



PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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# ANNUAL REPORT

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*In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song;  
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground, Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My Comforter, my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand.*

[plchutch.org](http://plchutch.org)

400 Franklin St. SW. Hutchinson, MN 🌸 320.587.3031

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A Message from Sr Pastor: John Pasche



Dear Members;

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” (Hebrews 13:8)

Our society always makes a big deal about entering into a new year. This is especially so when that new year also brings with it a new century or decade. 2021 is the start of a new decade. That being said, in popular culture we often view the “0” year as the start of the decade and so we talk about the decades of the “80s” or “90s,” etc. It’s probably easier to talk about the “90s” than to talk about the decade which ran from 1991 through 2000, for example. Regardless, the start of 2021 is a big deal to our world.

People are constantly seeking new beginnings. The changing of the calendar is a common time to wish for such things. People want the new timeframe to be better than the old one. They want better health, or better finance, or better relationships, or better jobs.

In our own congregation, there are certainly things we wish to be better in 2021. COVID has changed our lives. We have worshiped in our parking lot, from home and while wearing masks. We wait for higher church attendance, we want new members, and we want a more stable financial situation. If you look through our congregation’s annual reports from the past 10 years or so, you will see some trends that we wish were different. You will find that our attendance overall is on a steady decline; you will find that each year we spend thousands more on our necessary operating costs than we receive in offerings; you will find that new members have become rarer and rarer.

The reality is that in this world broken by sin there are always going to be things that we wish were better. This is true for individuals and for congregations. Sin causes problems. A world broken by sin is a world full of problems. In the midst of all those things that people would love to see change in 2021, we have reason to be thankful that some things never change. The author of Hebrews spoke to this. **“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” (Hebrews 13:8)** Our Savior does not change. His work for us does not change. His love does not change.

Because of Christ Jesus, “better,” is coming. In fact, perfection is coming. No matter how good things may look for some people in this world, there is no perfection. There is hurt, and heartache, and struggle all around. Yet, for those who trust in Christ Jesus, that will all end one day. He will usher us into the fullness of paradise where all struggles, and hurts, and heartaches are over forever.

Our Lord has not promised us that our church will overflow with members or overflow with money. He has not promised us that we will not struggle as a congregation in the midst of a world which does not want to hear the message of God’s Word. What He has promised us is that He will always be with us to forgive us our sins and to lead us to everlasting life.

Therefore, as Peace Lutheran Church, we continue to work that we may proclaim His Word and administer His Sacraments. He is feeding our faith and leading us to paradise through these Means of Grace. Through us, He offers those same gifts of life and salvation to those in our community. We take joy in having these gifts of our God. God is working in us and through us.

In this life, all people and all churches have uncertainty to one degree or another. Yet, the Christian has certainty. We have the certainty of a Savior who does not change. We have the certainty of a Savior who gives to us forgiveness, life, and salvation in His Word and Sacraments. We have the certainty of a Savior who promises to be with us no matter what we face. We have the certainty of a Savior who will bring us safely home to paradise. These things will not change because our Savior does not change. Amen.

Pastor John Pasche

*...serve him faithfully with all your heart;  
consider what great things he has done for you.*

*1 Samuel 12:24*

## **Peace Lutheran Church Staff**

**Pastors:** John Pasche  
Gerhard H. Bode  
Layton Lemke, Visitation Pastor

**Minister of Operations:** Paul Berg (thru 2/4/2020)

**Director of Music:** Dr. Joan DeVee Dixon

**Director of Children's Ministry:** Sandy Kephart

**Youth Committee Chair:** Becky Puckett (thru 8/1/2020)

**Director of Youth Ministry:** Shannon Campbell (began 8/1/2020)

**Coordinator of Early Childhood Ministry:** Stacy Miller

**Communications Coordinator:** Lisa Kirchoff

**Parish Services:** Marlys Palmer

**Administrative Secretary:** Rebecca Stark

**Bookkeeper/Admin Secretary:** Brianna Quast

**Custodians:** Ken Wornson, Dennis Jannusch, Paul Eitel,  
Sarah Radunz, Hailey Krueger

**Parish Health:** Shirley Wurdell, Renee Clabo



## **Peace Lutheran Church Officers**

**President:** Nick Brellenthin (thru 11/17/20)  
Bob Sylvester appointed (11/24/20)

**Vice President:** Cindy Mons (thru 11/17/20)  
Lynn Brown appointed (11/24/20)

**Secretary:** Coleen Dostal

**Treasurer:** Troy Puckett

**Mission & Ministry Board:** Kim Borka, Chuck Jones,  
Barb Otte, Heidi Sickmann, Shirley Ulbjerg

**Board of Elders:** Robbie Peterson; Chairman,  
Jeff Weckwerth; Secretary, George Quast, John Lietz,  
Matt Markgraf, Matt Evers, Jon Bock

## **Little Lambs Christian Center Staff**

**Director:** Rhonda Hulzebos (thru 11/1/20)

**Director:** Heather Pagel (began 11/21/20)

**Assistant Director:** Heather Pagel (thru 11/20/20)

**Older/Younger Preschool:** Robin Kruse, Angela Kuttner,  
Megan Schlueter

**Toddler Room:** Amanda Lokensgard, Andrea Rubischko

**Infant Room:** Karleen Cowger, Janelle Katzenmeyer,  
Crestin Erikson



## **Little Lambs Christian Center Board**

**President:** Linda Kuhl

**Vice President:**

**Secretary:** Lynn Brown

**Board:** Jamie Sorgatz, Sandra Hall, Lee Ulbjerg



## **Prince of Peace Retirement Living Board**

**President:** Gary Havemeier

**Vice President:** Dan Mahon

**Treasurer/Liaison to PLC:** John Kalenberg

**Secretary:** Cindy Mons

**Board:** Robert Peterson, Bev Wangerin,  
Sue Trautman

**Exec. Director:** Merline Doering

This report provides an overview of some of the ways God blessed Peace Lutheran during 2020, and some of the ways in which our Peace Lutheran family members served. We hope you will be excited and encouraged by what God is doing here, and challenged to grow and be involved in new ways in 2021!





### **A Message from Congregation President: Bob Sylvester**

Dear Members of Peace,

Since being appointed to serve as Mission and Ministry Council president in November, I am thankful for the support many of you have expressed and for the continued faithful service of fellow Council members Kim Borka, Lynn Brown, Coleen Dostal, Chuck Jones, Barb Otte, Pastor Pasche, Troy Puckett, Heidi Sickmann, and Shirley Ulbjerg.

We have been focused on addressing the challenges facing us. Specifically, the Council and Elders established the Link Team to address improving staff communications. Also, a Council subcommittee has been meeting to draft a position description for a Director of Operations. Hiring of a person to manage and evaluate the daily operations of our staff and facility has been identified as a priority.

The Council has welcomed the guidance of Pastor Lucas Woodford, President of the South MN District LCMS, to develop plans for building a solid foundation for our future. The Council and Board of Elders have agreed to engage the reconciliation expertise provided by Pastor Woodford and his staff.

A priority for the Council will be setting goals for the coming year. We will strive to meet those goals while honoring the Lord and confidently plan for the ministry of Peace Lutheran Church. Developing a strategy to successfully carry out the remaining Prescriptions detailed in last year's Congregation Consultation Report will be a high priority.

On behalf of the Council, thank you for your continued commitment to faithfully support our ministry.

"This is a day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!" Psalm 118:24

Bob Sylvester  
President, Mission and Ministry Council

# CONNECT

## *Connect to God and His people in Worship & Music*

2020

### **MUSIC MINISTRY, AV & WORSHIP**

**Director of Music: Dr. Joan DeVee Dixon**

This past year challenged our worship style in ways that none of us could have ever anticipated.

From March through May, all services were live streamed, online only. ONLY our worship leaders, musicians, elders and AV teams were present "in person." The worship services were abbreviated and blended (with both traditional & contemporary elements), in order to serve our congregation's different worship preferences and limit potential exposure to the coronavirus.

In April, we successfully added outdoor parking lot services (with pre-packaged communion cups for every service), which continued for 7 months – through the end of October. We were fortunate to be able to keep our sound equipment in the garage and set up the speakers every week – rain or shine (or snow or sleet!).

First communion for the confirmation class was held in the parking lot and Confirmation was delayed until October, and then was split into two afternoon services. The 10:30 service was allowed "indoors" beginning in June, with limited

capacity. Funerals and weddings were also restricted and most were either delayed or held outdoors.

We have been extremely blessed by everyone's patience and understanding during these difficult times. We are incredibly blessed by the family units who have served as music leaders and AV teams. We are also very grateful for the leadership of the Elders, and their willingness to take on additional responsibilities. Most of all, we are thankful for everyone who has continued to be "safe" and that no outbreaks have occurred here at Peace.

On top of all of this, the church was hit by lighting in August, which struck the Nuvera equipment and the audio video lines in the church and Peace Center. We worked hard to find ways to maintain our weekly AV "live streaming" operational status, process the insurance claim, and complete the replacement installations.

As much as we would like to put this behind us, 2021 is starting out much the same as 2020. As the state guidelines allow us to begin returning to normal, we will endeavor to do so. In the meantime, we are grateful for your online viewing, your patience, your support and your prayers!

### ▶ **Little Lambs Christian Center**

**Center Director: Heather Page!**

LLCC is a place where children can laugh, play, meet friends and learn about Jesus. Our vision statement is based on the desire to teach and nurture the lives of children and families with the love and saving grace of Jesus. LLCC offers care and education for Infants through Pre-K. Each classroom follows the Pinnacle Curriculum, which is a Christian based curriculum. Our outstanding teachers do an amazing job establishing the Christian environment at LLCC. The staff has committed their lives to Jesus Christ and love to teach all what they have learned about him with the children at Little Lambs!

2020

has been an interesting year. LLCC started out strong and our numbers continued to reach the maximum which we could hold. However, when COVID became about, that changed instantly. Even though Little Lambs was able to stay open, we could only offer care to those who were essential workers (Tier 1). We had to provide curb-side pickup because parents were not allowed into the building at that time. Also, with schools going to Hybrid learning, our School Age program was hit hard. Between Hybrid Learning and Distance Learning presented some significant challenges including licensing additional space in the church, staffing needs, ensuring adequate internet access, and continuing to work with all our families fluctuating schedules. As the months went on and the Emergency Executive Order had fewer restrictions, LLCC was able to get somewhat back to a "normal" state. Parents were able to come in and non-essential worker's children were able to come back, as long as everyone was wearing a mask while in the building and people were staying at least 6 feet apart. There was a couple of times LLCC had to shut down/close down rooms because of COVID. But towards the end of the year, LLCC was able to get back in the groove of things again. Even though this was a crazy year, we were again named the Best Preschool/Daycare in Hutchinson for the fourth time in a row! Throughout the year we continued to give the best and nurturing care to all families and children here at Little Lambs.

2021

Looking ahead for LLCC, we will continue to keep our goal in reaching out to our families and our community through the teaching of Jesus Christ. We will be doing this by continuing to read to the children about Jesus and all his teachings in the Bible, teaching the children prayers before every meal, and exploring different activities to help children understand the amazing God we have. LLCC Board of Directors and Little Lambs Staff would like to give a huge thank you to all who are involved in making this ministry possible. Your continued prayers and financial support help us see God's love come through our community every day!



# GROW

*Grow together in God's Word*

## ► Early Childhood Ministry

Early Childhood Ministry Coordinator: Stacy Miller

On Sunday mornings at Sunday School, our Early Childhood Ministry Program teaches 3 years, 4 years, and kindergarteners about Jesus through activities, crafts, music, and Bible stories. Our goal is to instill the importance of life-long relationship with Jesus.  
2020...

January- We sang at Epiphany Sunday as Kings the kids were able to wear crowns.

February- We made Valentines for our friends at Prince of Peace members.

March through May - Due to Covid- 19, we had to move our Sunday School from in person to distance learning and remained that for the remainder of the year. The students continued to receive Sunday School information via emails.

May – We celebrated the graduation of Kindergartners from ECM to Children's Ministry in an Outdoor Service.

June – We had VBS for Little Lambs Christian Center.

October – We had Rally Sunday late due to Covid-19, but we were able to celebrate the start of Sunday school.

November through December – We were distance learning again due COVID-19, but we were still able to participate in the Christmas programs.

2021...

Early Childhood Ministries welcome ALL children to ECM and encourage them to bring friends. Our goal is to continue to teach children how to develop life-long relationships with Jesus that are authentic and encourage them to love whole heartedly. Many thanks to Peace members for your continued support of ECM.



## ► Children's Ministries

Director of Children's Ministry: Sandy Kephart

Reflecting back on 2020, it was a year of some major challenges. In February we lost our dear friend, mentor, and director, Paul Berg. March brought another challenge in navigating through the COVID-19 pandemic. There were many challenges in our nation, our homes, and our community. Through it all, we have been reminded that there is UNSHAKABLE HOPE when we build our lives on the promises of God.

**Sunday School Grades 1-5** - Started September 27th with Rally Day at the Drive-In worship service, followed by an open house. This year the children are following the same Bible study as the adults and youth titled "Unshakable Hope" by Max Lucado. It is our prayer that this will be a tool for families to have discussions at home about what they have learned.

**Pandemic Effect:** Children's Ministry follows all safety guidelines and tries to follow the precautions set by the school. When the school is in session we have "in person" learning as a large group in the Peace Center on Sunday morning. We have also added an after school Sunday school that is held on Wednesdays. This helps to divide our numbers into smaller groups. All students and staff wear masks and social distance. When school is Distance Learning, we also do Distance Learning.

**Thank you to the teachers, Lynn Brown, Michelle Jones, Becky Clabo, Terry Clabo and Mason Clabo, Sadie Jenkins, Leslie Korngiebel-Zeiss** (music).

**Release Time, Grades 2-5** - Started Oct. 21, on Wednesdays from 9:00-10:00 and 10:00-11:00. Students are escorted from Park Elementary to Peace by adults for this program. This year students in Release Time are studying how to be disciples of Jesus. A huge thank you to Mel Klockmann, Mary Henke, and Leslie Korngiebel-Zeiss, for helping out with this program.

**Pandemic Effect:** Peace follows all guidelines including wearing masks, social distancing, and sanitizing. When school is In Person learning, the students come to Peace. When the schools are Distance Learning, a lesson is sent home through e-mail.

**M.A.P (Missions Awareness Program)** - This program occurs every regular scheduled 2 hour late start in the Hutchinson schools. The children gather in the church basement from 8:00-10:15 and enjoy breakfast, a short video lesson, and a mission activity. The children are escorted to Park Elementary for the beginning of the school day.

**Pandemic Effect:** Peace follows all guidelines including wearing masks, social distancing, and sanitizing. Food is not served for this program during the pandemic.

**Christmas Program** - The Christmas program was a major challenge this year. It was incredibly difficult to organize not knowing what we would be allowed to do.

Together as a team, the staff and teachers decided to pre-record the program in its entirety. We also had a banner that could be assembled during the program for those children wanting to participate in person. Most students recorded their parts or music at home, a few chose to come in and have us record here. Thank you to Mary Henke and Shannon Campbell for editing these videos.

**VBS- Gangway to Galilee** - This year restrictions did not allow for a large gathering for VBS. We were able to do a small VBS with the Little Lambs children. The school age was held outside on the lawn. The preschool was held in the basement.

# GROW

*Grow together in God's Word*

## ► Youth Ministries

**Past Youth Committee Chair:** Becky Puckett

Little did we know how precious our time together was at the beginning of 2020. We had Sunday School at Peace Place each week. Following Christmas break, we started a new offering at Sunday School - toilet paper. Our goal was to see how big of a toilet paper tower we could build, and then the plan was to donate it. We didn't know the value this offering would eventually have, but God did! During the great toilet paper shortage, we were able to give toilet paper to our neighbors to let them know we care about their needs during the pandemic.

Other events we had up until the stay-at-home orders were delivering cookies to Prince of Peace residents, playing Gargoyles, packaging meals at Feed My Starving Children, serving a Sunday brunch for the adult Bible class, and hosting the Fish Fry.

During the pandemic, we delivered care packages to neighbors and May Day baskets to residents at Prince of Peace, and even helped with yard work while being socially distanced.

A huge blessing that the Youth program received this year was the hiring of a full-time youth director! Shannon Campbell joined us in August. She was an answer to prayer. Respectfully, Becky Puckett

**Director of Youth Ministry:** Shannon Campbell

The goal of youth ministry is to provide opportunities for the youth to grow in their faith. As with many of the ministries at Peace, COVID precautions affected the ways in which we can reach students, and there was a move to provide distance learning opportunities when meeting in person was not possible. Transformation of Peace Place was begun to prepare for the upcoming ministry season and a Ministry Management Plan was developed to build on what currently is provided and provide additional opportunities for growth and discipleship. In October, our congregation began Max Lucado's Unshakeable Hope Bible study, and Middle School and High School also joined in this study. Our High School Youth group also began meeting in October and have been working through Craig Groechel's book Hope in the Dark: God is Good when Life is Not as well as enjoying time to fellowship.

**Trick or Treat for the Food Shelf**, a community-wide youth event, was well attended by Peace Lutheran youth and collectively, the community brought in more food than in previous years.

**Our Christmas program** looked a lot different this year, but the one thing that came out of it was increased participation by whole families as well as middle school and high school students!

**2021:** While there are a lot of unknowns due to COVID, we are continuing to look for ways to engage the youth. We want to provide opportunities for fellowship, faith growth, discipleship, outreach, and worship. Some known events will be our Annual Fish Fry (March 12), opportunities to serve at Feed My Starving Children and Matthew Dinners hosted at Peace Lutheran, and a community-wide Unity Event in April for youth. We are currently looking into domestic mission trip options, and other activities we can do as a youth group, as well as the possibility of a youth discipleship intensive program.

## ► Prince of Peace Retirement Living

**Executive Director:** Merline Duering

Greetings and salutations, Prince of Peace Retirement Living (POPRL) was established in 1995. Our mission has been successful and sustainable by the Grace of God, the staff, and the Board of Directors.

Destini Doring, our Services and Fundraising Coordinator, had a successful year with fundraising efforts, offerings of education, and our Inter-generational Program. From virtual education classes to pen pals from Park Elementary our residents had options to keep them busy.

We want to thank all of our volunteers and friends who offered assistance and dropped off gifts for our residents. 2020 was a trying year with social distancing, especially for our seniors in the community. Without the thoughtfulness of PLC members, this year would've been very difficult for many of us. We were blessed with grocery drop offs, plants, the beautiful pictures, and much more - our hearts are full.



By the Grace of God and continued prayers and support of the members of Peace Lutheran Church, the mission of Prince of Peace Retirement Living will continue to flourish.

Enjoy Life (Psalm 118:24)

Merline Duering, Executive Director

### 2020

Our expansion is complete! We now have:

- 11 more large one bedroom apartments
- 14 more garages
- Renovated and centrally located offices
- Expanded and renovated Fireside Lounge
- New Exercise Room
- New senior- friendly Tub Room
- New Family Room
- Expanded and renovated Library

# GROW

## *Grow together in God's Word*

### ► Confirmation (6 grade)

Pastor John Pasche

COVID has affected the 6th grade confirmation class in the same ways as our 7th and 8th grade classes. The 6th grade year better prepares our students for their 7th and 8th grade years. 6th grade has been focusing on a better understanding of the Bible. A majority of the year will be spent on discussing the books of the Bible. And we will complete the year with lessons on worship and a preview of the 6 chief parts of the Lutheran faith. If you would like to help or learn more about Confirmation or being a mentor, please contact Pastor John Pasche.



### ► Confirmation (7-8 grade)

Pastor John Pasche

Truly, COVID has no bounds when it comes to affecting our lives. May of 2020 did not allow for our traditional Confirmation Sunday. It was moved to Reformation Sunday, 2020. Our confirmands were able to go through the rite of Confirmation in two afternoon Confirmation Services.

It was a wonderful way to try some new things due to COVID and the seating restrictions. There has been discussion about the possibility of changing to a ninth grade, Fall Confirmation. And there were positive responses to having separate services for confirmation. Discussions will continue as we plan for Confirmation in 2021!



We have been following the public school system for when to be in person and when to teach virtually. This has been a challenge for parents and our students. It is clear that this has had an impact on learning and interaction. We continue to look to the future when we can live without the worry of COVID.

The 7th grade was able to attend a Fall Camp Omega Retreat. And it looks like the 8th grade class will close out their year with a similar retreat. The retreats have become a great opportunity to get to know the students outside of a class room setting. Sadly, this year we have not had our small groups. Nor have we had mentors. The students miss this interaction and the value of gathering for further discussion of the lesson. We look forward to the time when this will return. If you would like to help or learn more about Confirmation or being a mentor, please contact Pastor John Pasche.

### ► Post High School

Pastor John Pasche

Peace Lutheran has set a goal to reach out to those students who have recently graduated from High School or are currently away furthering their education. I am so thankful for the support and hard work on the part of our Peace Lutheran members. We are tracking the ongoing changes to students contact information. Peace Lutheran has been working to establish "authentic relationships" with these students.

Our prayer is that they know their church continues to provide prayer and support wherever they might be. And that we would like to help them get connected to an active church life while they are away from their home. Again helping them to understand how the Lord helps us to grow in our faith and serve in His name. We continue to look at ways to reach out throughout the year - mailing devotions, sending words of encouragement, etc. If you would like to help with or learn about this ministry contact Pastor John Pasche.



# GROW

*Grow together in God's Word*

## ► Adult Education

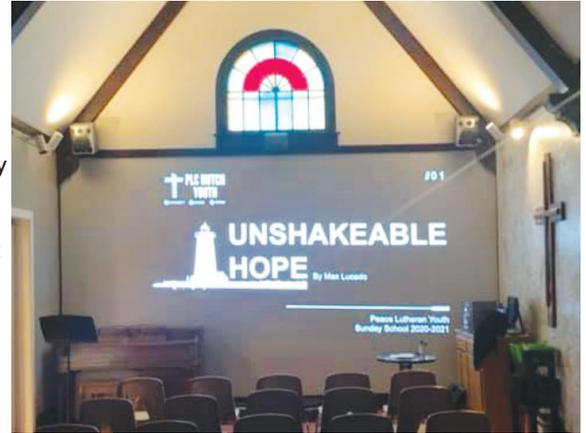
**Paul Berg (Jan.-Feb.)**  
**Sandy Kephart (July-Dec.)**

As I write this report, I think about how incredibly blessed Peace Lutheran was to have had Paul Berg directing our Christian Education. The last study he had previewed for our Small Group Bible study was "Unshakeable Hope" by Max Lucado. When we talked about this study, he had no idea of the events that would happen throughout the year. He didn't know of the Covid-19 pandemic and how it would affect our lives, the crazy election, riots in our cities, and the many other struggles that occurred.....but there are no surprises to God, He knew. I sit in awe at knowing God had used Paul to reach his people here at Peace through this Bible study. It reminded us through different accounts in the Bible, that there is Unshakeable Hope when we build our lives on the promises of God.

**Pandemic Effect:** Small group Bible studies practiced social distancing, wearing masks and sanitizing practices. Most groups were able to meet as usual.

### **Members currently hosting Small Groups:**

Doug/Lynn Brown, Jan Bakken, Cyndi Fallon, Debbie Koglin, Mary Henke, Nick/Les Brellenthin, Paul Otte, Pastor Bode, Marlys Palmer, Sandy Kephart.



## ► Visitation Ministry

**Visitation Pastor:** Layton Lemke

### **2020 VISITATION REPORT**



Whoever would have thought 2020 would have turned into the scenario we have experienced. We have been humbled as a nation and as individuals as we have dealt with the various consequences from Corona 19, natural catastrophes, political trauma, and the usual pains and problems of everyday life and living. We have been bombarded with bravado, falsehoods and untruths so much so that sometimes we don't know what is the real truth. Pilate asked the question originally, "What is truth?" shortly before Christ was condemned and crucified. - In the midst of all this our faith is challenged as well, but we can remember "I am the Lord your God....I will never leave you or forsake you...I am with you always to the close of the age....Come unto me all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.... Your sins are forgiven.....I go and prepare a place for you, and will come again and take you to Myself." - - So we move into a new year holding to the old truths from God himself. And that is how I

envision my visitation ministry, helping people know, feel and be reassured that God the Father loves them and surrounds them with His love, mercy and grace for living and for dying. - - My ministry is not as personal as it had been, but I contact and do write devotional letters sent out on the 10th, 20th, and 30th of each month and do in home visits as safe and appropriate, facilities as permitted. I recently did a devotional/communion setting via ZOOM, requested by The Pines and Oaks. Ministry is happening, but in different forms and formats. And we remember it is always the Holy Spirit who "calls, gathers, enlightens, sanctifies and keeps us in the faith." The old always gives way to the new, but the Lord is still Lord of all. - - Blessings to all members of Peace supporting all forms of ministry, and my thanks to you for the opportunities of this visitation ministry.

Pastor Layton Lemke

**To read Pastor Lemke's Devotions visit [plchutch.org/resources-media/](http://plchutch.org/resources-media/), scroll down to Pastor Lemke's Visitation Devotions.**

# SERVE

*Serve Christ with our Words, Service and Resources*

## ► Board of Elders

**Chairman:** Robbie Peterson, Jeff Weckwerth, **Secretary,** Matthew Evers, Matthew Markgraf, Jon Bock, George Quast, John Lietz

The Board of Elders consists of ten elected men from our congregation. The Elders meet once a month. In 2020, Robert Sylvester and Eric Gehrke were elected at the annual meeting to join Robbie Peterson, Jeff Weckwerth, Matt Evers, Matthew Markgraf, Jon Bock, John Lietz, John Housenick, and Ross Wendling on the Board of Elders. Part way through the year, John Housenick resigned his position when he left Peace Lutheran. George Quast agreed to complete his term. Later in the year, Chairman Eric Gehrke and Ross Wendling also resigned their positions. These were not filled. Robbie Peterson moved into the position of Chairman, leaving the Vice Chairman position empty. Jeff Weckwerth is the Secretary.



2020 was an interesting year. Services were held as normal until March. Once Covid-19 hit, the Elders needed to be creative to find ways to hold worship services. Beginning with Holy Week, services were held in the church parking lot and continued this way through October. At this point, all services were able to be held in the church sanctuary. Church services were, and still are, available for people to view online or on Facebook.

## ► Trustees

**Co-Chairs:** Justin Evenson, Marvin Seller  
Louis Schmeling, Mike Fallon, Roger Kaufmann, Ron Swenson,  
Jerry Haag, Terry Knoll, Nate Blom, Travis Brecht

Special thanks to Joe Keilen for faithfully checking the boiler every week!

### 2020 Trustee Committee Projects Completed

#### Peace Place

- Entire building power washed
- East side of building painted
- Landscaping redone on east side of the building
- Parking lot dirt pile removed, fence cleaned, shed moved, tree removed, stump removal, three large boulders removed and grass seed planted
- Refurbished exterior cement steps on east side of building
- New interior paint and general reorganization of rooms
- Garages cleaned and reorganized

#### Grounds

- Tree trimming and removal on boulevard and around church
- New cement ramp to the church utility room exterior door installed, exterior door sanded and repainted

#### Church Basement

- Storage room reorganized and shelves installed

#### Church Building

- Replaced water heaters at LLCC and Peace Center Kitchen
- Installed all new LED lights around outside of church building
- Set up and take down of Christmas trees in Sanctuary and Commons

#### Bell Tower

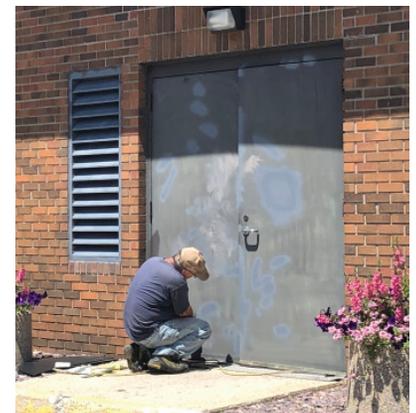
- Tuck pointing (east, north, and west side) as well as other locations around church building

#### Parsonage

- Plumbing and heating issues addressed
- Garage door wiring installed

### Projected 2021 Projects

- **Bell Tower** - South side of bell tower in need of tuck pointing
- **Church Basement** - Replace and remove carpeting
- Install updated WIFI router
- **Education Building** - Install updated WIFI router 10



# SERVE

*Serve Christ with our Words, Service and Resources*

## ► Parish Health Ministry

**Members:** Renee Clabo, Mary Haag, Sally Moehring,  
Marith Witte, Shirley Wurdell

2020 has been difficult for the Parish Health Ministry as it has been for others. We were able to continue the monthly Bloodmobiles. We made and provided masks for donors and volunteers when disposable masks were not yet available to help slow the spread of Covid 19. In spite of the pandemic, we were able to collect 1,430 units of blood and had over 20 first time donors. Because every donation could save up to 3 lives, 4,290 lives may have been saved by what was collected here at Peace. Someone needs blood in the US every 2 seconds. There is no substitute. The Red Cross is very appreciative of our hospitality and willingness to continue during these days when many drives have had to be cancelled, often because of lack of volunteers.



The Driver Discount/Improvement Program held one 8 hour class for 10 first time participants and 73 people attended refresher classes. That's 83 safer, more informed senior drivers on our roads.

We continue funding the Taxi to indoor services, helped Common Cup with the warm coat collection and diaper distribution, offered Blood Pressure checks and reusable masks for anyone that asked. Volunteers have continued to make Prayer shawls and we have given out many with the help of Pastor Lemke.

Parish health has helped keep the building safe during the Covid 19 fight by supplying a Misting device that can clean large surfaces quickly. It is being used in Little Lambs and can be used in areas like kitchens, bathrooms, dining areas etc. Where it is not appropriate the surfaces are wiped down, including the pews between Sunday Services and door knobs and railings before all services.

## ► Congregational Services

**Members:** Judy Radunz, Jan Klockmann, Diane Lind, June Beach,  
Marsha Volkenant, Nina Mattkins, Marlys Palmer

Congregational Services, like several groups, has had an unusual year with many plans not being able to be carried out. The early part of 2020 we were planning for upcoming events such as assisting with the Fish Fry, our Mystery Tour, some day trips, and working with the youth to bring Valentine cookies to residents at Prince of Peace. We did manage to work with our youth to deliver cookies to POP residents and we assisted with the Fish Fry. Then for many months we were not allowed to meet regularly but managed to keep in touch periodically by phone. With some adjustments to our baking and selling routine, we were able to keep the Annual Cookie Sale in December. We used lots of masks, gloves and sanitizer and the sale took on a new look. All the cookies were prepackaged, preweighed, priced and displayed on tables. This system was so well received that from now on we will most likely follow that plan. We would like to thank everyone who supports our activities. One of our goals is to offer good Christian fellowship in all areas of our life here at Peace no matter if it is working at the Fish Fry or enjoying a day at a Mystery Tour. We pray 2021 will be a year of recovery for everyone and we can once again enjoy each other's company. We are currently planning a trip to Branson in November and the Mystery Tour along with projects to recognize various groups in the community.



Many thanks are due to the faithful committee members: June Beach, Marsha Volkenant, Jeanette Ebnet, Barb Marquardt, Pat Buytaert, Marlin Haag.

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully, administering God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10



# SERVE

*Serve Christ with our Words, Service and Resources*

## ► Dorcas: Women in Mission

**President:** Sharon Christensen, **Secretary:** Carol Kubasch,  
**Treasurer:** Melva Plath, **Christian Life:** Nona Anderson,  
**LWML Deligate:** Barb Otte, **LWML Alternate:** RoxAnn Lauer,

The Dorcas Society meets the second Thursday of each month to conduct its meetings as members of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League - Minnesota South District. The focus of Dorcas is mission work both local and outreach projects. Dorcas is divided into groups and committees. This year due to the Covid - 19 pandemic, the Dorcas did not meet every month.

1. **Due to the Covid - 19 pandemic**, the Funeral Group served a limited number of funerals in 2020. Donations received from families and offerings from others go toward our funding.
2. **The Cheer Committee** visits shut-ins monthly, but due to Covid - 19 visits were only made from January to March. Cards are also sent to shut-ins. Lutheran hour sermons were taken to Prince of Peace and Ecumen Oaks for Peace members.
3. **The Mission Service Group** meets two to three times each month to make quilts. Due to Covid - 19, the group met a limited number of times, but still made 103 quilts. Layettes are also made and sent to Lutheran World Relief. Most of the work on layettes has been done at member's homes. Seventy-five layettes were made.
4. **The Dorcas supports a student**, Nicholas Wagenknecht, at Concordia Seminary, through the time of his ordination.

If you would like more information on the Dorcas at Peace Lutheran, visit the website [plchutch.org/serve/mission-trips/#dorcasmwomeninmission](http://plchutch.org/serve/mission-trips/#dorcasmwomeninmission).  
Respectfully submitted, Carol Kubasch, Secretary

### MISSION PROJECTS 2020

**January** - \$282.00 Lutheran Hour - 3 Broadcasts, \$20.00 LWML MN South Districts - Memorials

**February** - \$500.00 LCMS Disaster Relief Fund \$200.00 Common Cup

**March-May** - \$249.75 Large Print Portals of Prayer, \$100.00 Concordia Seminary - Helpers of Joy, \$45.00 LWML MN So Dist - Memorials

**June** - \$249.75 Large Print Portals of Prayer, \$500.00 LCMS National Missions

**July** - 0

**August** - \$500.00 Nicholas Wagenknecht, Concordia Seminarian,  
\$100.00 Stronghold Cambodia, \$100.00 LWML MN So Dist Treasuries,  
\$200.00 Common Cup, \$25.00 MN South District - Memorial,  
\$249.75 Large Print Portals of Prayer

**September** - \$200.00 First Lutheran School of Glencoe - Tuition for 2 Peace Students,  
\$500.00 Little Lambs, \$500.00 Peace Youth Ministries

**October** - \$200.00 LWML MN South District Mites, \$479.00 LWML McLeod  
Zone, \$50.00 LWML MN South District - Memorials

**November** - \$200.00 Samaritan's Purse, \$100.00 McLeod Alliance

**December** - \$500. Nicholas Wagenknecht, \$258.75 Large Print Portals of Prayer

**TOTAL: \$6,319.**

**TOTAL MITE OFFERINGS: \$1,363.98**



## ► Prayer Chain

**Members:** Annette Kohler, Arlene Benshoof, Lynn Brown, Sandra Hall, Phyllis Hecht, Nancy Pasche, Joyce Young

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God." Philippians 4:6

The members of the Prayer Chain respond with confidential intercessory prayers of spiritual and physical needs when requests are received. Prayers of thanksgiving and praise are also offered when God sends answers. It is a privilege to offer prayers for our church family and others when requested. We are grateful for the confidence placed in the Prayer Chain members to come before our Heavenly Father on your behalf. You are encouraged to include in your personal prayers the prayers suggested in the monthly prayer calendar.

Requests for prayer can be made by calling Annette Koehler at 587-6484 and/or the church office at 587-3031.



# SERVE

*Serve Christ with our Words, Service and Resources*

## ► Community Outreach

### **Matthew 14:16**

Today, within the family at Peace Lutheran and the community of Hutchinson, there are those in need of something to eat, especially towards the end of each month. The mission of the "Matthew 14:16 Ministry" is to provide a nutritious meal once a month to those in need. The meals are served in an atmosphere encompassed in the love of Jesus through respect, dignity, joy, and caring hospitality. The meals are served from 5:00-6:30p.m. every third Friday of the month. There are three ways in which you can assist: 1) Pray for the Matthew 14:16 Ministry. 2) Help in preparing and serving the food. 3) Serve as a table host (sitting and eating with the guests who attend).

**Pandemic Effect:** Meals were served in the Peace Center when the food restrictions from the government allowed it. Health precautions were in place such as social distancing, gloves, masks, and sterilizing all surfaces. Take out was available when "In person" dining was not allowed.

### **REACH Outreach Dinner**

Families come together at Peace Lutheran each December to celebrate a group of students at a "Holiday Celebration Outreach Dinner" hosted jointly by the Hutchinson High School REACH program and Peace Lutheran. We serve approximately 350 people at the dinner—it's a wonderful evening in recognizing the accomplishments of students and working together with the students to serve the community.

**Pandemic Effect:** Due to restrictions on food service and safety concerns, this event was postponed. It is our hope to try again possibly in March.

### **Operation Christmas Child**

In November, Peace participates in Operation Christmas Child. This program packs shoeboxes filled with gifts and delivers them to children in need around the world. Every one of these shoebox gifts is an opportunity for the Gospel. We are in our 8th year. In 2020 we packed 200 shoeboxes. Thank you for the kind donations to support this mission.

**Pandemic Effect:** Social distancing while packing, face masks, hand sanitizer, smaller groups packing.

### **Good Samaritan**

Through kind donations to the "Good Samaritan" fund, Peace has been able to offer emergency help to those in need in our community. Thank you for the generous donations to this fund. If this is a ministry you feel moved to support, please contact the finance office.



## ► Common Cup

Although, 2020 has been a trying year, Common Cup has continued to serve those in need in the best way possible. Thank you to Peace Lutheran Church members and organizations for their generous support financially and of diapers, school supplies, backpack items, food shelf, coats for the warm coat drive, Thrift Shop donations, personal care and laundry products. Your continued support will be gratefully appreciated.

Volunteers are always welcome. For more information and ways to volunteer, contact Bev Bonte, CCM Director at [commoncupmn@gmail.com](mailto:commoncupmn@gmail.com) or her direct office line 320-234-8344.

## ► Congregational Fund

**Committee Members:** Marc Max, Jim Wendling, Scott Haag, Bonnie Lickfelt, Connie Lambert

The Congregational Fund Committee established in 1993 to encourage members and friends of Peace Lutheran Church to make lasting gifts and bequests that will continue serving in their memory long after the gift is made. It is set up as an endowment fund with only the interest allowed to be used by the church.

Currently, all interest earned from the Congregational Fund is being directed to help pay for the building mortgage at Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF). The Congregational Fund is contributing \$5,000/mo. towards the \$17,577.37 monthly payment that is made to LCEF.

The committee is available to serve and assist you, collectively or individually, should you have questions regarding wills, trusts, estate planning, etc. please contact the church office or any of the members.

# SERVE

## *Serve Christ with our Words, Service and Resources*

**YOU'RE AWESOME!!** Peace is truly blessed to have dedicated volunteers that are committed to giving their time and talents to support the many ministries of Peace Lutheran Church. Thank you for being a vital part of our ministry!

### **Commons Desk/Office**

Karen Burzynski  
Diane Lind  
Barb Marquardt  
Betty Ruskamp  
Arlene Schmeling  
Arlene Benshoof  
Joanne Spiering  
Judy Radunz  
Joyce Tews

### **Grounds/Gardeners**

Marvin Seller  
Kathy Maiers  
Arlene Benshoof  
Corinne Higgins  
Linda Luedtke

### **Altar Guild**

Betty Ruskamp  
June Beach  
Delores Reiner  
Marith Witte  
Karleen Cowger  
Rebecca Stark

### **Commons Decor**

Sally Moehring  
Lisa Kirchoff  
Sandy Kephart  
Kay Haag  
Carol Swenson

### **Greeters & Readers**

Thank you to ALL Greeters & Readers! You are an important part of worshipping our Lord and Savior, we thank you.

### **Kitchen Committee**

June Beach  
Marsha Volkenant  
Jeanette Ebnet  
Barb Marquardt  
Pat Buytaert  
Marlin Haag  
Judy Radunz  
Jan Klockmann  
Diane Lind  
Nina Mattkins  
Marlys Palmer

### **Audio Video Teams**

Kevin Schmuhl  
Eric, Cassie, Monica, Gina, Zac Padrnos  
Ross and Megan Peterson  
Brian, Rachel, Cole and Reese Gartner  
Justin, Brandon and Michael Evenson  
David Hines  
Darrel Rusch  
Connor Reiter  
Ben Sickmann  
Shannon Campbell  
Jacquelyn Dixon  
Matt Evers family (2021)  
Troy Puckett (2021)

### **Publication Folders**

Cyndy Fallon  
Dolores Barlau  
Arlene Benshoof  
Harriet Burich  
Darlyn Egge  
Mike Fallon  
Delton & Arliss Haag  
Jerry & Mary Haag  
Sandra & Duane Hall  
Brad Havemeier  
Marlene Hettver  
Don & Phyllis Hecht  
Marjorie Huls  
Roger Kaufmann  
John & Sandi Lietz  
Bev & Lyle Lochner  
Nina Mattkins  
Margaret Messner  
Diane Neubarth  
Shirley Otto  
Marlys Palmer  
Don & Irene Rasmussen  
Allan & Delores Reiner  
Darrel & Shelley Rusch  
Joyce Tews  
Marsha Volkenant

### **Song Leaders/Praise Team**

Renae McKimm  
Jim Wendling  
Gene Ebnet  
Deb Wiprud  
Ken Quast  
Brianna and Tristan Quast  
Amy Paulson  
Becky and Grace Puckett  
Erika Urban  
Shannon Campbell  
Kenny Wornson  
Dennis Jannusch

### **Handbells**

Paul Otte  
Jeff, Melissa Weckwerth  
Nathan, Eleanor, Audrey Weckwerth  
Elayna Markgraf  
Cheryl Huls  
Sharon Gruenhagen  
Angela Bacon  
Karla Wosmek  
Liz Brusehaver  
Renee Clabo  
Jacquelyn Dixon  
Sandra Hall  
Jadon Clabo  
David Hines  
Jennifer Schlueter

### **Peace Brass & Instruments**

Jeff, Nathan, Eleanor, Audrey Weckwerth  
Elayna Markgraf  
Ryan Peterson  
Jadon Clabo  
Ben Sickmann  
Connor Sturges  
Cole Meyer  
Nicholas & Anton Cox, violin

### **Chief Usher**

Mike McKimm  
**Assist. Chief Ushers:**  
Marlin Haag  
(MID WEEK) John Lietz

### **Team #1 (8:00)**

Glenn Witte  
Doug Witte  
Scott Lund  
Brian Koehler  
Skip Sustacek

### **Team #2 (8:00)**

Rod Huls  
Wally Kohls  
Allan Fuchs  
Rusten Huls

### **Team #3 (10:30)**

Ross Wendling  
Chris Solien  
Marc Max

### **Team #4 (8:00)**

Marlin Haag  
Troy Kurth  
Mike McKimm  
Nic Tews  
Owen Streich  
Scott Streich

### **Team #5 (10:30)**

Dale Froemming  
Bryce Cassens  
Joel Haag  
Dale Schumann  
Robbie Peterson  
Ross Peterson

### **Team #6 (10:30)**

Weston Plath  
Travis Brecht  
Brad Havemeier  
Gary Havemeier  
Ethan Kaufmann  
Roger Kaufmann

### **Mid-Week Services**

John Lietz  
Louis Schmeling  
Delton Haag  
Mel Klockmann  
Doug Brown

**We would also like to thank ALL Board members, teachers, mentors & committee groups at Peace ~ who tirelessly give their time and resources in carrying out our mission . . .**

**We are a loving community, called by God's grace – that all know the Peace of God.**

**If you would like to volunteer on a group or committee, please call the church office - 320-587-3031, everyone is welcome!**

# FINANCIALS

*Serve Christ with our Words, Service and Resources*

▶ **2020 Financial Report:** Treasurer: Troy Puckett

Please call the church office for a copy of the Financial Report, 320-587-3031.