

Good News of Peace

November 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,

This past Sunday, in conjunction with our Mission Festival and Reformation Sunday, we held our "Vision Cast" event during the Christian Education Hour. This event provided an opportunity for our members to be involved in our strategic planning discussion by sharing a few ideas for ways in which we might better carry out our mission of caring, reaching, sharing, and teaching. I want to thank all of our members who made it a point of staying after the service and participating in this process. I was very pleased with the turnout (the Fellowship Hall wasn't entirely full, but it was close), and I was also very pleased with the amount of discussion that took place. The ideas you shared will now go back to the Church Council, and we will gradually be trying to figure out how they may fit into our strategic plan.

Prior to this discussion on Sunday, it was my job to answer five questions in order to set the tone for the discussion that would follow. Those questions were "who are we?", "what is our address?", "what time is it?", "what is God calling us to do?", and "what is our strategy?" For the benefit of the entire congregation, I thought it might be worth using this space to review how I attempted to answer those five questions. I will begin with the first one this month and plan to return to the others in the coming months.

Who are we? In other words, who are we as a congregation? I shared the following observations:

1. We are a congregation that resulted from conflict and division at St. John's. That conflict has partially, although not entirely, been healed. Progress has definitely been made, though.

What I have observed, however, is that that conflict is a big part of who we are still today. For better or worse, it has affected our mentality as a congregation and, in many ways, has been our strategy since day one. We have tried in many respects to be what St. John's is not. I think it's important for us to be honest about this, to embrace it where it's helpful, and to recognize where and when that may no longer be a helpful strategy.

2. We are a congregation that is 20 (actually 21) years old. We are celebrating that this month! (While we received our congregational charter in April 1993, our first building was dedicated on November 13, 1994.) We are still young by local standards but old enough to be "set in our ways." I think it's important for us to be honest about this, as well, and to guard against that mindset where it may be holding us back to some degree.

3. We are a congregation that has been served by only two full-time pastors: Pastor Jones for 17 years, me for just two. As I shared on Sunday, I'm not really sure what this means exactly - perhaps only that you are stuck with me for the next 15 years! If so, please accept my apologies in advance.

4. We are a congregation full of gifted, talented, committed, dedicated people. Thanks and praise be to God for this! Peace wouldn't be here if that weren't the

case. However, one of our challenges, I think, is that many of the people who were part of the core membership 20 years ago remain congregational leaders today and don't necessarily have someone else ready and willing to follow in their footsteps. Generational differences, economic concerns, changing priorities, etc., all factor into this. I think we have to be realistic about these kinds of challenges.

5. We are a typical LCMS congregation in many ways: heavy on members 50 and up. We have a lot of retirees, and that group forms much of our core. We seem to have more young people than many of our local counterparts, but they are still few in number overall. We are largely missing the 20-40 generation, and our young people largely disappear after Confirmation. On the one hand, this means that there is room for us to enhance our ministry to our older generations. On the other hand, there is still plenty of room for us to improve our ministry to our younger generations.

6. Looking back at the bulletin from Dedication Sunday (a few copies are still available in the narthex for perusal), I sensed excitement. Two decades later, I wonder if we are a congregation that has gradually become satisfied with where we are and lost a sense of mission. What is our purpose now? What is our reason for being here? I think we need to be able to answer that question.

I am excited about the work God has before us in the months and years ahead! I pray that you are, too! And I invite you to pray with me that the Lord will make His

vision for our congregation's ministry our vision.

In the meantime, His richest blessings to each and every one of you in Christ, our Savior!

In His Service,

Pastor Derek Riddle

Board of Trustees

Just a friendly reminder... if you hold a meeting or an event at the church, please make sure to clean up after yourselves and make sure the lights are off and doors are locked as you leave. Thanks!

New Office Hours –Beginning November 5, Peg's office hours at the church will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesdays only. Bulletin deadline is 12:59 p.m. Newsletter deadline is last Wednesday of each month.

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/.

November 2014 Schedule:

November 2

"Blessed in Hard Times"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev.

Gregory Seltz

During hard times, God is still with you and at work for you.

(Matthew 5:1-12)

November 9

"God is Not Against You"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev.

Gregory Seltz

Christ's work on the cross shows that God is really on our side and wants what is eternally best for us.

(1Thessalonians 4:13-18)

November 16

"S.O.S... Call Upon Jesus"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev.

Gregory Seltz

God's SOS brings real lasting hope and rescue, an SOS that shows us our Savior.

(1 Thessalonians 5:9-11)

November 23

"Clean - And Thankful"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev.

Gregory Seltz

Thanksgiving is not just a made-up holiday; it's an attitude that is the key to life.

(Luke 17:11-19)

November 30

"Watching and Waiting"

Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran

Hour: Rev. Ken Klaus

Christians serve God and their neighbors as they watch and wait for Christ's return.

(Mark 13:33)

Board of Elders

November already? Where does all the time go? November is a month of giving thanks. We give thanks for all those who have passed on before us. We give thanks for all their words and actions that helped to make us what we are today, teaching us to say "Thank you" to God for all that He has given and continues to give us. We will have all those memories to enjoy and pass on to our families and friends until we join all the saints that have gone on before us. Continue to give thanks for everything. We give thanks to the veterans who have served our country— Thank You! Thank you to all who participated in our Mission-Vision table discussion. All input will help guide Peace with our mission as a caring family to ALL in our church family and to our community, showing our love and helping where help is needed, reaching out to ALL with love through our words and actions, sharing God's love with the love He gave us, teaching those around us as Jesus has taught us to be His disciples

and to GO make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. With God's Word we grow in our faith and become more mature and comfortable to leave our comfort zone and care, reach, share, and teach all those around us. God's blessing to all of us as we give thanks!

Stewardship Corner

Have you ever noticed how children emulate their parents? Children watch their parents and they do what they see them doing. This is how they learn to speak. They watch the shape and form of their parents' mouths and they try to make the same shape so that they can make the same sounds.

But children copy their parents even on a more mundane level. They watch how their parents cross their legs, how they fold their hands, how they stand and sit and walk, how they do and say most everything; and children try to copy it. This can be quite humorous when caught in the act. They do this even when parents don't want them to. Everyone has been in the uncomfortable, and sometimes rather embarrassing, situation where a child does or says what one of their parent's have done or said...something that is not too flattering! Sitcoms thrive on this sort of thing. And it only works because of the truth that children emulate their parents. And they do it because they want to be like them.

We are the children of God by grace, through faith. In Holy Baptism, God the Father declares of us what He declared of Jesus at His Baptism in the Jordan, "You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." God the Father claims us as His own. He takes away all our sins, and in exchange He gives us His righteousness, His purity, His holiness, and His Spirit, by which we cry out, "Abba, Father." We are born again, born from above, born of water and the Spirit, to a new life in Christ as His children. We are sons of God in Christ, through Baptism. And since we are sons, we are heirs; heirs who share in the glory of the Son of God. The inheritance is ours

because of the Father's grace and mercy, because of His generosity in sending His Son in time to save us for all eternity.

And this is why we give generously of our income to the work of the church. Through the working of the Holy Spirit, we are enabled to lead holy lives. We are strengthened to emulate the generosity of our heavenly Father by being generous ourselves. We give to the work of the church because we have witnessed the generous giving of our Father in heaven. More than that, we are recipients of it. It is because we have received God our Father's gifts that we desire to give ourselves. And His gifts are not just spiritual. They are temporal and earthly as well. As the Small Catechism teaches in the Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer:

"Give us this day our daily bread. What does this mean? God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving. What is meant by daily bread? Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as 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, faithful neighbors, and the like."

In other words, he gives us everything that we need for the care of both body and soul. His generosity knows no bounds.

Therefore we sit down at the beginning of the year, the beginning of the month, or the beginning of the week, and set aside a generous portion of God's daily bread for His work in the church. Not because He has commanded us so to do. But rather because we, as His children by grace, want to emulate His generosity in our own lives. He is our Father; we are His children. And children want to be like their parents.

Taken from www.lcms.org

Frankie Jumper has volunteered to collect scrap metal and donate the proceeds to the Tuition Grant Fund to assist the cost of sending students to St. John Lutheran School. A collection barrel is located by the garage in back of the church. Questions? Call Frankie at 989-884-2723.

New church E-mail address: We now have a general church E-mail address. Please feel free both to use it and to share it with others, if you prefer that over either Pastor's or Peggy's personal addresses. The address is: peace@peacelcms.org.

Each week's sermon is now being recorded and posted to our web site. If you miss church, want to listen again to something you missed, or want to refer someone else to a particular sermon, please visit www.peacelcms.org.

Are you an online shopper? Amazon has made it simple to send a donation to your favorite non-profit organization. At www.smile.amazon.com you can log on with your regular Amazon password and then select from thousands of registered non-profits, including Peace Lutheran Church. From there you may shop as you regularly would on Amazon's website. The organization of your choice will receive a donation matching 0.5% of whatever you spend. Registering is safe, free, and takes only a few seconds. *Give Amazon Smile a try!*

The members of Peace have adopted Mr. Andrew D. Belt as part of the **Adopt-A-Student** program of the Concordia Seminary. Andrew's address is:

**Mr. Andrew D. Belt
Box 16
801 Seminary Pl.
Saint Louis, MO 63105-3196**

if you would like to send him a note of encouragement, prayers, or perhaps a monetary gift just to enjoy a meal out once in a while. Andrew's latest letter is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex if you'd like to read it.

If you would like to donate to this program, you may contribute directly to Peace Lutheran Church to help offset the \$500 that is currently coming from fundraising funds for our sponsorship.

November Anniversaries

	Date	Yrs
Carl & Peggy Grulke	11/1	56
Mike & Jenny Sobek	11/7	16
Ed & Opal Wright	11/14	50
Wayne & Cora Augsburg	11/28	34
Robert & Carol Noffze	11/28	33

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!!

November Birthdays

Matthew Rhode	11/1
Tom Wirgau	11/3
Jacquelyn Hart	11/4
Ruth Myers	11/8
Isaac Riddle	11/8
Joshua Senff	11/9
Larry Altman	11/10
Ralph Kortman	11/11
Alfrieda Martens	11/11
Rhiannon Rothe	11/11
Kelly Crull	11/12
Joshua Kamyszek	11/12
Jan Latz	11/12
Kari Claus	11/13
Art Radtke	11/13
Austin Fairbanks	11/14
Sharon Loomer	11/15
Kristin Jones	11/17
Polly Haselhuhn	11/18
Amanda Karsten	11/20
Elwood Knopf	11/21
Karlee Longoria	11/23
Jill Brege	11/24
Kay Don Selke	11/24
Pera DeBeust	11/26
Janice Brown	11/27
Scott Hein	11/27
Linda Knopf	11/27
Terry Peltz	11/27
John Brown	11/28
Tyler Longoria	11/30
John Wright	11/30