Bible study. It is not too late to join us! We will be taking a break for the month of July due to various schedule conflicts, but we will be resuming in August.

At the conclusion of Bible Class, Julie and I sat in the sanctuary for a few minutes and discussed plans for continuing to experiment with dual projectors during this coming Sunday's service. I am thankful to have her as a partner in ministry. And I am thankful to the members of the congregation for being willing to experiment, for being willing to try something new that we pray will enhance and further our congregation's ministry, and for being patient in the meantime, while we work out the details.

Finally, upon returning to my office tonight, and before I sat down to write this column, I opened a thank you note from our newly-adopted missionary, which arrived in the mail today. As you know hopefully, we were privileged to host him, along with his family, on Sunday, June 14 (see the contents of his note elsewhere in this newsletter). I am incredibly excited that we have chosen to partner with them and to support them in their missionary endeavors. And I am again thankful to our congregation for being willing to take on that important commitment as an extension of our congregation's ministry.

Looking ahead, the next few weeks promise to be equally busy. Among other things, they will include our triennial Michigan District Convention at Concordia University Ann Arbor (June 28-30) and this year's Vacation Bible School (July 7-9). In between, maybe there will even be a few

moments to relax and enjoy the beautiful northern Michigan summer while it lasts! Either way, the Lord continues to bless us here at Peace in many ways, and for all of those blessings, I am thankful. I pray that you will join me in giving thanks and praise to God, from whom all blessings flow.

His continued blessings to each of you in Christ Jesus, our Savior!

In His Service,

Pastor Derek Riddle

Summer Bible Study

Our *Wednesday Morning Bible Study* did not get off the ground this month as hoped. Due to a lack of interest, that particular study, on the subjects of Heaven and Hell, has been postponed.

Our *Wednesday Evening Bible Study* did begin this month and has completed its first three sessions: (1) the "Credentials" of Christianity, (2) the Far Eastern Religions (including Hinduism and Buddhism), and (3) the Middle Eastern Religions (including especially Judaism). We will take a break for the month of July due to various schedule conflicts, but we will plan to resume in August according to the following tentative schedule:

Sessions 4-5: Islam – August 5

Session 6: Western Religions 1 (Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses) – August 12

Session 7: Western Religions 2 (the Cults and Scientology) – August 19

Conclusion: A Christian Response – August 26

This study is a DVD-based series with Dr. Paul Maier, which takes a look at various world religions, what they teach, and how they compare to Christianity. Each session of this study is a stand-alone session, which means that members should feel free to come and go as you are able.

Michigan District Convention

The 101st Michigan District Convention will take place June 28-30 on the campus of Concordia University Ann Arbor, under the theme "Imagine: Living as God's Loved and Compassionate Community." Pastor Riddle will be attending as our pastoral delegate and David Schaedig as our lay delegate. If you are reading this prior to the Convention, please keep them both, as well as the Convention itself, in your personal prayers. Before, during, and after the Convention, Convention news and updates, along with daily prayer requests, will be available at the Michigan District's web site at www.michigandistrict.org. Regular updates will also be made via the District's Facebook page and Twitter feed.

Board of Stewardship

Through our baptism God has chosen us into His family. As God's children we live for others and not ourselves by serving our neighbor. We serve our neighbors by praying for them and reaching out to them in time of need. We also serve our neighbors through our words and actions by what we "say" and "do".

God has also given us time, talent and treasures to serve Him by serving in the church and taking time with our talent to serve as Sunday School teachers, Bible Class Leaders, officers in the church, singing in the choir, playing music or serving where service is needed. The hymn "Hark the Voice of Jesus Crying," v. 4 says, "Let none hear you idly saying there is nothing I can do while the multitudes are dying and the Master calls for you, Take the task He gives you gladly, Let His work your pleasure be, Answer quickly when He calleth, Here are I am, send me, send me." May we give thanks to God for all our blessings by using our time, talent and treasure to bless others.

BOARD OF ELDERS

Here at Peace we highly value our worship and praise to Almighty God, as we gather together as a congregation and personally, weekly and daily, with our prayers, praises, songs and psalms. We believe sacrificial commitment of our time, our talents, and our financial resources are important elements of our worship. The natural progression of "self" to "group" in Christian life enables us, by the grace of God, to use our spiritual gifts to make our worship service dynamic in diversity: from those who serve quietly behind the scenes to those who take public leadership positions; from the blossoming faith of our young people to the wisdom of our older members. As the saving grace of the Gospel stirs us to use our gifts to the glory of God, the spiritual and physical needs of our congregation are met.

At worship we receive God's mercy. We hear His word and take part in the Sacrament of the Altar where we receive the forgiveness of sins. Our faith is strengthened, and we want to pray, praise and give thanks to God for all the blessings that He has given us.

May we encourage one another to attend church regularly, attend Bible studies, have family or personal devotions daily and go to God in prayer daily.

Our mission as a caring family is to reach out to all, sharing Christ's love, and teaching His Word.

The Lutheran Hour

The Lutheran Hour can be heard locally on Sunday mornings at 7:00 a.m. on 92.5 FM and at 11:00 a.m. on 1450 AM. You can also listen on-line or via podcast at www.lutheranhour.org. Now you can also download the new Lutheran Hour Mobile App to your mobile device. Instructions for doing so can be found at www.lhm.org/apps/.

July 2015 Schedule:

July 5

"God's Recipe for a Successful Life"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

The recipe for a successful life calls for more of Jesus and less of ourselves.

(2 Corinthians 12:1-10)

July 12

"In Him!"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

In Christ, we find rescue, forgiveness, and new life. Outside of Christ, all is still broken, dying, or dead.

(Ephesians 1:3-14)

July 19

"In Christ, Welcome Home"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

Someone from the inside has to come outside and welcome us home.

(Ephesians 2:13-21)

July 26

"Rescued"

Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Ken Klaus

God's love and forgiveness is to be welcomed, savored, enjoyed, and relished. Drink deeply of His grace!

(2 Peter 2:9-10)

Stewardship Corner

"Soon afterward he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him, and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's household manager, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their means" (Luke 8:1-3).

There were many who provided out of their means for our Lord's work of proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God while He was on earth. Think about that for a moment. These pious women gave to God in the flesh for God the Father's work of bringing the good news of God's kingdom. Their generosity, which was moved by the generosity of God Himself to them in the healing of their infirmities and evil spirits, was employed so that others could benefit as they had. The means they provided were put into God's service to feed and clothe and provide shelter as Jesus and the twelve traveled preaching, teaching, and healing.

That's amazing. These women were widows who had been oppressed by demons. They were forgotten, thought of as nobodies. The world didn't think much of them, or perhaps that they were just in the way. Regardless of what the world thought, God forgets no one. No one is a burden to Him. He cares for the widow and the fatherless. He puts the solitary into a home. And more than that, He brings them the good news of the kingdom and lets them be a part of building it by their giving of what He has provided them. He presses their gifts into His service to His glory. And they are not forgotten. They are inscribed in the Holy Scriptures as a monument of what giving from out of their means does. It helped to turn the world upside down, which happens to be right-side up, reconciliation and healing through what Jesus accomplished on the cross. (Acts 17:6).

This is what your giving to the church does also. It provides the ministers of the Gospel food and clothes, house and home, all that they need for this body and life so that they may preach, and teach, and bring the healing of the Gospel of Jesus' death and resurrection to those who need it, those who are homebound and infirm, those who are sick and suffering, those who are bedeviled by evil spirits, depressed, and

plagued by guilt and shame. Your gifts are put to use for God's work on earth to bring the good news of His kingdom which has no end.

Who wouldn't want to be part of that? And you are! Thanks be to God. And it does not go unnoticed. Your pastor gives thanks for it and prays for you. And so does your Lord. And the angels rejoice over one sinner who repents and believes. You help to make that happen. You do it because someone else has made it happen for you.

Taken from www.lcms.org

July Anniversaries

	Date	Yrs
John & Jane Zielaskowski	7/3	11
Dennis & Julie Schwiesow	7/5	35
Jake & Tiffany Yarch	7/6	2
Larry & Peggy Schaudt	7/10	16
Trevor & Kelly Bullock	7/14	3
Terry & Linda Scranton	7/15	48
Bob & Sharon Loomer	7/15	15
Roger & Sharon Hein	7/21	26
Henry & Debbie Mayer	7/22	15
Scott & Mary Jo Hein	7/24	22
Ray & Renee Roeske	7/31	22

July Birthdays

Kathy Schalk	7/1
Austin Fenstermaker	7/2
David Grulke	7/2
Chris Dembny	7/3
Kelly Bruning	7/4
Anna Catalano	7/6
Betty Claus	7/6
Amelia Dembny	7/7
Hannah Dembny	7/7
Jenny Fenstermaker	7/8
Carl Grulke	7/9
Tom Dullack	7/9
Connor Muller	7/10
Marsha Rex	7/10
Tom Rex	7/10
Daryl Rhode	7/12
Matthew Mertz	7/14
Bob Noffze	7/16
Jonah Riddle	7/17
Amie Grulke	7/18
Dan Rothe	7/19
Jane Zielaskowski	7/19
Marilyn Dimick	7/19
Donna Kaski	7/20
Ed Lijewski	7/20
Erica Jumper	7/20
Pastor Riddle	7/21
Hayli McCormick	7/26
Brooke Roeske	7/27
Sue Fuhrman	7/27
Hope Coolman	7/27
Peggy Zampich	7/29
Tyler Zempel	7/29
Kay Spomer	7/31