



PEACE AND PROCLAMATION

December 2008

A message from Pastor Pete

From Pastor Pete

As we reported in last month's newsletter, Peace has taken the first steps needed to move forward into a building program. One major step in the process is to have our application to build approved by our national church offices. EOCM (Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission) is the department that oversees these issues.

On November 20th I met with Phil Roe (Mission Investment Fund - the people who loan money for buildings in the ELCA), Mary Francis (The EOCM person in charge of these applications), and our Bishop Usgaard to determine whether we would be approved for moving forward with the building process.

Here's where we now stand.

Obviously money is a concern for EOCM. They do not want to see us saddled with a debt that we can't afford to pay. While Peace has taken great strides in the past couple years (with giving by congregation members going from \$43,000 in 2004 to \$87,000 in 2007), I knew going into the conversation that our budget shortfall would be the focus of the meeting (the offerings from members of Peace will fall short of our expenses by about \$55,000 in 2008). The meeting did not end in a 'yes, you can build' or 'no, you can't build' decision. While they affirmed the good things that are happening here, they wanted to see a two to three year plan to self sufficiency. This is more than simply calculating the budget deficit and guessing that we might be able to close the gap in 3 years. This could mean bringing in a stewardship consultant to help us determine what is feasible for us. It would also mean having a two to three year plan of ministry and membership growth. These are things the church council will be in charge of organizing.

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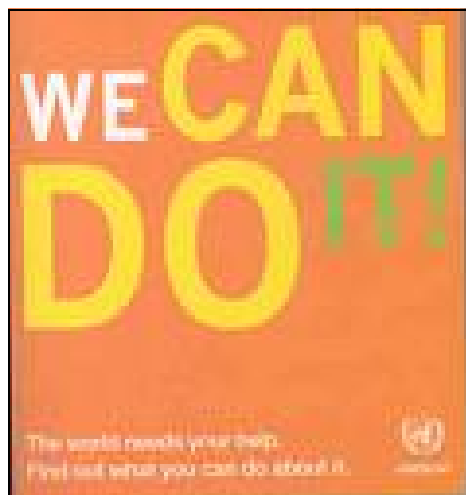
PEACE AND PROCLAMATION

What Mary Francis and her office like to see before approving a building process is a congregation that has less than \$10,000 from outside sources. We will probably not be there in the next year! However, right now the goal is to work towards that. If Peace can send Mary Francis a three year plan, and can take first steps to arrive at that plan, we could be approved to begin the building **process** in 2009. This surely doesn't mean building in 2009, since there would be work to do in getting the loan, doing capital campaigns, and designing a building. A more complete timetable will be known if and when we are approved for building. We're going to have to learn patience in all this.

To be more specific: If Peace brings in a stewardship consultant to help set the plan for self-sufficiency, and if Peace uses that consultant to do an annual pledge drive (among Peace members) by the spring of 2009, and if that drive meets the goals set out in the self-sufficiency plan, we would probably be approved to go ahead with the process. Can we do it? With God's help, there's no reason we can't!

We're moving forward! It's now time for Peace to step up and show that we intend to support God's ministry here in Eyota. The outside support we've received from other congregations over the years has been wonderful. Many mission congregations are expected to be self-sufficient in three to five years. We've had ten. We will surely receive outside support for our building.

Our challenge is to support the day to day ministry here in Eyota. With God's help, we surely can do it!



A message from Amanda:

In your relationships with one another, have the same attitude of mind Christ Jesus had: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ~ Philippians 2

The Christmas season is now upon us. The stores are covered in red and green, with Christmas trees all around. The sound of Christmas carols pipes through the malls. The Salvation Army has set up shop, and you hear their bells as you walk from your car to the store. The television is full of commercials for special Christmas treats and ideas for what to get for those on your list.

On the surface, Christmas this year looks just like it has for the past few years. But, we all know something is different. Many of us are watching our wallets - we know the economy is having problems and we know it would be better to have a bit of a cushion around us than to run up big bills this year. We don't have the job security we used to have. And even if we keep our jobs, who knows what the new year will bring for our economy? So for many of us, Christmas will be a lot more humble than it was last year.

But, maybe that's appropriate. After all, Christmas is the time of year when we celebrate that our God loved us enough to be caught in human form. Jesus was God - the almighty creator of the universe - but he laid that nature aside. He became human - he took the form of one of his own creatures. This is the ultimate in humbling.

So this Christmas, if you feel a need to make your celebration a little more humble, know that you are in good company. Use this as an occasion to remember what Jesus gave up when he came to earth. Remember also that Jesus did this for you, because he loves you. Then consider this, what can you do in your current situation to show love to those around you?



WORSHIP ASSISTANT INFORMATION

December 7, 2008

Worship Asst: Steve Szuberski
Reader: Jeff Klein
Communion Asst's: Samantha Porcher & Becky Crenshaw
Hospitality: Jamie & Christine Olson, & The Mix, Porcher, Pritash,
& Rhone Families
Set-up/Ushers: The Klein, Helgeson, Turnquist, & Wendt Families



December 14, 2008

Worship Asst: Kay Klein
Reader: Julie Porcher
Communion Asst's: Jeff & Tanya Reiman
Hospitality: The Schreier, Sorom, Welsh, Turnquist, & Wallace Families
Set-up/Ushers: The Caflisch, Zeimer, & Spafford Families

December 21, 2008

Worship Asst: John Caflisch
Reader: Kay Klein
Communion Asst's: John & Lynn Caflisch
Hospitality: The Wendt, Ziemer, Begin, Brockway, & Caflisch Families
Set-up/Ushers: The Szuberski, Peterson, Johnson, & Rucker Families

December 28, 2008

Worship Asst: Eric Porcher
Reader: Eric Porcher
Communion Asst's: Jeff & Kay Klein
Hospitality: Curt & Kathy Olson, & The Crenshaw, Enright, & Hanley Families
Set-up/Ushers: The Porcher, Morton, & Reiman Families

December Birthdays!

Brandon Rucker 12/3

Jayne Shelquist 12/5

Joseph Wick 12/8

Christine Olson 12/15

Bradyn Begin 12/18

Kari Wendt 12/19

Abigale Wick 12/19

Andrew Peterson 12/27

Jessica Szuberski 12/29

LeAnne Trom 12/29

Michael Woltman 12/29

Isaac Pristash 12/30

Mike Boettcher 12/31



If we have missed your birthday or have the wrong date in past newsletters, please email the church office so that we can get our records correct! We're sorry about any mistakes!

office@peaceyota.org

~December Readings~

December 7

Proclamation - We are going home!

Isaiah 61:1-11

December 14

(Christmas Program)

Jesus' birth is announced

Luke 1:26-38

December 21

Matthew's Christmas story

Matthew 1:18-25

December 24

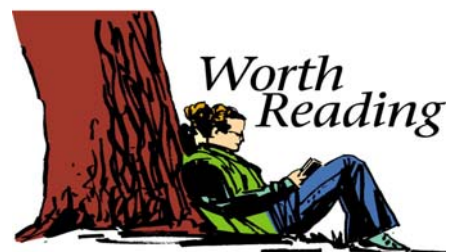
Christmas Eve

Luke 2:1-20

December 28

John's 'Christmas' story

John 1:1-14



Church News!

Interfaith Hospitality Network

Future hosting dates will be December 21-29.

We are always in need of Meal Hosts, Drivers and Overnight Hosts.
Please contact Carrie Rhone at 545-0101 if interested in volunteering.

December 21-29 - Host Location: Community Presbyterian Church in Plainview



The Mission of Peace Lutheran Church is...
"To call people to Christ, nurture them into the faith, and send them out in witness and service."
Worship—9:15am: @ Dover-Eyota Elementary School-27 Knowledge Road, Eyota
Church Office: 515 S. Jefferson Avenue—(507) 545-2535—www.peaceeyota.org
Future Home of Peace: 6 acres @ corner of Knowledge Road & Hwy #7
Pastor Pete's Home Phone: 545-1272



Sermons On-Line

If you're going to be away and can't worship on any Sunday, hop onto www.peaceeyota.org.

Making Christmas Plans!

The busy Christmas season is right around the corner. Some dates to help you plan ahead: On Wednesday, **December 3rd** the youth will ring bells for the Salvation Army during their evening meeting time. On Saturday, **December 6th** we'll have our annual childcare service in place to let parents go out and go Christmas shopping! This is a chance to shop with no kids! Child-care services will be provided at the church office from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. by the 7th & 8th grade Midweek Youth. Feel free to drop kids off and pick them up whenever is convenient within that time span. Snacks and a noon lunch will be provided. Warm clothes will be needed to play outside. A free will donation will be accepted to cover the costs of the event. The Sunday School Christmas Program will be on Sunday, **December 14th** during the worship service.



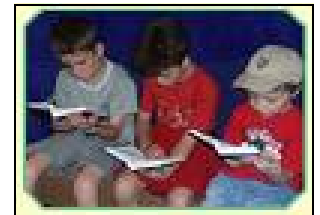
Did you know?



Dover-Eyota students in grades first through fifth can participate in the Milk Break Program. Enrolled students will receive a 1/2 pint of milk each day during their classroom's break time. Cost to enroll your student in the program is \$70.00 for the full school year. Occasionally families are unable to afford the \$70.00 dollars required to participate in the Milk Break Program. To help these families an Angel Account is to assist these families unable to pay for Milk Break. All information will be on voluntary bases and will be kept confidential.

Bring your Bibles!

We ask that all the kids bring their Bibles! They will be used! Since so many look alike, please make sure your name is in it.



Our Council Leaders!

Council President: Cliff Schreier

Vice-President: Carrie Rhone

Council Secretary: Su Spafford

Peace Teams and Leaders

Education: Su Spafford

Outreach: Carrie Rhone

Worship: Cliff Schreier

Finance: Jeffrey Reiman

Property: Wayne Mehrkins

Spirituality: Brenda Szuberski

High School road tripping! We have two great road trips planned for those in 9th-12 grades!

Trip #1 is Complete!

McKenzie Austin, Miranda Boettcher, Joe Couch, Alyssa Larson, Danielle Turnquist, and Laura Welsh all road tripped to Okoboji Bible Camp in NW Iowa for a wild weekend of fun and frivolity. Many thanks to Jackie Boettcher for organizing the trip.





Trip #2 - Youth Encounter Weekend - Minneapolis - Mar. 27-29, 2009

Youth Encounters bring hundreds of youth together for large scale events. Stay at a hotel - listen to great bands - meet new friends - praise God. It doesn't get much better than that! The cost is \$140 for the weekend. We need to know by December 1st if you can go. There's no school that Friday, so perhaps we could even go up early and hit the mall!



Trip #3 - The Big One!! - August 2-8, 2009

Next summer we plan to take a group on a service trip to...somewhere! We're partnering with Youthworks (who provide AMAZING weeks), and they have events all over the country. We may be in Milwaukee, Chicago, Kansas City, South Dakota, Montana ... The location will depend on availability, but we need to get hopping to be able to have choices open to us! The cost for a week is about \$250. We need to know by November 1st if you can come.

Mayowood Announcement

I don't know if any of you saw in the Post Bulletin...but Mayowood (which we all enjoy) is a finalist for a grant from Hampton Inn for funding for renovations etc. The winner is determined by the number of votes....so I encourage you to take a minute and click on www.hamptonlandmarks.com and go to vote for landmarks and pick Minnesota....there are three to choose from....Mayowood is one of them. No need to put anything in there..simply click to vote. Very easy.



Peace Budget Update (year to date through 10/31/08)

Actual Offerings	\$ 67,320
Budgeted Offerings	\$ 86,441
Actual Mission Partner & Misc. Income	\$ 16,846
Actual Expenses	\$ 121,759
Budgeted Expenses	\$ 124,226
% of Self-Sufficiency (actual offerings vs actual expense)	55%



Small Groups Forming

Peace is very excited to have a number of small groups forming. These small groups provide the opportunity to do fun things, get to know people, serve the community, or grow in faith. We have everything from a mom's group, an on-line book study, diaper making, scrapbooking, new member gathering, & date nights. More may be in the works which will be announced at a later date. This is your chance to connect with others and with God!

Small Group Updates

Mom's in Action

This will be a group where mom's can get together for a little open discussion. Get free advice from other mom's who have gone thru, or are going thru similar situations, and know that you aren't the only one who struggle to get their kids to bed at night, or to brush their teeth. There will be no special speaker or book to follow, just the voice and opinions of us fellow M.I.A's. **This group will meet on Tuesday, Dec. 2nd at the church office.**

A Date & Dessert -(no times for the calendar yet)

This small group is for couples. It will center on encouraging couples to devote five Friday nights this next year to spend time on a private date and meet after the date at a predetermined location with three other couples. They will share experiences and devotions and grow closer as a couple, to each other, and to God. Your group leaders will be Brenda & Steve Szuberski 289-6346. Please call Brenda if you are interested in joining this small group.

"Instruments of Peace"

Open to all members of the congregation. We meet the **2nd Thursday of each month 7 - 8:30 PM at Shannon Reuss' home.** If you enjoy singing or playing music please come and be a part of this fun group. Please call Shannon Reuss with any questions, 545-1272.

Weight-loss Achievers

Coming this January! Starting the **first Thursday of January and proceeding every Thursday for three months starting at 6 PM.** A group for support and weight-loss. Every Thursday we will meet at the church office for a weigh in and topic discussion, followed by a walk around the neighborhood. Each meeting will be 1 hour in length. Sheila Mix is the contact person for this small group, 286-9059.

Peace Scrappers

Contact person - Becky Crenshaw-545-1290. We meet in the church office on the **2nd Saturday each month, from 6-10 PM. Our next meeting time is December 13th.**

3 Ways to Serve in December:

I. Bell Ringing for Salvation Army



On Saturday, December 6th Peace will be ringing bells at Walmart South. We have a need for 8 sets of volunteers. Our time to ring is between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Contact Carrie Rhone if you could volunteer for an hour. We still need families from 1-2 and from 2-3.

10-11	Rhone Family	2-3	OPEN
11-12	Caflisch Family	3-4	Reuss Family
12-1	Curt Olson Family	4-5	Hanley Family
1-2	OPEN	5-6	Tangen Family

II. We've adopted two families, now it's time to shop!



Peace has adopted two families that were prior Interfaith Hospitality Network families. We've been given a list and now we just need to do the shopping. Thrivent has given us some money for the effort as well. We would like to provide gifts and provide a Christmas meal as well. If you would like to do some shopping, sign up in church on Sundays, or give Carrie Rhone a call.



III. Support IHN



Support IHN during the week of Christmas in Plainview Many times families are with friends during this time, but we still need to line up volunteers just in case. If you could volunteer to drive, provide a meal or be an overnight host, contact Carrie Rhone. Our dates to serve are December 21, 22, 23, 26, and 27. On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day they will be put up in a hotel.



Save the date:

Peace Ice Fishing Weekend - January 24-25, 2009

YOUTH MINISTRY AT PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



“Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds”

(Matthew 5:16)



God has a plan for all of us and some have been called to teach, play and share. If you have 45 minutes of time you can share with our youth we are looking for people who can assist in playing games, helping with crafts or telling stories. Sound EASY? It is! *Call us!*

This year Sunday School will have a whole new look and feel, each week the students will act out the story of the day, play a game which emphasizes the message or create something in crafts and of course there will always be music. We are trying out a new rotation style Sunday School which is more like Vacation Bible School and will move very quickly.

Please look at the Christian Education Calendar and if there is a special event that your child may miss due to other family obligations please let us know we will do everything we can to make sure they can still participate. Your child's Christian Education is important, please let us know if you have any suggestions on how we can accommodate your child's learning experience.

Pastor Pete or Amanda Stamp 545-2535

Su Spafford 545-2954



Christian Education Calendar - updates



Noisy Sundays!!!! 1st Sunday of each month!!!!

Bring your Change, bring your child, hear them sing,

- December 7, 2008 - Practice for Christmas Program 10:30 - 11:15
- December 14, 2008 - Christmas Program
- December 21, 2008 - Peace Lutheran Community Christmas Project
- December 24, 2008 - No Weekday School - Christmas Holiday Break
- December 28, 2008 - Outdoor Activities - Boots, Hats, Mittens
- December 31, 2008 - No Weekday School - Christmas Holiday Break

- January 4, 2009 - Sunday School Resumes
- January 7, 2009 - Weekday School Resumes

- February 25, 2009 - No Weekday School - Ash Wednesday

- March 4 - April 1 - Weekday School during Lent - Elementary School - 5:45 - 6:45 p.m.
- April 5, 2009 - Palm Sunday
- April 8, 2009 - No Weekday School - No Lent services
- April 9 & 10, 2009 - Maunday Thursday - Sedar Supper
- April 12, 2009 - No Sunday School - Easter

- May 3, 2009 - First Communion Sunday
- May 6, 2009 - Last Day of Weekday School
- May 10, 2009 - Last Day of Sunday School

- June 8 - 12, 2009 - (Tentative) Vacation Bible School

Dear Parents,



The Christmas program is fast approaching and we thought it would be helpful to keep you informed about how it will be shaped this year.

1. The program is called “*This is The Stable.*” The children have been learning their songs during Sunday School opening with reinforcement on Wednesday evenings.
2. Your children have been given practice CD’s, and words to songs. Please work with them to ensure they learn the music.
3. The program will be held during the worship service on Sunday, December 14th.
4. Formal rehearsals will only be held during the Sunday School hour on Sunday, November 30th, and Sunday, Dec. 7th.

Parents, remember that your child wants to do a good job and make you proud of them as they act and sing their part in the program. Help them to do that by bringing them to Sunday School as much as possible so that they can learn the songs. Can they still be in the program if they cannot get to a practice – **YES!**

The pre-school children and kindergarten children will be dressed as animals, to accomplish this look we would ask that the children wear a long sleeve white shirt and white pants (long under wear will work!) – Costume and make up helpers will create the rest of the look.

Children (grades 1 and up) will be dressed as angels, please have them wear light colored stockings and/or pants for the performance. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call Pastor Pete or Intern Amanda Stamp (545-2535) or myself (545-2954). Please let us know if you would like to assist in any part of the program.

Awaiting the Newborn King,

Su Spafford

Christian Education Opportunities

Sundays – 10:30 – 11:15 a.m. D-E Elementary gym Pre-school – 8th grade

Wednesdays – 5:45 – 6:45 p.m. Peace Lutheran church Office Pre-school – 6th grade

Wednesdays – 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Arbor Gardens 7th & 8th grade

Peace Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

11/13/08

6:30 PM

Devotions: Acts 18:1-11

Topic	Discussion	Action
Call meeting to order: Cliff Schreier		
Secretary's Report: Su Spafford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve Minutes 10/08 	Minutes approved as written. Brenda motioned, Wayne seconded.
Treasurer's Report: Jeff Reiman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates • 2009 budget • Offering balance 	<p>Pretty much on our expense budget. Income lower than we'd like. Had to do another money market transfer to cover expenses.</p> <p>Motion to accept by Brenda, seconded by Pastor Pete.</p>
Team Reports:		
Education Team: Su Spafford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates • 2009 Budget • Weekday School attendance average – 10 • Sunday School attendance average – 20 • VBS bills payment • Update on Living the Faith & Jr High Weekday School • Christmas Program 	<p>Budget information was handed in.</p> <p>Christian Education attendance is down but good reports about the new format.</p> <p>Choral mikes are going to ordered for Christmas program</p>
Finance Team: Jeff Reiman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates • 2009 Budget 	Discussion around having an outside consultant coming in to run a stewardship campaign. The goal is to see stewardship as a faith issue.
Outreach: Carrie Rhone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates • 2009 Budget • IHN 	<p>IHN will be in Plainview the week of Christmas</p> <p>Adopted 2 families and will use matching funds from Thrivent.</p> <p>Salvation Army bell ringing – still looking for volunteers</p>
Property Team: Wayne Merhkens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates • 2009 Budget • Property Team Set Up Teams • Building Planning Team 	<p>New blinds will be measured and installed in office</p> <p>Set up teams are going well</p> <p>Building Team is meeting soon</p>
Spirituality: Brenda Szuberski	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates • 2009 Budget • Small Groups 	Small groups continue to do well

<p>Worship Team: Cliff Schreier</p>	<p>Updates 2009 Budget Hospitality</p>	<p>Song break between the announcements and the lesson</p> <p>Christmas Eve service will be at 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Care packages – MN Nice for service people which will be something we do all year round</p> <p>New cable for think pad</p> <p>December 14th – bring a plate of cookies</p>
<p>Pastor Update</p>	<p>Pastoral updates 2009 Budget Set 2009 Calendar – where is it?</p>	<p>232 Baptized 140 Confirmed</p> <p>Pastor will be speaking at Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Rochester 11/16/08</p> <p>Noisy Sunday will go to Salvation Army</p>
<p>Intern Update</p>	<p>Intern update</p>	<p>Assisted with funeral</p> <p>Helped with cardboard box city</p> <p>Went to theological meeting with Bishop</p> <p>Still working with youth on Wednesday nights</p>
<p>OLD BUSINESS</p>		
	<p>Picture Directory Readiness to Build</p>	<p>This has gone very well, buying an on line directory which Linda will update.</p> <p>Pastor says the Bishop is very supportive of us to build. Self sufficiency is still a concern by the Mission Investment Fund.</p>

NEW BUSINESS		
	Intern	<p>Amanda's last Sunday will be February 1, 2009</p> <p>Amanda will be filling in for Pastor for 3 Sundays when he will be visiting other congregations.</p> <p>May hire Amanda to assist with curriculum to get us through December 2009.</p> <p>Getting another intern requires funding, Pastor is meeting to discuss funding opportunities.</p>
Adjourn		Motion to adjourn: Carrie, second Wayne
Next Council Meeting	12/09/2008	