



# Herald of Peace

The Newsletter of Peace Lutheran Church  
12250 Fort St Southgate, MI 48195 734-284-1922



March 2008

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## Greetings in the name of our Risen Savior, Jesus Christ!

We are about a third of the way through our Lenten Journey as I write this and will be two thirds through as you read it. The Mid-week services are giving us opportunities to hear scripture, talk about what we think God is up to and what God might be saying to us. If you have not joined us yet, I encourage you to come to services on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of March.

Other listening is happening on the part of the Intentional Interim Task Force as one subcommittee begins to talk with and gather information from, community leaders while another group continues to gather input from all of you. The Task Force has been making brief announcements in church and will have more to share with all of you at the Town Hall meeting scheduled for March 10<sup>th</sup>.

All of this listening will help us uncover, discover, or discern what God's dream is for the people of Peace Lutheran Church. All of this listening will help us move into an exciting new future. Isn't that what resurrection is all about? Yes, our Lenten journey will culminate in the services of Holy Week beginning with Palm/Passion Sunday and ending with Easter Sunday.

On Palm/Sunday we will use for worship Walter Wangerin Jr.'s *The Cry of the Whole Congregation*. The Rev. Charles E. Werth wrote to "Colleagues at the Cross" in a letter dated Ash Wednesday of 1993: "Liturgy means 'the work of the people.' Worship in the Lutheran tradition implies participation and effort on the part of the worshipping community. Walter Wangerin, Jr. has captured the essence of such participation in *The Cry of the Whole Congregation*."

Many congregations have experienced the Passion of Christ in a vivid and palpable way through the use of this participatory drama. Its movement and its simplicity draw the worshipper into the very midst of the Passion of Christ. **There is no audience. All are participants in the Passion Event.**

From this Palm/Passion event we then move to Jesus' last supper with his disciples which we remember on Maundy Thursday, a service during which we will hear again how Jesus washed his disciples feet and commanded them to love one another as he loved them. The lights are dimmed as St. Anne's Altar Guild strips the altar during a reading of Psalm 22.

From Maundy Thursday we move to Good Friday and Jesus' death or glorification on the cross. Two different services will be offered. The afternoon service will include a reading of the passion according to John, bidding prayers, and a procession of the cross. The evening service will be a Tenebrae service or a

service of shadows during which lights and candles which represent the apostles and all followers of Christ are gradually extinguished. A larger candle representing Christ is the last to be extinguished.

Thankfully this dramatic journey doesn't end on Good Friday. Come Sunday, we arrive at the tomb and hear what the angel said to the two Mary's, "He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.'" And so, we can exclaim, "**Christ is risen! Alleluia!**" **Resurrection and new life is our story!** **Thanks be to God, alleluia!** May Easter bring you renewed hope and new life!



## First Communion

We will be having First Communion instruction on Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> from 9-11am. It is expected that parents, or at least one parent, will be in attendance on these Saturdays. If you feel your child is ready, please call the office to register your child's name.

## Holy Week Schedule



**Maundy Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm**



**Good Friday Services, March 21<sup>st</sup>. 1:00 & 7:30pm**



**Easter Services, Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6:30am & 10:30am  
(6:30 Service followed by Easter Breakfast)**

## Easter Breakfast at Peace

Several members of Peace will be making breakfast for Easter Sunday this year. We will be cooking up some of the best scrambled eggs, sausages, hash browns and pancakes around. Please come and join us Easter Sunday and save your dishes for Easter dinner. Breakfast will start right after the Sunrise Service to approximately 8:30am. A free-will offering will be taken. A sign-up sheet will be in the church parlor so we will know how much food to purchase.

Rob Montie

## Don's Desk

It is all my fault—sort of. I like doing “something different”. It has always been that way. When I was a youth, I was keenly interested in sailboats, even though I grew up in a powerboat environment. My neighborhood buddies trapped muskrats and played hockey. (I did these things, too, by the way.) I, on the other hand, experimented with baking cookies, and even tried my hand at sewing. While my high school friends were in love with GTO's, Mustangs and Barracuda's; I was drawn to Triumph TR-4's, MGB's, and Austin Mini Coopers (the real one, not the new one).

There are murmurs and grumbling at Peace. Some are unhappy with some of the changes. I don't know the details, because I hear about all of these murmurs second or even third-hand. I hope that you bring these to the Town Hall, so we can get them out in the open and talk about them. But consider this.

Most, if not all, of us want Peace to grow and become a lively, energetic place of worship. To get there will require something to change. The gradual but continual decline in church membership is very typical of traditional churches. The ELCA has spent millions studying it. There is no “quick fix”. The remedy lies in a transformation in *the way we think*, rather than what we do. This is what is meant by the phrase “Renewal is a process, not a program”.

Here is the ironic twist in church growth philosophy. If we focus our attention on increasing church membership, we will fail. But if we focus our attention on hospitality and outreach—on doing the Lord's work in our community *without regard for “results”*, studies show that we will thrive.

Hospitality is an interesting word. I'm reading about it right now, and I want to share the basic concepts with you. There are different kinds of hospitality. There is the industrial kind—the restaurant and hotel business kind. There is the “welcome to my home” kind, where you make a visitor happy in your environment, and they leave with a good feeling. But I'm talking about a radical type of hospitality. I'm talking about the “my house is your house” kind of hospitality. If we truly mean this phrase when we say it, we will be willing to let our new guest/members change the furniture, paint the walls, and truly make this house their house. Are we ready for that at Peace? We have done this before. When I was much younger, a bunch of us “invaded” the worship space. We had guitar services, which were just as much a hootenanny as they were a worship service. That sort of welcoming hospitality is one reason that Terri and I are members at Peace. We need to recapture that willingness to change, if Peace is to remain a vital part of the community in the years to come.

So, when Pastor comes up with really neat, new ideas for worship, I'm all over it. This is partially my “fault”, and

partially not. I know that it is important for everyone to “get something” out of our worship experience. I also know that it is equally important for this experience to be fresh—even challenging. So together, we must strike a balance between providing a spiritually enriching environment for the future generations of Peace, while retaining a spiritually rewarding experience for everyone else. For us to be successful in all of this, it is going to take commitment and participation from every one of us. Without it, we can look forward to continued decline. But if we face the future with true hospitality in our hearts, not only will we be securing Peace's role in the community as the Body of Christ, we will be doing our best to ensure her future.



## Town Hall Meeting

On March 10th at 7:00pm we will have a very important Town Hall Meeting. We will cover three topics, plus anything else that comes from the floor. The Interim Task Force will report on what lies ahead, for the last months of our interim process. We will hear from the “Church Days Group”. Your church leadership considers these concepts to hold the key to our future at Peace. If we embrace them, we are convinced that we will thrive. In addition, Don Silsbe will present a summary of the Key Topics class, for those who were not able to attend the class. We will discuss the ELCA's philosophy on unity with Episcopalians (and other denominations), their trends on homosexuals (as clergy and the blessing of gay couples), and constitutional/organizational differences between Peace and the ELCA model. Since this is an open forum, you are encouraged to express your views, and discuss them with your brothers and sisters at Peace. It is extremely important for all of us to engage in this conversation. It is an important step to take, before we affirm our affiliation at the upcoming Voters' Assembly. Please do your best to attend and participate in this meeting.



## Easter Flowers

Please help beautify our church for Easter Sunday. Easter plants are now being ordered. Prices are:

Double Lilies:	\$16	Small Lilies:	\$11
Hydrangeas:	\$18	Azaleas:	\$18
Hyacinths:	\$ 9	Tulips:	\$ 9
	Daffodils:		\$ 9

**The last day to order is Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>.** The chart is on the Flower bulletin board. We would like them to stay through all services on Easter Sunday and then you may take them home. Names will be on the back of the plants. Any questions – call Norma Kaminski, 313-386-6869.

## Notes from the Side

By Albert Le Blanc Jr., Seminarian

I don't know about you, but I get excited around this time of the year; I want to celebrate! Even though Easter is rather early this year, it still makes me think about the coming of spring, the days getting warmer and brighter, and life coming forth in the flowers, plants, and trees. All of this just makes me want to celebrate life! Hopefully, we can put all of the winter colds, viruses, and miscellaneous illnesses behind us and there will be no more sniffing and coughing. However, the best part of this time of year is hearing and experiencing the Risen Lord in the Word and Sacrament; this truly makes me want to celebrate life! My prayer for you is that as you see the Lord's presence in the world of spring and the empty tomb that you will feel like celebrating life with God, too.

Speaking of the empty tomb, I was talking with one of my classmates during our break and she told me that she was sharing some Bible time with her young son and she began to talk to him about Easter. She asked him if he knew what Easter was about. Her son replied, "Yep...it's when they let Jesus out of that rock". This brought laughter to my heart; much needed laughter during a class that was dealing with heavy theology. However, my mind began to run with this thought. I began to think that perhaps we sometimes may keep Jesus in a box on a shelf and only let Him out on Sundays. This led me to think of the Bible placed nicely on a bookshelf or perhaps sitting on a coffee table but rarely touched. Why do we keep God in a book on a shelf or table and not let Him out?

I had the privilege of delivering the sermon on February 17<sup>th</sup> and in that sermon I suggested that all of us need to take the time to immerse ourselves in Scripture; we need to invite God into our everyday circumstances. Perhaps a good start would be for us to open our Bibles and let God out! Let God be our guide in the coming days...let God help us through the joys and sorrows of life.

Recently, I have felt overwhelmed with everything going on in my life. I am sure that, at some point in your lives, all of you have experienced the same feeling. During this time, I found myself turning inward; it was easy to rely on only myself. Many of us have been taught to handle our problems by ourselves, to be strong; after all, individuality is the American way! However, we have to realize that we are all in a partnership with God and He wants to help us. We can do this by turning to Scripture. Opening our Bibles and letting God out means that God is not just for Sunday or for church 'things'...God is always in and around us. Let it be resolved that we rely more on God for all things!

Sisters and brothers, during this Easter time, I wish you happiness and joy in your life for each of you have brought so much happiness and joy to mine. I thank God for each of you and also thank Him not only for the blessings received but for what is to come. I give Him thanks and praise not just for today but also for tomorrow. Peace!



## St. Anne's Altar Guild

Members of the Altar Guild will assist in the stripping of the altar after the Maundy Thursday Communion service. It is spiritually moving to participate in this ritual, which is symbolic of when Christ was stripped of his clothes before His crucifixion.

There are 21 sacred items on the altar during this Communion service. Especially significant are the *Fair Linen*, which covers the entire altar and the *Corporal*, which is placed under the Communion vessels. These linens are symbolic of those used to wrap the body and the face of Christ when He was laid in the tomb.

The verses of scripture, which are read during the ceremony, always make this a very solemn and reflective occasion. It may cause us to ask – "Are we worthy of the great sacrifice which He made on our behalf?"

### Come and Share This Humbling Experience With Us

The altar will be left bare and the crucifixes will be draped in black, symbolizing death, in preparation for Good Friday. On Easter Eve the altar is thoroughly cleaned and covered with fresh linens. The polished ornaments are returned to their places and parament colors are changed to white, to symbolize the robe of the glorified risen Christ.

During the somber season of Lent flowers are not used on the altar. In contrast, on Easter Sunday the church will abound with the beauty of many spring flowers, highlighted by pure white lilies. All will be in readiness for the celebration of the Easter Festival service, which commemorates the resurrection of Christ.

**REMINDER:** Please place money for flowers and/or memorial gifts to St. Anne's in the offering plate or give to our treasurer, Gerre Menzel. Checks should be made out to St. Anne's Altar Guild. Always be sure to include information that will enable us to properly acknowledge payments or gifts.

Lucille Hrivnak, Coordinator

## Many Thanks ...

Many, many thanks from the heart to everyone who contributed to our wonderful Valentine Bake Sale! To everyone who baked those delicious goodies and brought in those little Valentine gifts to sell, to everyone who helped to set up, served and took down our tables, and everyone who purchased those tasty treats and gift items, thank you all so very much. Proceeds will be used for church improvements and to aid those in need.

Elinor Durand and Virginia DeFeyer



## Trustees' Report – January 2008

Here's a list of our recent accomplishments:

- Finished basement floor—stripping/waxing.
- Replaced two floodlights in the church.
- Replaced ten light bulbs in exit signs on the first floor.
- Installed camera at main door with TVs in main office and Pastor's office.
- Fixed hole in sacristy stairway.
- Removed all the old tiles on stairs and landing in sacristy stairway and installed new tiles.
- Fixed large black board in basement—put casters on it for easy movement.
- Roof drain broke causing flooding in classroom #3. Cleaned up water and came up with a plan to drain water from room #3 to floor drain in the men's room so no damage was done while waiting for the roof company can fix the drain.
- Shoveled lots of snow off sidewalks on the big block.

## Board of Christian Outreach

**Soup and Bread** – On February 3<sup>rd</sup> we had a wonderful caring and sharing experience while enjoying great soup and bread. We had 12 soups/chili and an outstanding array of breads. Your donations raised \$285.00 for The Downriver Food Pantry and Thrivent will match those funds. We also collected non-perishable food items that will be donated to the food pantry. The luncheon was well attended and enjoyed by all. We will be having another Soup and Bread on Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup> to benefit our youth so please keep that day free so you can join us

**Helping Hands/Winter Sales** – Have you noticed that the stores are already thinking spring and having clearance sales on winter hats, gloves scarves and mittens. This could be a perfect time to purchase your donations for our September "Helping Hands" outreach project. We will collect items for small children to be distributed by The Guidance Center in Southgate. We will also be looking for all sizes of boys/girls and women sizes for the Center for Domestic Abuse. If you see great deals on items for men we will have a home for them at Blessed Hope.

**Crop Walk** – On Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup> we will be participating in "Crop Walk" to help stop world hunger. There will be several distance choices and multiple church rest stops along the way. You will find more details in your April Newsletter and weekly bulletins. This would be a great way to welcome spring and enjoy a relaxing walk.

## Jerusalem P.D.

An Ester season dinner theatre spoof of the TV show Dragnet will be presented by 3 adults and 6 of our Peace youth. Sunday April 6 at 5:00 p.m. is the date and time with spaghetti being on the menu and a 'very special' dessert included. Make plans now to attend and support this Sunday School fundraiser.

The premise is the investigation of the stealing of a body. The dynamic detective duo of Joe Thursday and Frank Cannon is assigned the case. The body of a recently executed criminal is missing, and the man's followers are suspects. The investigation takes some hilarious turns as the duo tries to pin the crime on a number of people, but eventually leads to a poignant conclusion.



## March Birthdays

3/2	Michael Wansa, Jr.
3/3	Jerry Sterner
3/6	Patti Mulligan, Katherine Rowledge
3/8	Robert Gagnier, Amanda Bain
3/9	Kevin Mulligan
3/10	Lise Corby
3/11	Richard Geiser
3/12	Kathy Vallade, Catherine Bush
3/14	Claudia Sendo
3/15	Tony Anderson
3/16	Kelsee Rose
3/18	Norman Kaminski, Dolores Kaminski, Daniel Schlembach
3/21	Dorothy Kromrei, Monika Fuchs
3/22	Pamela Schlembach, Jason Brandt, Anthony Anderson, Jr.
3/23	Catherine Russell
3/24	Jean Koons, Megan Stewart, Ryan Simonson
3/25	Barbara Byrd, Patrick Singstock, Amie Ferullo
3/26	Laraine Hustler, Jenine Rhoades
3/27	William Martin
3/28	Cynthia Miller
3/29	Rachel Pritchett, Stephen Fields, Kim Bussler
3/30	Freda Cullender, John Osborne, Jr.
3/31	Daniela Rosinski



## New Address

Please make note of the new address of Al Varga:  
Albert G. Varga USNR Ret.  
America House, Apt. 308  
20300 Fort St.  
Riverview, MI 48193



# Those Who Serve...

Date	Worship Leader	Elder	Acolytes	Greeters	Ushers	Sound Tech	Trustee	Altar Guild	Reader(s)	Organist
3/2	<b>Celebrant:</b> Pr. Phyllis Hormann	Janet LeBeau	C.J. Morse, Shelby Morse, Stephania Andrews, David Kaulbars	Mike & Bev Helms	G. Elsner, B. Elsner, M. Ziesmer, M. Catalano, R. Wilson, N. Knaggs	Janet LeBeau	Robert Bernard	Lucille Hrivnak	Diane Wright	Jennifer Rosati
3/5	Pr. Phyllis Hormann	Rob Montie								Mary Tollefson
3/9	<b>Celebrant:</b> Pr. Phyllis Hormann	Nancy Yakowich	Kevin Mulligan, Amanda Mulligan, Stacy Catalano, John Catalano	Fred & Deb Harmon	G. Elsner, B. Elsner, M. Ziesmer, M. Catalano, R. Wilson, N. Knaggs	John Cade	Dale LeBeau	Nancy Harvey	Terri Silsbe	Mary Tollefson
3/12	Pr. Phyllis Hormann	Barb Pushman								Mary Tollefson
3/16	<b>Celebrant:</b> Pr. Phyllis Hormann <b>Assisting:</b> Albert LeBlanc, Jr.	Barb Pushman	Laura Campbell, Andrew Campbell, Alyssa Wayt, Alex Wayt	Colin & Nancy Harvey	G. Elsner, B. Elsner, M. Ziesmer, M. Catalano, R. Wilson, N. Knaggs	Sean Morse	Peter Montie	Jan Scherbarth	Gwen Montie	Jennifer Rosati
3/19	<b>NO SERVICE</b>									
3/20 <b>Maundy Thursday</b>	Pr. Phyllis Hormann	Janet LeBeau						Mary Ziesmer	Jan LeBeau	Jennifer Rosati
3/21 <b>Good Friday</b>	<b>1:00:</b> Pr. Hormann <b>7:30:</b> Albert LeBlanc, Jr.	Terri Silsbe Rob Montie							<b>1:00:</b> Terri Silsbe	<b>1:00:</b> Mary Tollefson <b>7:30:</b> TBA
3/23 <b>Easter Sunday</b>	<b>6:30 &amp; 10:30am</b> <b>Celebrant:</b> Pr. Phyllis Hormann <b>Assisting:</b> Don Silsbe & Albert LeBlanc, Jr.	Janet LeBeau Terri Silsbe	Connor Winton, Kevin Bogusz, Britnie Ford, Mary Rowledge	Jan Scherbarth	G. Elsner, B. Elsner, M. Ziesmer, M. Catalano, R. Wilson, N. Knaggs	Dorothy Pushman	Robert Bernard	<b>6:30am:</b> Lucille Hrivnak <b>10:30am:</b> Nancy Harvey	<b>6:30am:</b> Barb Pushman <b>10:30am:</b> Ruth Schmidt	<b>6:30am:</b> Jennifer Rosati <b>10:30am:</b> Mary Tollefson
3/26	Pr. Phyllis Hormann									
3/30	<b>Celebrant:</b> Pr. Phyllis Hormann	Barb Pushman	C.J. Morse, Shelby Morse, Stephania Andrews, David Kaulbars	Rob & Dawn Bernard	G. Elsner, B. Elsner, M. Ziesmer, M. Catalano, R. Wilson, N. Knaggs	Jerry Gnadtt	Dale LeBeau	Jan Scherbarth	Janet LeBeau	Jennifer Rosati

**Bread Baker for March is Janet Larsen**

## Crucial Voters' Meeting

I would like to reinforce Don Silsbe's article in the February Newsletter. On Sunday, March 30th, we will be asked to vote whether we want to remain with the ELCA, or seek another church body. Don has given this congregation the opportunity to hear and discuss the Pros and Cons of our concerns. Unfortunately only a very few have attended. There will be a Town Hall Meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm to recap this issue. I encourage everyone to attend and express his or her views. Then let us be in continual prayer as we wait for the 30<sup>th</sup>. God is faithful.....are we?

Stan Lozon



## "I'd Rather Be Reading" Group

The I'd Rather Be Reading group will be hosted by Pastor Hormann at church at 7p.m. on March 11th for a discussion of **Moloka'i** by Alan Brennert. **Moloka'i** is a story set in Hawaii more than a century ago—an epic of a little known time and place and a moving testimony to the human spirit. Pastor Hormann was born and raised in Hawaii and will give added perspective to this poignant story. Refreshments and fellowship will follow. Readers are welcome!

**F.Y.I.** -- Can't Wait to Get to Heaven by Fannie Flagg will be the book we'll read for May. In July we will take on The Madonnas of Leningrad by Debra Dean. More information will follow. Happy reading!!

## Shut-In Easter Baskets

We need your help, doing an "act of kindness" in remembering our shut-ins during this Eastertide. Your participation is needed after the Wednesday Lenten service on March 12th, as we take about 45 minutes to assemble some Easter gift baskets for them. We hope your family's Lenten activities can also include delivering one or two of these baskets. Please donate to our basket contents: It would be nice to have fresh baked cookies, sweets, non perishable food items, like packets of tea, hot chocolate and small bath or lotion products, plus any other surprises you may have in mind. Please join us for this meaningful evening that will combine worship and a service project. We promise to be most organized so that you will be on the way home by 9:00. For any questions, please call Dorothy Pushman

## Thrivent News

Thrivent Financial wants to give money away. It's true! The Thrivent Wayne County Chapter has funds that will be allocated for "Care in Community" fundraising or

"Hands on Activity" that will benefit a non-profit organization, a named individual/family or sponsored group of individuals. If you have an event planned that you would like to apply for matched funds please see or call Dawn Bernard at 313-381-2693. Funds are allocated on a first come first serve basis so the earlier you apply the better chance you have off getting funds matched.

## Blessed Hope

Look for the shopping carts in the long hallway where you can place your donations for Blessed Hope. They are in particular need of canned meats, vegetables, fruits, shampoo, bar soap, toilet paper and paper towels.

## Stop and Greet Your Neighbor

The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month we're asking everyone to wear a nametag. When the service is finished, stop and greet 3 to 5 people you haven't met before. Over a cup of coffee, get to know them a little. Continue to greet each other in the following weeks. Be surprised at how much you have in common.

## "Prayer changes things"

This is an area made for you to "tear out." Keep it near you, even in your devotional book, or Bible, or wallet.

These are the people from our church and their friends and acquaintances that are experiencing a crisis in their lives and need our prayers.

**Bonnie Schippling, Robert Wilson, Marilyn Andrews, June & Jeff Thomas, Al Varga, Julie Rettke, Loramae Welch, Colin Harvey, Sr., Dave & Ruth Taylor, Shirley Balger, Fran Gerhardy, Mary Ann & Charles Buchau, Bill Racklyeft, Barb Albert, Adele Devlin, Norman Porath, Delores Singstock, Jennifer Stroehmann, Terry & Jean Koons, John & Nancy Demyon, Jerry Gnad, Bev Brewer, Laraine Hustler, Ron Davis, Mike Ziesmer, Lainey Miller, Ruth Tonks, Gail Andrews, Barb Byrd, Norman & Dolores Kaminski, Elnora Ebendick, Rosa Fox, Wilma Looker, John Balger, Blessed Hope and Peace Lutheran Church.**

Tony Bonsall, Bernice, Jimmy, LuAnn, Family of Paul Ross, and Anthony.

Thanks you for your prayers for Harlan Grant who is now at home. Robert Bernard

Members are in **Bold**

Telephone Prayer Chain Contact:

Mary Jacobs, 734-283-7792

E-prayer chain: Todd Pushman at [tpushman@yahoo.com](mailto:tpushman@yahoo.com)

## **TASK FORCE INFO**

**SEPTEMBER, 2006**-TASK FORCE IS CALLED TOGETHER.

**MEMBERS**-GROUP WAS CHOSEN TO REPRESENT THE DIVERSITY OF PEACE CHURCH. GUIDED BY PASTOR HORMANN, ACTING MEMBERS WERE BRIGITTE DUFOUR, TRACY EVANS, MARGARET MEYERS, SEAN MORSE, TODD PUSHMAN, AND FAY WINTON.

**SUGGESTED DURATION OF OPERATION**- 1 YEAR.

**MISSION**-OUR JOB IS NOT TO FIND A NEW PASTOR, BUT TO NARROW DOWN WHAT QUALITIES PEACE CHURCH CONGREGATION IS LOOKING FOR IN A NEW PASTOR, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION PAST AND PRESENT INFORMATION, SO THAT WE MAY FIND THE BEST “FIT” FOR OUR CHURCH THEN, TURN OVER FINDINGS TO THE CALL COMMITTEE.

WITH PASTOR HORMANN’S GUIDANCE, WE ARE FOLLOWING A SUGGESTED COURSE OF ACTION FROM THE BOOK, “**DISCERNING YOUR CONGREGATION’S FUTURE.**” THIS BOOK OUTLINES A STRATEGIC AND SPIRITUAL APPROACH TO FINDING A NEW PASTOR.

**SEPTEMBER, 2006, OUR FIRST UNDERTAKING WAS THE PLANNING AND EXECUTION OF A HISTORY EVENT/**WE ASKED PEACE MEMBERS IN A SURVEY WHAT HAS MEANT THE MOST TO THEM DURING THEIR TIME AT PEACE. WE GATHERED SURVEYS AND CONSTRUCTED A TIMELINE GRAPH, DETAILING HISTORICAL EVENTS. THE TASK FORCE PRESENTED FINDINGS AT A FALL LUNCHEON, AFTER A CHURCH SERVICE.

**DIVISION OF TASK FORCE INTO TWO PARTS** - ONE PART WILL DISCOVER WHAT SOME PEACE CHURCH NORMS ARE, THE OTHER GROUP WILL ESTABLISH DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION.

**NORM GROUP ACTIVITY:** ASK KEY COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO DETERMINE WHAT THEY CONSIDER TO BE NORMAL OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR PEACE CHURCH.

**DEMOGRAPHIC GROUP AND NORM GROUP WILL PRESENT MEANING STATEMENTS AT TOWN HALL MEETING MARCH 10<sup>TH</sup>.**

TASK FORCE MEMBERS HAVE DECREASED AND INCREASED OVER THESE PAST FEW MONTHS. BRIGITTE DUFOUR RESIGNED AND BETTY REHBEIN AND JERRY GNADT JOINED THE TEAM. WE WERE ALSO ASSISTED BY JULIE RETTKE AND JAN SCHERBARTH.

THE TASK FORCE IS HOPING TO HAVE JOHN CADE, RUTH GIERKE, FRED HARMON AND JULIE RETTKE JOIN THE DEMOGRAPHIC TEAM. STAY TUNED FOR UPDATES!

**P.S. PLEASE PARTICIPATE IN THE SURVEYS OR QUESTIONAIRES THE TASK FORCE SUGGESTS, THEY ARE THE KEY TO FINDING THAT “PERFECT MATCH” IN A PASTOR THAT WE’D ALL LIKE TO HAVE.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE.

## Voters' Assembly Meeting--January 13, 2008

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Don Silsbe at 12:10 p.m. He opened with a secular devotion stating that we are almost there. It should be about another year or so to complete our intentional interim process.

It was moved by Rob Montie and seconded by Jan LeBeau that the minutes from the last meeting be approved as presented. Motion carried.

### Reports:

#### **Membership changes:**

Pr. Hormann reported that in the year 2007 we took in 8 by baptism, 5 were confirmed, 5 by affirmation of faith, 2 transfers out to another Lutheran church, 8 transfers out to non-Lutheran churches, 18 dropped for non-participation, 4 deaths, and 1 non-member death.

It was moved by Al McNeil and seconded by Jerry Gnad that we accept the membership changes. Motion carried.

**Chairman:** Don Silsbe reported that January 1, 2007, saw us without a pastor. Pastor Hormann arrived in April to begin to shift our energy to what we were called to do in our respective offices. In the months ahead we will complete the Intentional Interim process and start the call process. The full report is available in the Annual Report for the church.

**Elders—Rob Montie—**During 2006/07 we hired an intentional interim pastor, Pastor Hormann, into the family of Peace; sponsored Albert LeBlanc in his ministerial service, hired a new music director, Bonnie Schippling; instituted continuous communion every other Sunday and purchased another tray for the individual cup celebration; instituted communion every Sunday; purchased a new Paschal candle that utilizes oil; acquired a third wireless microphone; installed and used the projector and screen for worship services.

In 2008, we will put more effort into shepherding the flock at Peace, enhance the worship area and experience at Peace, and hire a new permanent pastor.

**Trustees:** Rob Bernard listed these accomplishments for 2007: removed approximately 80 gallons of water from the parlor during roof installation; helped paint education wing hallway; dismantled the playground; new pump on boiler; cleaned all heat registers; stripped hallways, fellowship hall and kitchen, sealed and waxed floors and replaced tiles where needed; installed three handicapped toilets; fixed plumbing on sink in ladies room; repaired light fixtures and bulbs as needed; fixed leak in sanctuary stairway roof; replaced compressor on air conditioner replaced; reworked downspouts to eliminate leaking in basement; replaced three outside lights; replaced plug in computer room; winterized building; fixed locking system on grating from basement.

In 2008, we want to complete the stripping and waxing floors (basement and classrooms); paint classrooms; do preventative maintenance on boiler; install camera at back door with office monitor; weather stripping on doors; fix hall ceiling in sanctuary stairway; clean out paint storage cabinet; clean out janitor's rooms; clean boiler room and room before it.

**Christian Education:** Kim Bogusz reported that in January, 2007, we did a tour of the church learning about the history of the stained glass windows and the mosaic among other things. February we started our Galilee By the Sea interactive program. In the spring our mission outreach to the Sunday School and the congregation raised over \$1,000 with matching Thrivent funds for the needs in Tanzania. First communion class was offered. In August Avalanche Ranch was the title of our Vacation Bible School and was kicked off with a potluck and square dance. A service project was incorporated into the program involving Peace's shut ins and those on the prayer list. In the fall Sunday School began with the blessing of the backpacks. We have been studying mostly Old Testament lessons; made cards for our service men; made hygiene kits for Dr. Beth Meyers to distribute; and held a Christmas program dinner theater. The youth have held various fundraisers among them the Valentine messages, two spaghetti dinner theaters, two soup and bread lines; confirmation camp; a luncheon and outing to a corn maze. They have helped with Sunday School, vacation Bible school, moving furniture and decorating and undecorating.

Plans for 2008 include programs that can involve the entire congregation in reaching out to the entire world, mission or service projects involving local activities and intergenerational activities.

**Board of Christian Outreach—**Dawn Bernard reported that we started in January and February with providing \$270.55 in cash for phone cards, stamps, etc. for the Walter Reed Medical Center. We continued with providing welcome packages, lapel pins, the soup and bread line, march to the manger, noisy collections, greeters, helping hands, another soup and bread line, the giving tree, and an advent service project. These are detailed in the annual report.

Plans for 2008 include continuing the greeters program; a soup and bread line in February to benefit the Downriver Community Food Pantry; March to the manger in July; Helping hands in September and October; a soup and bread line to benefit the youth in November; and the giving tree for November and December.

**Stewardship—**Kay Davies—In 2007 we held the love loaf project, began the "Spotlight on the Family" program, began the first Sunday of the month birthday cake celebration, name tags on the first Sunday of the month program, time and talent and treasure commitments survey.

**Finance:** In Don Pushman's absence, Don Silsbe presented the Finance Board Report. Primary goal of the Board of Finance is to take control of the financial situation and be better stewards of the Lord's money at Peace. Being without a pastor allowed many of the Boards to play "catch-up" with projects and expenses that had been delayed over the past several years. The budget that was approved for 2008 is a large and ambitious one. A close eye will be kept on both giving and spending to ensure that our original goal of being good stewards is being maintained.

**Pastor's report:** Pastor Hormann stated that reports indicate that a lot has been done and done in a sense of community. Groups are working together. Many of you attended the Synod Assembly, the Acts in Common workshop, the worship remembering the riots, the Church Days Group. I attended two trainings for pastors, one on racism and one on boundary issues. The task force was

appointed and commissioned. We held a leadership event. The Bishop came and preached. We had advent evenings sponsored by different groups. We had a history event, a choir concert, and caroling to the homebound.

For 2008 we will be having a first communion class and a new member inquiry class. The Church Days Group will continue to meet. We will have mid-week Lenten services. The task force will continue. We are solidifying our identity now—where we are now, determining God’s purpose for us, and listening to where God is leading us. Communication continues to be something we all need to work on. Thank you all for your commitment. Many people are engaged in serving God in this place.

Al McNeil added that Pastor Hormann has been doing a lot of calling on the sick. Thanks for that was expressed.

**Interim Task Force:** Beth Ann Meyers reported that the task force thanks the congregation for their support so far. We have been looking into, as Pastor stated in her report, where we’ve been, where we are now, and where we are going. A Norms meeting was held in which we looked at the unwritten rules and traditions here at Peace. We are working on demographics now and looking for a tool that will help us find specifics from the congregation.

**Unfinished business:** Ruth Schmidt reported that the Facility Use Agreement committee plans to have something ready to present to the Church Council in February.

Dale LeBeau suggested that we have groups save the last 15 minutes for cleanup after an activity.

**New Business**—Don Silsbe proposed the 2008-09 Voters’ Assemblies:

March 30    June 8    September 7    November 16    January 11

It was moved by Jan LeBeau and seconded by Bev Brewer that the proposed dates be accepted. Motion carried.

South Stairwell: St Anne’s Altar Guild has given \$1,000 to have the hole in the ceiling fixed, tile replaced, walls and ceiling painted, and putting in a small cupboard. The request has been presented to the trustees. Incurring of this expense should be approved by the congregation. Consensus is to let the trustees take care of it.

Comment on designated funds was that a project should be fully funded. Undesignated memorials are an issue being addressed by the Elders.

Preapproval of Monthly Benevolence Payments to SEMI Synod per approved 2008 budget pending Finance Board approval.

It was moved by Ruth Gierke and seconded by Rob Montie that we make monthly benevolent payments to SEMI Synod based on the fixed amount budgeted for 2008 divided by 12. Motion carried.

It was moved by Rob Montie and seconded by Dale LeBeau that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

Pastor Hormann had a closing prayer and led the membership in the Lord’s prayer. Meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Ruth E. Schmidt, Recording Secretary

## *The Herald of Peace*

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