

Peace Lutheran Church



400 Franklin St. SW | Hutchinson MN

Phone: (320) 587-3031

Prayer Chain: (320) 587-6484

Website: www.plchutch.org

Email: office@plchutch.org

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

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST | AUGUST 21, 2022

PASTOR: Glenn Meyer
ELDERS:
Saturday 6:30 George Quast
Sunday 8:30 Dale Schumann, Jeff Weckwerth
Sunday 10:00 Wayne Vinkemeier
Greeters
Sunday 8:30 Mary and Jerry Haag

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please sign the Friendship Pad in the pew and pass it along to others, as it is passed back to the center aisle, please take the opportunity to note the name of others seated in your pew; or you may sign the attendance pads provided in the Narthex. Attendance pads are also provided for your use at the outdoor services and can be found on the table near the bulletins.

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

6:30pm - Saturday - Sanctuary
8:30am - Sunday - Sanctuary
10:00am—Sunday - Outdoors *

*(In case of rain, in the Sanctuary) This schedule will continue through Labor Day Weekend.

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS through Sept 2nd

The church office is open Monday—Thursday, 9 am—4pm and 9 am—noon on Fridays. The office will be closed on Mon. Sept. 4, Labor Day.

Pastor Meyer will be out of the office Monday, August 22 – Friday, August 26. For an emergency please contact the church office, 320-587-3031. Pastor James Fuchs is Pastor on call. 612-859-9686.

WE ♥ OUR VOLUNTEERS!

A HUGE **THANK YOU** TO THE VOLUNTEERS THAT HELPED MAKE OUR ANNUAL GARAGE SALE THE SUCCESS THAT IT WAS THIS PAST WEEK! Also many thanks to members and community people who came and shopped!! It was great seeing so many people support PLC.

REGISTER FOR FALL PROGRAMS TODAY!

It's "Back to SUNDAY School" time! **Please register your child to join us** as we grow in our knowledge of God's Word and in our love for Jesus our Savior. **Plchutch.org**

RALLY SUNDAY— SEPTEMBER 11 Lets celebrate! It's a new school year of learning and growing in God's Word! On **Sunday, September 11** we will celebrate Rally Sunday with an Open House at 9:15. Meet in the Peace Center for refreshments, music, a short devotion, handing out Bibles to children, meeting the Sunday School staff, and parents and children seeing the classrooms. This celebration is for **ALL** members (not just those families with children) as the adults will also begin their class that morning.

NEED A PICK ME UP? - Call the Taxi at 587-7878 and tell them you need a ride to worship services at Peace. Parish Health will pick up the tab. If you have questions, call Shirley Wurdell at 587-5064.

SAVE THE DATE—ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL & POLKA SERVICE with CHUCK THIEL, **SAT, SEPT 17th**; Serving begins at 5, Music 5:15-6:15, Worship at 6:30

MENU: Sloppy Joes, Scalloped Potatoes, Baked Beans, Apple Crisp w/Ice Cream, Ice Cream Sundaes or Root Beer Floats & Beverage. \$9.00 suggested donation.

The **Red Cross collected 129 units** at Peace on August 9th. To all the volunteers and donors, **THANK YOU** for supporting this great cause!

The August LWML Mite calendar and the Children's Coins for Jesus calendars are available at the LWML bulletin board. Your mites and coins help fund mission work of LWML. Donations can be dropped off in the Church office. Thank you for your continued donations.

Our **Promise Keepers Bible Study** group is beginning a series on "Christmas in a 'Woke' World". We meet on Tuesdays or Wednesdays at 6:30pm. If interested, please call Paul Otte (320) 583-8873.

Please pray for Peace members

Scott Hilgeman	Elaine Lewerenz
Ron Janke	Jeanne Cassens
Rita Janke	Shirley Burmeister
Julie Elder	Ron Swenson
Shirley Miller	Angela Alsleben
Sandra Hall	Rueben Draeger
Janelle Woller	Etheline Clasen
Barb Ribar	

If you know of someone who is ill or hospitalized, or would like a pastoral visit, contact the church office at (320) 587-3031.

Worship Bags for Children are in the red wagons in the chapel, Peace Center and narthex. Children may use bags during worship and return it to the wagon.

EXTRA GARDEN PRODUCE If you have extra garden produce that you would like to share with Peace members, please drop it at the table in the Commons Area. If any is left over, it will be taken to the McLeod Emergency Food Shelf. Peace members providing community support!

A Letter & Report from Pastor Glenn Meyer concerning our WORSHIP TIMES STARTING SEPTEMBER 11, 2022

Please know that a lot of listening & prayer went into the eleven options I presented to the joint meeting of the elders & council on Tuesday, August 16. I responded to questions. I shared pros and cons for various options. After discussion, a decision was made by those present.

I have had numerous conversations touching on different aspects of our weekend worship, fellowship and Christian education efforts and schedules going forward here at Peace Lutheran. I struggled between two very different worship schedule proposals during my first three weeks here at Peace. I tried very hard to come up with a workable approach to us returning to worship at 8/9:15/10:30. As I reviewed the following concerns & goals, I could not find a way to make three Sunday worship times work in a sustainable manner. Especially, looking ahead to the likelihood of only having one pastor (our next called resident pastor) and my desire and likely his desire to be able to lead a Sunday Morning Bible Class. Leading such a class gives us all time together in God's Word and a chance to also address questions and concerns that members might have in an open and timely fashion. Also, having a schedule that encouraged families to want to worship together was a weighty consideration.

Please know that I have heard many ideas and concerns. Please know that I have taken each comment and idea very seriously. I have learned that no matter what we do, it will not be a perfect solution. Some different valid concerns each need different answers. There is NOT a perfect answer. I ask you to understand and accept that what was decided is, all things considered as we sit at the feet of Jesus... the best we were able to come up with at this time.

Each does not get our 'first choice'. We will all have opportunities for worship, fellowship, Sunday School and Bible Class. We will strive to make this all work, doing the very best we can, that God may be glorified in what we say and do and that God's people would be encouraged and edified in their walk with God.

VARIOUS CONCERNS, GOALS AND VALUES THAT WERE CONSIDERED

Not in any particular order

Looking Ahead at Peace

SUNDAY (8/21)
8:30am Worship
10:00am Worship (outdoor)
Blessing of the Animals

MONDAY (8/22)
10:00am Prayer Chain
1-5pm Driver Improv Class

TUESDAY (8/23)
10:00am POP Bible Study
10:00am Staff Mtg

WEDNESDAY (8/24)

THURSDAY (8/25)

FRIDAY (8/26)
Bethesda Thrift Shop

SATURDAY (8/27)
6:30pm Worship w/Comm

SUNDAY (8/28)
8:30am Worship
10:00am Worship(outdoor)

MONDAY (8/29)

TUESDAY (8/30)
9:00am HAY lunch meeting
10:00am Staff Meeting
10:00am POP Bible Study

WEDNESDAY (8/31)

THURSDAY (9/1)

FRIDAY (9/2)
9:00am Garage Sale
review meeting

SATURDAY (9/3)
6:30pm Worship

COMMON CUP DIAPER DRIVE—Now through the end of August, Peace Lutheran is collecting diapers for distribution for Common Cup. 80-90 packages are given out each month. All sizes needed, but larger sizes are needed the most. Please place donations in the Common Cup cart in the Commons Area. Thank you for helping those in need.

Attendance Last Week

Saturday 6:30pm 59

Sunday 8:30am 99

Sunday 10:00am 74

Boxcast 39

Facebook 313

Total 584

1. **Sustainability** – is this solution one that only one pastor would be able to 'easily' sustain and maintain with the help of staff and volunteers.
2. **Quality** in all that we do.
3. **Not rushed. Some flexibility built in.** Pastor having opportunity to talk with people before and after services/Bible Class.
4. **People are growing in their knowledge and understanding of God's Word.** Seeking to increase numbers in Bible Class, Home Devotions, & private reading of Holy Scripture.
5. **Families encouraged to worship together as a family.**
6. **Increase average number of kids in a seat/pew at worship** every weekend.
7. **Senior (Sole) Pastor available to lead a Bible Class.**
8. **Children have role-models, examples of adults they see in Bible Class and Worship.**
9. **Growing Bible Class & Sunday School attendance.**
10. **Growing Worship Attendance.**
11. **Create more opportunities for fellowship and conversation.** Worship, fellowship and study God's Word TOGETHER with fellow members & friends of Peace.
12. **Keep the Sunday morning day as short as possible for the pastor & members** Yet, provide good opportunities for all to be in worship and Bible Class/S.S together.
13. Recent worship **survey showed a strong preference for 8:30 over 8:00 and for having a contemporary service that was NOT at the same time as Sunday School/Bible Class.**
14. **That there would not be large gap of time between worship service/Bible Class and the next available worship service/Bible Class.** Large gaps tend to discourage people from staying for next event. (fine line between no large gaps and not feeling rushed!)

IDEAS THAT RECEIVED SOME ATTENTION

1. Having the 'contemporary' service be the early service time slot instead of the late service time slot on Sunday morning. Several suggested this option during my visits. Was a lot of positive feedback to this idea: Easier logistics for set up; etc.
2. Adding a 'mini/ Bible Class into every worship service? (I gave this a lot of thought and was not able to come up with good practical ideas for our situation.) The Bible Class time I will lead in the Peace Center will have time for prayer requests, updates, etc.
3. Different time for Saturday night instead of 6:30 pm, possibly (5/5:30/6/6:15pm)
4. With the new adopted schedule, having the first service at 8:20 or 8:15 am, but keeping everything else the same: 9:30 S.S/B.C and 10:30 am worship.
5. Numerous other ideas about actual service and Sunday School times, length, etc.

OUR NEW WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday/Sunday (September 10/11 only)

Saturday: 6:30 pm Sanctuary Worship

Sunday: 8:30 am Sanctuary (shortened service)

9:15 am Rally Day: Peace Center

10:30 am Peace Center Worship

Saturday/Sunday (September 17/18 & following)

Saturday: 6:30 pm Sanctuary Worship

Sunday: 8:30 am Sanctuary Worship

9:30 am Sunday School/Bible Classes

10:30 am Peace Center Worship

Expanded view of worship schedule starting 9-18

Saturday: 6:30 pm Sanctuary Worship

Sunday: 8:30 – 9:25 Sanctuary Worship

9:25 – 9:40 Fellowship in Peace Center/Entryway

9:30 – 10:25 S.S/Bible Class

9:30 – 10:25 Bible Class in Berg Bible Study Room (Pastor Asher)

9:40 – 10:20 Bible Class in Peace Center (Pastor Meyer)

10:30 – 11:25 Peace Center Worship

(Bible Class Notes: Pastor Asher and Pastor Meyer will introduce what they plan to be doing in Sunday Bible Classes during the Rally Day activities on September 11. All classes will officially be up and running by August 18. We want to also see 1-3 other Bible Class opportunities available on Sunday morning, if possible. If interested in helping to start a young adults class, parenting class, Financial Peace class, a Singles' class, etc. please talk with Pastor Meyer)

CHALLENGES:

1. We went with a compressed schedule that is ambitious. We think we can make it work. If, after time, we decide it is too rushed, I believe solution would be moving 8:30 start back to 8:20 or 8:15 am but keeping all other times the same.
2. It is never easy adopting change. Few, if any got their '1st' choice in the entire schedule. We believe that we are presenting the best possible choice for our congregation going forward, all things considered.

JOYS & EXCITEMENT

1. I am very excited about opportunity to lead a Bible Class. I have had several good one on one conversations since my arrival over three weeks ago. Now I can have those conversations with a larger group. Folks can ask questions about anything. If there are some misunderstandings and crazy rumors popping up, they can now be addressed each week instead of needing to wait for the next annual Voters' Meeting. I have so much that I want to share from God's Word and what I have witnessed and experienced in my work with numerous congregations over 41 years of pastoral ministry. The Scripture readings of the day will be our starting point, but we will not be afraid to address any question that is brought forward. I have 10-18 months, God-willing, to share with you. Let's make good use of our time together.
2. Sunday School Opening should always be able to start at or very close to 9:30 am.
3. 10:30 am service should always be able to start on time since it follows set S.S/BC times.

Final Comments & Commitment

We will do our best, in love for our Lord and one another, in making this work. Yes, this decision wasn't easy but we believe it was necessary for several reasons. If it was easy, as several told me, we would have made a decision we were all good with long ago. It wasn't, and we didn't! But now, I pray, we have!

In all our conversation, we will be listening to one another and praying. Let us not raise our voice. Let us be respectful and considerate of one another and all the people who will be affected by this decision. We will speak the truth in love and we will always care. We will strive to always be part of God's blessing to everyone around us. Let us worship, study God's Word, and fellowship together. Let us continue to sit at the feet of Jesus, seeking His will in all things. Let us together experience His plan and purpose for the ongoing ministry of His Church here at Peace Lutheran, Hutchinson.

Thanks to all the many who made helpful contributions to this conversation and decision, including all of our church staff whose input and frankness was very helpful.

On behalf of our elders and Church Council, thank you for your prayers, patience and understanding!

In Christ,
Pastor Glenn Meyer
Intentional Interim Pastor - Peace Lutheran, Hutchinson, MN
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