



Peace Notes

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PLYMOUTH, MINNESOTA

Volume 19, Issue 11

July 2015



Introducing Our New Pastor

Dear Peace Lutheran,

I am delighted to accept your call to serve as Life Long Faith Formation Pastor of Peace Lutheran of Plymouth! I am so grateful for the grace and openness with which I have been greeted.

I look forward, very much, to joining in the ongoing exploration of the Spirit's presence in our life together and in our individual lives. I understand my call to include integrating our multiple generations

for mutual support and growth on our journey of faith while supporting each age group in deepening personal connections with God and awareness of God's work in the world and in our daily lives. This is thrilling work, filled with joy and hope for experiencing in new and fresh ways the grace of Christ flowing into the world.

Thank you, for the opportunity to engage in this exhilarating ministry among such wonderful people! I am so excited to be a part of the fantastic staff in support of this wonderful congregation!

Peace,

Pastor Emily Meyer

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Pastor Emily's Installation

Sunday, August 9 at 9:00 AM

Our guest preacher will be Rev. John Hulden, Assistant to the Bishop for Leadership Support at the Minneapolis Area Synod.

God's Preferred Future

Summer Greetings from Council and Pastor Kjell

How do we figure out and live into God's preferred future for Peace Lutheran Church? How do we discern where God is leading us? **Prayer** and reading **scripture** are at the top of the list. In ACTS 2:42 it talks about how the church "devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and fellowship, breaking bread and the prayers." Peace strives to do this and continues to seek God's preferred future by praying and reading scripture together.

A year and a half ago as we searched for a new Senior Pastor. The Call Committee led times of **listening** — "What is God saying the strengths of our new Senior Pastor should be?" It was clear — "We have been a good congregation, but if we continue to do church the way we have, we will continue a slow decline." So we called a Senior Pastor who is willing and skilled at dreaming with us about God's preferred future for Peace.

In the months after Pastor Kjell arrived, he and Council organized "Cottage Meetings" to listen to stories of Peace's past successes and dreams for our future as a congregation of God's people carrying out God's mission. Over 80% of the worshiping community attended and the findings were similar — "Serving our community and God's people around the globe has brought us life and will continue to do so, but we know we need to rethink what it means to be church in today's world, and we don't know exactly what that change needs to be."

(God's Preferred Future continued on page 2)



COUNCIL COLUMN

Notes from the June 9 meeting:

At the end of May, our giving fell behind budget and expenses are also below budget.

We will be using the Church Assessment Tool this fall to look at the experiences, perceptions and aspirations of our congregation. Pastor Kjell and Council plan on communicating frequently about the great things that are happening at Peace.

Property Committee: Sanctuary, fellowship hall and gathering spaces are being painted, and research is being done regarding window shades for the sanctuary and lighting in the parking lot.

Evangelism Committee: Working on a publicity policy, a new Peace flyer and getting the word out about the "Welcome Baskets."

Worship & Music Committee: Organ work will begin in June and it might be completed by Rally Sunday (except for the trumpet). A rededication of the organ is planned when the renovation is completed!

Respectfully submitted,

Joni Sutton, secretary

God's Preferred Future (continued from page 1)

Culture's view of church has changed dramatically in the last three decades. It used to be when you moved to a new town, joining a church was the way you built community. Schools did Christmas pageants that told our story. Church membership was important for career success. We no longer live in a world where being Christian gives you privileges or where Christianity is the bias of culture. Even though these are big changes there is still **good news** — since the beginning of the church it has thrived most when not favored by the surrounding culture. We have the opportunity to thrive in a whole new way.

Through the feedback from the congregation and careful study of current research, there are purposeful changes that are already happening at Peace centering around **communications** — website, screen, Twitter, Facebook, guest wifi, sermon and worship style are more interactive and aimed at connecting people's faith and their daily life. There is renewed commitment to reminding people that all their work is ministry, whether at home or job, in the community or the congregation, they are carrying out God's mission — making the world a better place for all and bringing about the Kingdom of God.

There are other congregations on this journey so we will listen and talk with them to learn, and share what is working for us. Researchers are studying vibrant churches and we can use their findings to guide our actions. Also the **Church Assessment Tool** (CAT) will allow us to see the perceptions and aspirations of the people at Peace and in September all members will be asked to participate in that survey.

The Bible is filled with stories of God's people adapting and innovating in times of change; we can learn from our ancestors in the faith and take comfort in knowing... **God is with us!** God is in our midst as we work to figure out how to be church in this new world and God is out ahead of us leading us into this future.

We look forward to continued communication!

Christ's Peace,

Council and Pastor Kjell

PARISH NURSE NEWS

Volunteer for Your Health

Peace Notes

3695 County Road 101 N, Plymouth, MN 55446
tel: 763-478-9406 • fax: 763-478-9561
email: peace@peaceofplymouth.org
www.peaceofplymouth.org

Peace Notes is a monthly newsletter for members and friends of Peace Lutheran Church of Plymouth. The deadline for submissions is the fifteenth of the month prior to publication.

Senior Pastor	Kjell Ferris
Faith Formation Pastor	Emily Meyer
Minister of Music	Steve Peters
Volunteer Ministries	Judy Lubben
Parish Nurse	Sondra Weinzierl
Office Administrator	Anita Anderson
Newsletter Layout	Donna Daubendiek



Volunteering is a "win-win" activity! Did you know that there are many health benefits to volunteering? Recent studies show that volunteering can:

- Increase our social connections
- Increases self-esteem
- Give us a sense of meaning and purpose
- Decrease blood pressure and depression
- Extend our life span

This summer, think about lending a hand to someone in need, here at Peace or elsewhere. You'll not only help others, you'll be rewarded physically, emotionally and spiritually!

To your health!

Sondra

Day Camp 2015

Faith Strengthened — Friends Made — Fun for All

Almost 40 youth sang, played and wondered about Jesus' amazing love. One mom said her Pre-K son has been asking since November, "How long until Day Camp?" every time they drove by Peace. Another grandmother recalled volunteering for Day Camp when she was in high school, "I remember singing songs with the guitar." 75 people attended the community dinner on Wednesday. Thanks to all who supported Day Camp and to all the youth that made it so much fun!



Farewell to Sue Megrund



Blessing of the Bicycles





Peace Lutheran Church of Plymouth
3695 County Road 101 N
Plymouth, MN 55446-2907
www.peaceofplymouth.org

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National Youth Gathering

Alyssa Brolin, Annika Peterson, Madison Stoffel and Melissa Weinhandl from Peace and Becky Parker and Tyron Winfree from TreeHouse are attending the Youth Gathering, July 14-19 in Detroit. Please keep them and the other approximately 40,000 ELCA youth in your prayers.



Peace Says, "Welcome!"

Do you have a new neighbor? Or a friend looking for a new church home? We have "Welcome Baskets" you can give to new neighbors and friends.

The baskets contain a Peace water bottle, some free trade coffee, gift cards, trail maps and a homemade dish cloth. Coming soon: a new Peace flyer for the baskets. In the meantime, insert a copy of our monthly "Peace Notes." Contact Judy in the office to get a basket at 763-478-9406.

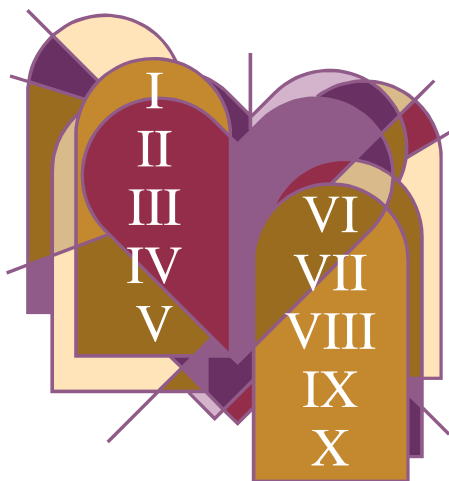
JULY

hot sheet

What's hot and happenin' at Peace!

New Sermon Series:

The 10 Commandments



Nineteen Comes Before Twenty

Sunday, July 12

EXODUS 19:1-6; 20:1-1

The First Table – Tuned into God

Sunday, July 19

EXODUS 20:3-11

The Second Table – Turned Toward the Neighbor

Sunday, July 26

EXODUS 20:3-11



OWLS Picnic at Parker's Lake

Wednesday, July 15 at 11:30 AM

Join Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors for a potluck picnic at Parkers Lake at the shelter near the lake. Bring your favorite picnic dish to share and bring a friend. Cub chicken, beverages and paper products will be furnished. We look forward to getting together to share some good summer fellowship. If you have questions, contact Merv or Carolyn Stark at 763-473-0881 or 612-419-9577.



All Congregation Event:

LUTHERAN NIGHT AT TARGET FIELD

Tuesday, July 28 at 7:10 PM

Bring the whole family to see the Minnesota Twins vs. the Pittsburgh Pirates. The tickets are \$15. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board at church. Money for the tickets must be paid to Peggy Hedtke by Sunday, July 5.

We can have as many as four people to join the choir singing the National Anthem. If you are interested, call Peggy at 763-475-2087.

Come join in the fun!



Family Camp Weekend Retreat

August 14-16

Family camp is the perfect opportunity to get away for the weekend for a time of renewal before school and other fall activities restart. We will be staying in a retreat center with hotel style lodging. Meals are included and will be served in a dining hall. We will have Bible studies, a family art project, worship and plenty of free time to explore the camp, swim in the lake, and enjoy the company of our families. Contact Melissa Weinhandl at mlweinhandl@gmail.com or 952-484-9859. Check out Camp Wapo at campwapo.org.

July 2015

Calendar of Peace Lutheran Church of Plymouth

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1	2	3 Independence Day Observed	4 Independence Day
5 Pentecost 6 9:00 a Worship	6 8:00 a ROMEO	7 12:30 p Staff Mtg 6:00 p Executive Committee 7:00 p All-Church Committee Night	8	9 9:00 a Quilting 7:00 p Choir Director Interviews	10	11
12 Pentecost 7 9:00 a Worship	13	14 10:00 a Faithfully fit 12:30 p Staff Mtg 7:00 p Congrega- tion Council meeting	15 Newsletter Deadline 8:00 a Women's Breakfast Club 11:30 a OWLS Potluck Picnic	16 <div>ELCA Youth Gathering July 15-19</div> 7:00 p Knitting Club	17	18
19 Pentecost 8 9:00 a Worship	20	21 12:30 p Staff Mtg	22	23	24	25
26 Pentecost 9 9:00 a Worship	27	28 9:00 a Quilting 10:00 a Faithfully fit 12:30 p Staff Mtg 7:10 p Lutheran Night at Target Field	29	30	31	



Sunday Worship

July 5 — Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion
Psalms Sermon Series: Psalm 146 "Praise and Trust"

July 12 — Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
9:00 am Worship
The Ten Commandments: Exodus 19:1-6; 20:1-17
"Nineteen Comes Before Twenty"

July 19 — Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion
The Ten Commandments: Exodus 20:3-17
"The First Table—Tuned into God"

July 26 — Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
9:00 am Worship
The Ten Commandments: Exodus 20:3-17
"The Second Table—Turned Toward the Neighbor"