

# Good News of Peace

June 2014 A.D.

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

## *From the Pastor's Desk*

Dear Friends in Christ:

"Oh, times, they are a changin'!" Is that how the saying goes? Or something like that, at least. And as someone recently shared with me in an E-mail, "Things change, and we just have to accept them."

Times do change, and much of that change is out of our control. However, as Christians, changing times and circumstances around us, societally-speaking, do not change who we are. Nor do they change our position when it comes to the truth of the Word of God.

"I, the Lord, do not change," God says to Israel in Malachi 3:6. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change," James says similarly in the New Testament (1:17). "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever," says the Book of Hebrews (13:8). And when it comes to His Word, the prophet Isaiah (40:8) says also that "the grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever."

Some changes we cannot accept, therefore, as Christians. The fact that our society is changing, that societal standards and values are changing and quickly so - that we cannot control. As American citizens, we do have to accept that is what is happening around us. How we respond to those changes is another story, however.

One of the most notable societal changes currently taking place is with respect to the legality of same-sex "civil unions" or "marriage." For one thing, as Christians we cannot be happy about, and cannot simply accept, the fact that the definition of "marriage" is changing in terms of popular perspective. While same-sex unions are gaining increasing legal

standing, as Christians we should be careful to continue to speak about marriage in the way God defines it in His Word. Popular or not, changing times and perspectives do not change what God has already said. Being legal and being acceptable to God are, of course, most certainly not the same thing.

Regardless of how we speak about marriage, however, and even if we do take advantage of opportunities to speak up and out in public settings, more than likely the changes that are taking place within our society are going to continue. We are not going to be able to prevent those changes from taking place, certainly not easily. That does not, of course, mean that we should just remain silent. However, such societal changes, in turn, have the potential to confront us as Christians, and as a Christian congregation, with situations we've never had to encounter.

It may not happen tomorrow, but it may be a matter of time before legalized same-sex unions begin seeking affirmation within our own churches. It is already happening in some churches. If and when that happens, how are we as a congregation going to respond? Are we going to have the courage to continue to take our stand on the Word of God, rather than simply giving in to societal pressures? Even if we do maintain our Biblical and historic position by the grace of God, the time may be coming when it becomes illegal to do so. How will we respond then?

Our Synod has been trying to help our congregations prepare for such potential eventualities by providing resources both for study and discussion and for guiding congregational policies and practices. Recently our Board of Elders took a closer look at a resource entitled, "Information on Marriage Policies for Member Congregations." Copies of this helpful document are available in the narthex. It provides a concise summary of the Biblical understanding of marriage, along with resources for understanding and

responding to the issue of homosexuality and same-sex unions in an informed and Christian manner. You may access the same resources, along with others, by visiting the Synod's web site at [www.lcms.org](http://www.lcms.org) and clicking on the "Free to Be Faithful" button on the lower right hand side of the page.

With the help of the document mentioned above, at our May meeting the Board of Elders adopted a Marriage Policy for Peace that attempts to address our changing societal context. Because we would like our members to be aware of this statement, you will find it elsewhere in this newsletter.

On another note, yes, there are some changes we must accept. This month, Abi Schmit, our Family Life Minister, will be leaving Rogers City and Peace, as her husband has accepted a call to join the staff at St. John Lutheran School in Fraser, Michigan. As Abi wraps up her responsibilities and leaves us, I pray that you will be mindful of the many valuable contributions she has made to our congregation's ministry since she started her six-month internship in December 2012. She has been a wonderful asset to our congregation during her time with us, and she will most definitely be leaving a hole.

As we bid her and her family well (she is also an expectant mother, due in the fall), it is time for us as a congregation to identify where to go from here. Many Family Life Ministry activities and endeavors that have been undertaken over the last 18 months, if we want them to continue, will now have to be taken on by members of the congregation. I would remind you, however, that our congregation is full of competent, talented people who are more than capable of doing so.

Changes, and new challenges, lie ahead. How will we respond? Later this month, on Tuesday evening, June 17, we will be resuming our Strategic

Planning Process with the help of Rev. Rick Wolfram from the Michigan District. At this planning session, we will be trying to answer that question, along with others. Please join us. We can either accept the changes and challenges before us and allow ourselves to be deterred by them. Or we can embrace them with faith and with courage, always remembering who and whose we are and where we stand - on the always true and never-changing Word of God.

God's richest blessings to each of you in our Risen and Ascended Savior, Jesus Christ!

In His Service,

Pastor Derek Riddle

**Marriage Policy**  
**of Peace Lutheran Church**  
**Rogers City, MI**  
*Adopted by the Board of Elders*  
*May 7, 2014*

The marriage policy of Peace Lutheran Church, a member congregation of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, is and always has been consistent with the Synod's beliefs with respect to marriage. We believe that marriage is a sacred union of one man and one woman (Genesis 2:24-25), and that God gave marriage as a picture of the relationship between Christ and His bride, the Church (Ephesians 5:32).

The official position of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, as set forth in 1998 Resolution 3-21 ("To Affirm the Sanctity of Marriage and to Reject Same-Sex Unions"), is that homosexual unions come under categorical prohibition in the Old and New Testaments (Leviticus 18:22, 24; Leviticus 20:13; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; 1 Timothy 1:9-10) as contrary to the Creator's design (Romans 1:26-27). These positions and beliefs can be found on the LCMS web site ([www.lcms.org](http://www.lcms.org)), along with other statements, papers and reports on the subject of homosexuality and same-sex civil unions and "marriage."

Accordingly, our pastors will not officiate over any marriages inconsistent with these beliefs, and our church property may not be used for any marriage ceremony, reception, or other activity that would be inconsistent with our beliefs and this policy.

## **A Final Note from the Family Life Minister**

*I really hate saying goodbye. Saying so is cliché, I realize. I never once have read a farewell letter that started out, "I love saying goodbye." I suppose you can agree, then, that goodbyes are hard. "Hellos" are so much sweeter, "nice to meet you's" are full of potential, and "see you later's" bring such comfort in knowing there will be a next time. But, goodbyes are hard. How does one wrap up the memories, the gratefulness, the treasures of time spent together - all in one simple "goodbye"? I'm not sure if I can.*

*For those who aren't aware, my husband Steve recently accepted a call to St. John Lutheran School in Fraser, Michigan. This summer, our family of two (soon to be three) will be packing up, saying our goodbyes, and starting a new chapter in our lives. We are so thankful for this opportunity to serve the Lord in a new capacity. We are excited for the new adventure. And yet, before we can say "hello" to the new, we need to say "goodbye" to the people and places that have meant so much to us here in Rogers City.*

*In these last 18 months, you have been such a blessing to me - so much more than you realize. As my internship began in December 2012, I instantly felt the warmth and family atmosphere of Peace. As the months went on, I was supported, encouraged, and prayed for. I enjoyed getting to know you, hearing your stories, and seeing your faith in action. I am so grateful for the*

*opportunities that God provided for us, together, at Peace and in the community. I can look back on these last 18 months and see how God has worked and is continuing to work.*

*As my time at Peace comes to an end, I know that leaders and members will be considering how to move forward from this point in the area of family life ministry. Family life ministry is not over but has only just begun. It may look different in the months and years to come, but it is my prayer that God continues to allow this ministry at Peace to grow and to thrive.*

*So, thank you. I am so grateful for you, for your support, and for your partnership.*

*God's continued blessings for you and your family,*

*Abi Schmit*

## **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](http://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/](http://www.lhm.org/apps/).

### **June 2014 Schedule:**

#### **June 1**

"Overcoming Life's Spiritual Battle"  
Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz  
The key to winning the spiritual battle: God fights for us. Christ won the victory and leads us through each step of life. (1 Peter 5:6-11)

#### **June 8**

"Spirit Help in Time of Need"  
Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz  
The Holy Spirit convinces us that we need the help only God can provide. (John 16:1-15)

### June 15

"Living Life in the Power of His Name"  
Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

Jesus has been given all authority in heaven and on earth. We live in the certainty of His grace and the power of His Name.

(Matthew 28:18-20)

### June 22

"Dream Giver for Dream Receivers"  
Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

God's forgiving love for us in Christ is a dream come true that dispels the nightmare of sin and death.

(Romans 6:12-23)

### June 29

"Making God In Our Image"

Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour:  
Rev. Ken Klaus

Jesus will not let Himself be remade in our image or His mission reshaped into what we think it should be.

(Matthew 10:34-42)

## Board of Elders

We the members of Peace Lutheran Church have adopted for our mission statement "A Caring Family + Reaching Out + Sharing Christ's Love + Teaching God's Word". As we rely on the Holy Scriptures to lead us to do His will, and by His Word that we hear as a congregation weekly, we pray, praise and give thanks to God and as we have our daily devotion, we stay in touch with God so that we can CARE + REACH + SHARE + TEACH all we meet each and every day.

## BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

Maybe it is True! Spring could be here for sure and summer close behind. Yes, this has been a long, long cold winter even for those who have lived here most of their lives. We see signs of spring with the grass turning green, buds on the trees and even some leaves on some trees. This winter has tested our patience, but the sun being out more and the new growth starting helps us to feel a little more alive and motivated to get things done. Some of us can't wait until we take that first bite of a ripe cucumber or a fresh picked ripe tomato. We need patience for this also because it takes planning and work to get these fresh, juicy, tasty vegetables to our mouths and enjoy every bite. We also have to work the soil so that it is ready. We add the fertilizer and then plant the seed. Now it is time to keep it watered so the plants grow, and then come along

those weeds that we have to pull out so that our plants grow healthy and strong so that they produce bountifully and we enjoy the harvest.

This is also true with our faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus planted His seed in us at our baptism. To keep that seed growing, we need to feed it with the Word of God. As we hear God's Word, we hold on to it and meditate on it. We then bear the fruit of Christian love.

## Fundraising News

*Summer is finally coming and along with that comes our BIGGEST fundraiser...The BBQ Pork Sandwich Sale for the Nautical Festival, and we need your help. We have placed some surveys in the narthex the past couple of months, which we have been reviewing. We will soon have the 'sign up sheets' out for the days and times needed for helping for this event, and along with this we hope to be calling you, and we ask that you prayerfully consider helping. This is a fundraiser but also a time to use our mission statement CARE + REACH + SHARE+ TEACH to help us grow in Christ. It isn't just working a shift but getting to know those who are working that shift with you, by caring for one another by showing Christian fellowship, and is a way of reaching out to members and new acquaintances, and sharing our love and consideration, and teaching us that God is our leader in all things and at all times, even when it is doing a project. Fundraising is a way to get a few 'extras' that aren't budgeted for the church...one of the projects we are 'looking into' is a new projection screen for our services to be put on the wall in a way that more can see and use this. This past winter some of our fundraiser monies went to sponsor a seminarian for a year, and also some monies went to the Charity Fund to help those in need for heating. Please come ...and help us....'many hands make for a lighter load'!*

## Stewardship Corner

When it comes to stewardship, a favorite Bible verse is the account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1-4). It's a moving account. Our Lord praises the seemingly small gift of two copper coins given by a poor widow above the abundance of gifts given by the rich, saying, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them" (Luke 21:3). And that is usually where we stop. But the text goes on. "For they all

contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on" (Luke 21:4).

"She . . . put in all she had to live on." She gave everything. She held nothing back. She trusted that the Lord who made her and all creatures, who gave her everything she had, who redeemed her from her own sin, from death, and the power of the devil, who called her by the gospel and enlightened her with His gifts of Word and Sacrament, would continue to do this. He would provide her with all that she needed for this body and life because that is the character of the God she had.

But this is not why we give small gifts. We give small gifts precisely because we don't trust the Lord to provide for us. We give small gifts because we lack faith in the One who created us, redeemed us, sanctifies and keeps us in the one true faith. We give small gifts because we doubt that God will really give us what we need and desire. We give small gifts because we are not content with what God has already given.

We are not slaves, children of the slave woman, under the Old Covenant, who must give a tithe. We are adopted sons of the free woman. And since we are sons, we are also heirs. And heirs receive the inheritance. For everything is already ours in Christ. And thus moved by the willing spirit of adoption, we do the will of God in financial matters far beyond all that was done by those under the Old Covenant who were forced by legal demands.

So what have you decided to give? How do I decide what to give? Let the Scriptures be your guide.

We are to give proportionally to what we have received from God's giving to us (Luke 12:48; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2, 2 Corinthians 8:12). And what proportion is that? We are free, for we are not slaves but sons. Nevertheless, ten percent, the amount demanded for those under the Old Covenant, is a good starting point, unless there is a reason not to. For we have received more from God in Christ, and we are free now to give more also. So use ten percent unless there is a reason to use five percent or fifteen percent.

But you have not been set free to give nothing. See that you excel in the grace of giving (2 Corinthians 8:7)! We are not free to live selfishly outside the Gospel, without regard for God who gives us all good gifts, without generosity for our neighbor who needs us and our gifts, without supporting the community of faith in which we live, without care for our spiritual fathers and those who teach and help raise our children in the faith, without resources for the poor and needy-in short, we are not free to live unto ourselves, hoarding what God has given us only for us. For love is the fulfillment of the law (Romans 13:10). And the sum of the law is this: Love God and love your neighbor (Matthew 22:34-40). We love because He first loved us. We give because He has given to us.

Luther once said "Possessions belong in your hands, not in your heart" (LW 14:240). There is a reason your ten fingers spread apart. You catch with your hands God's gifts for what you need so that the rest may fall through your fingers to your neighbors-your family, your friends, your community, your church.

Taken from [www.lcms.org](http://www.lcms.org)

## June Anniversaries

	Date	Yrs
Duane & Jessica Olden	6/1	7
Paul & Jennie Lewandowski	6/2	13
Karl & Peggy Zampich	6/5	21
Ivan & Rose Buck	6/7	46
Dave & Carolynne Schaedig	6/9	52
John & Faye Roby	6/10	19
Rick & Nonnie Bannasch	6/14	39
Randy & Gail Martens	6/14	34
Larry & Jeanie Rhode	6/14	28
Tom & Laurie Catalano	6/15	29
Bill & Jane Claus	6/15	40
Chris & Melissa Schleben	6/16	2
Chris & Beth Dembny	6/17	14
Rick & Carol Mosher	6/20	16
Don & Marilyn Dimick	6/21	34
Gary & Nancy Mosher	6/24	19
Norm & Lilah Elowski	6/25	65
Jack & Bea Mosher	6/26	66



## June Birthdays

Lori Wirgau	6/2
Nonnie Bannasch	6/3
Mark Kowalewsky	6/3
Peggy Schaudt	6/5
Bret Karsten	6/7
Matthew Augsburger	6/8
Kameron Curtis	6/8
Susan Altman	6/10
Anthony Galloway	6/15
Mary Jo Hein	6/15
Scott Sorgenfrei	6/15
June Heller	6/20
Ajay Jumper	6/20
Larry Schaudt	6/20
Dale Sorgenfrei	6/23
Russ Fairbanks	6/25
Gary Mosher	6/25
Austin Rothe	6/25
Jackson Bruning	6/26
Janet Langley	6/26
Laura Mertz	6/27
Pam Bingle	6/28
Damian Lijewski	6/28
Norma Wirgau	6/29
Brenda Karsten	6/30
Morgan Suszek	6/30



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If you notice your name is missing from the birthday or anniversary sections, please let the church office know so we can update our records... and celebrate these milestones with you!!

### Good News of Peace

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Missouri Synod

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[Peace Lutheran Church](#)

It's almost Summer...

Time for Garage Sales  
and Vacation Bible School!

### A P T L G A R A G E

SALE will be held at St. John Lutheran School on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, June 12, 13 and 14 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. We are accepting donations of items June 10 and 11 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. **Acceptable Items Include:** Household Goods, Tools, Clothing, Bedding, Pictures, Toys, Books, SMALL appliances, (Please donate only reasonably clean, useable items). For more information, please contact Lisa Spomer at 989-306-0710 or the school office at 734-3580.



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** will be held at St. John Lutheran School the week of June 24 - 26, 2014 from 9 a.m. to noon. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. Our theme this year is: **Weird Animals: Where Jesus' Love Is One-of-a-Kind.** We are also looking for helpers this year in order for this program to be successful. We need both adults and 6th -12th graders. If you want more information or want to sign up to help, please contact Linda Schalk at 734-3580.

**Please mark your calendars!** This summer's **VBS here at Peace** is scheduled for Tuesday-Thursday, July 8-10. Watch the announcements in the coming weeks for further details and ways you can be of help.