

## *From the Pastor's Desk*

Dear Friends in Christ:

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

There is no better news, of course, especially in the midst of the joyous Easter season. "*Christ has indeed been raised from the dead*", the apostle Paul declares in 1 Corinthians 15, "*the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep*" (verse 20).

Even though it is of far less importance, please allow me to share some other good news with you, too. It is now official: we have sold our home in Illinois. The closing took place yesterday (April 30), almost exactly two years after we put it on the market. Please join us in giving thanks and praise to God, who, as St. Paul also declares in Romans 8, "*has not only given us His own Son but graciously gives us all things*" (verse 32).

We also owe the members of Peace a very big thank you. We thank you, of course, for your prayers and for your encouragement and support over these past months. Many of you have told us personally that you have been praying for us, and many of you have been kind enough periodically to ask if we had any updates, and we have greatly appreciated your care and concern.

Secondly, we simply could not have managed two mortgages over the past two years without the congregation's help. You made it possible for us to move to Rogers City two summers ago, to buy a house, and to begin our lives here without waiting for our home in Illinois to sell first. That made our move to Rogers City so much less intimidating, and it has been such a blessing to our family in the months since, and we are grateful to all of you. Today, in a manner of speaking, we are finally fully beginning our lives here, and we are very pleased to be able to do so at last.

As this personal news starts to register, I wish that I could hold myself up as an example of patience over these past two years and tell you that I never doubted in the least that the Lord really knew what was best. Alas, I cannot. What I can tell you, however, is that the Lord has used this experience in my own life to teach me some important lessons about prayer.

A certain sense of fulfillment results as I look back over these past two years and realize that, yes, the Lord has been listening to our prayers all along - and acting on our behalf, even if we couldn't always see it. Although we will never know the whole story or see the full picture, we have been able to catch little glimpses here and there of His working "behind the scenes" for our benefit in all sorts of ways. That is very humbling, to say the least.

The fact that the Lord did not answer our prayers over these past two years exactly in the way I (or we) might have envisioned does not, as someone might wonder, cause me to question the power or the value of prayer. Quite the opposite, this experience has confirmed for me the place and the importance of prayer in my own life. It has taught me (again - for some reason, the Lord seems to need to teach me the same lessons over and over) that I cannot live without it. It is such a tremendous privilege, and with each new challenging experience in my life, I learn even more how deeply I depend upon it. That, of course, is only because I am completely dependent upon the One who hears and receives our prayers - He is the only reason prayer works, after all.

Together with what the Lord teaches us about prayer in His Word, prayer reassures me that I am never alone, regardless of what I am facing in my life. And there is such great comfort in knowing that, even when I don't have the right words to pray, and even when I don't even pray for the right thing(s), the Lord still hears my prayer and knows exactly what I need. That, in turn, assures me that I can be completely confident that He is going to answer my prayer - at just the right time and in just the right way (His, not mine), according to His good and gracious will.

And that makes me (and I pray you, too!) even more eager to keep praying - about anything and everything.

From me and Julie and our whole family, thank you all once again for serving and supporting us with our prayers these past two years. You are all a blessing to us, and we thank God for each of you. Easter blessings to each of you in our Risen Savior!

In His Service,

Pastor Derek Riddle

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

*What do you value? The other morning, I had an interesting realization about what I personally value.*

*It started at the post office, as I sent my camera off to be repaired. I asked the clerk to calculate the insurance of my package. Fourteen dollars to insure my thousand-dollar camera body. "It's worth it," I said.*

*A few hours later, I stood at Subway, ordering lunch. I inquired about whether or not avocado costs extra. It does. "But it's only like a dollar fifty," said the girl behind the counter. A dollar and fifty cents for a taste of avocado when I could go buy the whole fruit for practically the same cost? "Eh, it's not worth it," I replied.*

*Every day we make decisions about how we spend our money, time, and other resources. Values are at the root of the decision tree. Values determine how we use resources more than any other issue. Yes, sometime values are relative and change on the situation (sometimes I'm willing to splurge for that avocado). These values can be influenced by the culture and one's upbringing, and they can certainly change over time.*

*We can look at the way an individual spends his time and see what he values. We can evaluate what a couple values by what they choose to spend money on. And, we can see what an organization-congregations*

included— values, based on where they decide to direct their mission and their resources.

Since June 2013, I have had the privilege of regularly meeting with a small group of members who share a common value: the young people of the congregation. These five women, working and planning on behalf of the congregation, believe that children are important because they are the "next generation", but also because they are important today. Children and youth are worth it.

Using your responses from the Family Life Survey (from the winter of 2013) as a starting place, the group has further evaluated specific areas of ministry: the building, the worship service, the church calendar, and the relationships that are formed across the generation gap. Brainstorming has resulted in a few small changes here and there. Perhaps you've noticed some of these. Once a month, a Sunday School song is sung by the entire congregation, with the children joyfully singing in the pews with their families rather than at the front of the sanctuary. Bulletin inserts entitled "Kids in the Divine Service" will continue to appear periodically and can be used as a teaching tool for all ages (I hope you, too, can learn something new!). This month, youth will help lead a worship service, and later, each Sunday School family will receive a special gift: a picture story Bible that can be taken home and used for many years to come. In the coming months, the cry room will be transformed into a more welcoming place, and children's hymnals will be available to young worshippers.

Peace certainly is a caring family that values its members of all ages. On behalf of this focus group, I thank you for your support and your willingness to try a few new things. I look forward to seeing how Peace will continue to shape a child-friendly

culture that shows children and youth that they are indeed worth it.

Joyfully serving families of all ages,  
Abi Schmit  
Family Life Minister

## 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/).

### May 2014 Schedule:

#### May 4

"Live Life, Traveling Well"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

When God makes a way possible where there is no way, you can trust Him that you will finish the journey well.

(1 Peter 1:17-25)

#### May 11

"Doing Good"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

God calls us to be good-doers, rather than do-gooders.

(1 Peter 2:19-25)

#### May 18

"God's Presence + God's Promise = God's Peace"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

God's presence in Christ plus God's promises through Christ equals God's peace with Christ, forever.

(John 14:1-14)

#### May 25

"Remembering"

Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour:  
Rev. Ken Klaus

As we remember those who died to preserve our freedom, we remember the Savior who died and rose to save us from eternal death.

(Psalms 25:7)

## Board of Trustees

Grass cutting season is coming...I am sure! If cutting grass is something you can help with, please sign up and Jerry Wenzel will make calls when mowing is needed. The sign-up sheet will be out on the table the first of May. I know everyone is busy, so thanks for your time.

## BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

As we continue our study of Stewardship ministry here at Peace Lutheran, our focus is God's love and that Stewardship is our response to God's love and redemption. The Lenten season is now behind us for another year, yet it is always with us throughout the whole year as we remember all that God has done for us through His Son Jesus Christ. Our message is Gospel-motivated, and stewardship is a Love-response to Christ and not in budget costs. By staying in God's Word daily we will grow spiritually and become spiritually driven to show our love and support for the mission and ministry of God's church. Christ rose on Easter Sunday to overcome death so we may live! He has risen indeed so we may live. Live in service to Him by using your time, talent and treasure to help further His kingdom.

## Music Ministry

Easter music was joyous, and we thank all who 'sang the joy of Easter through song'; it was so uplifting. Music helps spread the Word of God through song. We encourage all who are interested in music....performing, listening or having any ideas or suggestions for outreach through our music to come to our meetings. We only meet 4 times a year unless we need a special meeting...so watch for it on your church calendar. Our next Music Ministry meeting is scheduled for June 10th...bring us your ideas and comments for 'outreach'.

## Fundraising News

"To accomplish great things, we must not only ACT, but also DREAM; not only PLAN, but also BELIEVE." (Unknown Author)

We would like to encourage you, as Peace members, to come and share in supporting our Fundraising Committee and the great events that our community looks forward to supporting... not only good food, but good fellowship. One main goal is to bridge generations together by involving family of all ages (young and old). As of January 2014, monies brought in from the February BBQ Pork sale totaled \$1,236.45. Monies were approved by the

voters to go to "The Charity Fund" (\$500) and "The Seminarian Fund" (\$500).

Our first survey was distributed to acknowledge existing fundraisers and is being reviewed. Our second survey will be included as a bulletin insert, focusing on our biggest fundraiser, the Food Booth during the Nautical Festival in August.

All quality, non-profit organizations need financial resources to help them achieve their goals. Thank you, and may you reap one-hundred-fold the goodness that you sow.

We look forward to you joining us at Fundraising meetings. As always, thank you and God's Blessings for anything and everything you may do.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Julie Schwiesow

**FYI from the Kitchen Committee:** Whenever there is a funeral at our church, please feel free to bring a dish to pass whether you are able to attend or not. Casseroles, salads, veggies and desserts are always appreciated. On the day of the funeral, the Kitchen Committee will be at the church at 8:00 a.m. If you are unable to bring your dish to the church, please call Cinda at 734-2926, Julie Thompson at 734-7665, or Lee Bingle at 734-3682; we will be glad to pick it up. If the dish needs to be baked, we will gladly do that as well. *Thank you!*

## Stewardship Corner

Jesus is risen from the dead, and He is not angry. He appears to the eleven, locked and hidden away for fear of the Jews. He gives them peace, when there seems to be no peace. He gives them hope, when all hope seems to be lost. He gives them forgiveness, life, and salvation, even though they all fled and watched Him die. But Christ is risen and He is not angry. No one took His life from Him, but He laid it down willingly. He offered it up of His own accord. Thus, He does not blame them. He is not angry. He gives them His Spirit that they may be one and not alone, that they may have peace, that they may live forgiven and free from fear, that they might go do the same into all the world. Christ is risen and He is not angry.

Our God is a God who gives gifts. He gives because that is who He is and what He does. He created us for this purpose. The

God who is love created us to be loved. And to love is to give of oneself for the good of another. And so He gives daily bread. He gives food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, and faithful neighbors.

He also gave us His only-begotten Son. And everything He did, He did for us. He took up our flesh, was born of a woman, to fulfill the Law for us. He was circumcised, had sacrifices offered on His behalf, denied Himself certain foods, and ate the Passover to end them all. The same is true of the Moral Law. He kept it for us. His fasting and temptation were done for us. He fulfilled what we were unable, and unwilling, to do. But that is not all. He not only kept the Law, He also allowed the Law to do to Him all that justice demanded it do to us. He who knew no sin, became sin. The guiltless guilty with His own Blood upon His hands.

And still he gives us more. He gave us His Spirit, the Spirit of Truth. Through the means of grace-the Word, Holy Baptism, Holy Absolution, the Holy Supper-the Spirit of Christ continues to deliver the fruits of His death and pour the benefits of His resurrection upon our heads, into our ears and mouths. We are not alone. We are not left as orphans. He is with us; He is for us, through these means. And by them we are knitted together into one body. This is the giving nature of our God. The depths of His love know no bounds.

Despite all this, we still hold back. We don't give cheerfully from our firstfruits. We don't with glad hearts, with planning and forethought, set our minds to give to the ministry of Word and Sacrament for the life of the world. We tend to give begrudgingly, apprehensively, and with what is left over. We don't give out of love for God and one another, as those united by His Spirit in the bond of peace, but out of a feeling of compulsion. How will they know us by our love, when we do not even love the means by which God gives us His love enough to support it with the other gifts He has given?

If you find it difficult to give freely, cheerfully, and proportionally, you are not alone. That sin, that selfishness is something inherent to our fallen nature. No, you are not alone. We have been knitted together into one body by the Holy Spirit. We are to bear one another's burdens. So let not your hearts be troubled. For the God of Love, the giver of every good and perfect gift, has given His own Son to bear yours. He carries your anxiety and worry. He dispels all your fears. Do not be afraid. Give from out of your poverty or your abundance. It matters not. Because Jesus is risen from the dead and

He is not angry. He ascended into heaven to fill all things. He fills you with His peace, His joy, His generosity, and His love. And nothing can separate you from that.

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

## May Anniversaries

Marlin & Janet Schalk	5/1	60 yr
Merlin & Shirley Schaedig	5/10	45 yr
Doug & Gail Boughner	5/13	19 yr
Scott & Kari Grulke	5/14	3 yr
Bill and Joyce Peetz	5/24	58 yr
Glen & Mona Suszek	5/24	28 yr

## May Birthdays

Kayla Fleury	5/1
Gail Boughner	5/1
Rick Mosher	5/3
Caden Fenstermaker	5/4
Ben Peltz	5/4
Ashley Kandal	5/5
Bill Marshall	5/6
Julia Demos	5/8
Beau Grulke	5/9
Norma Flewelling	5/11
Elna Heward	5/14
Mike Adrian	5/16
Joshua Grulke	5/16
Ed Wright	5/16
Sandra Marshall	5/17
Kaitlyn Bruning	5/19
Julie Thompson	5/20
Don Dimick	5/21
Rachel Flanery	5/25
Rick Bannasch	5/26
Jane Claus	5/26
Gail Grulke	5/26
Doug Boughner	5/28
Carol Fuhrman	5/28
Linda Scranton	5/28

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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