

Good News of Peace

September 2015 A.D.

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

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends in Christ,

It is difficult for me not to say at least a few words about our third annual Back to School Night, which took place this past Tuesday evening, August 25. What a tremendous joy to see this event be so successful once again this year. We surpassed our goal of being able to compile 100 bags of school supplies, compiling a total of 117, 18 more than last year. Of those 117, we gave away all but six on the night of the event, which is almost 40 more than the number we gave away at last year's event.

What gave me even more joy this year than the sheer numbers, though, were the sight of the group of attendees eagerly lined up at the door of the Fellowship Hall well before our scheduled starting time of 6:00 p.m., the sight of many unfamiliar faces in attendance; the sights and sounds of a very busy Fellowship Hall for much of the event, and the sounds of the many thank yous shared on the way out the door, along with numerous comments about how helpful the event was to the families who attended.

None of that would have been possible, of course, without the generosity of our members, both in terms of physical donations and in terms of time. We were able to give more school supplies away this year only because we received more school supplies from all of you. And we were able to keep the event running smoothly only thanks to the many members who donated their time in order to be here and to lend their assistance in various ways: organizing and tallying the school supplies beforehand, compiling the bags of school supplies, setting up the Fellowship Hall for the event, at the registration table in the narthex, at the backpack table (we also gave away more than 50 backpacks this year!), helping to point attendees in the right direction, assisting with refreshments, and assisting with craft projects. So a huge thank you to all of you, and especially to Lee Bingle and Lisa Coolman, who served as co-coordinators for the event this year!

It was also very exciting to see so many community agencies and leaders represented at this year's event. That list included the following:

- Lee Bingle, who provided resources on limiting screen time

- Sally Cain, from Early Head Start
- Marilyn Dimick, from RCHS
- Don Dimick, from the Presque Isle District Library
- Dawn Fenstermaker, from Great Start
- Kaelie Fessler, from 4-H
- Beth Getzinger, who provided a number of health-oriented give-aways
- Shana Myers, from Catholic Human Services
- Matt Russ, from Thrivent Financial
- Jennifer Voigt, from St. John's Preschool & Elementary School
- Officer Bredow from the R.C. Police Department
- the Gideons, who sent a couple of representatives to give away Bibles

These individuals participated in the event by making a variety of resources, information, and activities available to the attendees. If you see any of them around the community in the coming days, please join me in expressing our gratitude to them for helping to make the event a success again this year.

What excites me most about this event is that it gives us as a congregation the opportunity to give something of value away to the people of our community, in the name of Christ, while asking from them absolutely nothing in return. It is such a simple demonstration of Christian care and concern, and it really isn't very difficult to pull off when we have so many wonderful people contribute in so many wonderful ways.

The intended message of the event to our community is not a complicated one, but it is, I believe, a powerful one. It is a way of saying that we, as a Christian congregation, exist to demonstrate the love of Christ in and to our community and to serve our community in His name. We are not here simply for ourselves; we are here, as people who have received everything from God, for the benefit of others. We ask nothing in return because that is exactly the way we have first been loved and served by God in Christ.

To this end, each of our bags of school supplies included this message:

“These school supplies are a gift from the members of Peace Lutheran Church. Why are we giving them to you? We simply want to share with you the love we have experienced from God as a free gift. ‘The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord’ (Romans 6:23). ‘We love because He first loved us’ (1 John 4:19). If you want to know more about God’s love for you, or if you are looking for a church home, or if we might assist you in some way, please let us know. We hope you and your family have a great school year!”

In other words, and this should sound familiar by now, this event is one way of demonstrating that we at Peace Lutheran Church are a “caring family, reaching out to all, sharing Christ’s love, and teaching God’s Word.”

For me personally, and I hope for you, too, it is tremendously exciting to be a part of such a community-focused event. What is equally exciting to me is that an event like this is only scratching the surface. There are all sorts of other ways in which might, with God’s continued blessing, do more of the same in the future. Now that we have Back to School Night pretty well figured out, what could be next? I, for one, am excited to find out!

Every blessing to each of you in Christ, as we leave behind the month of August and, with it, the summer, and enter a new school year in the coming days!

In His Service,

Pastor Derek Riddle

Pictorial Directory

Thanks, once again, to everyone who participated in the photography sessions at the end of June for our new pictorial directory. Overall, we received a very positive congregational response. For those who were unable to make it, we are still hoping to schedule a make-up session within the next few weeks and will announce the date as soon as it has been set.

BOARD OF ELDERS

How was your summer? Or maybe we could say where did the summer go? Or maybe just for some ...did we even have a summer this year? For us who live in the area know that summer draws to an end when the Nautical Festival is over. Soon, very soon, the children will be back in school. The gardeners are canning and freezing their vegetables and the farmers are harvesting their crops. Time...it seems to go by so quickly. Hope that you took time to enjoy the summer.

Now is the time to prepare ourselves for the beginning of another Sunday School and Bible Class season. Take time to join in on Sunday morning Sunday School and Bible Class and church. Take time to encourage one another. Ask a family member, a friend, or a neighbor to go to Sunday School, Bible Class and church with you to hear God’s Word. We learn all about Jesus and what He has done for us. Jesus continues to show us the love He has for us. The more we participate in Sunday School, Bible class and church, the more we learn of the love of Jesus and will want to join in every Sunday. See YOU this Sunday! Take time to hear God’s Word and feel the love of Jesus in you heart.

Synod officials say recent videos ‘lay evil bare’

“It had a face. ... Its nose was very pronounced. It had eyelids.” In the seventh Center for Medical Progress video, Holly O’Donnell, ex-procurement technician for StemExpress, describes what she witnessed in a Planned Parenthood clinic: A baby boy, an abortion survivor, was rinsed off and dropped in a pie plate for the procurement of his organs.

She continues, recounting the doctor’s words and her own thoughts: “‘I want you to see something cool, kind of neat.’ ... She has one of her instruments and she just taps the heart and it starts beating. I’m sitting here and I’m looking at this fetus, and its heart is beating. ‘You know why that’s happening?’ I knew why it was happening. It’s because an electrical current, nodes were still firing.”

Her words are heart-stopping.

A child, still alive, is then cut — through the chin and face and forehead — so that his brain can be invoiced and sold. “I can’t even, like, describe, like, what that feels like,” O’Donnell says.

But we as the Church can. It feels like — it is — evil.

The infanticide that is occurring at Planned Parenthood must end. It is not simply time to defund that organization; it is time to end abortion in the United States altogether.

As for us, we can no longer claim that we didn’t know Planned Parenthood doctors killed children so ruthlessly or that we weren’t aware human bodies were cannibalized for their organs.

We can’t just say it’s a woman’s choice or shrug our shoulders and mumble, “Who are we to judge?”

We can’t hide behind the half-truths that women have no other place to find health care or that Planned Parenthood provides millions of mammograms per year.

It doesn’t matter. **None of it matters.**

Children are being killed, their organs are being sold, and their mothers are left with physical scars and — greater still — haunting memories that sometimes never fade. The death of these children is barbaric, and it is evil, and we are without excuse. Silence and attempts at justification are no longer options. The only option is for each one of us to act. Here’s what you can do:

- Participate in the nationwide Aug. 22 Planned Parenthood protest. Search online for protest locations. Give up two hours of your Saturday morning to speak out against the infanticide occurring at these clinics.

- Write a letter to the president and to your congressman or senator regarding this issue. Ask them if they’ve watched the

videos. Tell them why you believe life — no matter how young — has innate worth. Encourage them to end abortion and to defund any organization that performs them.

- Support LCMS Life Ministry. Its staff members are committed to teaching why human lives and bodies matter and why there is hope and healing in Christ.

- Call your LCMS representatives who serve at local, state or federal levels of government. Remind them of their Baptism and confirmation vows, of the faithful confession they are called upon to make, even when it's unpopular.

- Use your social media channels to share pro-life resources or LCMS life-related social media imagery (click on "Religious Freedom Toolkit").

- Share resources from Lutherans For Life, start a life team or kick-start a young adult life team in your congregation.

- Pre-order a new, free resource from the LCMS — the Ultrasound Education Project — that will bring the miracle and sanctity of human life into the middle-school and high-school classroom through the use of ultrasound technology.

We see in these videos how Satan thrives on darkness and chaos, how he delights in baby boys and tiny girls picked apart with sterile utensils. And while we are repulsed and horrified, we no longer have the option to turn away. In this, we have been provided with the biggest opportunity of all: to highlight a still greater need that every person — pro-abortion or pro-life — has for the mercy and forgiveness of Christ.

Without Him, we are all capable of performing equally horrifying acts, of seeing children as nothing more than line items or cadavers. But our Lord is merciful. Because of Him, we have been given consciences that cause us to act and tongues that can speak truth in the midst of evil. We have been given His forgiveness in water and Word, and so we speak it, in turn, to hurting mothers and repentant participants in the deaths of these babies. We have the truth, and we are no longer ashamed to call the deaths of 55 million children what it is: genocide.

Our heavenly Father, it turns out, knows a thing or two about hearts. He knows our own, and He knows each heart of each child, even as He knows their faces and noses and eyelids. We are the reason He allowed His own Son's heart to stop beating for a time, so that ours may thrive for all eternity. In so doing, He shows us His own heart, full of grace, mercy and compassion.

Through each of these videos, He has seen fit to lay evil bare, and by His grace, our hearts and lips are freed to speak, to act, to pray, to repent, to call upon His name and to trust in His heart, which is ever turned toward us in Christ.

It's all that matters.

Rev. Kevin Robson, Chief Mission Officer
Rev. Bart Day, executive director, Office of National Mission
Rev. Heath Curtis, coordinator, Stewardship Ministry
Rev. Dr. Roosevelt Gray, director, Black Ministry
Rev. Joel Hempel, interim director, Specialized Pastoral Ministry
Rev. Dr. Carlos Hernandez, director, Hispanic Ministry, Church and Community Engagement
Rev. Ross Johnson, director, Disaster Response
Rev. Mark Kiessling, interim director, Youth Ministry
Rev. Todd Kollbaum, director, Rural & Small Town Mission
Deaconess Dorothy Krans, director, Recognized Service Organizations
Tracy Quaethem, project coordinator, Life and Health Ministries
Deaconess Grace Rao, director, Deaconess Ministry
Rev. Steve Schave, director, Urban & Inner-City Mission
Terry Schmidt, director, School Ministry
Rev. William Weedon, director, Worship
Rev. Mark Wood, director, Witness & Outreach Ministry
Rev. Marcus Zill, director, Campus Ministry and LCMS U

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/.

September 2015 Schedule:

September 6

"God's Grand Opening"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

God opens hearts to new life and new opportunities, through faith in Christ.

(Mark 7:31-37)

September 13

"There is Something More"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

God has something more in store for all who put their faith in Him.

(Isaiah 50:4-10)

September 20

"Tradition, Tradition, Tradition"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

What role do traditions play in our relationships to God and each other?

(Mark 7:1-13)

September 27

"Free, Indeed"

Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Ken Klaus

When our sins and guilt stick to us like glue, Jesus makes us unstuck.

(John 8:34-36)

Stewardship Corner

What is most striking about the rich man and Lazarus is not their differences but their similarities (Luke 16:19–31). Both men die because both men are sinners, and the wages of sin is death. Both men are beggars, for all men are beggars. But, here is where the most striking difference between them takes shape. Lazarus knows it and lives it. The rich man, however, does not.

Lazarus was a beggar in thought, word, and deed. But, he was God's beggar. He relied upon God for all that he had and all that he was. He looked to God for all things, in good times and in bad. He went to God in all trouble, sought Him for all help, and trusted in His Word and promises to provide for all that he needed for this life and the next. This is, after all, what his name means: God is my help.

The rich man, too, was a beggar. But he didn't realize it. His status, his wealth, his clothing and his food all came from God's gracious hand. But the rich man didn't recognize it. He thought he had earned it, and that he deserved it. And thus, his trust is not in God, who by His Word and promise gives it, but rather in himself, in what he has done, and in what he has.

And so it is that when death comes to Lazarus and the rich man—as it does for all of us because we have all sinned, and death is no respecter of persons—Lazarus is carried by the holy angels to Abraham's side; while the rich man is in torment in hell. The rich man forgot God. He despised being a beggar, and thus, despised Lazarus. He despised God and His Word, and refused to have mercy on those whom God placed at his doorstep.

Now, the tables were turned. What the rich man didn't realize or recognize on earth, he now lived out in torment in hell. He knew what it was to beg. But he still didn't see himself as a beggar of God. He still didn't look to His Father in heaven for all good and help in every time of need. He instead appealed to His status as a descendant of Abraham, calling out Father Abraham and not "Abba, Father" (Gal 4:6; Rom 8:15).

We are all beggars. We brought nothing into this world and we will take nothing out of it (1 Tim 6:7). Everything we have and everything we are comes from God's fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us, for He gives everything to us by grace. Thus, we are to love one another and be generous to one another in thought, word, and deed. For you cannot love God and hate your brother. And hating your brother means not to forgive as you've been forgiven, to give as you've been given to, to love as you've been loved.

We are all beggars. This is true. But we, like Lazarus, are God's beggars. He not only gives us what we need for this body and life—food and clothes, house and home, husband, wife, and children—but He also blesses us with His Word and Spirit, so that we will enter into paradise in the life to come. He claims us as His own by water and the Word in Holy Baptism. In this washing, rich in grace, He gives to us what His Son, Jesus Christ, won for us on His cross: forgiveness of sins. And where there is the forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation. He puts His own name on us, thereby giving to us the right of children, the right to call Him Father and the right to His inheritance as His beloved sons. He gives us a seat at His table, in His house, in His kingdom, which has no end.

Yes, indeed, we are beggars. This is true. But we are beggars of the God who loves us, the God who created us from His love, the God who redeemed us by His love in the sending of His Son to die so that we would live and have life to the full. This is His promise. It's what Moses and the prophets longed to see and of what they spoke. They see it now, not in a mirror dimly, but face to face, just as you shall on the last day.

And as God's beggars, we have mercy on those who would be beggars of us, who rely upon our giving, even as we rely upon the gracious giving of God. We give to our family, our society, our church. He gives; we receive. Thanks be to God. We give; they receive. Thanks be to God. We count it all a joy to give as He has given to us.

Taken from www.lcms.org

September Anniversaries

	Date	Yrs
Mark & Cheryl Kowalewsky	9/3	27
Daryl & Lisa Rhode	9/15	25
Jack & Ruth Myers	9/18	50
Ralph & Cheryl Kortman	9/21	47
Ralph & Natalie Zempel	9/21	30
Larry & Dianne Darga	9/24	49
Randy & Ann Reisener	9/24	38
David & Marsha Grulke	9/25	44
Jeff & Kathy Karsten	9/25	33
Art & Jenny Longoria	9/25	16
Larry & Susan Altman	9/29	31

September Birthdays

Ella Papineau	9/5
Mercedes Russ	9/14
Hannah Schaudt	9/22
Alexis Olden	9/27

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!!



CHRISTMAS IS COMING! And we are seeking elves to help prepare for ROGERS CITY'S CHRISTMAS GIFT. A brief **Cantata Planning Meeting** is scheduled for **7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 2**. By having participants attend and knowing exactly what the agenda entails, this year's cantata presentation on December 13 should be the "best-est" of all. After a brief absence, our community is anxiously awaiting this special gift—and we plan to deliver. It takes more than singing to wrap up this present, so it is hoped that others are willing to lend their talents, smiles, and helpful attitudes. Among those being recruited are:

- ☞ Singers (naturally)
- ☞ Narrator
- ☞ Greeters
- ☞ Actors for (possible) drama presentation, including congregational YOUTH members and adults
- ☞ Pageant Director
- ☞ Wardrobe Coordinator
- ☞ Set Wizard
- ☞ Soundboard technician – if you can play a radio, you qualify
- ☞ Pre-service musicians and/or singers
- ☞ Chairperson(s) for reception
- ☞ Kitchen personnel
- ☞ Reception decorator
- ☞ Clean-up crew

Please bring with you any new ideas to update this community offering. Hope to see you Wednesday at 7:30! Questions? Call Dianne at 734-4721.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the photography sessions at the end of June for our **new pictorial directory**. Overall, we received a very positive congregational response. For those who were unable to make it, we are hoping to schedule a make-up session later this summer and will announce the date as soon as it has been set.