

Good News of Peace

October 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,

Congregational Planning Update

In my September column I took a break, but in my two or three previous columns I wrote about our congregational planning process here at Peace. This month I would like to give you another update.

On three different occasions this summer, we held planning meetings here at the church - twice in June and once in August. Between the three meetings, we first identified four congregational "targets" on the basis of our mission statement: caring, reaching, sharing, and teaching. In other words, these are the four areas at which every activity of our congregation ought to be aimed in one way or another.

Our next step this summer was to create an "outcome statement" for each individual target. The outcome statements are intended to spell out the nature of each of the targets in a little greater detail. They are as follows:

Caring: The members of Peace support and care for each other and the members of our community.

Reaching: The members of Peace extend our hands to all, touching lives with the love of Christ.

Sharing: The members of Peace freely share with others our God-given gifts, especially the Good News of Christ.

Teaching: Peace provides opportunities for members to learn and grow in their faith and for community members to come to know Christ.

One thing you may notice in these statements is that we are not necessarily currently doing all of these things, or doing them all very well, but that's okay. The ultimate goal of this process is to identify what we ought to (and

want to) be doing as a congregation and then to design a plan to ensure that those are the activities and priorities on which we are spending our time and congregational resources.

The next step in the process has been to identify specific objectives for each outcome statement (these will help us to "measure" whether or not we are reaching our targets) and then the specific steps we must take in order to accomplish each of these objectives. We worked on this step during our last two meetings and will be doing some more work on this step at our next meeting. I won't take the time to spell out each of these objectives and steps in this space, but you can see some of the work we have been doing still posted in the Fellowship Hall.

What's next? Two important steps will be taking place during the month of October. First, on Wednesday, October 8, we will hold our last planning meeting with Rev. Wolfram of the Michigan District Office. He has been guiding us through the process this summer and will be helping us to put some finishing touches on our congregational plan.

Then, on Sunday, October 26, Rev. Wolfram will be with us once again to serve as our Mission Festival preacher. On that same Sunday, by the way, we will also be celebrating Reformation Sunday, as well as the 20th anniversary of the dedication of the first phase of our church building. You will be hearing more about all of that as the month goes on. While Rev. Wolfram is with us that morning, though, he will also be helping us to share our congregational plan with the congregation at-large in more of a formal way. This will provide an opportunity for you to have some input and to become a little better informed.

In the meantime, as our work with Rev. Wolfram's guidance and assistance is wrapping up this fall, our work as a congregation is really just beginning. It will be our job, and specifically the job of the Church Council and other congregational leaders, to start to carry out the specific steps of our

congregational plan, which will be carried out over time.

In mid-September, the Church Council scheduled a special meeting and already got to work on one of these steps. Two of our objectives within the "caring" target are (1) to increase the number of activities designed to help members and (2) to increase the number of activities designed to help community members. In order to do this, the first step is to identify the activities that fall into those two categories which we already provide. As we worked on creating these two lists, I think we were all surprised at how much we came up with! It was exciting to be reminded how much the Lord has already enabled us to do as a congregation. However, there is plenty of room for more of the same! The next step within each of these categories will be to create a list of ideas for new activities.

I will be trying to keep the congregation informed as the planning process continues in the coming months. And hopefully you will also see other signs that progress is being made, even if it is a little bit at a time. In the meantime, please keep our October 8 planning meeting, as well as Rev. Wolfram's visit for our Mission Festival on October 26, in your personal prayers.

I will also repeat here that it is not too late to plan to join us on the 8th, if you are either curious about how the process works or would like to be able to have some input at this stage in the process. New faces are more than welcome!

As we move into the fall and another busy month, may the Lord continue to bless and to guide our congregation, and to keep each of you in His loving care!

In His Service,

Pastor Derek Riddle

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/.

October 2014 Schedule:

October 5

"Show Me the Money? No, Show Me Jesus!"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

St. Paul urges us to get down to brass tacks, face faith facts, and trust in the Good News of God's grace in Jesus. (Footsteps of St. Paul, part 4)

(Ephesians 2:8-10)

October 12

"Today's the Day for God's Grace for All"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

The ruins of ancient Pompeii show how life can change in an instant. (Footsteps of St. Paul, part 5)

(Revelation 7:9-12)

October 19

"God's Peacemakers for a Troubled World"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

Jesus calls and enables us to be peacemakers who share His gifts with others in a broken world.

(Philippians 4:4-13)

October 26

"Keep It Simple and Straightforward"

Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Ken Klaus

The Bible's message is simple and straightforward: the wages of sin is death but the free gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

(Romans 3:22-25)

Board of Stewardship

Coming soon..."Living Each Day as a Steward" is going to be our three-week stewardship emphasis for this year. Stewardship goes on everyday in our Christian life, and through God's grace we are blessed to be His stewards. Pamphlets and devotional books will be coming soon to help us learn and understand more how to be God's stewards. Showing our faith

by the way we live our lives and by staying in God's Word and partaking in Holy Communion gives us the tools to be stewards of what God has given us. Christ lives in us, and we can show others how he lives in us by letting our light shine. To let our light shine we may have to wait a little longer for some of the wants we have so that we can help a neighbor in need, or maybe by sponsoring a missionary. Letting our light shine might also mean giving up some of our own time to help a neighbor or giving some of that time to the church by singing in choir, teaching Sunday School, serving as an officer or visiting the sick and shut ins. All this could be a big step—a step that takes us out of our comfort zone. By having Christ in us, through Word and Sacrament, we can let our light shine by serving where God is calling us.

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!

Stewardship Corner

Giving is a spiritual issue. The Scriptures are replete with how giving and believing go hand in hand, that our trust and faith in God are commensurate with our giving.

In 2013, the Religion News Service reported that the average annual percentage of income given to the church had fallen to 2.3 percent (<http://www.religionnews.com/2013/10/24/report-church-giving-reaches-depression-era-record-lows/>). So, what does this confess about our trust in the God who has given us all that we need for body and soul, not sparing His own Son into death so that we would not die but live? What does this say about our faith, when even the Jew gave at least ten percent, while we, having received the fullness of God's generosity barely give one fifth of that?

Meanwhile, churches and schools fall into disrepair or close their doors because of lack of funding; pastors and teachers live at or under the poverty level; and the State replaces the Church as the source for care of the widow, the fatherless, and the poor. Something is wrong with this. Though we have received generously from our generous God, we have not given in like manner. How can this be? How can we, as Christians and especially as Lutherans, who stake everything on that most beautiful doctrine of justification—that God, out of His divine goodness and mercy, has saved us by grace through faith on account of Christ's death and resurrection without works of the law—not help but give of our income just as generously? How can we who have received so much give so little?

It is a shame, and we need to repent. As the Lord spoke through prophet Malachi, "Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts. But you say, 'How shall we return?' Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, 'How have we robbed you?' In your tithes and contributions. You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need" (Mal 3:7b-10).

Do not these words even cut us to the heart? Are they not true for us even as they were for them? Are we not now reaping what we have sown in faith? We have sown little, we have sown sparingly, and so is our harvest. But what if we were to take the Lord at His word? What if we, like them, were to put Him to the test and give to support the work of the church as our generous God has given all things to us? Would not the storehouses burst open? Would not the windows of heaven pour out blessing upon His church so that they could be a blessing and a light to the world? Imagine it.

But doing it takes faith. It takes trust that the Lord will be faithful just as He promised. For if God has given you His own Son, will He not give you all things? Yes, He will. This is His sure and certain promise. God provides for His people. He provides everything we need for this body and life and for the life that is to come.

Christ's merits have set us free from the tithe. Giving is no longer something we have to do. It is what we do because of what God has first done for us. We give not because we must in order to keep the law. We give as a response of faith, a confession of faith in deed about what God has done and continues to do for us. For in Christ, we are freed from the tithe, freed that our giving is not out of compulsion or reluctance but generously from a cheerful heart and a life richly lived in the forgiveness of all our sins and for the good and blessing of those around us. And a life so lived enriches us all with blessing until there is no more need and thanksgivings to the One who promised to make it happen.

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.

A **Bible Study Survey** was included with the September newsletter. Completed surveys may be placed in the box in the narthex or left in the church office. Extra copies of the survey are available in the narthex. Thank you in advance for taking a few minutes to complete the survey.

Pastor will be teaching a **"What Lutherans Believe" Class** this fall, beginning this coming Tuesday, October 21, at 7:00 p.m. The class, entitled *God For Us: An Introduction to Lutheran Teaching*, will consist of approximately 10 sessions and is intended for non-members interested in learning more about what we believe and teach as Lutheran Christians and pursuing membership at Peace and members interested in a review of what we believe and teach as Lutherans. If you know someone who might be interested in attending, please see Pastor ASAP so that an invitation may be extended.

Jr. High Confirmation Mentors: Pastor is looking for approximately a dozen members of the congregation who would be willing to serve as mentors for this year's Confirmation students throughout the coming year. Mentors will be paired with a student of the same gender and will be asked to stay in touch with your student and pray for them throughout the year. Once the list of mentors has been finalized, a brief training session will be conducted here at the church. If you think you might be interested, please see the **sign-up sheet** in the narthex.

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 if you'd like to read it.

If you would like to donate to this program, you may send money to him directly (as a gift) or donate to Peace Lutheran Church to help offset the \$500 that is coming from fundraising funds for our sponsorship.

October Anniversaries

	Date	Yrs
Steve & Sue Kandal	10/1	31
Mark & Missie Karsten	10/1	26
Kay Don & Audrey Selke	10/7	53
Gayle & Kathy Zimmerman	10/9	10
Larry & Cinda Grulke	10/11	17
Andy & Shana Myers	10/13	13
David & Donna Kaski	10/14	47
Jesse & Jenny Fenstermaker	10/16	15
Nick & Carol Filipiak	10/21	42
Tom & Kay Bruning	10/27	35

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!!

October Birthdays

Robert Heller	10/1
Nancy Mosher	10/1
Lilah Elowski	10/2
Jessie Wenzel	10/2
Erin Fairbanks	10/3
Harold Koviak	10/3
Jane Bruski	10/5
Carol Filipiak	10/5
Jessica Bannasch	10/7
Alvis Wirgau	10/9
Cole Kamyszek	10/10
Lily Lewandowski	10/10
Jeff Karsten	10/13
Tamara Rex	10/13
Jessica Wirgau	10/14
Madison Bingle	10/15
Lauren Fairbanks	10/16
Mary Fairbanks	10/18
Liam Grulke	10/18
Carolynne Schaedig	10/19
Merlin Schaedig	10/19
Alyssa Hein	10/20
Jessica Muller	10/20
Caleb Karsten	10/22
Steven Grulke	10/24
Randy Reisener	10/24
David Schaedig	10/24
Ralph Zempel	10/26
John Hudock	10/27
Nikkie LaLonde	10/29
Mason Suszek	10/29
Sarah Kamyszek	10/31