

# Good News of Peace

October 2016 A.D.

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

## From the Pastor's Desk

... so that we should not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs. – 2 Corinthians 2:11

Dear Friends in Christ,

After a recent Planning Team meeting, I was feeling pretty excited about the future of our congregation's ministry. It had been a productive meeting that evening, and I found myself feeling upbeat about a number of topics we had discussed.

Predictably, my excitement that evening did not last very long and was followed by a couple of "down" days. Perhaps I was just a bit worn out, and a couple of busy weeks finally caught up with me. But whatever the precise reason, within a fairly short period of time my feelings of excitement had been replaced by feelings of dissatisfaction.

Predictably, I say, because in my experience that is what often seems to happen in ministry. A period of being "up" is often followed closely by a period of being "down." Or to say it differently, a time of being able to envision lots of possibilities in ministry often seems to be followed by a time of being able only to see challenges, obstacles, and problems and no easy way around them.

I have come to believe, in my own life, that this is Satan's doing. It is in those times when I am most excited about ministry and feeling the most energized, that I believe he is working the hardest to deter and distract me so that ministry doesn't happen.

We are on the verge, I think, of some potentially exciting times at Peace. Having paid off our mortgage this summer, by God's grace, we are now in a better position as a congregation to consider new ministry possibilities in earnest. Also by God's grace, we are currently at a point in our strategic planning process at which we are ready to begin to identify what some of those specific ministry possibilities might be and, Lord willing, see them start to take shape in the coming months and years.

I believe that there is nothing more that Satan would like, however, than to cause us as a congregation to stall right where we are. In other words, to lead us into an extended "down" time that threatens to overshadow or even erase any progress God has granted in recent months and years. How might that happen? Among other ways, if disagreements and differences of opinion amongst us succeed in producing division and thereby deterring and distracting us from our mission. What has often been true in my own life, I believe is also true within congregational life: when we are "up," I believe that is when Satan is working the hardest to bring us "down."

About division within their congregation, the Apostle Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth:

*I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no division among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. – 1 Corinthians 1:10-11*

To borrow the Apostle Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 2 above, let us not be ignorant of Satan's designs and thereby outwitted. Instead, let us together fix our eyes on Jesus (Hebrews 12:2), forgive as we have been forgiven and strive for unity, and fix our eyes on the Gospel mission which God has entrusted to us.

Paul also urges in his letter to the Ephesians, "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." (4:31-32)

Similarly, in his letter to the Philippians, he writes, "Let your manner of life be worthy of the Gospel of Christ, so that ... I may hear of you that you are standing firm in **one spirit**, with **one mind** striving **side by side** for the faith of the Gospel." (1:27)

I was also struck this past weekend, as we sang them, by the words of the old song:

We are one in the Spirit, We are one in the Lord ...

We will walk with each other, We will walk hand in hand, And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.

We will work with each other, We will work side by side ...

All praise to the Father, From whom all things come, And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son, And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one. And they'll know we are Christians by our love.

God grant it among us, for Jesus sake!

In His Service,

Pastor Derek Riddle

## Board of Elders

Our summer here in northeast Michigan has come to a close for another year. Autumn started on September 22 according to our yearly calendar. It is also harvest time here in Rogers City. Time to get the rest of our produce harvested and put up for the winter months that are ahead of us. Summer is over, vacations are over, and now it's time to get back to our fall routine. Children are back in school, Sunday School has started, Bible Class has started, and church attendance is up. It is also harvest time for our church. The Great Commission says to go and make disciples of ALL nations. It is not just the pastor's mission but the mission of all Christians to go and make disciples. Our mission here at Peace Lutheran Church as a CARING family is to REACH out to all, SHARE CHRIST'S love, and TEACH God's Word. As we read, mark, learn and inwardly digest God's Word through our regular attendance at worship services, Bible Class and having time with God every day at home, doing so will help us grow in our faith. And when our Master calls we can answer quickly, "Here I am, send me, send me!"

The Nominating Committee will be looking for some new candidates for a two-year term. Go to the Lord in prayer, asking for His guidance in leading you in service to Him. If you have any questions about the duties or responsibilities of any board, please ask. Our prayers are also with you. For a little guidance read the hymn "Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying," #496 in the Lutheran Hymnal and #826 in the Lutheran Service Book. May the Lord guide you in your service.

## Board of Evangelism

As part of the Peace Project-Hygiene Pantry distribution, we have given out 45 bags during our past two months. There will be a container by the hygiene room (the old cry room), and if you could help out with any donations, that would be wonderful. All we need are just simple, everyday items like toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, bar soap, dish soap, or laundry soap. At local stores you can purchase shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, and dish soap for only \$1.00 each; it doesn't have to be expensive to help. Thank you.

**Project Connect:** This year our church was asked to collect canned soup. Let's try for 75 cans; we have 19 cans now. At local stores, you can purchase canned soup for \$1.00 a can. Please help if you can; we only have until **October 12th**.

## 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/).

### October 2

"The Only Way to Live: By Faith!"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz

God cares about you, listens to you, and answers your difficult questions with grace and compassion.

(Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4)

### October 9

"Lord, Give Me What I Need -- Give Me Faith!"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz

You don't have to settle for what the world hands you. You can live by faith in the Son of God who heals, forgives, and restores.

(Luke 17:11-19)

### October 16

"Know This Word -- Your Life Depends on It"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz

The Bible provides a strategy for survival in an uncertain world. It can break hearts of stone and replace them with living hearts open to God's truth.

(2 Timothy 3:16)

### October 23

"Running the Race of Faith"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz

Because Christ has already won the victory for us, our race of faith is worth the struggle of the run.

(2 Timothy 4:6-8)

### October 30

"The Best Bequest"

Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus  
A legacy of faith is the best bequest, giving the gift of Jesus to those who come after you.

(Luke 12:19-21)

## Stewardship Corner

Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again. If you believe this gospel, if you stand upon it and cling to it, you are saved. Trust in this is the dividing line. It defines, either positively or negatively, all men. It separates and divides Cain from Abel, Job from his so-called friends, Abraham from Abimelech, Isaac from Ishmael, Jacob from Esau, David from Saul, Daniel from Belshazzar, Joseph from Herod, Lazarus from the rich man, and the tax collector from the Pharisee. What defines men is not whether they are good or bad, but whether or not they believe in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins.

The problem with man is his heart. Our hearts are fallen and predisposed to think that we can impress God. We think that if we do all the right things God will reward us, and we will escape evil. We think that God will be impressed with our gifts, that our prosperity and goodness is evidence that God loves us or that it should motivate God to love us.

But we know better because God has blessed us with the faith of Abel, Job, and Abraham. We know that God's grace in Christ saves us, not our works.

We know that God is not impressed with our giving. He is not impressed when we give Him that which is already His. God doesn't benefit from our giving, and He doesn't need it. But our neighbor does need it. And God delights in us growing more and more like Him. He blesses us, and He invites us to bless one another with our giving: so that the Gospel may be proclaimed, so that the poor may be fed, so that all God's work through the Church may be done.

So consider God's priorities in comparison to your own. And be honest. Reevaluate where you are and where God has called you to be. Look into your own bank statement. Would any accountant think that the Church was your priority? He would see a spreadsheet filled with where your money actually goes: into house and clothing and cars, into eating out and beauty supplies and entertainment. Indeed, much of it wasted on frivolous things. But would he find great percentages going to the church? Figure up the percentage. Put it in relation to the proportion of your income. What percentage of your income do you give for the mission of the church: the preaching and teaching, the baptizing and communing, the help for the weak and poor brothers of Christ? Is it even enough for a deduction when you file your income taxes? The widow gave all she had and thought nothing of it. She was glad to do it. The rich man gave what to him was a meaningless, trifle amount and desired a plaque in his honor. Why is it that the less we give the prouder we are and the more credit we expect?

All your works, even your monetary gifts, done in faith please God now for Christ's sake. No matter how great or small, frequent or infrequent. They are all washed and cleansed by grace through faith on account of Christ. Whatever you do from faith in God pleases Him for the sake of the Son. So reevaluate your generosity in the light of the grace of Christ. Freely you have received, freely give.

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



Visit us on the web at  
[www.peacelcms.org](http://www.peacelcms.org)



Peace Lutheran Church, Rogers City

Click on this hyperlink [www.michiganintouch.com](http://www.michiganintouch.com) to view this month's Michigan in Touch supplement.